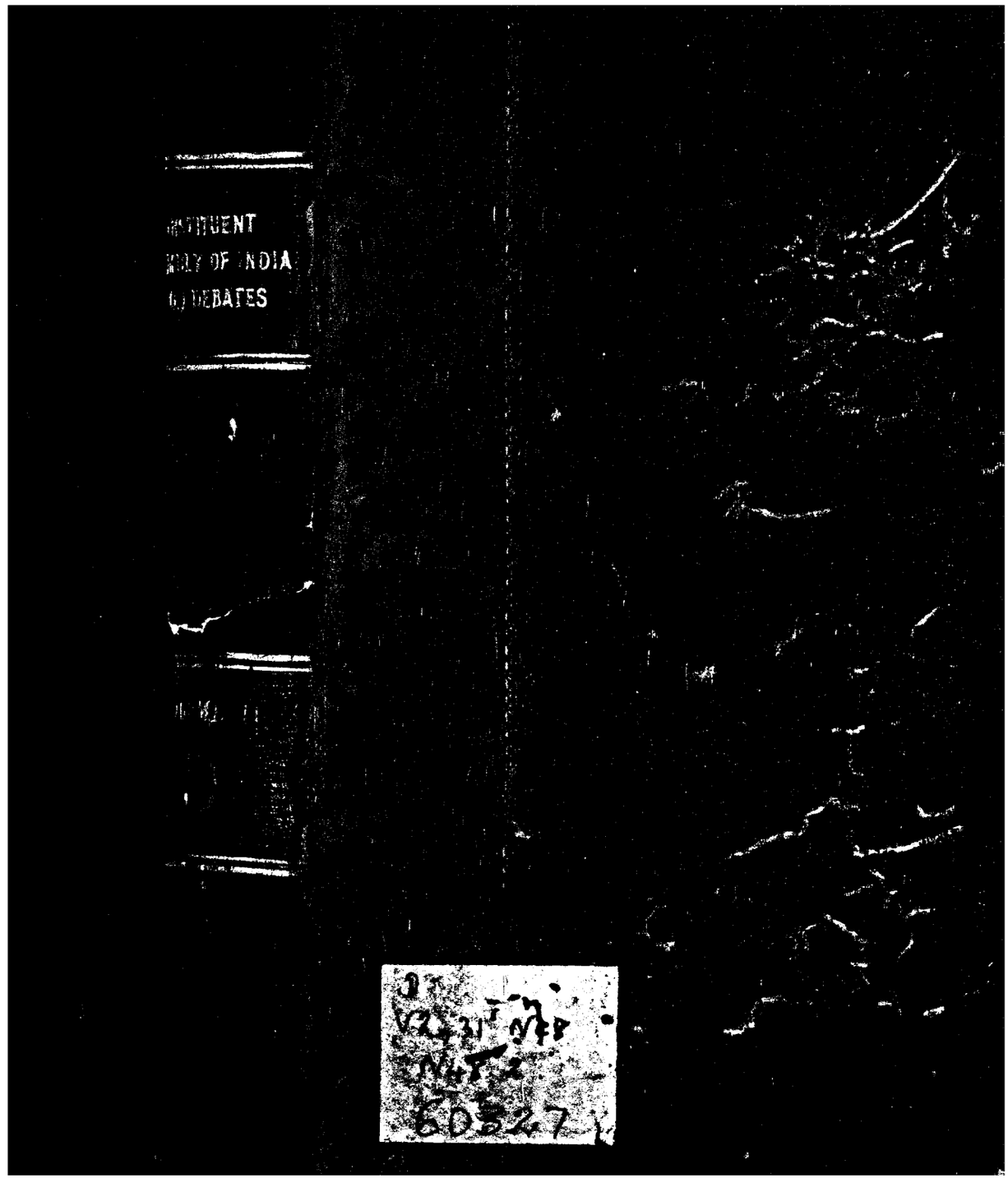

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

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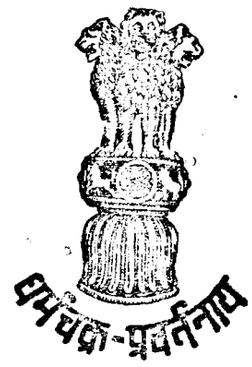
(17th Februray to 4th March, 1948)

SECOND SESSION

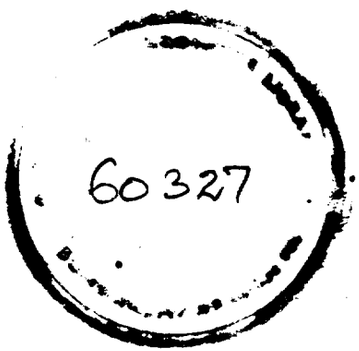
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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

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DOMINION LEGISLATURE

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

The Speaker

The Honourable Mr. G. V. MAVALANKAR.

Panel of Chairmen

Mr. HOSSAIN IMAM, M.C.A.
Pandit THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA, M.C.A.
Shri K. SANTHANAM, M.C.A.
Shrimati AMMU SWAMINADHAN, M.C.A.

Secretary

Mr. M. N. KAUL, Barrister-at-Law.

Assistants of the Secretary

Mr. A. J. M. ATKINSON.
Mr. N. C. NANDI.
Mr. C. V. NARAYANA RAO.

Committee on Petitions

Mr. HOSSAIN IMAM, M.C.A.
Shri K. SANTHANAM, M.C.A.
Mr. R. K. SIDHVA, M.C.A.
Shrimati DAKSHAYANI VELAYUDHAN, M.C.A.
Shri B. DAS, M.C.A.



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Tuesday, 17th February, 1948.

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

STARRED QUESTIOSNS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS

STANDARD FOR AIRCRAFT PILOTS

300.*Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications please state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report which appeared in certain Bombay papers in the first week of January, 1948 regarding the "Standards for Aircraft Pilots"?

(b) Do Government intend to introduce similar rules in Indian aviation?

(c) If not, why not?

(d) Is the Indian Commercial Pilot at present allowed to carry passengers or fly in bad weather? If so, has he reached a prescribed standard of blind flying and has he obtained an instrument rating?

(e) If not, and if such pilots are allowed to fly passengers at present without the requisite qualification do Government propose to issue instructions that such pilots should not be allowed to fly in bad weather?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Aircraft Rules already provide for pilots of transport aircraft satisfying prescribed standards which include Instrument Flying and Blind Flying. These are, where necessary, being brought into conformity with the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. Commercial pilot's licence is granted only to those pilots who pass tests in blind flying and instrument flying as prescribed in the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937.

(e) Does not arise.

INDIANS AND FOREIGNERS AS PILOTS IN PORT TRUSTS OF BOMBAY, MADRAS AND CALCUTTA

301. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state the number of pilots employed by the Port Trusts of Bombay, Madras and Calcutta? How many of them are Indians and how many are foreigners?

(b) What is the salary grade of such pilots? Is there any distinction in salary between Indians and foreigners?

(c) What qualifications are required for a person to qualify for the post of a pilot?

(d) Are facilities provided for the training of pilots by Steam Ship Companies or any other institutions?

(e) If so, what are the facilities that exist for this kind of training in India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a), (b) and (c). Two statements giving the required information are laid on the table of the House.

(d) and (e). Pilots are not primarily trained by Steam Ship Companies. The selected candidates are given the necessary training by the authorities in charge of pilotage at each port.

Statement showing the number and the salary grades of pilots employed by the Port Trusts of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta and the number of Indians and non-Indians among them.

Port Trust	No. of pilots			Salary grades
	Indians	Non-Indians	Total	
Madras	3	1	4	Rs. 750—25—1150.
Bombay	14	11	25	Rs. 1200 (for Master Pilots). Rs. 700—30—1150 (for ordinary pilots).
Calcutta	*Nil*			

NOTE 1.—There are no pilots employed by the Calcutta Port Commissioners as the pilotage on the river Hooghly is the responsibility of the Government of India.

NOTE 2.—There is no distinction in salary between Indians and non-Indians.

Statement II showing the qualifications required for a person to qualify for the post of a pilot at Madras, Bombay and Calcutta Port Trusts.

Port Trust	Qualifications required for the post of a pilot
Madras	Possession of Master's certificate to cover foreign-going ships or its equivalent valid in India, service as Chief Officer, age between 25 and 35 years.
Bombay	Possession of Master's certificate (foreign going) and six months' training with litensed pilots in Bombay Harbour and Docks.
Calcutta	Possession of a certificate of competency as 2nd Mate (foreign going) and extensive training in the Bengal Pilot Service as apprentices for 4½ to 5 years, before assumption of independent charge of piloting ships.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know the qualifications for receiving a Pilot's training and whether any school or examination in India exists for the purpose?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as general marine training is concerned that is done by institutions like the "Dufferin" training establishment. But as far as piloting is concerned it is a special business and the only training is by actually doing the work as probationers.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How long will it take for foreigners to be completely replaced by Indians in the pilots' service?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Within a fairly short time, I think.

Shri B. Das: Will the Honourable Minister kindly read out the number of Indians and the number of foreigners engaged as pilots?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It varies with each of the ports. But as far as I can remember, the figures in Madras, in Bombay, and in Calcutta where of course the Pilots are not employed by the Calcutta Port Trust but are under the Government of India, there are more Indians than non-Indians. Gradually of course the proportion of Indians will be much greater.

Shri B. Das: Has not the Honourable Minister included the quantum of foreigners and Indians in the statement he is laying on the table?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In the table I have placed before the House, in Madras there are three Indians and one non-Indian, in Bombay there are fourteen Indians and eleven non-Indians. In Calcutta I think at present there are twenty-five Indians and twenty non-Indians.

INDIANS AND FOREIGNERS AS DEPUTY CONSERVATORS IN PORT TRUST SERVICES

302. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state what is the number of Deputy Conservators in the Port Trust services of the Bombay, Madras and Calcutta Port Trusts, and how many are Indians and how many are foreigners?

(b) What are the qualifications required for eligibility to the post of a Deputy Conservator?

(c) What facility is provided for the training of Conservators of Port in India?

(d) If none, do Government intend to provide the same?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) There is one Deputy Conservator in each of the Port Trusts of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, and all the present incumbents are non-Indians.

(b) The qualifications required at each of these three ports are:

(i) At Madras, the Deputy Conservator has to be in possession of a Master's certificate issued by the U.K. Board of Trade or the equivalent in the Royal Navy or the Royal Indian Navy. He should be about 40 years of age and should preferably have served as a pilot and later as Harbour Master. Usually the Harbour Master is appointed as Deputy Port Conservator.

(ii) At Calcutta, the Deputy Conservator's essential qualifications are experience of handling and holding command of ships, with special qualifications such as surveying, dredging etc. and age between 35 and 40 years. The recruitment has hitherto been made from the Royal Navy.

(iii) At Bombay, the qualifications required are possession of a certificate of Extra Master or Master of foreign-going ships, a thorough knowledge of Port Conservancy and of local conditions of the Port.

(c) It is presumed that the Honourable Member means Deputy Conservator as the conservators of the ports are the Port Trusts themselves. Deputy Conservators are generally appointed by promotion from the lower grades of Harbour Master or Dock Master or Assistant Conservator and receive training by experience in various grades at the ports.

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

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: With regard to part (c) of the question, what I asked was about the Conservator and the answer is not given. May I know what facilities there are for a Deputy Conservator to be qualified for Port Trust service?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Deputy Conservator is really appointed by promotion from the lower ranks. As more and more Indians are being appointed to the lower ranks in course of time they will be eligible for promotion as Deputy Conservators.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated that all the Deputy Conservators are non-Indians. May I know how his present answer is consistent with that?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I said they happen to be non-Indians at present.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that the Board of Trade examination is held in a foreign country and no facility exists in India for Indians to qualify in this examination?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is not so as far as my information goes.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I am very clear in my mind about this.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member need not argue.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member wants to know what the position is.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as Pilots are concerned, the position is that a Deputy Conservator is appointed by promotion from among the ranks of Pilots. We are today appointing only Indians as Pilots and these Indians who are appointed as Pilots have to have a Mate's certificate or a Second Mate's or other recognised certificate as the case may be. These Pilots do service in the ranks of Pilots, and by reason of the service they do and the training they get, in course of time they rise to be Deputy Conservator.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: As an ex-Port Trust Commissioner I can say that never . . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I will not permit arguments. If the Honourable Member persists I will not call any of his questions.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I put a question?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, he may ask for any information he wants.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether there is any instance of a Pilot having been promoted to the post of Deputy Conservator?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Where?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In various ports.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: In which ports?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am calling the next question.

Mr. Speaker: Who answers Question No. 303 on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply. I will postpone it for the time being.

Shri K. Santhanam: If the Ministers are not present in the House, may I ask, Sir, what the position is?

Mr. Speaker: It is a difficult question to answer. I should not like to deprive any Member of his chance of putting his question merely because the Honourable Minister is not in his place.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I may say, Sir, that he is equally busy with public work and I apologize on his behalf.

Mr. Speaker: That is a position which may be acceptable, but not wholly. I know that, so far as the Honourable Minister for Industry and Supply is concerned he had to go to Calcutta on account of the illness of his daughter. But he had written to me that his questions were in charge of some other Honourable Minister. I am not quite clear about the position. I believe he was here in the House yesterday. Anyway arrangements may now be made to send for him. In case, he is not available or does not turn up before the question hour is over, I will transfer the question to some other date—not necessarily the next date—but the date on which he has to answer.

But I do hope that Honourable Ministers will make it a point to be present in the House when their questions are called, or make some arrangements for their being answered.

We will now take up question 303 since the Honourable Minister has come.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am sorry I am late. I was busy with a conference.

NON-PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS FOR SUPPLY OF COAL TO PAKISTAN

303. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it has been brought to the notice of Government by the Indian Collieries Union that a large number of bills amounting to lacs of rupees for the coal supplied to the Government of Pakistan and their Railways, have remained unpaid for a considerable period?

(b) If so, what is the total amount of such arrears and when were they due to be paid?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of India have continued the supply of coal to the Government of Pakistan without insisting upon the payment of the outstanding bills? If so, for what reasons?

(d) Do Government propose to stop further supply of coal, to Pakistan till the arrears are cleared and payment in time is assured in future?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The Indian Collieries Union have complained of the non-payment by the Pakistan Government of bills relating to the supply of coal to the N. W. R. prior to the 15th August, 1947.

(b) The total amount is not definitely known to Government, though at one time a figure of Rs. 40 lakhs was mentioned. It is alleged that some bills have been outstanding since May or June, 1947. All bills are ordinarily expected to be paid promptly after presentation.

(c) Under the Standstill arrangement the Government of India had agreed to maintain coal allocations to the Pakistan Government at the pre-partition level, as far as possible. These allocations have been made and supplies arranged as far as is possible in existing circumstances. According to agreement reached at the time of partition, bills relating to the supply of coal to N. W. and B. and A. Railways before the 15th August, 1947 were to have been paid initially by the Pakistan Government. The Government of India have repeatedly urged the Pakistan Government to settle these bills expeditiously.

(d) The situation arising out of the continued non-payment of many bills is under the consideration of Government.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Is it also a fact that many of the wagons that go to Pakistan are detained there and they are not returned in time?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There was some delay, but now it has been rectified.

NEGLECT OF CARRIAGES, WAITING ROOMS ETC. ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

304. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the carriages, waiting rooms and station premises meant for the use of the public are not well looked after in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway;

(b) whether Government are aware that travelling on foot-boards, travelling without tickets or with lower class tickets and travelling with unbooked luggage is prevalent on this line; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take suitable steps?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Carriages, waiting rooms, and station premises on O.T. Railway are being maintained as well as the present resources of the railway permit. Such deficiencies as are noticed are in the main due to the cumulative effect of several factors.

(i) greatly increased passenger traffic necessitating the retention in service of old and overage stock,

(ii) heavy arrears of repair and construction work accumulated during the war years which, with lowered standards of efficiency consequent on general labour unrest in the country and non-availability of adequate supplies of stores, it has not yet been found possible to make up fully,

(iii) insufficient output of workshops due to outworn machines and plant which it is not found possible to replace even at present, and

(iv) wanton damage done by mischievous members of the public to fittings and upholstery on certain sections of the railway.

(b) Yes.

(c) Every effort is being made to improve the condition of stock and with the gradual though slow return to normal conditions in respect of labour, replacement of machinery and availability of stores, it is hoped to improve the standard to the pre-war level.

Additional train services are being gradually introduced to the extent permitted by availability of stock and power.

One feature, which at present encourages foot-board travelling, is the use of the old type third class stock with 12 doors and a foot-board running along the entire length of the carriage; this is being avoided in the new stock, where the number of doors has been reduced to four, and foot-boards are provided only at the doors.

A vigorous campaign to check ticketless travel has been inaugurated in the sections of the railway falling in United Provinces with the help of Magistrates and Special Police provided by the Provincial Government; adoption of similar measures on the remaining sections of the railway is also under contemplation.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I want to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: I thought this question of Oudh and Tirhut Railway was put so many times in this House that further supplementaries may not be necessary.

Diwan Chaman Lall: It was in connection with the statement made by the Honourable Minister about ticketless travel. I want to ask whether the Honourable Minister has considered the advisability of reviving the old system of travelling ticket examiners.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That practice still obtains, but the problem now is much bigger than can be tackled by travelling inspector staff. That is why we have called for the assistance of the law and order machinery.

RAILWAY SERVICE BETWEEN SITAMARHI AND MUZAFFARPUR, BIHAR

305. ***Mr. Tajamul Hosain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the distance between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi in Muzaffarpur District in Bihar Province is only about thirty seven miles;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is no railway service between Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur;

(c) whether Government are aware that in order to go by train from Sitamarhi to Muzaffarpur, one has to cover about one hundred and ten miles and pass through two Sub-divisions of another district; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to connect Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur by a new railway line?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) There is no direct railway connection between Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur.

(c) The shortest rail route from Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi is *via* Samastipur and Darbhanga, the distance being 98 miles approximately.

(d) The Government do not propose to connect Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur by a new railway line. When the post-war reconstruction plans for railways were prepared in consultation with the Provincial Governments concerned, a line connecting Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi with an extension upto Sonbarsa was proposed, but subsequently the Bihar Government decided that the line from Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi need not be constructed in view of the fact that it would go across the natural drainage, and would present considerable difficulty. The short branch between Sitamarhi and Sonbarsa only was, therefore, included in the post-war plan.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the position of these post-war plans? Are they being given up altogether or is any thought being given to them?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The basis on which we are proceeding at present is this. In view of the great shortage of building materials—and railways are big consumers of these materials—we have decided that for the present only such new lines of construction should be undertaken as would serve essential purposes like the despatch of coal. New constructions in respect of essential purposes are now being taken in hand.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I take it that except for this, the whole planning that was made for post-war reconstruction is held in abeyance?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This question was gone into by the Advisory Planning Committee which was appointed by Government last year under the chairmanship of my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy, and it was the considered recommendation of that committee that in view of the extreme shortage of materials, a halt must be called.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Which of these lines is under construction in Bihar?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I must have notice of that question.

RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER GANGA CONNECTING PATNA AND HAJIPUR

306. ***Mr. Tajamul Hosain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct a railway bridge over the Ganga connecting Patna and Hajipur; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Government of India do not propose to construct a bridge over the Ganga to connect Patna and Hajipur. Instead, they have approved of the proposal to construct a railway bridge at Mokameh, so designed that a road deck may be added if and when it is found necessary.

(b) From Engineering and financial points of view it is preferable to site the bridge at Mokameh. Briefly the reasons are: (i) The construction of a bridge at Patna besides being estimated to cost Rs. 2 to 3 crores more, would increase the period of construction by two or three years, and (ii) Mokameh is nearer to the potentially industrial area of Monghyr.

PROVISION FOR REPLACEMENT OF OLD DAKOTAS BY NEW AIRCRAFTS

307. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (on behalf of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar): Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any provision has been made for the procurement of new aircrafts in future years to replace the present fleet of Dakotas when they become obsolete?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Purchase of new aircraft is really the concern of the air transport companies. The function of the Director General of Civil Aviation is confined to giving advice regarding any programme of re-equipment and otherwise facilitating the procurement of aircraft. But as the recent air evacuation and Kashmir operations have put an abnormally severe strain on the existing fleet of civil aircraft, Government have been encouraging Air Transport Companies to import new planes by providing more exchange facilities.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will any of the new planes be other than Dakotas?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I want notice of that question.

LOCATION AND NUMBER OF FERTILISER PLANTS IN INDIA

308. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fertiliser Plants being erected in this country;

(b) their expected output and their location;

(c) the policy of Government in the matter of location of these projects;

(d) whether Government are carrying out the programme of the previous Government in locating these industries;

(e) if not, what changes are contemplated; and

(f) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of starting these projects in industrially backward areas like Andhra and Orissa?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Three.

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

(c) The location is governed by the availability of raw materials, proximity to markets, transport facilities, availability of electric power, water, labour and suitable sites for buildings.

(d) Yes.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Yes, Sir, when some experience has been gained of the working of the projects mentioned.

Statement

Serial No.	Name of the Company	Name of fertiliser	No. of plants	Annual Capacity in tons	Location of the plant
1	(State-owned Factory)	Ammonium Sulphate.	1	3,50,000	Sindhri (Bihar)
2	Eastern Chemical Co., Bombay	Superphosphate	1	10,000	Bombay
3	Fertilizers and Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd., Alwaye	Superphosphate	1	10,000	Alwaye

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know when these projects will be completed?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the Sindri factory is concerned, we expect the production will be available by the end of 1950 and the factory is expected to go into pilot production by the end of 1949.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know when these factories will be completed, and after the completion whether India will be self-sufficient?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Not likely.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is 1949 the earliest date by which any of these factories will produce any fertilisers?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No. So far as Sindri is concerned, the date fixed now is the end of 1949. So far as the Travancore factory is concerned, it is also producing about fifty tons a day roughly.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: From what date it has started producing this?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Production started since the last three months. At the end of December it was about forty tons per day; now it has been raised to fifty tons a day.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Are Government aware that there are large quantities of deposits of gypsum in Sulurpetta near Madras, and if so, will they consider the question of erecting a plant there?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the quality of gypsum is concerned, that is now being examined.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether the works contracts are given to European firms or Indian firms?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as planning was concerned, one was a British firm and the other an American firm; but actual work is being done by Indians locally.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Is the fertilizer distributed all over the country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That will depend on the quantity which will be available.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: What is the arrangement for distribution?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Supply will not be confined to a particular Province; it will be distributed to as many Provinces as possible.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What is the price at which the fertiliser is sold in the market and may I know whether it compares favourably with prices of imported material?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That stage has not yet been reached; we have not been able to compare the price of fertilizers.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Fertilizer is being produced in Travancore. What is the cost of production there?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I cannot say about the price in Travancore but I do not think that the price compares unfavourably, otherwise my attention would have been drawn. But I can look into the matter.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Does the Government control the distribution of these fertilizers so far produced?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir, not yet.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, whether Government have evolved any plan for the permanent management of the Sindhri Factory?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We propose to set up a Corporation for the purpose of managing the Factory and proposals in that direction will be placed before the House very shortly.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: May I know, Sir, whether in view of the shortage of fertilizers Government will consider the free grant of import licences for the import of fertilizers from foreign countries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I shall be prepared to consider that.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will the Corporation proposed to be set up be a Statutory Corporation?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Well, it should be a Statutory Corporation. The whole matter is being considered by the Government and Government's policy in the matter will be announced very soon.

PROGRESS AT HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT LTD. AFTER ACQUISITION

309. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what progress has been made in the assembling of aircraft after Government's acquisition of Hindustan Aircraft Ltd.?

(b) Is research being carried on in Aeroplane designing and construction at Hindustan Aircraft Ltd.?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) If by 'the assembling of aircraft', the Honourable Member means the assembly of parts, etc., for the construction of new aircraft, it may be stated that Hindustan Aircraft Limited is at present engaged on the construction of trainer type aircraft under an arrangement with the Percival Aircraft Company, Luton, England. Fifteen such aircrafts will be assembled from imported components, five will be constructed from detailed parts supplied by manufacturers and thirty will be constructed using Indian raw materials to a large extent, with the exception of the Engine and instruments. It is expected that this work which is now on hand will be completed in the course of the next eighteen months. The first planes are expected to be ready by about August 1948.

(b) Yes, Sir. A Design and Development Department has been organised at Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. under an Indian Chief Designer.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know whether any steps have been taken to make arrangements for the manufacture of component parts?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As is indicated in the answer, so far as the detailed component parts are concerned, during the third stage they will all be manufactured in India except the engine and some of the instruments.

Shri K. Santhanam: Is there no plan to manufacture engines in the near future?

The Honourable Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That also is under consideration.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister consider the desirability of his placing before the House details of the future programme so far as this Factory is concerned? What the Government proposes to do with it and the use it is going to be put to?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I shall consider the desirability of circulating a note to the Members. I have already discussed the matter with my Standing Committee.

POLICY re PRIORITY BOOKING CONTROL AND FACILITIES FOR MOVEMENT OF COTTON SEEDS

310. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state in respect of what kinds of goods Railway Priority controls are existing at present?

(b) Do Government propose to revise their policy in the matter of relaxing Priority Booking Controls?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the question of providing railway facilities for the movement of cotton seeds?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Goods are divided into five classes of priority traffic, a sixth class comprising of goods to which no priority is accorded. For further details, Honourable Member is referred to the schedule to Act XII of 1947 as amended from time to time.

(b) No; but the position is constantly under review in order to consider relaxation of existing control in the event of improvement in the overall rail transport position.

(c) Yes. Movement of cotton seed on trade account from C.P. and Berar has already been assisted by being upgraded from class V to class II. Also, an *ad hoc* quota of wagons is allotted in priority class I when traffic in class II is not moving.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, whether there is any priority granted to newsprint?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I must have notice of that question.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether these controls are reviewed periodically?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, Sir.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: When were they reviewed last?

(No reply)

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Minister aware, Sir, that due to want of priority for newsprint there is a virtual famine in Delhi at present and newsprint is selling at 100 per cent. more?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am aware of the difficulties referred to by my friend, which are being accentuated due to the congestion at the Bombay Port, but I am taking steps to have the matter expedited.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Minister aware, Sir, that the famine of newsprint is partly due to the fact that carriages carrying newsprint received at New Delhi were diverted to other stations later on?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member can give me particulars, I would like to have enquiries made.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know, Sir, whether particulars in this connection have not been submitted by one of the Papers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: My attention, unfortunately, has not been drawn to it.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know, Sir, when the priority controls were last reviewed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is being reviewed Departmentally from time to time.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether there is any Departmental Committee to review these controls?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact, the basis on which priority is reviewed from time to time is this. There are various Departments concerned with various classes of commodities and it is these Departments that bring to the notice of the Transport Department the need for revision of priority. It is on that basis that a review is being done now.

As I told the House yesterday, this whole question of control of priorities will come up before the House in connection with the extension of the Railways Transport of Goods Act in the course of a few weeks, and I hope then to have an opportunity of examining in consultation with the House, the lines on which the priority control should be revised.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: May I know, Sir, what priority is given to the *supari* merchants for the transport of betel nuts?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am afraid I canot answer it offhand.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Is Government aware that betel nut merchants are experiencing very great difficulty in the transport of *supari*?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Quite probably they do.

LICENSED AND UNLICENSED RADIO SETS WORKING IN DELHI PROVINCE

311. ***Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what the total number of public and private radio sets working in the Delhi Province is;

(b) how many radio sets are licensed under the rules;

(c) whether Government are aware that there are many radios working in Delhi without proper licence; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take against the offenders?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (b). The number of Broadcast Receiver *Licenses* in Delhi is as under:

Household Receiver Licenses—15,867

Commercial Receiver Licenses—605

Accurate information about the number of *Radio Sets* is not available, as a licensee is allowed to have more than one set at the licensed premises.

(c) and (d). Government have no information of any large scale use of unlicensed radios. It has an organisation for the detection of unauthorised possession of Radio Sets. Government has also under consideration an amendment of the rules to ensure that radio sets are sold or transferred only to licenseholders.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know, Sir, if any unlicensed sets were detected during the last year in Delhi?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I cannot give the figures for the whole year but I can tell the Honourable Member that in the month of December 1947 six cases of evasions were detected; in the month of January 1948 another six were detected.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have any cases of unauthorised transmitters being used in Delhi also come to the notice of Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I require notice.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What was the action taken by Government against those who were detected using unlicensed sets?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: All those penalties which are provided for are usually imposed.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What are the penalties?

(No reply)

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: The Honourable Minister is labouring under the fact that he is not the Minister for Commerce. He is only officiating for him.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: The Honourable Minister's reply to part (c) was not clear to me. Did he say that one licence could cover more than one set?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The licence is for the premises and the licensee can use more than one set. He can have as many sets as he can provided he has a licence in that particular place.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know what is the machinery at the disposal of Government for detecting the use of unlicensed radio sets?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The machinery that exists at present in the Department for the detection of unauthorised use of radio sets consists of antipiracy staff, namely, wireless inspectors and wireless investigating inspectors.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How big is the staff, Sir?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As big as the circumstances permit.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether Government have considered the desirability of making it obligatory on the part of radio-dealers not to sell any set, unless it is accompanied by a proper license?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is covered by my answer to parts (c) and (d).

ABOLITION OF DUTY ON SALT USED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES

312. ***Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that during the existence of salt duty, salt used as raw material in industrial processes was not exempt from the payment of the duty?

(b) Upon the withdrawal of the Salt Duty, is there any new levy or cess imposed upon salt used for industrial purposes?

(c) If so, what is the nature and rate of the levy?

(d) Have Government received any representations from Industrial or Commercial bodies or concerns seeking the abolition of the cess now levied upon salt used for industrial purposes? If so, do Government propose to take any action on them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) It was exempt from payment of the duty.

(b) A small charge is collected by Government on all salt issued from Government and private salt factories, irrespective of the way in which the salt is meant to be utilized.

(c) The charge is made to reimburse Government for certain unavoidable expenditure incurred in connection with salt administration. In the case of Government factories the charge is As. 0-3-6 per maund and in the case of private factories As. 0-2-0 per maund.

(d) Yes. Two such representations have been received. The matter is under consideration.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will Government be pleased to reject these representations, Sir?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I shall certainly bear the Honourable Members advice in mind.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the cost of salt used for industrial purposes is only 6 annas a maund, while the duty on it is 2 annas, which is as much as 33 and 1/3 per cent. Is it not too high a charge?

Mr. Speaker: That question need not be answered: it is more or less an argument.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact, Sir, that salt used for manufacturing purposes was exempted from excise duty?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, that was so. The charge which is now collected is not only on salt used for industrial purposes, but on all salt. So far as the prices are concerned, it is Rs. 2-6 per maund in Madras and Rs. 4-9 per maund in Bombay. It will thus be seen that the charge is almost negligible.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that Government has not given high priority for Caustic Soda and that salt is the principle raw material for the manufacture of caustic soda?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is so, Sir.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Does Government impose any other duty on salt used for industrial purposes in the States?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There is no special charge on salt which is used for industrial purposes as such. This charge applies to all salt.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: May I know, Sir, whether, in view of the fact that salt control is still in force and that we cannot get more than one or one and-a-half anna worth of salt per week for a family and in view of the approaching season for mangoe pickles, Government will be pleased to relax this rule and make salt available on a larger scale?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The small charge does not in fact affect the supply position of salt. I shall try to explain what the position is. At present Government has to spend about Rs. 75 lakhs per year on expenses connected with the administration of salt.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister has not understood the Honourable Member's question. He refers to the control on salt; that is, as a result of control, salt is not to be had in adequate quantities.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Wherever there is scarcity of salt, we are arranging to send supplies and the position has improved considerably now. But I cannot say about the position of pickles in Madras.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know whether Government took into consideration the fact that salt used for industrial purposes was exempt from excise duty while imposing this charge?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Government did take that fact into consideration. As I was just now explaining, Government is spending about Rs. 75 lakhs per year on salt administration. Out of this Rs. 44 lakhs are paid to the State which has given the Government of India the right to manufacture salt within its area. This matter is now being discussed with the State and I am hoping that within the next few months we shall be able to readjust things satisfactorily.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact, Sir, that Government does not spend anything particularly on salt used for industrial purposes?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Well, as I explained just now, if I were to exempt salt used for industrial purposes from duty, however small it may be that duty will naturally have to be transferred to the consumers, which, I hope it will be appreciated, is not fair.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Could the Honourable Minister enlighten the House on the total quantity of salt which has been imported recently, so that we may know whether the scarcity that is prevailing is real or artificial.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Out of six crores of maunds which is consumed by India, we are importing about fifty lakhs maunds of salt.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: May I know Sir whether certain manufacturers of caustic soda produce their own salt in leased factories and consequently no establishment need be incurred in such cases.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not know of particular instances.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are not Government aware, Sir, that salt is a very essential ingredient of pickles?

Mr. Speaker: The question does not relate to pickles.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Will the Honourable Minister be able to give us the price of salt in Calcutta? He mentioned the prices prevailing in Madras and Bombay.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have not got the figures for Calcutta with me. But it is likely to be a little more than the prices prevailing in Bombay and Madras, because Calcutta depends for its supply on salt imported from outside.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the cost of production of salt does not come to more than six annas per maund?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have not got the figures with me at the moment.

ELECTION TO INDIAN OILSEEDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Indian Oilseeds Committee, seven nominations were received. Subsequently one member withdrew his candidature. As the number of the remaining candidates was thus equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected to the Committee: Kazi Syed Karimudin, Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao, Mr. R. K. Sidhva, Shri Upendra Nath Barman, Shri Brajeshwar Prasad, and Shri O. V. Alagesan.

RESOLUTION *RE* STATE RECOGNITION OF HOMOEOPATHIC SYSTEM OF MEDICINE

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta (West Bengal: General): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution.

"This Assembly is of opinion that Homoeopathic system of treatment be recognised by the Indian Union and that a General Council and a State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine be established at once."

Mr. Speaker: I might invite the attention of Honourable Members to Standing Order No. 62, which gives the Mover of the Resolution and the Government Member replying time up to 30 minutes. The time-limit for all other speeches is strictly limited to 15 minutes maximum.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Sir, the system of treatment according to Homoeopathy is well known to everybody. This system was discovered by Doctor Hahnemann who was born in Germany towards the middle of the 18th century. He administered drugs on a healthy human body in large doses and noted the changes produced. He atomised the drugs and administered the same to the patient, when symptoms arose resembling the disease. He was acquainted with recent medical science and he abandoned that and went on with this system of treatment and named it Homoeopathy.

[Shri Satis Chandra Samanta]

This system of treatment has been accepted and is being accepted in different countries of the world. It is accepted by Germany, by France, by England, by America, by India, and also by other countries of the world. Homeopathy came to India in 1851. That this system is beneficial, I do not want to produce proofs. I only beg to draw the attention of Honourable Members to the fact that due to its beneficial action it was accepted by the predecessors of this House on 2nd April 1937. Although it is State recognised in England, Germany, America and elsewhere in the world, in India it is only recognised by the Provincial Governments of Bengal and U.P. and some Indian States. I hope that this system of treatment should be accepted by the Indian Union also. As I find, many of us use Homoeopathy. I know of many Honourable Members of this House who use it themselves and also who allow it to be used in their Houses. I know the Honourable the Home Minister has given a home to Homoeopathy in his family. The Honourable Minister for Labour presided over the ceremony where Doctor Hahnemann's anniversary was celebrated. When I scrutinise, I find that most of us use it. If we use it, and if we like it, why should we not allow it to be recognised by the State? I won't altercate other systems of medicine; only, I would beg of you to see that you accept this system of treatment. It should be recognised by the State that it is beneficial.

From my personal experience, I put before you the fact that as Congress workers, when we were living in the villages we saw the only solace that we could give to the villagers, to the agriculturists, was this system of treatment. They were benefited, they are benefited and they will be benefited. We have formed our Union; we have driven the British Government away; we are the owners of India and our first duty will be to give solace to the millions who live in villages. For medical help the poor cannot spend much. They die unattended. If they are to be relieved of bodily affections, then this system of medicine, when introduced in our country, will render them the greatest relief. They will bless us. So, Sir, I want to put before the House the fact that this system of medicine should be regularised. It is not at all regularised now, as the State as a whole has not accepted it. Provincial Governments may accept,—some of them have accepted,—but from the Centre we must have recognition of it simply because of its efficacy and cheapness. This system of treatment is praised by King George VI; so it has been recognized by England. President Roosevelt had the highest appreciation for this system of treatment; so America has recognized it. On 2nd April 1947 this House accepted this system of treatment according to a Resolution put forward by Mr. Ghiasuddin. I see here some of my friends who accepted that Resolution. If we have accepted this system then, it should be our bounden duty to carry it out into effect. Unfortunately the then Government did not give effect to it. I hope, Sir, the Members of this House will kindly accept the resolution I have put forward and I will beg the Governmet to give a speedy effect to it.

In order to give recognition to this system of treatment colleges should be established. At present there are colleges and institutions in India. I beg to draw your kind attention to Bengal where the Bengal Government has recognised this system of treatment. There are four recognised institutions which can be compared with other medical colleges, in India. They are well equipped. The Corporation of Calcutta is kind enough to give yearly donation of Rs. 9,000 to one of these colleges. There are Homoeopathic associations and institutions throughout the length and breadth of India. In Bombay, in Delhi, in Madras, in Agra and in Calcutta, there are associations. In Baroda, in Travancore in these states there are also associations. I may add that there are numerous charitable dispensaries and hospitals throughout the length and breadth of the country. Local Boards, District Boards, semi-Government organisations in many places recognise these dispensaries and hospitals and they give them regular aid and thereby millions of people are benefited. My submission, therefore, is

that this system of treatment should be recognised and for the teaching of this system, institutions should be established at once. I think this system of treatment will receive a high position if we also add to the existing medical colleges the system of post graduate teaching in Homoeopathy, so that researches will go on and this system will be beneficial to us. You will be glad to learn that from Indian plants also Homoeopathic medicines have been manufactured. So my first submission is that this system of treatment should be recognised by establishing a General Council and a State Faculty of Homoeopathy, so that the educated and reliable men may go out from these institutions, in whose hands our lives will be safe. Now Homoeopathy is being practised in most of our places irregularly. Anybody who can bring regularity in this system is this Government. So I beg of you, Sir, to take the system of treatment in your hands and do the needful. I also wish to state that literature on Homoeopathy has been published in different provincial languages throughout the length and breadth of this country and by using this book many quacks are practising and thereby our lives may be endangered and this is one of the reasons for which I beg of you to give recognition from the Centre.

I won't go into details about Homoeopathic institutions for patronization. Almost every leading Indian has some sympathy for it; sympathy lies in his heart when the children are affected and all sorts of men, whether educated or illiterate, whether rich or poor all call for Homoeopathic doctors. I have seen with my own eyes that this system of treatment is welcome in very serious cases. My personal experience is that if this system of treatment be brought under a regular system, it will provide us with facilities with which we can easily render help to the healthless, to the poor villagers, to the agriculturists, to the labourers who cannot spend much for the treatment of diseases. For these reasons, Sir, our Free India owes something to these agriculturists and to the poor. They should be benefited. We are making legislations and thereby they will be benefited, it is true. If we legislate this system of treatment quickly they will get the benefit very soon and they will bless us. With these words, Sir, I commend the Resolution before the House for their kind acceptance.

Mr. Speaker: Resolution moved.

"That this Assembly is of opinion that Homoeopathic system of treatment be recognised by the Indian Union and that a General Council and a State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine be established at once."

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, I move:

"That for the original Resolution, the following be substituted:

'In view of the fact that treatment by the system of homoeopathy is resorted to by many people, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government should consider—

(a) the making of arrangements for the teaching of homoeopathy;

(b) the advisability of having postgraduate courses of study; and

(c) the advisability of regulating the profession and arranging for the registration of practitioners in order to raise and maintain a uniformity of standards'."

I am not forestalling the Honourable Minister when I say that the Resolution is not acceptable to her. In fact, the Mover and I had a talk with her and her Secretary about this and they explained their difficulties in accepting the Resolution as worded. The amendment that I am moving is in a form which I hope will be acceptable to her. In the course of that discussion it seemed to me that the greatest difficulty was about the word "recognition". Somehow it did not appeal to the Secretary or the Department to recognise this system as a scientific system of medicine or treatment. Whether or not we recognise homoeopathy as a science there are certain hard facts which cannot be ignored. Firstly, it is a fact that this system has been in vogue for over 150 years and in almost every country, in America, in Brazil and in certain other countries it has been given State recog-

12 Noon

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

nition and occupies the same position and status as allopathy. So far as India is concerned, it has been vogue for over a century. But during this period India had been tied to the chariot-wheels of British Imperialism and not only her indigenous systems of medicine have been neglected and allowed to fall into decay: but India did not have an opportunity of imbibing other systems from the West according to her needs and requirements. Great Britain has many good qualities but it cannot be denied that scientifically she is considered to be a conservative country. The decimal system of notation has been adopted by other countries but she has not been able to recognise it even now. Then there were the considerations of trade, because in India the import of medicines has occupied a very high place in the list of imports from Great Britain. Still it is a fact that in spite of this apathy of Government and no encouragement being given by them not only has the system flourished, but a number of eminent allopaths have been converted to it and have adopted this system. In Bengal this system of treatment is recognised by the Bengal Government; colleges have been opened where homoeopaths are trained and they are recognised by the Government there. But when people from these parts go and qualify there they are not recognised when they come back. Thus certificates for purposes of leave to their patients or even death certificates given by them are not recognised by Government here. In the course of a debate in 1937 the then Secretary of the Education Department—Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai—was pleased to say that there was no question of government introducing homoeopathy in the hospitals and the doctors could introduce it if they so chose. I do not know what was meant by that because there is no provision for Homoeopathic medicines in the budget and where outdoor doctors are allowed to practise in hospitals in honorary capacity homoeopaths are not taken. Moreover, in the centrally administered areas and also in Delhi deputations of homoeopaths have waited on the Chief Commissioner, and the reply has always been that he could do nothing as the matter rested with the Health Department of the Government of India. Recently many refugee Homoeopathic practitioners have come over to Delhi from the West Punjab among whom there are many qualified homoeopaths who had offered their services for working in the camps. The Honourable Minister was pleased to accept their offer; they waited and waited but no opportunity was given to them to practise in any of these camps though there has been a great dearth of medical help in these camps. Somehow or other the Health Department of Government of India does not look with favour on homoeopaths and their system of treatment.

Another fact to be considered in this connection is the cheapness of the medicines. It was pointed out to us that in hospitals 50 per cent. of the cost is on the staff, 30 per cent. on diet and nourishing food and 20 per cent. covered the cost of medicines. If that is true, I can say that the greater portion of this 20 per cent. of the cost on medicines can be saved if you introduce the homoeopathic system. I have not got any figures or statistics from Government records but the figures of the Delhi Cloth Mills where they have got allopathic, ayurvedic and homoeopathic dispensaries show that the cost per patient came to 4 annas in case of allopathy, 1 anna in case of ayurvedic and 1 pice in case of homoeopathy. Therefore taking into consideration the fact that at present a large number of persons resort to this system of treatment, because there is no other system which can reach the millions of our countrymen, I think it is only proper that the State should take advantage of it. Even in a country like America where there is no question of cost it has been recognised and adopted as a State System; so there is no reason why we should not give this question dispassionate consideration with a view to take fullest advantage of this system of medicine. As large numbers of our people resort to it, I suggest that the first step to be taken by the State is to make arrangements for its teaching, and also other steps as have been suggested in my amendment.

Here I may also point out, Sir, notwithstanding the fact that a large number of practitioners in Homoeopathy are quacks, still it can be stated without fear of contradiction that the large number of quacks have done less harm to the people than the practitioners of other systems by wrong diagnosis and over-dosing as in Allopathy. Lastly, there are opportunities available in other countries which are not available here for post-graduate studies. It may not be possible for sometime to come to make arrangements for post-graduate studies in India but State scholarships could be given to qualified doctors and students who might be sent abroad to America and other countries for receiving education and training in Homoeopathy, and I think the Honourable Minister will consider this question although it is not brought out in the amendment itself.

With these words, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That for the original Resolution, the following be substituted :.

'In view of the fact that treatment by the system of homoeopathy is resorted to by many people, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government should consider—

(a) the making of arrangements for the teaching of homoeopathy;

(b) the advisability of having postgraduate courses of study; and

(c) the advisability of regulating the profession and arranging for the registration of practitioners in order to raise and maintain a uniformity of standards'."

I find there are two further amendments tabled by Shri Biswanath Das.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): I am not moving them

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): I rise to support the original resolution rather than the amendment.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): On a point of order. Is the original resolution before the House?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. Both the resolution and the amendment are before the House.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The principle of Homoeopathy is well known. It is the ordinary allopathic medicines diluted several times—hundreds and millions of times—and then these medicines acquire a large potency. The theory of Homoeopathy is gradually being recognised and understood. It is that a particular allopathic medicine in crude doses will produce certain effects on the body and in homoeopathic doses this same medicine will cure the same effects that have been produced. Allopaths are rather unwilling to admit the efficacy of homoeopathic medicines, but any one who has practised Homoeopathy at home, especially in cholera cases, knows the tremendous efficacy of this system of medicine and in a poor country like this and in poor villages, where costly medicines are prohibited on financial grounds, Homoeopathic medicines which are very cheap would be extremely useful specially in the remote villages.

The latest idea about Homoeopathy is this: that certain crude substances are apparently so inert that they are incapable of producing any effect in the body. For instance charcoal: but when this charcoal is diluted thirty times and more, it acquires a potency which is remarkable. That is in Homoeopathy known as carbovegetables. This medicine in homoeopathically diluted doses produces wonderful effects. The reason is that, as has been suggested by scientists, that in apparently inactive bodies the atoms together by tremendous force produce only an apparent state of inertia or inactivity. That is due to the neutralisation of tremendous forces that lie in the atoms. The theory of the atomic bomb is merely to break up the atoms and then tremendous forces are released which may create tremendous effects for good or evil.

Mr. Speaker: May I point out to the Honourable Member that the scientific efficacy of this or that system is not the subject which is going to be voted upon by the House. The accepted proposition is that a large number of people are resorting to this kind of remedy and the question is to the advisability or otherwise as to whether Government should be called upon to recognise it immediately or be requested to consider the position. The merits of Homoeopathy on its own grounds will be a scientific matter in which, even if we speak for hours, there will be no end and we would come to no conclusion.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The reason that I mentioned this aspect of the subject is that the amendment seems to be extremely half-hearted. It begins to say that the Government 'should' consider, not 'do consider' and then what will they consider? The making of arrangements for teaching Homoeopathy and then the advisability of having post-graduate courses and the advisability of regulating the profession, and so forth. The amendment seems to suggest a very dilatory course. In fact it does not commit the Government to anything, but only to consider whether they will think. It is on account of this vagueness that I was tempted rather to speak of the scientific basis of the medicine but it is not necessary to drive the argument far.

I submit, Sir, that the medicine is extremely efficacious as must have been noticed by many. In cholera cases, as I have already stated, its effect is marvellous and then its principle is reluctantly admitted even by the allopathic system. In vaccination you inject the small-pox poison into an animal which produces mild small-pox. That is dilusion number one. This poison is then injected into the body of another animal and after two or three dilusions it becomes the very medicine for and proof against small-pox. The principle depends on this. A poison diluted several times produces its own medicine. Considering its cheapness and the ease with which it could be learnt and administered, and the considerable amount of safety with which the medicine could be used by people, a diffusion of knowledge of Homoeopathy is extremely desirable. I therefore submit that though the Government would accept the amendment, still I submit that a speedy consideration and a speedy decision, one way or the other, should be arrived at. The vagueness of the amendment should not deter the Government from coming to a speedy decision and quick action.

With these words I support the original resolution but if the Government would be prepared to consider quick action, then of course I should be prepared to support the amendment also.

شری دیش بندھو گپتا : جناب صدر ! میں اس تحریک کی تائید کے لئے کھڑا ہوا ہوں اور اپنے ذاتی تجربہ کی بنا پر یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ جہاں تک دہلی کا تعلق ہے دہلی میں اس وقت ایک درجن کے قریب ہومیوپیتھک چیرٹیبل (Homoeopathic charitable) ڈسپینسریاں قائم کی گئی ہیں - اور یہ صرف شہر میں ہی نہیں بلکہ دیہات میں بھی بہت مقبول ہیں - جسوقت دہلی میں ہومیوپیتھک ڈسپینسریاں قائیم کی گئیں تھیں تو اُسکے خلاف ایلوپیتھک ڈاکٹروں کو قدرتی طور پر ایک prejudice تھا - چنانچہ جب میونسپلٹی میں اس گرانٹ کے متعلق سوال پیش ہوتا تھا تو اسکی سخت مخالفت کی جاتی تھی - اور جب اس قسم کے علاج کا تجربہ دیہات میں کیا گیا تو سمجھا یہ جاتا تھا کہ دیہات کے لوگ ہومیوپیتھک دواؤں کو مذاق سمجھینگے لیکن تجربہ سے پتہ چلا کہ دیہاتوں میں اور خاص کر اُن دیہاتوں میں جہاں پر کہ دواؤں کا کوئی انتظام نہیں تھا

جب یہ ہومیوپیتھک ڈسپینسریاں کھولی گئیں تو یہ وہاں اتنی زیادہ پاپولر ہوئیں کہ میں آج یہ کہہ سکتا ہوں کہ دوسری ڈسپینسریوں کے مقابلہ میں یہ کسی طرح بھی کم پاپولر نہیں ہیں-

ہمارے اس غریب ملک میں جہاں کہ ہم مریضوں کے علاج کا مناسب انتظام نہیں کرسکتے ہیں - ہمیں اتنا کرنا چاہئے کہ ایک نئے سسٹم جو کہ لوگوں میں بہت مقبول ہورہا ہے انکریج (encourage) کریں - برٹش گورنمنٹ میں اگر اس طرف کسی وجہ سے دھیان نہیں دیا گیا اور وہ اس لئے کہ ایلوپیتھک ڈاکٹری اُس سے پریجڈس (prejudice) ہوتی تھی تو اب جبکہ ہمارا نیشنل گورنمنٹ ہے اور ہمارا ملک آزاد ہے تو ہمیں چاہئے کہ ہم اپنے اس غریب ملک کے غریب لوگوں کو ایک بہت ہی چیپ (cheap) دوائی سے محروم نہیں رکھنا چاہئے - ہمارے نیشنل گورنمنٹ کا یہ فرض ہے کہ صرف ہومیوپیتھک کو ہی نہیں بلکہ تمام انڈیجینس ادویات کو جو کہ گذشتہ وقتوں میں یہاں سے ختم ہوچکی ہیں کو رائج کرنے کی کوشش کرے - اور میں آنریبل منسٹر صاحبہ کی توجہ خاص طور پر اسطرف کھینچنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اُنہیں اس بات کی ہر ممکن کوشش کرنی چاہئیے - اور یہاں کے لوگوں کو ادویات کے بارے میں زیادہ سے زیادہ فائدہ پہنچانا چاہئیے - اور اتنی مدد دینی چاہئیے جتنی کہ وہ دے سکتے ہیں - اس سلسلے میں میں یہ گذارش کرونگا کہ ہومیوپیتھک کے علاج کا طریقہ ایک بہت ہی اچھا طریقہ ہے - اور اس کے متعلق یہ اب نہیں کہا جاسکتا ہے کہ یہ کوئی سائینس نہیں ہے - اور جس طرح سے پہلے اس قسم کے علاج پر مذاق اُڑایا جارہا تھا اب نہیں ہوسکتا - اس طریقہ علاج کے نتیجہ سے اسوقت دہلی میں قریباً دس لاکھ کی تعداد میں لوگ فائدہ اُٹھارہے ہیں - میں یہ سمجھتا ہوں کہ اسوجہ سے حکومت اس کے ساتھ اس طریقہ سے ہمدردی کرے کہ یہ ریزولیوشن صرف ایک پائس ویش ہی نہ رہ جائے بلکہ ایسے اقدام اٹھائے جایں کہ عام لوگوں کو اس سے سہولیت پہنچائی جائے-

میں یہاں پر اس بارے میں یہ بھی ذکر کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اتفاق سے جو بدقسمتی پنجاب میں رونما ہوئی اُسکی وجہ سے پنجاب کے اونچے درجہ کے ڈاکٹر یہاں آئے ہیں - انمیں سے بہت سے ایسے ہیں جوکہ ایلوپیتھک میں بہت اونچی اونچی ڈگریاں مثلاً ایل ار سی پی (L. R. C. P.) وغیرہ حاصل کرنے کے بعد ہومیوپیتھک طریقہ علاج کو چلا رہے ہیں - اور اسی طریقہ علاج کو اپنا پروفیشن (Profession) بنا رکھا ہے - یہ لوگ آجکل یہاں دہلی میں موجود ہیں ان کی موجودگی کا فائدہ گورنمنٹ اُٹھا سکتی ہے - اسلئے میں یہ عرض کرونگا کہ کچھ ایسا بندوبست کیا جانا چاہئے جس سے کہ ان ڈاکٹروں کی خدمات حاصل ہوسکیں - اور اس سے فائدہ اُٹھایا جاسکے

[شری دیش بندھو گپتا]

مجھے اُمید ھے کہ گورنمنٹ کو انکا دماغ حاصل ھوسکیگا - اور ھمارے ملک کو ایسا ھونے سے بہت فائدہ پہنچ سکتا ھے-

ان الفاظ کے ساتھ میں اس ریزولیوشن کی جو کہ نہایت ھی مفید ھے تائید کرتا ھوں -

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): Mr. Speaker, I support this motion. I want to say on the strength of my personal experience that so far as Delhi is concerned about a dozen homoeopathic charitable dispensaries have been established, and these are not popular in the city only but in the villages also. When homoeopathic dispensaries were established in Delhi the Allopathic doctors had naturally a prejudice against them. Therefore whenever the question of grant to these dispensaries was moved in the Municipal Board, it was severely opposed. When an experiment of this system of treatment was made in villages it was thought that the villagers would consider homoeopathy as a mere joke. But experience showed that when homoeopathic dispensaries were opened in villages and particularly in those villages where there was no arrangement for the supply of medicines, they became so much popular that today I can say that these are not in any way less popular than other dispensaries.

In this poor country of ours where we cannot make proper arrangements for the treatment of the sick, we must at least do this much that we encourage a new system which is becoming very popular among the people. If under the British Government due to some reason no attention was paid to it on account of the fact that Allopathic system of medicine was prejudiced by it, now that we have our National Government and our country is free, we should not deprive poor people of our poor country of a very cheap medicine. It is a duty of our National Government not only to popularise homoeopathy but it should also try to introduce all other indigenous medicines which have become extinct in the past. And I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister particularly to this fact. She should try her utmost to give maximum benefit to the people so far as medicines are concerned. In this connection I shall make this submission that homoeopathic method of treatment is a very good method. And now it can not be said about it that it is not a science. And now you cannot treat it as a joke as was being done before. At present in Delhi about one million people avail of this system of treatment. In my opinion the Government should sympathise with this system in such a manner that the resolution does not remain a mere pious wish. Steps should be taken so that people in general are given relief.

Here in this connection I want to mention this also that, due to the unfortunate happenings in the Punjab, top ranking Punjabi Doctors have come to this place. There are many among them who after having obtained very high degree in allopathy such as L.R.C.P., etc., practise Homoeopathic system of treatment and have made this very system of treatment as their profession. These days these people are present in Delhi. Government can take advantage of their presence. Therefore, I shall make this request that some such arrangement should be made by which the services of these doctors can be made available with advantage. I hope that the Government will be able to obtain their co-operation and thereby our country will greatly benefit.

In these words I support this resolution which will prove of great benefit

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, from the resolution moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Samanta it is clear that he wanted homoeopathy to be recognised by the State nay he goes further to demand that a State faculty of homoeopathy be established. My friend Mr. Saksena comes forward and improves upon it to an extent which is surprising. He gives a practical shape to it and wants to see that homoeopathy should be established in this country by State patronage to the fullest extent. In the sense that he desires the State to organise an efficient system of teaching of the homeopathic system, including post-graduate course, I do not know whether or not research would also be included. Probably it includes research. Then he goes further to state that the existing practitioners should be registered, graded and the system stabilised. All these go to show that in this unfortunate country of ours every other system of medicine except that of her own deserved encouragement. This is a condition intolerable. It is time that I should warn the House and the Honourable Minister in charge of the department, whether you like it or not, your little master, the electorate, will thrust his own system on you. If you do not mend you will have to end yourselves. This is the warning I give you on this floor: nothing more, nothing less. Your own system is full and complete in itself and that system has been in existence for thousands of years. Are you going to tolerate or allow the system to be still further neglected and thrown to the winds?

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Sir, I do not see the relevancy of what the Honourable Member says to the resolution under consideration. This resolution relates to the system of homoeopathy and not to allopathy, hydropathy or ayurveda.

Mr. Speaker: The point which the Honourable Member is making is against the resolution. He says that in accepting this resolution, we would be neglecting our own indigenous systems of medicine.

Shri Biswanath Das: It does arise in this sense. I know the inclinations and tendencies of medical practitioners in the Allopathic system and those that have been trained and brought up in it. I want to make it clear to this House that if any money is going to be spent on a system other than the indigenous system of Ayurveda and Unani, I warn the Honourable Members of this House that it will be reflected on them and on the House itself by their little masters, the electorate. In this view of the question it is pertinent, it is relevant, whether my Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya likes it or not.

It remains only for me to congratulate the Honourable Mover and my friend who brought in his amendment and need I say also congratulate the Honourable Minister in Charge, because I feel sure that she will have no hesitation in accepting the amendment. I have nothing more to add. My difficulty is immense. I know the difficulties under which I am struggling. Your own system will assert itself and come out in the long run, whether we like it or not. With this warning I take my seat and let me hope that better sense would prevail and things would adjust themselves properly.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: May I draw the attention of the Honourable Member who has just spoken to the amendment which he has tabled. In his amendment he says that the indigenous and homeopathic systems should be established 'at once' and now he says that homoeopathy should not be encouraged but indigenous systems alone should be. There is some inconsistency which I shall be glad if the Honourable Member would explain.

Shri Biswanath Das: My amendment gives this alternative also.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Mr. Speaker, at the outset I am troubled by a little technical difficulty as to whether the amendment could strictly

[Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya]

be admitted but now that you have permitted it, I shall not labour the point farther than by saying that the amendment is practically a negation of the resolution in one sense and in another sense it repeats the wording of the resolution in the third clause or clause (c). The wording of the amendment unfortunately is not before us, but if I remember aright the amendment in the third clause says that steps be taken to study the homoeopathic system of medicine and popularise it. May I have the wording of the amendment?

Mr. Speaker: It reads:

"The advisability of regulating the profession and arranging for the registration of practitioners in order to raise and maintain a uniformity of standards."

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: For this rigmarole of verbose expression I would use the simple word 'recognize'. What is the meaning of recognition? Recognition is regulating the profession and arranging for the registration of practitioners in order to maintain uniformity of standards.

Mr. Speaker: If I may just intervene at this stage, the difference seems to be that while the mover of the resolution wanted immediate recognition the amendment wishes that Government should consider the question of recognition. That seems to be the difference between the two.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: In that view the objection of one of the speakers that this is a dilatory amendment appears to be well grounded. However that be, to take steps to recognize is one thing and to recognize immediately is another thing. But the real difficulty in this resolution seems to centre round the word 'recognition'. Unfortunately the British people having held sway over this country for 150 years, have introduced into the country a system of treatment with which they were primarily familiar and having introduced that, have made that the standard of measure—the yard stick, the foot rule and the measuring tape—by which we are to proceed to examine and judge every other system of treatment in this country. They have been allopaths, and being allopaths they have introduced the allopathic system of medicine and they have introduced their own degrees. I am a Bachelor of Medicine and a Master of Chirurgerie. Most of the diagnosis in English medicine consists in giving Latin names for Anglo-Saxon names of diseases. A certain gentleman was suffering from drooping of the eye lid. Nobody could treat him. He went to an I.M.S. officer. He at once said 'You are suffering from Ptosis' which in Latin means drooping. He was immensely pleased and he paid him Rs. 16. Yesterday a friend of mine came and told me that he was said to be suffering from *Paroxysmal tachycardia*. I told him "It only means what you have yourself said to be the complaint. The doctor has said nothing else. Paroxysm is a fit and tachycardia is quick beating of the heart. It is only the complaint you have made to the doctor, and he has put it in Latin". So, this word "recognition" is the thing that we have to examine. The English people have introduced this particular recognition. Where does this recognition come? Do you mean to say that the best of the legislators pauses to consider whether a certain degree-holder is recognized or not before he gets treatment from him? There is homoeopathy, hydropathy, chromopathy and then idiopathy. Idiopathy is the treatment by ignorance. You go through any text book by Osler or Price. After describing the various kinds of treatment there is mentioned also the idiopathic treatment, that it, treatment by ignorance. He does not understand the treatment. He treats it symptomatically and therefore it is idiopathic. Which of us, be he the biggest legislator, would pause to consider in his life whether a certain doctor is recognized or not? So far as practical treatment is concerned recognition is not an element of consideration. Even if it is an element of consideration with the officer who is afraid of the Government which is established by

law, his wife will not pause to consider it. There are Brahmos having wives who worship fire and idols and it is well known that teachers' sons fail in examinations. Lawyers can lose their own cases and doctors' wives can become widows. All these are possible. There is no finality in this matter Recognition is a most mischievous word which has come into being on account of the Boards that had developed through recognition, the Boards that the recognized doctors have developed, and that consists exclusively and only in issuing medical certificates sixty per cent. of which are false and fraudulent. There was a doctor who was strict and who would never pass any man for public service. What could the future entrant to public service do? He went to the doctor the previous day for medical examination for the purpose of insurance and got a first class certificate. The next day he presented himself for medical examination for government service. The poor doctor had no alternative but to pass him. He was the man who had been disqualifying every other person. Now these medical certificates have become a downright fraud in this country. You can get them in insurance policies. You often come across the statement, in answer to the question whether you were ever on medical leave, "Yes, last year. There was my daughter's marriage; therefore I took medical leave". It is within the experience of almost everybody. There was a Subedar-Major who came to me yesterday whose superior officer refused him leave. He went and got a medical certificate from a Colonel. According to the Army service convention he simply presented the medical certificate and absented himself for ten days. It has to be accepted. There is a certain Godly authority about it, and it is this authority that everybody covets whether it be homœopath, allopath, chromopath, hydropath or idiopath. They all want that authority. Once you take away that authority there is no power on earth in this country or in this Government which prevents any man from taking treatment from any person. Whatever cures is medicine. Sometimes faith cures. Sometimes waiting cures. I have been rather bad in my teeth in the last few days. I was being attended on by the dentist. Just as I was going there day before yesterday evening, a certain venerable looking man with a beard and a fine set of teeth, which attracted me more than anything else, came across my way and said 'I am a hydropath'. I said 'Very well, I have no time to look to you or engage you in conversation just now. Please come tomorrow morning because I am just now going to the dentist'. He asked 'Why?' I said, 'To get two of my teeth removed'. He said 'For Heaven's sake don't do it. I will give you a simple "vapour" treatment and you will be all right'. He showed me all his thirty-two teeth, shining, glistening, striking with force and unassailable with dynamic power. That appealed to me more than his venerable look and beard. I told the Dental doctor what had happened and I got the extraction postponed. I am all right now. What is the treatment I have got? I simply waited. Waiting need not be 'recognized'. No. As a matter of fact in this life nature's power of recuperation is so great that in sixty to seventy per cent. of cases mere waiting will cure you. Nobody knows what has cured you. Or it may be that in the six days the Dental doctor has cured me and not the presence of the sportly or saintly figure. *Post hoc, ergō proter hoc* is a piece of foolish logic. The relationship between causes and consequences in this world is so glibly mixed up by people—be they the most eminent lawyers—that they go wrong very often. Simply because the stars have appeared after sunset, darkness is not due to the stars but is due to the disappearance of the sun. Therefore our connecting facts as causes and consequences is generally wrong. If you take away this *recognition* there is no trouble. Do not hang anything—the prestige or the importance of any system of medicine—upon the *recognition* extended to it by doctors who know nothing about it. What can our esteemed Minister do? She can only refer the matter to the Director-General, Medical Services, and what can he do? He is a man trained in the system of allopathic medicine who will probably accurse and execrate every other system of

[Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya]

medicine. I can tell my friend Mr. Biswanath Das that I am a great supporter of Ayurveda. But I was only rising to a point of order in relation to the relevancy of the subject that he had introduced. If I was wrong I am sorry. But my advocacy of Ayurveda is nothing inferior to anybody else's. Only we must take each subject in its own context and not ride a hobby horse on every occasion. Who is the gentleman that can now recognize homœopathy? Not a man who is a pronounced opponent thereof. How can we test homœopathy? There is no power in the word to do it. If you refer it to the homœopaths, of course they will recognize it.

If you refer it to the allopaths, of course they do not recognize it. In between there is no *via media*. Therefore this question of recognition is a question that bristles with thorns, and it has been left as a legacy to us by the government that has left us. No doubt homœopathy is popular. Many of the I.M.S. officers, I have noticed, practise homœopathy. I have questioned whether they were in order, whether it was 'professional' for them to practise a system of medicine in which they had not undergone any training during the whole of their five years' course. Today it has become so widespread that it is more or less recognized by all people as an allowed irregularity. It is almost becoming validated. It is passing through a transitional stage, and if our friends the homoeopaths, would exercise a little patience, they will very soon find that if they left the subject alone, the subject would assert itself on its merits. If one of the Ministers were to try allopathy and fail, and succeed by the homoeopathic system of treatment either by chance or on its own merit, then of course he will himself one day come forward with lavish encomiums showered upon homœopathy.

The difficulty of superposing post-graduate studies is a real one What is it that you superpose upon the study of allopathy? In allopathy you study anatomy, you dissect bodies, you dissect and anatomise them, you examine everyone of the bones, you examine everyone of the nerves, you examine everyone of the arteries, veins, and then you are told that the principle of treatment is based upon administering the like for the unlike. If the heart is going too rapidly, administer Digitalis which has the property of diminishing the number of beats and increasing their strength. In homoeopathy they just give a medicine which increases the number of beats. In homoeopathy they treat like by like. Here they treat like by unlike. How then can you come to a system of superposition of studies which are based upon principles utterly contrary to the principles which have been inculcated in th ecourse of five years' study of pharmacopoeia, of medicine, surgery, pathology, anatomy, histology and of physiology? There is something incongruous about it. Either you begin as a homoeopath and end as a homoeopath: either you begin as an ayurvedic doctor and end as an ayurvedic doctor. In Madras a crude system of ayurvedic teaching is introduced in which they teach anatomy, and physiology and then they have superposed a system based upon the three humours, *vayu*, *pitha* and *sleshma*. Where are these humours? I have dissected many bodies and I have not been able to find them.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Probably you will find them in the brains.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Brains also we examined. I know all my anatomy even now. They are not there. They are not visible, either in the ventricles or in the focamina or in the motor tract. I am not talking like a cynic or a pessimist. I know how they (the humours) will be reconciled to the modern system. One of these days some man will be born who has real imagination and sufficient spirit of speculation which is the basis of all research.

When speculation becomes successful it becomes research. You must have imagination to consider whether all these humours are not the same as vitamins which you are forced to swallow. When I passed my M.B.C.M in 1906, there were no vitamins and anybody who might be talking of vitamins would have been charged with talking superstition and would have been arraigned for unprofessional conduct. Today even for abortion they have discovered a vitamin, vitamin E.

An Honourable Member: Abortion, causing or prevention of abortion?

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: For preventing abortion. So what was considered superstition yesterday is science today. Where is the Valentine theory of chemicals? Where is that theory of Valency? That is all gone. What was considered superstition yesterday is science today and therefore science is the greatest of superstitions. That is the conclusion to which we are ultimately driven. So I say by all means ask for support. After all so many things are being supported. *Akharas* are being supported; rifle clubs are being supported; aeroplane clubs are being supported. Why should not homoeopathy be supported. By all means support it and if the people are sensible enough to think there is potency for cure, let them have the cure. Otherwise let them pay for their murders. So the matter is to be taken away from the province of recognition altogether. That is obvious. But whether the amendment itself does not contain the wedge of recognition in it is what I am doubting. Therefore one of these days I hope that all recognition will be eliminated and doctors will be selected on their own merits, and when they are so selected, it will be open to them to treat and it will be open to the patients to be treated, but by all means let the Government support what it sees to be good and whatever is recognized by the people to be good and then support them.

With these words, Sir, I stand for supporting homoeopathy as an independent study, not as a superposition, not as a mixture of incongruities, not as a mixture of homoeopathy and allopathy, but as a pure study, as science from the base and plinth to the roof and top.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, I was really surprised to hear the speech of my friend Mr. Biswanath Das. I never thought there was in House anyone who could be opposed to Homoeopathy. I never thought anyone would be opposed to Ayurveda and that by supporting this resolution he was in any way injuring Ayurveda or that it would result in the masses going against him in the elections for the legislature. We have to discuss the problem from the point of view of the masses. As one who has spent long years in serving poor people, I find that the most important thing is that we must be able to give them the cheapest possible medicine and one which is as handy as possible. I think the homoeopathic system does contain all the elements needed for a poor country such as India where ignorance is so great. We all know that in homoeopathy, even if a small amount of money is available, we can help a whole village, whereas any other system of medicine will require a large dispensary and other paraphernalia. Our country requires a very cheap system of medicine and I think also it should be accessible to every poor villager. In our work in the villages, we of the Congress who have knowledge of homoeopathy have been able to do a great deal although without possessing any diploma or degree. I think by supporting the resolution and its amendment by my Honourable friend Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena, we shall be doing real service to the masses. I do not think the resolution is in any way in competition with the Ayurvedic system of medicine or any other system of medicine.

It is only for help by the State to a system of medicine which is now well-recognised to be a scientific system, which in many a modern State is practised, and helped by the State, and which as everyone of us knows has many

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

cures to its credit. I therefore do not think that there is any sense in opposing it or warning the Honourable Minister if she is opposed to the Resolution she will go against the spirit of it. I think the reverse is the case; if we go about and have our prejudices to this extent that we shall oppose this Resolution because we have a hobby, I think we are not fit to be in this Legislature. I therefore think that this question which is before us must be judged on its merits—whether a country like India requires that this system should be helped and encouraged. Our friend, the learned Doctor, has talked of recognition and how that recognition is cherished, and he also pointed out how much it is misused and how many certificates are real certificates. But this is not the question which we want to discuss now because as he has pointed out, if Homoeopathy gets the assistance of the State, I am sure it will also get recognition. Probably if straightaway we go and recognise it, there will be so many bogus certificates; there are so many and their number will be multiplied. I think that we should take the preliminary step which my friend Mr. Santhanam has proposed and establish colleges, post-graduate classes and help in other ways also. That way we shall be able to produce a band of Homoeopaths in the country who shall then be worthy of recognition. I know that there are very important and very eminent Homoeopaths now; I do not object that they should not be recognised. But I only say that if recognition is granted now there might be some difficulty; as Dr. Pattabhi has pointed out, the number of Homoeopaths might increase ten times. I think that problem should be studied separately and recognition should not be given to those Homoeopaths who are not properly qualified; it should be granted to only those persons who are men of integrity.

So far as the system of medicine is concerned, I think Homoeopathy is nowadays no longer in need of any discourses in this House that it should be accepted. The world accepts it; it has by its labours, by its endeavours and good done to the people, established its position and all great countries in the world recognise it. I therefore wholeheartedly support the amendment moved by my friend Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena. I hope the Honourable Minister will accept it and will put this important system of medicine in its proper place.

I only want to mention one more point. I am told that some time back a Resolution was passed by this House recommending that Homoeopathic system should be given assistance by the State. I do not know what happened to it. But if every Session we pass a Resolution and it is forgotten and nothing done about it, it would not be very helpful. Therefore, I wish that if there was a Resolution like this passed, it should be hunted out and action taken on it. In the present case I hope it will not be like the last Resolution and I hope that there will be general effort to see that medicine is available to the poor people who need it. I think for this the present Resolution will serve the purpose. With these few words I suport the amendment moved by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Bihar: General): Sir, the question may now be put.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): Sir, I do not think there will be any need for me to detain the House very long over this question. I have listened with interest to the speeches that have been made in favour of the system of treatment known as Homoeopathy, and the complaints against the Government for having meted out to this particular system so far, what may be termed, step-motherly treatment.

I think it is only right for me just to say a few words as to why I can not accept the Resolution as it stands. There is at present no prohibition in any part of the Indian Union to the practice of this system, and therefore the question of the "recognition" of any particular system of treatment does not really arise. If, however, by recognition is meant that Government should establish institutions which provide Homoeopathic teratment all over the Indian Union, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that medical education, medical administration, and medical treatment are all now Provincial subjects and this matter is one primarily for Provincial Governments.

If, on the other hand, by recognition it is desired that there should be legislation for the purpose of regulating the practice of this system and for registration of practitioners, well then, that matter certainly would have to be studied very very carefully.

In the second part of the Resolution the demand is for the formation of a General Council and a State Faculty. In this matter I would like to say that there is no Central State Faculty on medicine for any system of medicine—not even the "hated" allopathic system of medicine! Provincial Universities and Medical Faculties and some Provincial Governments have got State Faculties, but there again it is a Provincial subject.

It is also not clear as to what is meant by a General Council. If the Mover of the Resolution has something in mind on the lines of the Indian Medical Council, well, the Indian Medical Council, as is known to this House, is concerned with the maintenance of uniform minimum standards of higher qualifications in medicine. The question, then of setting up any such Central body would only arise if there were a sufficient number of institutions practising homoeopathy in the country.

Those are my main reasons for opposing the main Resolution as it stands. When I came into the Health Department first, I was approached by a number of Homoeopaths, and in view of their keenness that some help should be given to this system of treatment, I took pains to enquire from the U. S. A. and the U. K. about conditions that existed there. I have found out that in both the United Kingdom and in the United States, people practising homoeopathy are those who have undergone a regular course of scientific medicine, but they have also studied this particular form of therapeutics so that the question of separate recognition for them does not arise—they are all allopaths, they have undergone the basic training in those branches of medicine which are absolutely necessary from a scientific point of view. And if training in homoeopathy and the practice of this system of treatment is to be regulated in this country by legislation, presumably we shall have to adopt some such procedure. In view of the fact, however, that Members of this House are keen that something should be done to study the present position of homoeopathy and to encourage it and to raise its standards, I am willing to accept the amendment that has been placed before the House by my Honourable friend Shri Mohan Lal Saksena. In doing so, however, I would just like, to say one or two things. I do want the House to realise that the necessity for raising the standards of education and training of all those who are rendering medical aid and relief to our people, is extremely great. Anything short of that means exploitation of the ignorance of our masses. We have far too many quacks in this country who set up practice anywhere and everywhere and actually do very much more harm than good. Much stress has been laid on the matter of the

1 P. M. cheapness of this particular system of treatment. I think that, if we recognise that we have got to raise the standards of education and training of Homoeopaths, we must realise that we have got to spend just as much money on them as we do on the students that go in for Allopathy, these days, and if they want modern equipped hospitals with practice in surgery and everything else, those too will mean money. Equipment, buildings and stag are

[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur]

really the main items of expenditure on these institutions and I am not at all sure that Homoeopathy will be any less cheap except in the actual medicine itself, which means a very little portion of the total expenditure. Be that as it may, I do not want the House always to think in terms of cheapness. We want to think in terms of what we can give of the best. The treatment that is to be given should be the best and the person who metes out that treatment should be of the best calibre. Therefore, I do not think that arguments are necessary for running down any other system of treatment. The thing is really to enable everybody who wishes to serve in the medical sphere to give of his best.

Finally, I want to assure those members of the House who feel that Resolutions of this nature have been passed before but have just been shelved, that I will try to set up a Committee or whatever means the Government wishes to follow in pursuance of this Resolution and that no unnecessary delay will be allowed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall first place the amendment before the House.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): Before you put the amendment to vote, Sir, may I just say that the Mover has a right to reply? I do not know whether he wants to exercise that right.

Mr. Speaker: He has a right, if permitted by the Chair. Let me look up the relevant Standing Order. Sub-clause (3) of Standing Order 32 lays down that a member who has moved a motion may speak again by way of reply and if the motion is moved by a non-official member, the Minister concerned may, with the direction of the President, speak whether he has previously spoken in the debate or not, after the Mover has replied, provided nothing in this sub-order shall be deemed to give any right of reply to the Mover of a motion to reduce any demand for grant or to the Mover of an amendment to a Bill or a Resolution....., I am sorry, this refers to the right of reply to an amendment to a Bill or to a Resolution.

The Honourable Member may reply if he wishes to.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: I do not want to Speak, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That for the original Resolution, the following be substituted:

'In view of the fact that treatment by the system of homoeopathy is resorted to by many people, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government should consider—

(a) the making of arrangements for the teaching of homoeopathy;

(b) the advisability of having postgraduate courses of study; and

(c) the advisability of regulating the profession and arranging for the registration of practitioners in order to raise and maintain a uniformity of standards'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: As the amendment is adopted, there is no question of the main resolution being placed before the House. We shall go on to the next Resolution.

RESOLUTION *re*- SOCIALIST ECONOMY FOR INDIA IN SERVICES

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, the Resolution that is put down in my name refers to the complaint of the communities residing in the rural areas regarding lack of representation in Government services. I do not propose to move it, but I hope that you will kindly permit me to make a few remarks which go to making up my mind not to move it. I would be very brief.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a question of time, but I think if the Honourable Member speaks anything on the merits of the Resolution, then, of course, he gets the opportunity of putting before the House his own remarks without the House having an opportunity of expressing itself on the subject. So the question is, either he moves his Resolution or he does not move it.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: But, Sir, it is a matter of technicality only. I am going to save the House a lot of time by not insisting on moving my Resolution and this should be sufficient excuse for me to just put forward my reasons.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the Honourable Member cannot go into the merits of the Resolution, but he may just give his reasons as to why he is not moving it.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I will not go into the merits of the question, Sir, but I shall merely state the reasons why I do not move my Resolution. My reasons, Sir, are that the question embodied in my Resolution is so big that any Government worthy of its name cannot afford to neglect it. While therefore I have made up my mind not to move it, I am perfectly conscious that the immensity of the whole problem is apparent to the Government and the Government realises that there is in the country in the hearts of millions of people who come from rural areas, a sense of frustration, sense of oppression.....

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is going back upon his promise.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not at all, Sir. No Government is likely to forget their cause, especially because we all of us, at least now, vowed to follow the footsteps and the dictates of our revered Mahatma who lived and died for the *kisans*—and I am in this Resolution proposing to advocate and advance the cause of these very people. I think I need not elaborate it—I am sure the Government would take due notice of the circumstances governing the subject and they will also realise and fulfil what has been embodied in the Resolution without my taking the trouble to move it.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): There is a Resolution in my name I am not moving it, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The next one is by Kazi Syed Karimuddin.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim): There are, Sir, only five minutes left. Will it not be better for us to take up my Resolution after Lunch?

Mr. Speaker: Very well. The House may now adjourn and re-assemble at 2.30. p. m.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

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

RESOLUTION *re*- REPRESENTATION OF RURAL POPULATION

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the resolution which I propose is this:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the economic pattern of this country shall be socialist economy based on the principle of nationalization of key industries and co-operative and collective farming and socialisation of the material resources of the country, and that the Government of India shall adopt the said principle immediately."

At the very outset, Sir, I want to make it clear that this Resolution is not brought with a view to show that there is any lack of confidence in the Government, nor, Sir, it is brought in the spirit of censure against the present policy of the Government. The Indian National Congress has accepted the principle of nationalization, as is evident from the Karachi Resolution and the report submitted by the Planning Committee set up under the presidentship of Pandit

[Kazi Syed Karimuddin]

Jawaharlal Nehru, who is the Prime Minister of our country. The Government of India had accepted the principle of nationalization even a little earlier. The urge for nationalization has gathered momentum with the inception of the popular Governments in the Provinces and the Centre. The Government of India in their statement of policy in April 1945 announced that the industries of national importance like iron and steel, chemicals, drugs, automobiles, tractors and others will be nationalised.

I am told, Sir, the other day by a Member of this House that a Committee which was appointed by the All India Congress Committee to report in this matter and which the Honourable the Prime Minister of this House was or is a Member also recommended for the nationalization of industries. In the speech, Sir, on the 'fundamental objectives' the Honourable the Prime Minister has already made it very, very clear that India will be a Socialist Republic and he has also given out what sort of democracy would be applied to India. But, Sir, the Finance Minister in his last Budget speech (on page 28) and stated "Whatever might be the ultimate pattern of our economic structure, I hold the belief that for many years, there is need and scope for private enterprise in industry. We cannot afford to lose the benefit of the long years of experience which private enterprise has gained in the building of our industrial economy. I believe that the general pattern of a country must be a mixed economy in which there is scope for private enterprise."

Then, Sir, the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill was introduced in this House. It was debated and debated very seriously for a very long time. In reply to the debate the Honourable the Finance Minister made a statement in this House "that the Government of India has not formulated their policy of industrial and economic development of the country especially with reference to the policy of nationalization." The Congress is committed to the principle of nationalization; the Prime Minister of this country, the Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in his report, as President of the Planning Committee, has recommended it; the Government of India in the past has accepted this policy, but the Honourable the Finance Minister the other day while speaking in reply to the debate, stated that the policy has not been formulated by the Government of India. It is very strange; it is really amazing that in view of this definite stand of the Congress, the definite stand of the Prime Minister, the Honourable the Finance Minister has stated that no policy has been formulated by the Government of India regarding the nationalization of industry. It is because of this drift, it is because of this indecision and against such statements, Sir, that I have brought this Resolution to clear the atmosphere. Sir, the Member in charge of the Industries while speaking before the Industrial Conference said: "Private enterprise in Europe and America has taken between 50 to 100 years to develop their present economic system where the major part of the income of the people comes from industrial pursuits." Then further it is said: "Leaving aside any theoretical discussion on the issues of States ownership *versus* private enterprise, Central Planning for the basically important industries is essential from the point of view of conservation of limited capital resources..."

My complaint on the floor of this House is this: that instead of giving a direct lead, instead of declaring the policy of the nationalization of industries, in the Budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Minister last time and in reply to the debate of the Industrial Corporation Bill, we find indefinite statements, we find evasive statements and there is no declaration of policy at all. Sir, that only shows that there is no common economic ideology. Because of this indefiniteness, the result is that the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill, which I may say if allowed to say and if it is Parliamentary language is 'a Black Bill'. The Opposition and the majority of the Members of this House opposed it tooth and nail. It was described as a Capitalistic measure, but due to the loyalty of the Members to the Party, which fact was given out openly on the floor of this House, it is to be enacted as a law. Sir, this is the state of affairs:

this is the economic policy of indefiniteness which is being adopted by the Ministry of Finance. Therefore, if this is the state of affairs; if this is the indefinite policy, it is up to this House, to make a declaration of the Industrial policy of this country and I maintain that nationalization of the key industries is the only means on which the progress of the country depends. There are many industries which will not be worked by private enterprise if it is not productive or if it is not profitable. The country with a view to have rapid progress in the socialist material resources of the country will have to take in its hand the nationalizing of industries. One of the biggest point in favour of nationalization is that profits will go to the State and with the nationalization of the Reserve Bank of India and the Imperial Bank of India, it will be easy for the State to create money. The two Banks if nationalised would create money and it would be available for nationalising these things. The Deputy Prime Minister, Sir, of this country has made a noble appeal to labour and capital for having a truce.

Our production is falling, to the great detriment of the country, and I wish that capital and labour in this country should respond to his noble appeal and there should be truce. But Sir, looking to the economic trouble in Europe and here I think it is very difficult to proclaim a truce because in the very nature of things the capitalist wants to have high profits; he lives for profits and he dies for profits. Labour resents these high profits and agitates for higher wages. What is the remedy for the great fall in the production of commodities in India? According to me the only remedy is to nationalise the industries in which case labour would not feel that profits are going to private pockets, and would also feel that if higher wages are not given the State will be benefited. There will be amelioration in the condition of the masses and the class war which has taken root in the soil of this country will be solved to a great extent. I do not say, as perhaps some might think, that nationalisation of key industries can be done overnight. I know Government are faced with stupendous problems, like those of refugees and of Kashmir, and keeping the peace and tranquillity in India has itself become a problem. But what I want and the purpose of my moving this Resolution is that there should be a declared and definite policy on the part of the Government of India and there should be no vagueness, no indecision, no drift, as is evident from several speeches of the Finance Minister which give room for doubt, suspition and apprehension in the minds of those who are interested in this problem.

The Second part of this Resolution relates to the inroduction of collective and co-operative farming. There is a phrase in worldwide struggle which is still going on with many fluctuations and set-backs between the individualistic family farmer on the one hand and machinery on the other. We have a vast country and our main profession is agriculture. But in spite of this vastness of the country and of our resources we are half fed. We are one of the largest growers of cotton and cotton textiles, and still we are half clothed. The reason is that people are holding uneconomic holdings, they are indebted because there is no mechanised agriculture and capital is not available to them at cheap rates. It is not possible, in my opinion, to introduce mechanised agriculture without collective and co-operative farming; and I do not find either in the provinces or in the centre any large-scale scheme for the introduction of collective and co-operative farming. The laws of the land are being changed; the Provincial Governments are hastening with it and doing all that is possible to abolish the zamindari system and to create an interest in the soil for the tenants and cultivators. But merely that will not do unless co-operative societies are formed, unless collective farming is introduced, unless there is definite aid given by the State for running that show, and unless electricity is introduced on a very wide scale and unless agriculture is mechanised. One difficulty that is agitating the minds of experts is that there are not sufficient technicians in

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this country. In that case surely foreigners can be engaged, students can be sent out immediately for training; agricultural colleges can be opened in numbers. In my opinion self-sufficiency in food is very necessary in times of famine and in times of war; and even as it is we have to beg for our supplies in foreign countries and it is at the mercy of those countries that we have to depend for our supplies in India.

The third aspect of the Resolution—and it requires no comment—is that socialisation of the material resources of the country should proceed on a sound basis. We must know where we stand; the economic, social and agricultural policies must be defined. We cannot be allowed to grope in the dark. Our national industries have to be taken up in spite of tremendous difficulties. With these words I commend my Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Resolution moved:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the economic pattern of this country shall be socialist economy based on the principle of nationalization of key industries and co-operative and collective farming and socialisation of the material resources of the country and that the Government of India shall adopt the said principle immediately."

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister and Leader of the House): Sir, I should like to say a few words right at the beginning of this discussion in order to indicate the general policy of Government in this behalf. The Honourable Mover has referred to various statements previously made by the National Congress, by me personally and by others; and then he has drawn attention to other statements made by Members of Government and pointed out certain discrepancies therein. There may be different viewpoints and certain discrepancies if various statements are compared; but I think the real fact of the matter is—and I plead guilty to that—that Government as such have not put forward before this House or before the country any fully worked-out policy in regard to these matters. Not that the Government do not attach a good deal of importance to it, but for the simple reason that events of various kinds rather overwhelmed us, and the matter could not be dealt with—if I may say so with all respect—in the manner the Honourable Member suggests, by a kind of Resolution vaguely talking about nationalisation and putting everything into effect immediately. It is a much more intricate matter. We may call ourselves by any name we like,—socialists or any other name,—but if we have to tackle these problems we cannot tackle them in vague terms but have to do it precisely. And it is Government's business certainly to deal with long-term policies, but even more so with the immediate present and what they have to do with the immediate present. And so we have had these other difficulties to face, and many matters which probably we would have considered by now have had to be postponed. For instance, it was our desire to consider the appointment of a Planning Commission which could be given general terms of reference and which could then precisely lay down priorities, and how to plan and co-ordinate various sectors of economic life. We have been unable to do that, I am sorry to say. I hope that before very long we shall be able to take some steps in that direction. Meanwhile, as the House is aware, in a very small way we have appointed a Rehabilitation and Development Board which, though it primarily concerns itself with rehabilitation of refugees, is also intimately concerned with development and it will have to consider the various development schemes and try to plan them with the object in view of rehabilitating the refugees.

In the past many years I have had occasion to express my general views on this subject many times, and for some years I was Chairman of the National Planning Committee where all these matters came up. We did a lot of good work in that Committee. Unfortunately that did not bear fruit in the shape

of a final report, but a large number of sub-committees' reports and a considerable number of our-own resolutions bear witness to the work that was already done. I am glad to say that many of these reports of the sub-Committees are now available for such persons as are interested in this problem. If they read those reports as well as the other material which we have, they will find that these questions are extraordinarily intricate, overlapping and they cannot be solved by just some formula. The formula gives the mental outlook of the person who uses it. That is true, but a Government cannot speak in vague formulae. The Government has to consider every aspect of the question and more especially what it can do for the immediate present. Now it is well known and we have often stressed this that production is perhaps one of the most important things before us today: that is adding to the wealth in the country. We cannot overlook other factors. Nevertheless production comes first and I am prepared to say that everything that we do should be judged from the point of view of production first of all as well as other points of view. If nationalization adds to production, we shall have nationalization at every step. If it does not, let us see how to bring it about in order not to impede production. That is the essential thing. It it not so easy as the Honourable Member seems to think that we can legislate and then by some kind of jugglery we can produce results. Taking such steps may often lead possibly to some kind of petty disaster: actually graver crises may follow. So it is not merely a question of adopting a certain economic outlook, but of timing, of priorities, of how to do it, in what manner and when to do it—that is the most important factor. It is not enough to put aside or break up a certain system but you have to put another system in its place. All these factors have to be borne in mind.

The resolution that Honourable Member has put forward suffers from all manner of defects, including the kind of defect that he was blaming us for. It is vague. It has little meaning except to show the goodness of heart of the Honourable Member. It talks about things immediately all over the place in agriculture and industry. I just cannot conceive how any Government, whatever its views may be as regards economic problems can accept such a resolution. Most of us, and, so far as I am concerned I believe that the time has come for a rapid change of our economic system, not only in India but in other parts of the world. I think far too many of our friends and our countrymen here and those in other countries continue to think in terms which were applicable to an age which has more or less passed. They continue to adhere to what might be called 19th century economic ideology, which may have been very good in its time, but which is not applicable to-day in a large measure, and I think many of the ills in the world today are due to the fact that that particular economic system, which grew in the 19th century does not fit the circumstances of the middle of the 20th century. We find therefore all over the world an economic malaise, and it may be that many of our political ills are due to the fact that we do not settle down all over the world in a more sensible manner befitting the times. However that may be, the point we have to consider is not just destructive criticism but constructively what we can do to meet it. What we can do to meet it depends a great deal of course on circumstances in our own country: partly also on circumstances outside in the world, because these events act and react on each other.

In judging of the circumstances in our own country, we have to consider all manner of factors and we have to plan accordingly and go ahead step by step so as not to break up something we have got without replacing it immediately with something better. It is fairly easy to break up things. It is not so easy to construct. It is quite possible that in an attempt to change the economic system you may have a period of semi-disaster. You may even stop production which we aim at. Ultimately, perhaps very gradually, you may

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build up a new kind of apparatus. But for the moment you may break up the existings apparatus. That is undesirable when all our energies have to be concentrated on production.

The Honourable Member referred to a certain report which came out of a sub-Committee of the All-India Congress Committee, of which I had the honour to be Chairman. I would commend to him and to other members to read that report fairly carefully because that report was a carefully drafted document. It was not by any means a final report about anything. It was a report to be considered firstly by the Working Committee of the Congress and secondly by the A.I India Congress Committee. In the report itself it is stated that this is just a rough blue-print and these matters will have to be considered by the planning Commission which was recommended.

Certain other factors were laid down in it in regard to the nationalization of defence industries and key industries. Now it is perfectly true that so far as the National Congress is concerned, it accepted this principle about 17 years ago—the nationalization, ownership or control of defence and key industries and public utilities, and I do believe that such industries have to be nationalised some time or other. Then again the Congress in its various resolutions has also indicated that this process of nationalization should go a little further in other directions. But when you come down to giving effect to this you have to think as to which to choose first and how to do it without upsetting the present structure and without actually interfering with production.

Now this document which I have referred to by the Economic Programme Sub-Committee of the Congress has given rise to a great deal of criticism, or in any event to some criticism, on either side. Some people think it does not go far enough and others think it is a revolutionary departure which will upset our economy and that it is in fact a sudden jump to socialism. Of course it is nothing of the kind either way. It is very far from socialism. It is the continuation of a process which is going on all over the world, including the capitalistic countries of the world, excepting perhaps the biggest of them, all, the United States of America. In other countries you will see this process going on in some places and in some faster than in other countries. This report merely indicates a strong tendency towards socialism, with certain industries earmarked for earlier socialisation than the rest, and even in this report it is stated definitely that every step should be taken so as not to interfere with production.

I should just like to read out to the House one or two passages in it. First of all, "it is emphasized that the report is not a blue print but an outline programme the details of which will have to be filled in by the permanent Planning Commission which has been recommended." Then it referred to definite and key industries and here again may I say that the use of the word 'key' 3 P.M. industry is very vague. Opinions may differ as to what is a key industry, whether we are referring to just a few or many. Deliberately it has been left vague there, because the next stage of defining them would be sometime later, when the matter is considered by the Planning Committee. Quite apart from defining them, the question of nationalising them and the timing of it would also depend on that commission or whatever authority might consider the problem.

There is another matter which has been referred to in this report and that is this. We have specially stated that apart from certain obvious industries of vital importance we consider the State should nationalise or start nationalising new industries of a particular type, that is to say, we should not waste our resources at the present moment in trying to nationalise existing industries except where it is absolutely necessary, but rather conserve our resources and start new industries. I thought that a very sound principle, because, after all, whatever we may do, it will have to be limited by our own resources. We have to choose which to take up first. If we squander our resources in merely acquiring for the state existing industries (that we have acquired them may be for the nation's good) for the moment we have no other resources left and we would have rather stopped the field for private enterprise too. So it is far better for the State to concentrate on certain specific vital new industries rather than go about nationalising many of the old ones, though, as I said, in the case of some specific vital industry of national importance that might be done.

This has many advantages, one advantage being, as I said that the State's resources are applied to new industries according to production, etc., without interfering with the existing apparatus except where it is absolutely necessary. All the work that the State does would be constructively adding to production rather than merely being a changeover. After a period (which is hinted at in this report), after five years or so, the State may reconsider the problem and see what else it can do, how far it can go.

Now what is the point in putting in this five year period? As a matter of fact whatever period might be put in has little significance in the present changing dynamic world. One does not know and I doubt if any member of this House can say what will happen in India two years hence or three years hence either in the political or economic domain, so that putting down any time-table or programme does not help much, except that it gives us some picture in our minds to which we can work up to. Why five years was put down there was really to give a kind of assurance to those who might be somewhat put out by the prospect of these changes, that is to say, that we are not going to upset existing things, we are leaving them as they are more or less but that we are enlarging the domain in other fields, more or less specified fields, so that there may be no grievance that something is done which upsets much of the existing structure.

I have been surprised to read criticisms of this rough outline report, criticism from industrial magnates and others, because I had thought that this report had carefully considered many of the problems that face the country, even from the point of view of industrialists and others. We had provided for many of those things, may be some things had to be overlooked, which can be considered later, but generally speaking, we had carefully provided that there should be no sudden change in a way which might upset the present structure without its being replaced. Even since this report was drawn up this House decided on the nationalisation of the Reserve Bank and the Imperial Bank of India. Changes go on taking place in that way. It may be that if we merely talk in terms of big changes all over the place the result would be no change at all, because that would be merely a paper decision, which could not easily be given effect to. Therefore I submit that the proper way to deal with this matter is not to pass a resolution of this kind but to consider it carefully in the context of what can be done, the general policy being laid down the general outlook, or if you like, the general objective. The ultimate objective may not have to be reconsidered but many of the things leading up to it may have to be reconsidered from time to time, because all manner of changes are taking place. For instance, if I may put one aspect of the case before the House, I think that the progress being made in technology and in science is so enormous and so rapid that within a fairly short space of time, let us say 15 years, the whole conception of modern industry will change completely. New sources of power will come in and those sources of power will upset all the methods of production that exist today, much more so than what the Industrial Revolution did 150 years ago in England and also in the rest of Europe. All these enormous changes are going to take place and I find that many of us, whether we call ourselves Socialists, Communists or Capitalists or by any other name, are singularly unaware of these big changes taking place. They are so unaware of this that they think merely in terms not of the greater wealth coming into existence by fresh methods but rather

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of only changing the ownership of industry which of course may be important from the point of view of creating equality and we should do that. Distribution is most important but what is far more important is the dynamic future. In the changed situation all over the world new sources are coming up which might completely revolutionise our agriculture as well as our industry. Therefore what I think is most important for the State is this. Whatever may happen to the existing sources of production, these new and novel sources of production should always remain in the hands of the State. We should not allow these new methods to go into private hands and thus become private monopolies. And in regard to the existing sources we should proceed step by step and avoid any drop in production or upsetting of the economic structure, in so far as is possible.

The House knows that we have got a large number of big schemes or projects dealing with river valleys. These schemes deal with constructing big reservoirs, hydro-electric works, irrigation canals, prevention of erosion and malaria prevention and so on and so forth. These schemes are going to require a vast deal of money and by far the most important thing is that they will be the basis of all future growth. They will go a long way in solving our food problem, in providing that power which is essential for all industrial growth. Once you have got that power you can go ahead pretty fast. So the Government decided to concentrate on the rapid development of these river valley schemes and not to fritter away their energy on more or less temporary expedients here and there. If we are going to concentrate on these big schemes are we going to divert our energy from them in acquiring this or that little industry which may make some or no difference at all, which will create upsets here and there and not lead to that basic foundation on which all industry should rest in future? Therefore, even from the point of view of socialisation we should proceed with the foundations first, lay them down, have a system of priorities and timings, take over any sector of the national economic and socialise it when the time is ripe for it. When the time will be ripe I cannot say. We require not only money but, what is far more important, trained human material. In fact that is the only essential thing in the ultimate analysis, whether it is industrial or any other department of life. Let us admit we have not got a sufficient quantity of that trained human material in any aspect of life in India today. We have produced very high class persons in every department of life—in science, in industry. We have some of the finest scientists in the world. Nevertheless they are few. They are not enough. They are also in industry. The House may remember that Government appointed a Scientific Manpower Committee some little time back because we attach the greatest importance to using the scientific manpower we have got, to increasing it and rapidly augmenting it. That Committee reported and its Report was considered by Government. Many of its recommendations were adopted. We are trying our best to increase our technical and other personnel by sending people abroad and getting people from abroad to come here to teach our students here. All this is the real basis, the foundation, that is being laid down for future progress and the other rather, if I may use the word, theoretical and doctrinaire approach of stating that we are going to make these big changes does not help much. On the other hand it gives a completely wrong picture to the people who do not realize what is to be done, what preparations have to be made before the various steps can be taken. Therefore I submit that a resolution of this kind will not be helpful at all. I hope that some time during this session, if it is possible, we may come up before this House with certain specific proposals or policy statements in regard to industrial programme. Naturally whatever programme we may adopt would have to have the sanction of this House.

To refer back to the Congress Sub-Committee's Report, naturally, if any

programme, economic or other, receives the final sanction of the All India Congress Committee and that Committee calls for that programme to be adopted, most of us in this House are bound by that mandate. The final authority no doubt is this House for any programme that has to be adopted, but most of us are bound by any programme definitely and precisely put forward by the All India Congress Committee and we shall have to place it for adoption before this House. But the All India Congress Committee after all is not an executive body: at the most it is a policy-laying body. It will lay down the general policy, again naturally leaving it to this House or to the Government to time it as it thinks it expedient, to give certain priorities and to go ahead with it at a pace which may be considered right and proper.

The House knows that in regard to the land system our general policy has been to put an end to what is being called the zamindari system. The pace has been slow, not due to any lack of effort but because all manner of difficulties cropped up. Still I hope that the matter will be gone through fairly soon. That again is one of the foundations on which we can build anything else. There has been talk about collective and cooperative farming. I should like collective and cooperative farming in this country. I hope that in any event, if not on large scale on a small scale, we shall begin soon with cooperatives and, may be, with collectives. But it is obvious that before you can think of them you have to put an end to the present land system which prevails in the greater part of India—first of all the big zamindari system, then, may be, other aspects of it—and that is not such an easy matter. It is not a matter of a few, whom you might call capitalists, disliking it, but possibly a very large number of peasant proprietors disliking it. Obviously, whatever decision we may make must have the consent of the large number of people. We cannot force it down the throats of the vast majority of our peasants. We have to convert them. The best way to do that is to give a living example by cooperatives, how they will function, and then only can they be converted. India is a huge country. We may have various types of agricultural economy side by side and gradually the one that is best suited will prevail. Even in cooperatives there are so many types. I cannot say immediately which is most suited: may be that one type may be suitable in one part of the country and another in another part.

Finally therefore I would assure the House that so far as we are concerned we are very anxious to draw up a particular statement of policy in regard to our industrial programme. I do not think at this stage that statement will go very far into the future. It is risky to go far into the future. It is for non-official organizations to look far ahead into the future, but for a Government to commit itself in the long distance is not safe. We will come up before the House. I should like to assure others who may not be in the House that whatever we may do, we want to put production first. We think it is most essential. Production obviously depends on a very great deal of cooperation between those people who are most concerned in production. Obviously we want the good-will of the industrialists of the country. The question is often asked, "Have you got the personnel to nationalise industries?" Well, as I just now said, we have not got enough. But the question rather surprises me, because it is the same personnel that might be used whether industry is nationalised or not. The personnel which function in private industry will not leave the country when it is nationalised. It is the same personnel, including the captains of industry who will also be utilized because of their very special ability—managerial, executive, etc. Now, the point is that in any programme that we put forward we must have the largest measure of good-will. We must not allow it to affect production, etc. At the same time we must lay the foundations of future progress in the direction we aim at. That was the outlook with which we framed the Sub-Committee's Report. That is a document for you and the country to consider. We had

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paid very special attention in this to the fact of not having a break, of not having any big upsetting factors, but of gradually and nevertheless fairly quickly making a changeover in such sectors of economy which are most capable of bearing it to the national advantage and then making other changes. I would therefore beg the Honourable Member not to press a resolution which on the face of it cannot be given effect to.

Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, after the very lucid statement of the Honourable the Prime Minister I do not rise to press for the acceptance of the resolution but just to point out the condition of the things as they exist in India today because of the foreign rule that has been a maligning factor all these years. India is of enormous size. Nevertheless the essential items which go towards making a country industrial are very much lacking.

In the discussion the other day on the Electricity Bill, we learnt how small was the production of electricity and its consumption in India as compared to other countries. In coal we find that our actual production is less than 15 per cent. of the production of coal in the U. K. The United Kingdom is not bigger than one of our provinces, yet its production is nearly six to seven times higher than that of India. Coming to steel, we find that the production during the last 25 years in India is less than the production of the last three months in the United States of America. These are the conditions in which we are living today. We have, Sir, on the one hand a very welcome move by the Government. For instance a steel company is going to be started with the joint capital of the Governments—Provincial and Central. That is a welcome step. But what I wanted to urge today is that it is necessary that we should have an overall picture and a detailed programme for every item of the development of India as an industrial country. It is necessary that some kind of indication should be given to the present capitalists—whether they are likely or not to be taken possession of by the state at a stroke of the pen. I am not aware, Sir, but I am told that the capitalists are nervous. They feel that they cannot trust the Government. They do not know when a kind of order will be passed that a particular industry is to be nationalized when they will be out of the market. Just look at the Reserve Bank of India shares. They tumbled down immediately the announcement issued that it was going to be nationalized. The Government can, without in any way controverting the domain of private capital, start parallel industries of their own. I agree entirely with the Honourable the Prime Minister that the resources of India are not so great that it should waste much of them in acquiring the present industries. But there is one thing to be said. If in the important spheres it could be made clear that in such and such things all future industries will be started by the state, we will know where we are. If the government controlled concerns are run parallel with private industry, both the private capitalistic system and the nationalized system will be on their mettle. They will think that we have got a parallel system. The two will be examined every day. Every citizen will say which is working more efficiently and better and for the greater advantage of the state: and it is this spirit of healthy competition which I wish to see in India. It is not necessary that all the industries should be nationalized: but it is very necessary that those industries in which are the foundations for industrial development should be taken up by the state as a first measure. Even in the Tata-Birla Plan or the Bombay Plan it was laid down that the Government should be given authority to run those plans. That at least is an agreed thing between capitalists and socialists. Both want that one part of the industry should be nationalized. Let us have a statement specifying industries in which government will not allow private capital to come in. Private capital need not be shy of coming out if it is assured of a just deal by the government. I amusing this expression

because I come, Mr. Speaker, from a province which is grateful to the Honourable the Deputy Prime Minister for his statement about the much maligned class of landlords. Speaking there he stated the absurdity of suggesting a compensation of 25 lakhs for an income of more than 15 lakhs per annum. Sir, this is the thing which is causing trouble to the industries. It is not so much the idea of nationalization which is troubling them. It is the compensation which is troubling them, and it is for this reason that I welcome the announcement of the Honourable the Prime Minister that the resources of India should not be squandered on paying compensation to the already established industries. We have much work ahead and the field is wide enough for both private capital and government to operate. What is necessary is that production should be increased and it should be increased at a rapid pace and in those spheres only in which it can be most conducive to the increased resistance of India. I want that India should be self-sufficient both industrially as well as on the food front. I should have expected that the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture would be here to tell us something about the way in which co-operative or collective farming will be started. What is the Government's policy in that respect? The Palestine Jews have given a beautiful example of collective farming without communism. That experiment, Sir, is worth studying. From the Agriculture Department of the Government of India a deputation went to Palestine. It studied the situation. It has given a very exhaustive and illuminating report. We have got the material with us. The only thing is that India is too big. As the Honourable the Prime Minister pointed out, you cannot have uniformity here. There are so many differences, so many different conditions, that you will have to have systems adaptable to different parts which may differ from one another. It is the very diversity which has made the task difficult, but this diversity and difficulty should not stand in the way of making a beginning. I am only pleading for a beginning. For instance let us look at coal. The coal industry is nationalized in England. The Opposition benches in the Legislature have been asking all these years that coal should be nationalized. Coal is an item in which nationalization will not involve a very large capital. But those who are conversant with the working of the coal industry know how harmful the splitting up of the ownership is. Large quantities of coal are being wasted because there are two owners. One owner cannot work in place of the other. It is more convenient to work from one side, but it cannot be worked because it does not belong to him. All those economic factors come in and if as a beginning we were to start with the nationalization of coal and a declaration that all undeveloped mineral resources belong to the state, then we would be a long way on the path of nationalization without in any way encroaching on the preserves of the capitalists. I believe in 'live and let live'. I have no grouse against capitalists, but I do wish that this domain, which still remains for the nation to be exploited, should not be handed over to the capitalists. I would invite the attention of the Honourable Minister for Industries to the urgency of deciding these two questions of nationalization of the mineral and developmental resources, where no clashes are involved; and secondly, nationalization of coalmines. After that in the order of importance I place as third—Government is already taking up electricity—so, I am placing it as third that we must have more and more iron and steel factories. There too, I wish that whatever industries there are of private capitalists they should be allowed to remain but no future capitalist investments in these two industries are required.

If we take these two or three concrete steps, we will go a long way to giving satisfaction to the Socialists that nationalization is taking place, giving satisfaction to the capitalists that their domain is for the moment at least safe, and thirdly we will go a long way in increasing the material wealth of the country.

Kazi Syed Karimudin: Sir, in reply to the speech made by the Honourable Mr. Hussain Imam, I have very little to say. He has entered into a discussion as to which industry should be nationalized and which industry should not be nationalized. Then he had suggested a programme of competition and race between the privately-controlled and State-owned industries, which is most unhealthy as the private capital, in order to defeat the Government scheme, may not earn profit for two or three years.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): May I know, Sir, if this is the speech in reply? There are other Honourable Members who want to speak.

Mr. Speaker: Nobody sought to catch my eye, and I called up Mr. Karimuddin to reply—Members have to be on their alert. The Honourable Member may go on.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Prime Minister and his agreement with me in the collective and co-operative farming and the gradual nationalization of industry, I do not press my Resolution and desire to withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution?

The Resolution was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *RE.* ABOLITION OF ENTRIES OF CASTES AND RELIGION, ETC., FROM GOVERNMENT REGISTERS, FORMS AND RECORDS.

Shri R. R. Diwakar (Bombay: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have the honour to move:

"This Assembly is of opinion that for any purposes connected with the State or its services, the Government of India shall not recognise any caste, sub-caste, sect or religion and that in future it shall abolish the mention or entry of caste, sub-caste, sect or religion in any forms supplied by Government or in any records or registers kept by Government."

This is a Resolution, Sir, which touches one of the aspects of what may be called the communal problem in our country. Of course the communal problem is a very vast one. It has a number of aspects, but here I have picked up only a small part of it and just pointed out what the Government can do to discourage what may be called communal consciousness, or communal patriotism or communal hatred.

Of course of the many bad legacies left by the British Government, I look upon this communal problem as possibly the worst. There are other legacies, one of them being the States problem, for instance. Another we might say is the bad Provincial map that the British Government has left, which involves polyglot or composite Provinces in which it is very difficult to work on a really democratic basis. Another legacy which I may point out is what may be called the huge Services machine; it is very good, very efficient, for centralized Government, but at the same time for easy democratic working, summary decisions and quick results, it seems to be too heavy a machine. All the same, here I want to take up only the communal problem.

The communal problem as I said was the worst of the problems in so far as it is very broad-based, it is very subtle, it is psychical, social and what not, and therefore it permeates practically the whole of our social, economic and political life. It creates fissions, groups and cross-sections in the body politic which are absolutely harmful to the collective good of the whole community or the whole Nation.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim): May I know, Sir, who is in-charge of this Resolution from the Government Benches?

Mr. Speaker: At present at least there is the Honourable Education Minister attending to it. The Honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power is just coming. It is quite all right. The Member may continue.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: So, that may be said to be the worst of the legacies left by the British Government; I also pointed out how it is very widespread, broad-based and subtle.

I think we will have to study the problem from a very scientific point of view and see as to why this problem is on our heels in every activity that we take up, whether it is educational, industrial, social or economic. Everywhere we are faced with small groups almost seeming to act against each other and cancelling the energies of each other. In fact, very recently certain things have happened in the country which I think must open our eyes much more to the enormity of the problem and make us tackle this problem not only piecemeal as I am doing now from a single point of view, but on a very large scale in the educational field, in the social field, and try to create common interests and common memories for the whole of the Indian Nation. The tragedies and the great calamitous events that have recently happened, have affected individual life, group life as well as national life, and therefore the enormity of the problem has touched almost everyone of us. But as I said just now, rather than going about that big problem, I have taken only an aspect of it and just tried to see how the Government can discourage the caste consciousness or the communal consciousness which is at the root of the whole matter.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan (Madras: General): On a point of order, Sir. In the New Constitution we have given recognition to caste and seats are reserved for Muslims and Scheduled Castes.

Mr. Speaker: That will be a matter for the Honourable Member to argue when her turn comes.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: But I want to know whether the resolution is in order?

Mr. Speaker: That is after all a proposal.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Caste or communal consciousness is at the root of communal patriotism or caste patriotism, communal hatred or caste hatred with the resultant conflicts. That is why I am just trying to probe into the matter and see as to how far the Government can discourage the growth of this kind of consciousness.

If we look back on recent history, especially during the British period, we can very easily see that caste and communal consciousness has been encouraged in a number of ways by the British Government. They had a purpose in encouraging it and they took advantage of every occasion to do so. It was in the interest of the rulers at that time to see that these group patriotisms fought against one another and stood in the way of a consolidated national consciousness. In fact for years, possibly for decades, they thus succeeded in prolonging their rule. Since 1857 their policy in regard to recruitment for the Army, their policy with regard to distribution of seats under the reforms and their policy in drawing up the census has been obvious. In these three fields we can very easily mark how they tried their best to create castes where there were none and made people more caste-conscious where they were already so by promoting new rights and new privileges. In fact, there is clear evidence that they tried to encourage and promote this kind of caste-consciousness. If not anything else; this evidence itself should be sufficient for us to look upon this vicious system that they promoted as something which is dangerous, something which is antinational.

[Shri R. R. Diwakar]

I do not want to take the time of the House by giving very long quotations, I would just mention for the information of Honourable Members a scholarly book by Mr. Ghurye, "Caste and Race in India" where he has clearly shown by exhaustive quotations how the British Government encouraged the poison of caste-consciousness in the three fields of Army, the legislature and local bodies and census reports.

When this is the case, we have really to see as to how we can undo much of the mischief that has been done. Even today as we go along almost from birth to death, at every stage, we are made conscious of our caste or community. We are made to feel that we are a very small group or a very big group, as the case may be, that we have an individuality of our own, that our interests are suffering and that we have to struggle hard by consolidating ourselves as a group or as an organisation by asking for rights and privileges as against other groups or castes. All this is the consequence of what I may call caste-consciousness or communal consciousness. Now, there is the birth register, for instance. In the birth register, in addition to all other details, there is a column for caste. If we go right up to the end, I think the funeral register, or the death register also contains a column for caste. Even after death possibly this consciousness is not allowed to leave us.

Then, supposing we go to school, in the school register we have a column for caste. Then, if we apply for a government service, our caste has to be mentioned. Supposing I am a witness in a court, there too, I have to say that I belong to a particular caste. If I file a complaint, well, there too I have to say that I belong to a particular caste. And there is no end, I might say, to the caste-consciousness that is generated in a number of ways and we are made conscious every moment of our life. In fact, I was amused to find just now that in a railway risk note you are asked to mention caste. This is only an illustration to show how we are made caste-conscious at every step. Therefore, I have been thinking as to how far the Government can discourage this kind of caste-consciousness. As I said just now, it is a very big problem and it has to be taken up on a very wide scale, in the educational, the social and other fields. But at the same time that does not mean that we should not take it up from the point of view of Government and try to discourage it to as great an extent as possible.

My Resolution is very modest and it really wants to undo what has been done. In the first place, it says "that the Government shall not recognise any caste, sub-caste, sect or religion" so far as the State and the State services are concerned. This is the first part. Now, here, certain vested-interests have been created by conventions or by rules or by deliberate administrative action, and it is natural for those people to think that this is possibly an attack against such vested interests. I positively deny any such charge simply because, if at all there are any educationally backward or economically backward sections in the body politic, it is the duty of every Government, much more so of a National Government, still more so of a democratic National Government, to see that all backward peoples, whether they are backward in the economic field, in the social field or in the educational or cultural field, are supported and given special facilities for culture, for education and for the improvement of their economical condition. I shall fully support anyone who would suggest any method of improving the condition of the backward peoples in this country. There is no question about it. Therefore, I say that this first part which says that there should be no recognition of any caste, sect or religion in the matter of the State and the State services is a very desirable and necessary one, and I fully believe that any kind of privilege or right bestowed on any person or any group on account of his or its caste is really not so much a healthy and good encouragement, but I say positively

that it is a part of the vicious circle which is created by caste consciousness and caste patriotism. It only perpetuates that particular consciousness and by perpetuating that consciousness it brings in evils which it really wants to negate or to destroy. Therefore, that is not the proper remedy for really removing that kind of backwardness which is the cause for asking for certain special privileges or rights. I would therefore suggest that while trying to remove the causes of this kind of consciousness, let us try by all means possible to see that everyone in our nation, be he of any caste, be he of any creed, or be he of any religion, is really brought up to a certain common level of education, of economic condition and of culture.

Then, the second part of my Resolution says: "Government shall in future abolish the mention or entry of caste, sub-caste, sect or religion in any forms supplied by Government or in any records or registers kept by Government". I think this part is also in piece with the first part, but then there need not be any apprehension as regards the other part, because it does not mention there any Services or any particular privileges or any vested interests at all. The Government, by keeping these records or issuing such forms as contain the mention of caste or creed or sect or religion, are perpetuating in a way this caste consciousness, which I said is at the root of all consequential evil effects flowing from it and which are unfortunately anti-national. The second part does not lend itself to any apprehension on the part of any vested interests so far as I can see; but all the same, if there is any general apprehension, as my Honourable friend just now pointed out, that since certain seats have been reserved in the next constitution, and if the mention of caste, sect and these things is prohibited, how are we to know that particular groups belong to particular sections or particular castes or particular communities? Well, that is a difficulty, but I may point out that even as regards these reservations and certain privileges or rights, I am one of those who would see that these reservations really disappear at the earliest possible moment from our constitution. Still, some might ask, "Supposing we continue them for the next ten years?". Well, then, I might point out there is the 1941 census. That should suffice for any such reservations to continue for a small span of time; but in no case, the mention of caste, creed and other things in all these forms and Government registers is justified, because every time that we make mention of these things and we keep such registers, we somehow become a part and parcel of the vicious circle which has been once set round and therefore I would point out that this is a very small beginning of tackling the problem from the Government side. There might be a number of positive things that may be suggested. In fact, when we talk about this problem, many people say "Well, intermarriage is the only thing that is effective." If there is a possibility of a legislation on that score, I am willing to go to the extent of saying that for the next twenty years, no caste marriage should be recognised! Only inter-caste marriages should be recognised. But then, that does not serve our purpose. Nor do I think that only a few members sitting here are "the people". We may pass such a Resolution or we may pass such a legislation, but still I do not think that we shall be in that case representing the vast number of people outside. So it is not a question as to how many other things can be done or cannot be done; it is a question as to where are we to begin it and how to begin it. I thought that in a modest way I can suggest this Resolution and commend it to the House for acceptance. I have tried no doubt to allay certain misapprehensions, but at the same time, I

4 P. M. do not go into the details here because this is not a matter merely of convincing by arguments. When such steps are about to be taken by the Government, which affect the privileges or the rights of backward peoples in this nation. I am sure Government would never allow backward people to suffer. I believe that this particular resolution

[Shri R. R. Diwakar]

can be very easily operated in that spirit. When this is operated and when certain difficulties arise as to preserving the rights and privileges of certain sections of backward peoples, I think a *modus operandi* can be very easily worked out which would not in any way act prejudicially against such backward sections of our nation. With this few words, I would commend this Resolution to the House.

[*At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Hussain Imam (one of the Panel of Chairmen)*].

Mr. Chairman: Resolution moved:

"This Assembly is of opinion that for any purposes connected with the State or its services, the Government of India shall not recognise any caste, sub-caste, sect or religion and that in future it shall abolish the mention or entry of caste, sub-caste, sect or religion in any forms supplied by Government or in any records or registers kept by Government."

پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو : جناب چیر مین صاحب ! یہ ریزولیوشن جو ھاؤس کے سامنے پیش کیا گیا ھے - ایک طرح سے ایک بیماری کے ایک (Symptom) کا علاج ھے ابھی یہاں پر آنریبل موور نے فرمایا ھے کہ دراصل وہ اس علاج کے برخلاف نہیں ھیں - جو کے اس اصلی بیماری کا حقیقی علاج ھے لیکن تاھم وہ اُس علاج سے اتنا دور بھاگتے ھیں کہ وہ اس علاج کو پرابلمیٹیکل (Problematical) اور سپیکیولیٹو (Speculative) بات کہکر آگے نہیں چلتے ھیں - اسکی مجھکو سخت شکایت ھے - اگر ایک بیمار گھر میں پڑا ھے جسکو کہ نمونیہ ھے - اور اس کو کھانسی بھی آتی ھے تو جو شخص اسکا علاج صرف کھانسی کا ھی کرے تو وہ اسکا دوست نہیں ھے اصل مرض تو پھیپھڑوں کی خرابی کا ھے اور کھانسی محض علامت ھے در اصل جو بیماری آج ھندوستان میں ھے اور جو یہاں کے لوگوں کے وائٹلز (Vitals) کو کھا رھی ھے وہ کاست سسٹم (Caste system) ھے-میں یہ ماننے کے لئے تیار ھوں کہ برٹش گورنمنٹ نے اسکا بے جا فائدہ اُٹھایا ھے- برٹش گورنمنٹ نے آرمی میں اور ریلوے میں اور بہت سی جگھوں میں اس چیز کا فائدہ اُٹھایا ھے - لیکن اگر اُنھوں نے اسکا فائدہ اُٹھایا ھے تو یہ صرف ھماری غلطی کی وجہ سے ھوا ھے برٹش گورنمنٹ کے زمانے سے پہلے اس کاست سسٹم (Caste system) نے جو خرابیاں پیدا کیں انکی طرف نگاہ ڈالئے - میں یہ کہنا چاھتا ھوں کہ جب ھندوستان میں مرھٹہ راج تھا تو اُس ایمپائر (Empire) کے متعلق ھم ھسٹری میں پڑھتے ھیں کہ اس کے ڈاؤن فال (Downfall) کی وجہ صرف کاسٹ سسٹم (Caste system) تھا - آپ دو سو یا تین سو برس کی ھسٹری کو دیکھیں تو معلوم ھو گا کہ راجپوتوں اور جاٹوں میں ذات برادری کی بناء پر جو لڑائی ھوئی تو اسکا یہ نتیجہ ھوا کہ ھندوستان پر باھر کی قوموں نے آکر قبضہ کیا - اسکی وجہ صرف یہی تھی کہ ھندوستان میں کاسٹ سسٹم (Caste system) تھا-آج پاکستان کیوں بنا اسکی وجہ میری رائے میں یہ ھے کہ ھندوستان کے ھادروں کے رگ و ریشہ میں کاسٹ سسٹم (Caste system) بھرا پڑا ھے اور اسکا اثر یہ ھے کہ ھم اِنسان کو انسان ماننے کو تیار نہیں - مجھے افسوس ھے کہ شاید میرے چند بھائیوں کو میری کچھ باتیں پسند نہ ھوں لیکن میں اپنے اصلی خیالات اس ھاؤس کے سامنے رکھنا چاھتا ھوں - اگر ھم ھندوستان کی ھسٹری کی طرف

نظر ڈالیں تو آپ کو معلوم ھوگا کہ آج سے کئی ھزار برس پہلے بھی ھمارے جو بزرگ ھوئے ھیں وہ بھی سب کے سب اس کاست سسٹم (Caste system) کے خلاف لڑتے ھوئے مر گئے ھیں لیکن پھر بھی اب تک یہ بیماری ھم سے دور نہیں ھوئی ھے - زیادہ اِدور جانے کی ضرورت نہیں ھے اگر آپ مہاتما گاندھی جی کی زندگی کو دیکھینگے تو آپ کو معلوم ھوگا کہ وہ اس کاست سسٹم (Caste system) کے خلاف کتنی کوشش کرتے رھے ھیں اُنکا یہ کہنا ھے کہ اگر ھندوستان میں کاست سسٹم (Caste system) کی یہی صورت رھے جو کہ اسوقت ھے تو ھندوؤں کا ناش ھوگا اور یہ سوسائٹی (Society) ترقی نہیں کریگی – ھمکو یہ معلوم ھے کہ انہوں نے اپنے عمل سے اپنے صاحبزادے کی شادی شری راجگوپال آچاریہ کی لڑکی سے کی - اس سے پہلے شری دیانند سوامی بھی ھمکو یہی سکشا دیتے آئے ھیں کہ اس کاست سسٹم (Caste system) کو ختم کر دیا جائے - سکھوں کے سب گورؤں نے بھی کاست سسٹم (Caste system) کے خلاف جہاد کیا ھے - مہاراج بدھ اور مہابیر سوامی اور جتنے بھی شوشل ریفارمرز ھوئے ھیں انہوں نے کاست سسٹم (Caste system) کے خلاف جہاد کیا ھے - لیکن یہ اب ھمارے رگ و ریشہ میں اِس طرح سے گھس گیا ھے کہ وہ زمین جنبد آسماں جنبد نہ جنبدئل محمد ؐ انگریزوں کے متعلق تو ھم یہ کہہ سکتے ھیں کہ انہوں نے ھمارے ساتھ اس بارہ میں اچھا سلوک نہیں کیا لیکن اب ھماری قسمت ھمارے ھاتھ میں ھے اور اگر ھم آج بھی ٹھیک طریقوں پر نہیں چلتے ھیں تو یہ کس کا قصور ھے تیس برس ھوئے ھمارے پریزیڈنٹ شری وٹھل بھائی پٹیل نے ۱۹۱۸ع میں یہاں پر اس ھاؤس میں ایک بل پیش کیا تھا جو کہ ھندؤں میں انٹر میرجہ (Intermarriages) کے متعلق تھا - لیکن آج تک اسپر کوئی عمل نہیں ھوا - اس قسم کا ایک بل کا نوٹس میں نے چند روز ھوئے دیا ھے - اور اُمید ھے کہ ۲۶ تاریخ کو وہ اس ھاؤس کے سامنے آئیگا -

ڈاکٹر بی پٹا بھی سیتارامیہ : ھم اُس بل کو قبول کرینگے -

پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو : میں ڈاکٹر پٹابھی صاحب کا شکر گزار ھوں - اور انکی بلیسنگز (Blessings) کے لئے شکریہ ادا کرتا ھوں - میں اُنکے حکم اور فرمان کو عزت کی نگاہ سے دیکھتا ھوں اور جیسا کہ انہوں نے فرمایا اگر وہ اس بل کو قبول کرینگے تو مجھے کوئی شبہ نہیں کہ دیش اُنکے پیچھے چلیگا لیکن اسمیں بہت ھی کوشش کرنے کی ضرورت ھے -

میں نہایت ادب سے عرض کرنا چاھتا ھوں کہ انگریزوں کے متعلق اب یہ کہہ سکتے ھیں کہ وہ ھندوستان پر اپنا قبضہ رکھنے کی وجہ سے ھمکو تیوائڈ (Divide) کرنا چاھتے تھے - لیکن ۱۵ اگست کو جب یہاں پر ۱۵ منسٹر صاحب مقرر ھوئے تو کیا میں پوچھ سکتا ھوں کہ ایک سولہواں منسٹر شوشل ڈیموکریسی

[پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو]

(Social Democracy)و شوشل ریفارم کے لئے کیوں مقرر نہیں ہوا - میں نے چند روز ہوئے یہ کہا تھا کہ اگر آپ دراصل ترقی کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو آپ کو بہت کچھ تبدیلی کرنی ہو گی۔ میں یہ عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ جو ۱۵ منسٹر صاحبان مقرر ہوئے ہیں کیا وہ اس بات کے لئے قسم اٹھانے کے لئے تیار ہیں کہ وہ اپنے بچوں اور لڑکے لڑکیوں کی شادی غیر برادری میں کرینگے - کانگریس کمیٹی کے ممبر جنہوں نے کھدر پوشی کو اپنا کریڈ (Creed) رکھا ہے کیا وہ سب کے سب پارٹی میں شامل ہونے سے پہلے اور ممبر بننے سے پہلے یہ قسم اٹھائینگے کہ وہ اپنے لڑکوں اور لڑکیوں کی شادی غیر برادری میں کرینگے - اگر کانگریس کمیٹی کے ممبران اور آل انڈیا کانگریس کمیٹی کے ممبران سچے دل سے گاندھی جی کے سبق پر چلیں تو مجھے یقین ہے کہ اس دیش کی کایا پلٹ جلد ہو جائے - لیکن مجھے یہ امید موہوم سی نظر آتی ہے - کیونکہ ہمارے رگ و ریشہ میں کاسٹ سسٹم (Caste system) اتنا گھس گیا ہے کہ آسانی سے نہیں نکل سکتا ہے- مجھے ریزولیوشن زیر بحث بہت ہی انوسنٹ (Innocent) معلوم ہوتا ہے - لیکن کئی اصحاب اس ریزولیوشن کے اثر کو یوں سمجھتے ہیں کہ وہ لوگ جو آجکل نوکریوں پر چھائے ہوئے ہیں وہ ایسی برادری و ذاتوں کو نوکری میں نہیں آنے دیگی جو کہ چھوتے چھوتے ہیں لیکن میں یہ عرض کرونگا اور ڈنکے کی چوٹ پر عرض کرونگا کہ یہ خیال ٹھیک نہیں ہے اور ایسے توہمات و شبہات رکھنا جائز نہیں ہے - مسٹر دیواکر صاحب کے پوتر دل و دماغ میں ایسا پاپ سما نہیں سکتا -

میں اپنے دوست مسٹر دیواکر صاحب کی تقریر کو ویلکم (Welcome) کرتا ہوں لیکن یہ کہے بغیر نہیں رہ سکتا کہ شاخ اور پتے کو کاٹ کر کیا فائدہ ہو سکتا ہے جب تک کہ بیماری کی جڑ کو آپ نہیں کاٹتے ہیں - اگر آپ یہاں پر سچی اور متحدہ قومیت بنانا چاہتے ہیں اور جس کا ذکر کہ اس کانسٹی ٹیوایئنٹ اسمبلی اوبجیکٹو ریزولیوشن (Objective Resolution) میں بار بار آتا ہے تو آپکو چاہئے کہ آپ اس موجودہ خرابی کی جڑ کو کاٹ دیں اور اصل اوبجیکٹ (Object) کو حاصل کرنے کی صرف یہی ایک ہی ترکیب ہے جسکو مسٹر دیواکر سپیکولیٹو (speculative) کے طور پر کہتے ہیں اور میں اس کو یقیناً صحیح (panacea) پینسیا سمجھتا ہوں- سچ تو یہ ہے اگر میں ہندوستان کا ڈکٹیٹر ہوتا تو میں فوراً ایک آرڈیننس پاس کرتا کہ جو شخص اپنی برادری میں اپنے لڑکے لڑکیوں کی شادی کریگا اسکو چھ مہینے کی سزا دی جائیگی اور اسپر عمل کراتا ایک آنریبل ممبر خدا مجھے بھی ناخن نہیں دیگا لیکن خدا گنجے کو ناخن نہ دے آج کون صحیح دماغ رکھنے والا اس حقیقت سے انکار حقیقت کر سکتا ہے کہ انٹرمیرج (Inter marriage) متحدہ قومیت کی بیڈروک (Badrock) ہے اور ہندوستان کی بیماری کا ایک واحد علاج

ہے- آج ہر ایک محب وطن اور ہر کانگریس مین کے لئے امتحان کا وقت ہے آج چھوتی چھوتی برادریاں ہماری ذات پات نہیں ہیں بلکہ سارا ہندوستان ہماری برادری ہے- اور انسانیت ہمارا دھرم ہے جو مرد عورت اپنی برادریوں کو چھوڑ کر غیر ذات سے شادی کرینگے وہ ہندوستانی قومیت کے سچے سپاہی بنینگے - انسانیت کے اصول کو چھوڑ کر ہم نے باہمی تباہی برپا کی لیکن اب اتنی مصیبتوں کے بعد اتنے ہندوؤں اور مسلمانوں کو مار کر اگر ہم نے اتنا بھی سبق نہیں سیکھا تو میں نہیں جانتا کہ اصل سبق ہم کب سیکھیں گے مصیبت تو یہ ہے کہ کسی آفس میں چلے جائیے - اگر بڑا آفسر مسلمان ہے تو اس کے ماتحت مسلمان ہی مسلمان نوکر پاوینگے اگر ایک برہمن کو کسی بڑی نوکری پر بٹھا دیا جائے تو وہاں سب کے سب اس کے دفتر برہمن ہی برہمن نظر آئیں گے - برہمن کا کیا سوال ہے سکھ کو بٹھا دیجئے سکھ ہی سکھ نظر آوینگے اگر بھارگو کو بٹھا دیجئے تو بھارگو ہی بھارگو نظر آینگے - کشمیری کو بٹھا دیجئے تو کشمیری ہی کشمیری نظر آئیں گے اس کے علاوہ اگر مدراسی کو بٹھا دیجئے تو سب مدراسی ہی مدراسی نظر آئیں گے لیکن اسکا علاج کیا ہے میں پوچھتا ہوں کہ اگر ظفرعلی کی لڑکی کی شادی یہاں پرمانند کے لڑکے سے ہوتی یا پرمانند کی لڑکی کی شادی ظفرعلی کے لڑکے سے ہوتی تو یہ ہندو مسلمان تصادم کیسے ممکن تھا ہندو مسلمان اور سب برادری والے اس میں رشتہ دار ہوتے -

کیا صرف ہندوستان میں ہی مسلمان رہتے ہیں - چین میں بھی مسلمان رہتے ہیں جاپان میں بھی مسلمان رہتے ہیں - تو کیا وجہ ہے کہ ہندوستان کا مسلمان پاکستان کا خواہاں ہو اور دوسرے ملکوں کا مسلمان اپنے ملکوں کا دم بھرتے ہوں - اب وقت آگیا ہے کہ اختلاف مذہب سے بھی بڑھکر جو مختلف ذاتوں کی خطرناک بیماری ہے اسکو ختم کر دیا جاوے پرانے زمانے میں پیدائش کی بنا پر ذات پات نہ تھی اور مختلف ذاتوں میں شادیاں ہوتی تھیں -

مہابھارت کے زمانے میں اچھتریوں کی برہمنوں سے شادی ہوئی ہے اور ان سے اولادیں پیدا ہوئی ہیں میں یہ چیلنج کرتا ہوں کہ کوئی شخص یہ ثابت کر دے کہ ہندو شاستروں کے مطابق ذات پیدائش کے بنا پر ریکگنائز (recognise) کئے گئے ہوں - لیکن آج پریکٹس (Practice) میں اس کے بلکل بر خلاف ہے اور یہ پریکٹس (Practice) ہماری تباہی کا باعث بن رہی ہے -

آج یہ کیا بات ہے کہ ایک مسلمان ہندو اور ایک ہندو مسلمان بن سکتا ہے لیکن ایک چمار برہمن نہیں ہو سکتا نہ برہمن چمار ہو سکتا ہے جاٹ راجپوت نہیں بن سکتا اور راجپوت جاٹ نہیں بن سکتا اسکی تہ میں کیا راز ہے سمجھ میں نہیں آتا اگر میں ہاوس کے سامنے مختلف برادریوں کے تفرقات کا ذکر کروں اور انکی کہانیاں سناؤں تو گھنٹوں اور دنوں میں ختم نہیں ہو سکتیں لیکن شاید اس ہاوس کے بہت سے ممبران نے یہ نہ سنا ہوگا کہ ہندوستان کے ایک حصہ میں اگر مزارعہ جاٹ ہے تو اسکو ⅓ بٹائی دینا پڑتی ہے اور اگر راجپوت ہے تو اسکو ¼ دینا پڑتی ہے یعنی اس زمین کی بٹائی ذات پات کی وجہ سے گھٹتی اور بڑھتی ہے آج بھی کتنے علاقے ایسے ہیں جنکے اندر جاٹ راجپوتوں کے گاؤں میں اونٹ پر نہیں چڑھ سکتا نوکریاں ذات پات کی بنا پر ملتی ہیں یہاں تک کہ مدرسہ اور کالج کا داخلہ ذات پات کی بنیاد پر ہوتے ہیں ابھی چند دنوں کے ممبر ہے ایک مدراسی دوست نے، جو ایک M.L.A ہیں ۲ ۳ یا انکے

[پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو]

لڑکے کو انجینیرنگ کالج (Engineering college) کے اندر داخل نہیں ہونے دیا۔گیا کیونکہ اسکی ذات برھمن تھی اس ساری وحشت دیوانگی اور بیماری کا علاج صرف ایک ہے اور وہ ہے انٹرمیرج (Inter marriage) اگر یہ اصول آپ اختیار نہ کریں گے اور اسپر عمل نہ کرینگے تو میں نہایت ادب سے عرض کرونگا کہہ آپ کبھی بھی کامیاب نہیں ہو سکتے اگر آپ اس ریزولیوشن کے ساتھ انٹرمیرج (Inter marriage) کے اصول کو مان لیں اور اسپر عمل پیرا ہوں تو میں اس ریزولیوشن (Resolution) کے خلاف نہیں ہوں کیونکہ ریزولیوشن (Resolution) پھر انٹرمیرج (Inter marriage) کے ہینڈ میڈ (Hand maid) کے طور پر قبول ہو سکتا ہے -

سمجھتا ہوں کہہ ۱۵ منٹ میرے ختم ہو چکے ہیں آخر میں میں پھر دھرانا چاھتا ہوں کہ ہماری متحدہ قومیت کے راستے میں جو ذات پات کی رکاوٹ ہے وہ صرف انٹر میرج(Inter marriage) سے ہٹائی جا سکتی ہے اور کوئی دوسرا علاج اسکا نہیں ہے اگر آپ اس اصول کو مان کر یہ پرستاؤ پاس کریں تو مجھے اعتراض نہیں ہے ورنہ میں اس پرستاو کا وروده کرتا ہوں -

(*English Translation of the above speech*)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, the Resolution placed before the House is in a way a cure of only a symptom of the disease. Here the Honourable Mover has just said that as a matter of fact he is not opposed to this cure which is the sure remedy for the real disease, but however he shuns this cure so much that he calls it nothing but 'speculative and problematical' matter. I have a serious complaint against it. For instance, the man suffering from pneumonia developes cough and if any man gives him medicine for cough only he is not his friend. The actual disease is due to the trouble in the lungs, and the cough is only a symptom. As a matter of fact, the only disease which is in India today, and which has been eating up the vitals of the people is the caste system. I am prepared to accept that the British Government have taken an unfair advantage of it in the Army, the Railways, and in many other places. If they have done so, it is due to our mistake. Just have a look at the evils done by this system before the time of the British Government. I want to say that history tells us that the cause of the down fall of the Marhatta Rule in India was the caste system only. If you review the history of the last two or three hundred years you will come to know that the fight which took place between the Rajputs, and the Jats on the question of caste and sub-caste had this result that foreign nations took possession of India. Its only cause was the caste system in India. Why Pakistan came into existence? The cause in my opinion is that in every vein of the Hindus the caste system permeates. The effect of it is that now we are not prepared to recognise a human being as a human being. I am sorry that a few of my brethren, perhaps do not relish my words, but I would like to place before the House my real ideas. If we glance at the Indian history we would know that even several thousands years ago all of our ancestors died fighting against this caste system. Still this disease has not been eradicated. We need not go very far if, you would survey the life history of Mahatma Gandhiji, you would see how much effort he had been making against this caste system. He said that if the caste system remains as it is today the Hindus will be annihilated and the society shall not progress. We are aware of the fact that on his initiative he married his son to the daughter of Shri Rajagopalacharya. Before that, Shri Daya Nand Swami also had been teaching us to put an end to the caste system. All of the Sikh Gurus also crusaded against the caste system. The

Great Budha and Mahavir Swami and all other Social Reformers, without exception, vigorously opposed the caste system. But this has now so much permeated our system that it cannot be eradicated. '*Zamin Jumbad Asman Jumbad Nah Jumbad Gulmohammad*'. (Let the world change, but the caste system remains unchanged.) As regards the English we may say that they behaved ill with us in this matter but now our fate is in our own hands and if we do not go on right paths then who is to blame?

Thirty years ago, in 1918, the Honourable President Shri Vithalbhai Patel, placed before this House a Bill regarding Inter Marriage among the Hindus but no practical result has followed so far. I gave a notice of one such Bill a few days ago and I hope that it will come before the House on the 26th instant.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): We will accept that Bill.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am thankful to Dr. Pattabhi for this, and also thank him for his blessings. I look upon his orders with great regard. And if he would accept this Bill, as he has said, I have no doubt that the country will follow him. But it requires very great efforts.

Most respectfully I beg to state that you can say about the British that they wanted to divide us to keep their hold on India, but when here on the 15th August, 15 Ministers were appointed, may I ask you why the 16th Minister for Social Democracy and Social Reform was not appointed?

A few days ago, I said that if you really want to make progress, you would have to make many changes. I mean to say whether the fifteen newly appointed Ministers are prepared to take the pledge that they would marry their children out of their caste. And also whether all the Members of the Congress Committee who have made the wearing of Khaddar their creed swear that before joining the party and becoming members of it they would inter marry their sons and daughters. If the members of the Congress Committee and those of the all-India Congress Committee follow with their pure hearts the lesson taught by Gandhiji, then I am sure that the country will soon change for the better. But, this appears to be vain hope, as the caste system has so much permeated our blood that it will not leave it easily.

The Resolution under discussion seems to me very innocent, but several gentlemen understand the effect of this Resolution thus that those who have monopolized services in these days, would not allow to get into service such castes and sub-castes which are lower than theirs. But I will state and will state even by beat of drums that this idea of theirs is not true and that to entertain such doubts and suspicions is not proper. Such an idea cannot, I am sure, enter the pure mind of Mr. Diwakar.

I welcome the speech of my friend, Mr. Diwakar, but I must say what is the use of cutting only branches and leaves if you do not strike at the root of the disease. If you want to make a true and united nationality which has repeatedly been mentioned in the objective Resolution of the Constituent Assembly, you should then cut the root of this existing evil.

For the attainment of the real object this is the only remedy which has been called as 'speculative' by Mr. Diwakar but which I am sure will prove sure and certain 'panacea'. To speak the truth, had I been the Dictator of India, I would have atonce issued an ordinance that the person who would marry his sons and daughters in his own caste would be punished with six months imprisonment and would have seen it worked.

An Honourable Member: Khuda Ganje Ko Nakhun Na De. Yes, God will not give me nails, I know. But today, which man of sound mind can deny this fact that inter marriage is the bedrock of the United Nationality and the unique remedy of India's ills. Today is the time of test for every patriot and every Congressman. Small communities do not constitute our caste but

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

the whole of India is our community and humanity is our creed. Whosoever, men and women, would forsake their own castes and inter marry, would make true soldiers of the Indian Nationality.

We abandoned the principle of humanity and indulge in internecine quarrels. But now after undergoing so many misfortunes, and after killing so many Hindus and Muslims if we have not even learnt the simple lesson of harmony, I do not know when we will learn the real lesson? The tragedy is that if in any office if the chief Officer is a Muslim you will find the whole of his staff Muslims and if a Brahmin is appointed on a big post, you will see all Brahmins in his office. What is the question of Brahmins. Appoint a Sikh, you will see all Sikhs; appoint a Bhargava, you will see all Bhargavas; appoint a Kashmiri you will see all Kashmiries; and also if you appoint a Madrasi you will see all Madrasis.

What is its remedy after all, I would ask if Zafar Ali's daughter could marry Parma Nand's son or *vice versa* how was this Hindu Muslim collision possible? Hindus and Muslims would have been relatives of one another. Do Muslims live in India only? They live in China also, they live in Japan too. Then how is it that a Muslim of India may be a well wisher of only Pakistan, whereas Muslims of other countries should be loyal to their own countries. The present time demands that the dangerous disease of multifarious castes is far more worse, than the diversity of religion and must be rooted out.

In ancient times caste was not determined by birth, and marriages took place among various sub-castes. In the age of Mahabharata Kashtriyas married Brahmins and children were born of them. I challenge the man who proves that according to the Hindu Shastras caste was recognised on the basis of birth, but it is quite a different practice now and this practice has been a source of our ruin.

How strange it is, that a Muslim can become a Hindu, and a Hindu can become a Muslim, but neither a cobbler can become a Brahmin nor a Brahmin can become cobbler. A Jat cannot become a Rajput, or a Rajput a Jat. I do not understand what mystery lies at its bottom? If I were to mention the distinctions between diverse castes and sub-castes and to relate stories about them, they would not be finished in hours and days, but perhaps a number of members in the House have not heard this that in a certain part of India an agriculturist jat has to pay one third of the produce, while a Rajput has to pay one fourth, *i.e.*, the taxation of that land increases and decreases according to the caste and community. These days also there are still many districts in which a Jat cannot ride a camel in a Rajputs village.

Services are secured on the basis of caste and so much so that even admissions to schools or a college are regulated on the basis of caste and creed. Quite recently, a few days ago a Madrasi friend of mine who is an M.L.A. related to me the fact that his son was refused admission to an Engineering College, because he was a Brahmin.

There is only one remedy for this wildness, madness, and disease and it is inter-marriage. If you would not adopt this principle and would not act upon it then most respectfully I would state that you can never succeed. If you accept the principle of inter-marriage along with this resolution and act upon it, I do not oppose the Resolution, because this resolution can then be accepted as an handmaid of the Inter Marriage Bill.

I suppose that my fifteen minutes' time has finished. In the end I would like to repeat that the obstacle of caste and creed in the way of our united nationality can be removed by inter-marriage only and there is absolutely no other remedy. If you pass the Resolution by accepting this principle I would have no objection, otherwise I oppose the Resolution.

An Honourable Member: Let us have the views of Government.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, if it is the desire of the House I can intervene at this stage, if the Chair so directs.

Mr. Chairman: The Government Member has a right of double intervention. He can intervene now as well as at the end. If it will facilitate discussion I would like to call upon him to speak now.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): Sir, does the subject relate to the Department of Works, Mines and Power?

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Minister has been placed in charge of this Resolution.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Government functions on the principle of joint responsibility.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I would like to request the Honourable Minister to make his statement after I have spoken.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member will be called afterwards.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I wanted to request him not to commit Government in any way.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I have listened with great attention to the speech delivered by my honourable friend Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava. I feel that after the 15th August last there can be only one caste—that of Indian—and one religion—that of humanity. But Government have to deal with practical aspects of administration and have no clean slate to write upon. I should therefore like to put forward the views of Government as precisely as possible. In so far as the Mover's object is to abolish distinctions of caste, religion, community, etc. from public administration, public services and other spheres of State activity, I do not think there can be any serious controversy or difference of opinion. In fact it is what we have been fighting for over a period of years and what we have tried both to preach and practise. Our struggle for the abolition of untouchability in all forms is not only symbolic of our outlook but it is in itself a clear testimony of the sincerity and the conviction with which we hold this view. Indeed we have already gone some way to achieve the object which the Mover has in view. In the census of 1941, for instance, no caste or religion tabulation was done; instead it was confined only to classification by communities. The result was that instead of presenting statistics under hundreds of heads we tabulated them under half a dozen. I am sure Honourable Members will appreciate that this was a notable advance in the direction of simplified sub national classification.

Then in the public services the alien Government introduced all sorts of water-tight compartments in the so-called desire to give minorities a fair deal. Their main object was to vivisect rather than integrate the nation; and they sought to do it systematically and in an orderly fashion. They first started with patronising the Anglo-Indians and Christians; that was understandable. They then took kindly to Mussulmans, an affection which grew as the years rolled by until it became an overmastering passion. Then they thought as a purely side business about scheduled castes. The Sikhs were soon added to the fold. In provinces backward classes, the advanced classes and intermediate classes were devised. The tribal classes were also impoverised. It is curious that all this solicitude was manifested since 1923. That is only after our peaceful struggle for freedom. I am mentioning all this not with a view to have a fling at those who have gone. It is not my habit to indulge in such a pastime, but to say how during the last 25 years of British

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rule in India, divisions and further divisions have been created and what a legacy we have succeeded to. Nevertheless, as soon as we started we initiated action to abolish these anti-democratic trends. It has been the constant endeavour of this Government to rid the public services of communal reservation and we have now reduced reservation in services to which recruitment is by competitive examination to only one, that is in favour of the Scheduled Caste.

In the constitutional field also, we have now abolished reservation on the basis of separate electorates. We are also doing away with recognition of communal and caste distinctions.

Our attitude to the Honourable Mover's resolution therefore is not only of sympathy, but of continuing action directed to achieving the objectives laid down in it. At the same time, I would remind him and the House that we have a legacy of years to live down. The Gordion Knot which man and time have combined to tie in ever increasing complication cannot be cut in one stroke but has to be smilingly unravelled. So long as we are still used to think in terms of the past and act by force of acquired habit, so long as we have to deal with entrenched vested interests, it would not be possible to abolish these distinctions by one stroke of the pen. We have to acquire a new outlook. We have to take a new vision. All that will take some time. Until we have gone a long way in changing people's habits and minds, such distinctions will persist. But I have no doubt that their intensity will not only gradually but rapidly decrease. With people becoming used to democracy and acquiring the new idea of human dignity and seeing national viewpoints in action, the progress towards the goal which the mover has set in his resolution will be more quickly reached than we ever believed it could be. It would then be a new India, an India throbbing with a new life, instilled with a complete sense of unity among its people. That is what we have aspired for and that is what we hope to achieve, if not in this generation, then at least in the generation to come.

I would ask the mover of the resolution not to force the pace too much but to have patience until the unmistakable forces at work themselves bring about the consummation of our joint efforts to make this caste-ridden country a caste-less nation. We have made some progress in that direction. We have to make more and quicker progress than we could have done some years ago. We shall examine afresh in what further directions we can proceed on the lines chalked out in the resolution and I may assure the House that we shall not hesitate to act in the spirit of the resolution in so far as it may be immediately feasible.

I hope that in the light of this assurance, the Honourable Member will withdraw his resolution.

At the same time, Sir, whatever legislative or administrative measures this Government may take, the real, solid and abiding progress will depend upon social conscience and social conduct. And in so far as they are concerned, nothing is calculated to stir them more than the suggestion made by my Honourable friend, Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava, that everybody who calls himself a member of the Congress, or for the matter of that an Indian citizen, should take up the pledge here and now that neither in his word, nor in his action, nor in his thought he will think except in terms of nationalism.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Sir, with reference to the statement just made, I have a question to ask.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member may ask his question.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Sir, there is a reference to what is called 'examination' of the question. I would like to know in what particular manner it will be done.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I think I have indicated the lines of progress by way of legislative and administrative measures. Over and above all, the real progress, the abiding progress, the enduring progress, will depend on social conduct and social conscience.

डा० धर्मप्रकाश सभापति महोदय, प्रस्तावक महोदय ने जो प्रस्ताव हमारे सामने उपस्थित किया है, इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं कि उस प्रस्ताव में उनकी शुभ कामनाएं निहित हैं जो स्वतंत्र भारत के लिये बहुत आवश्यक हैं। परन्तु प्रस्ताव उपस्थित करने से पहले हमें थोड़ी देर के लिये इस बात पर विचार करना है कि जिस आधार पर हम इस साम्प्रदायिकता को मिटाना चाहते हैं, वास्तव में वह साम्प्रदायिकता किस प्रकार से मिट सकती है और किस हद तक उसकी जड़ें मजबूत हो चुकी हैं। आज अगरचे हम यह प्रस्ताव पास भी कर लें तो भी हमें इस बात पर विचार करना होगा, और थोड़ा पीछे जाना पड़ेगा, कि जिस विधान-परिषद् में हम कानून बनाने बैठे हैं और जिसमें हमने इस आधार पर कि हम मुसलमानों को मुसलमानों की जन-संख्या के अनुपात से ऐंग्लोइन्डियन्स, पारसियों, ईसाइयों को और सिक्खों को उनकी अपनी अपनी संख्या के अनुपात से और खास तौर से हरिजनों को उनकी जन-संख्या के अनुपात से स्थान देना स्वीकार किया है तब यह कहना कि सर्विसेज और गवर्नमेन्ट के रेकार्डस से इस प्रकार की भावना, मिट जाय, यह अव्यावहारिक बात है। हम इसे क्रियात्मक रूप (practical shape) नहीं दे सकेंगे। मैं समझता हूं कि हमें इस बात पर थोड़ा विचार करना है। अगर हम वास्तव में इस साम्प्रदायिकता को मिटाना चाहते हैं तो जो परिस्थिति इस वक्त पैदा हो चुकी है उसके अनुसार यह समझने से प्रस्ताव के लिये उपयुक्त नहीं है। आज एक मुसलमान अगरचे किसी रजिस्टर में अपना नाम दर्ज कराना चाहता है या कोई Application किसी Department में पेश करता है तो उस वक्त वह यह लिखाता है कि मेरा नाम करीम बक्श, वल्द अमानल्ला है। उस वक्त खामखाह मालूम हो जाता है कि वह मुसलमान है। इसी तरह हिन्दू लिखता है 'रामदास वल्द सीताराम' तो पता चलता है कि वह हिन्दू है। इसी तरह सिक्ख लिखता है 'सर्दार बलवन्त सिंह वल्द सर्दार राम सिंह' तो पता चल जाता है कि वह सिक्ख है। ऐसी अवस्था में आप कहते हैं कि गवर्नमेन्ट के रेकार्ड में यह चीज न रहे और गवर्नमेन्ट ऐसा कोई काग़ज न रक्खे जिसमें उसे मजबूर होकर अपनी जाति-उपजाति लिखानी पड़े। तो इन काग़जों के होते हुए भी जिनमें जाति-उपजाति हटा दी गई है आपका उद्देश्य पूरा नहीं होता। आप अगर इसे मिटाना चाहें तो ऐसा समय और सद्भावना पैदा कीजिये जिसमें एक मुसलमान बड़ी खुशी से अपना नाम रामलाल रख कर भी मसजिद में नमाज़ पढ़ सके और एक हिन्दू

अपना नाम करीम बक्श रख कर मन्दिर में घंटा बजा सके। ऐसी अवस्था आ सकती है तो काम चल सकता ह, वरना आप इस साम्प्रदायिकता को इस रूप में मिटा नहीं सकते।

मेरा कहना यह भी है कि आज इसमें सन्देह नहीं कि साम्प्रदायिकता के विषैले प्रभाव के कारण हम परेशान हैं और देश का प्रत्येक व्यक्ति दुखी है साथही हमें दुनियां के विदेशी राष्ट्र लांछित कर रहे हैं कि हमम साम्प्रदायिता है और हम जातियता की संकीर्णता में फंसे हुए हैं जैसा अभी स्वयम् भार्गव जी ने भी कहा है। मैं समझता हूं कि उनकी बात बहुत उचित (reasonable) है लेकिन मैं समझता हूं मुसलमान और सिक्खों से अपील करने के बजाय खुद हिन्दू-हिन्दू से अपील करें और भेद-भाव को मिटा दें तो हमारा अधिक लाभ होगा और हम देश से साम्प्रदायिकता को मिटा सकेंगे, अन्यथा मैं बड़े अदब से कहना चाहता हूं कि जो लोग आज कल जात-पांतका भेद-भाव मिटाना चाहते हैं और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय तथा अन्तर-जातीय विवाह करना चाहते हैं, उनसे मैं पूछता हूं कि जब तक वे अपने नाम के आगे, भार्गव, सारस्वत, शुक्ल, चतुर्वेदी, त्रिवेदी, सक्सेना, श्रीवास्तव आदि लगाते रहेंगे तब तक यह कैसे सम्भव हो सकता है कि आप साम्प्रदायिकता को मिटा सकें और यह भेद-भाव की भावना भुला सकें। मैं सबसे पहले तजवीज़ करता हूं कि जो लोग अपने नाम के आगे जाति उपजातियों का नाम लगाते हैं उसको मिटाएं और तब दूसरों से अपील करें।

उन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस प्रस्ताव को अव्यवहार्य समझता हूं। और यह practice में आने वाला प्रस्ताव नहीं है। इस लिये मैं प्रस्तावक महोदय से कहूंगा कि इसी उद्देश्य को ले कर जो फैसला विधान परिषद् ने किया है कि हिन्दुस्तान में अल्प-संख्यकों को सुरक्षा का अधिकार रहेगा, यदि इसे ध्यान में लाएंगे तो उसकी आवश्यकता नहीं रहेगी। आवश्यकता इस बात की आज ज़रूर है कि जो व्यक्ति अपने को कट्टर हिन्दू कहता है वह अपना कट्टरपन भूल जाय और मसलमान अपना मुसलमानपन भूल जाय जिस कारण वह दूसरों को काफिर समझता रहा है। और तभी सच्चे राष्ट्र का निर्माण हो सकता है अगर हम यह भावना लाएंगे, तो हम अपने कर्तव्य का पालन करेंगे और स्वर्गीय पूज्य बापू का आदर्श जिसको क्रियात्मक रूप देने के कारण उनकी मृत्यु हुई, उसको हम पूरा कर सकेंगे।

यह भावना हमारे अन्दर आती है तो न इस प्रस्ताव की जरूरत ह न प्रचार की। जरूरत इस बात की है कि हम अपना कर्तव्य पालन करें और अगर हमने वह किया तो यह भेद-भाव की भावना अपने आप मिट जायगी।

(English translation of the above speech)

Dr. Dharam Prakash (U. P.: General): Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that the Resolution brought before the House by the Mover contains his good wishes that are quite essential for Independent India; but before presenting the Bill we must be able to find out as to what is the real way of abolishing communalism which is now so deeply rooted in the country. Even if we may pass this Bill today we should remember that under the very roof of this House, where we are framing our laws today, we have agreed that seats will be allotted to Mohammadans, Anglo-Indians, Parsis, Christians, Sikhs and the Schedule Castes in particular, on the basis of their population; we have no right therefore to say that this feeling must disappear from services and Government records. I am afraid we shall not be able to give it a practical shape and I think we should give a little more thought to this. If we are really very keen to abolish communalism then under the conditions which have already developed it is not the proper time to introduce such a Bill. Today the conditions are such that if a Mohammadan desires to have his name registered or presents his application for appointment in some Government Department, he gives his name as Karim Bakhsh son of Aman Ullah which clearly states that he is a Mohammadan. Similarly when a Hindu turns up and gives his name as Ram Das son of Sita Ram, it is made clear there and then that he is a Hindu and in the same manner when a Sikh comes up his name is taken down as Sardar Balwant Singh son of Sardar Ram Singh and it becomes quite evident that he is a Sikh. In such conditions you are asking that the Government must not have such registers or forms in which a man need have to state his caste or sub-caste. I am afraid your purpose will not be served even if such records and papers come into existence on which the question regarding the caste or sub-caste does not appear. If you really want to do away with the feeling of communal hatred in the country you must create an atmosphere of goodwill, and trust among people so that if a Mohammadan calls himself Ram Lal he is freely allowed to offer his prayers in a mosque and a Hindu who styles himself as Karim Baksh is permitted to enter a temple and ring the bells there. If that stage of mutual trust and goodwill is possible then you would be successful otherwise you cannot abolish communalism as we see it today.

I would no doubt add that due to the poisonous effect of communalism we are quite perplexed and every man in the country is sick of it today. Moreover the people of other countries are mocking at us for communalism exists here and as stated by Bhargava Jee himself we are entangled in the complexity of the caste system. That may be quite correct, I agree and it may be quite reasonable too, but I feel that instead of appealing to Mohammadens and Sikhs, a Hindu should now appeal to a Hindu and both should sink their difference of caste: This will help us a great deal and we shall be able to destroy communalism. Otherwise, I have to submit that so long as the people who are advocating inter class or inter national marriages do not themselves refrain from using suffixes after their names such as Bhargava, Saraswat, Shukla, Chaturvedi, Trivedi, Saksena, Shrivastava, etc., how is it possible to stamp out communalism from this country. I, therefore, propose that those who are using these suffixes should first stop that practice and then they should appeal to others. With these words I regard this resolution as impracticable. I would, therefore, request the Honourable the Mover that if he bears in mind the decisions taken by the Constituent Assembly that has kept in view this ideal that the responsibility and right of the defence of this country will always rest with the masses, he would find that there is no necessity for this Bill. Of course we do need today that every individual who calls himself a staunch Hindu should forget his orthodoxy, and every Mussalman sinks his fanaticism which makes him regard the non-muslims as Kafirs, then alone, a real nation can come into being. If we cherish this

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view we will be doing our duty and will be fulfilling the ideal of the late venerable Bapu who laid down his life for putting it into practice.

If we have this feeling we need neither this resolution nor any propaganda. What we need is that we should do our duty and if we do that, this feeling of communalism will die its own death.

Shri H. R. Guruv Reddy (Mysore State): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish I was also able to speak in Hindi but I do not know. So I am reluctantly ignoring what has transpired in Hindi and shall proceed.

I would draw the attention of this Honourable House to the language employed in this resolution and for the benefit of clarity I would read it. I will mark the particular words that practically decide the fate of this resolution:

"This Assembly is of opinion that for any purposes connected with the State or its services, the Government of India shall not recognise any caste, sub-caste, sect or religion."

We should note the words 'any' and 'shall not recognise'.

That is the first part of the resolution. As the Mover himself said there is a second part and "that in future it shall abolish the mention (the words 'abolish the mention' should be noted) or entry of caste, sub-caste, sect or religion in any forms supplied by Government or in any records or registers kept by Government". These are the most important words of the resolution to be noted. I wish the Mover of the resolution my Honourable friend Mr. Diwakar had put the objective of it definitely and clearly and set a time limit also to it. If the resolution is accepted by the House or passed by the House it would come into operation at once and under the existing circumstances of society in India. Without the mention of this time limit by the Mover himself I shall take it that he means that the resolution shall come into force at once, if it is moved and accepted by the House. Therefore after examining the language employed in the resolution I am inclined to think that a mature and astute politician like Mr. Diwakar is using these words quite deliberately and he should be presumed to know the consequences of a resolution in these terms moved and passed in an august House like this. This is the Parliament of India and any decision taken here is binding on the whole nation. Therefore I would say that the language of this resolution is calculated to wage a silent and treacherous war against the dumb millions of the oppressed, depressed and backward peoples of this great country. It would be a war waged by the forward classes and groups and against the dumb millions. I would amplify it by saying that the Honourable Member Mr. Diwakar has been thinking of one thing in his mind and he has explained it in another way and he has written down his resolution in an altogether different form and is perhaps likely to act in an astute manner when the resolution is passed. I would beg of this Honourable House not to accept the resolution in any form. When the very basis of any services or any of the documents to be maintained in the country are to be taken away, it is destruction of positive evidence to prove a certain thing. (*Interruption*) If my friends suggest that such a destruction is a penal offence, it would come under the Penal Code. It is destruction of evidence which is available to us and therefore the resolution should not be accepted. (*An Honourable Member*: "I am trying to correct the Honourable Member)". It is not possible for my Honourable friend to correct me. The presumption therefore from the language of the resolution is that the Mover has been silently introducing merit as the only other way. I am one of those who believe in merit and I am not afraid of accepting merit. In fact we want merit, we cannot get on without merit. It is the dictum on which we should act and we have acted on it even in the past. But what is merit?

Has my Honourable friend come forward with any definition of merit? Has he put down what merit is the basis of service? Shall I say that a bookworm is a meritorious boy? Shall I understand him to say that all brain and nobody is merit or that quibling is merit or that hair-splitting argument is something which is merit, or treachery otherwise called diplomacy is merit? There are certain other traits in certain people like crow-catching is that merit? There are people who are prepared to sell away office secrets for a couple of rupees or probably with ten chips more even their country itself is that merit? What is merit? Again merit is a thing which has got to be defined and I wish my Honourable friend had defined it and yet it has been subtly introduced. We are not afraid of subtlety, because we can dive deeper than this subtlety. I do not know what is meant by these words. I wish my Honourable friend the Mover had defined what is meant by merit. I am the first one to accept merit. You must be on *terra firma* when you are going to act but that has not at all been shown to the House. Therefore fundamentally he has failed in his arguments.

Then again we must be very constructive when we are putting forth such damaging resolutions before the House, damaging from the point of view that nothing constructive has been shown. It is possible, I believe, to achieve what all Mr. Diwakar has intended here or ever intended at all by a few suggestions. You have to prepare the entire population with free primary, at least, and compulsory education. That is the foundation for improvement of the nation. There is nothing else which my friend can take up to achieve the thought that he has been engendering. That is the only solution left to the nation to achieve all the things that my friend wants—free, primary and compulsory education. If crores of rupees are thrown away in that direction and if a planned education for the next five years is launched—I am not prepared for a ten years programme because we are marching too fast—if within the five years we could achieve our objective by a compulsory education, the masses would come up to a higher level, people would be prepared to mix more freely and caste and creed would not be cared for very much and a unity of the nation would certainly be more possible than it ever could be under the existing circumstances. Therefore, I expected my friend Mr. Diwakar to say that compulsory, free, primary education must be the basis, the fundamental, if he were to think of success of his resolution. But he has failed to do that. He has never uttered that. I could catch my Hindi friends talking here. I also believe in an inter-marriage, a free inter-marriage without any obstruction. There is going to be a Validating Act and Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya said he would accept it forthwith. I want to be the forerunner and I would do it even before him. Unless and until there is intermarriage between caste and caste, between sub-caste and sub-caste, this nation, particularly the Hindu nation, cannot be built up easily. Therefore I would suggest as a practical measure that immediately after the Bill is passed, or if there is any such law to validate the marriages taking place now, State aid must be given as an inducement to such marriages. The State may come forward and say "we will perform the marriage at the cost of the State". There may be group marriages. Certainly it can be done and it would not be very difficult for a nation to do. Then let my friend Mr. Diwakar wait and get all that he wants. I would even put a premium on those things. If a man of the so-called higher community marries a lady of the so-called lower community he should be enabled to get some benefit from the State. Let us take human psychology. If a man of the so-called higher community—I do not recognize it as such—takes in marriage a woman of a community which is supposed to be of a lower community then the State may give him aid. What sort of aid? Not only free marriage—he need not spend a copper coin and all the marriage expenses are to be borne by the State—not only free celebration of the marriage by the State, but he could

be tempted with a little employment for winning his bread—not a Ministership as Dr. Pattabhi tempts me to say—but some livelihood could be ensured for him. He could be given certain concessions in business if he is a businessman. You can subsidize him in any manner. If he begets many children one child may be maintained at the cost of the State. Thereby you would be encouraging inter-communal and inter-caste marriage. That is one way of doing it.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member's time is coming to a close.

Shri H. R. Guruv Reddy: I am coming to a close. I find Mr. Kamath [Shri H. R. Guruv Reddy]

is very anxious to speak. Let him speak after me. Coming back to the resolution, if all these things are ignored and the resolution is passed, what would be the consequences? Let the census records and any other record that is available be perused. You will find those forward blocs, those forward communities, those forward groups, are occupying more than 80 per cent. of the State services. All the political power, all the social power, all the economic power of the country is today concentrated in the hands of these very small per cent. of the forward community. If this evidence is destroyed, which is a crime in my humble opinion, and if we are groping in the dark for the next decade or two to come, what would be the result? The eighty per cent. benefited small community will rapidly multiply itself to 100 per cent. and wipe out all the other oppressed the depressed and backward classes. It shall not be allowed. Under no case should this resolution be allowed.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma (U. P.: General): Mr. Chairman, I wholeheartedly associate myself with the resolution. While Honourable Members have argued on the different aspects of the question the real point has been missed by them. We know that the Englishman has gone out. But the fact remains that this hoary land of ours is still bound by strong chains: the chains of the past, the chains of the caste and the chains of want. You have still got to be freed from the past, freed from the caste and freed from want. On our shoulders is the burden of centuries. You should remember that for a simple proposition that the girl should be educated no less a sage than Swami Dayanand has to refer to the Vedas. This is the bondage of the past. Unless you bury the past you cannot go ahead. You have to remember that only a hundred miles away from this place there are different laws for the Rajputs and different laws for the Jats. Under the law of Manu there are different laws for Brahmans and Thakurs and there are no laws practically for the depressed classes. This is the bondage of caste. Till you break these chains India cannot be made free. Your forms of life, in the words of a great writer on physiology and history, are lifeless because they are caste-ridden. So the problem of caste is not so simple as to be solved by resolutions, or by correcting mistakes in commas or changing the words here and there, or by assurances from a Minister. The problem can be solved by one thing only and that is to think and act in the term of the common man and to move on in the term and in the name of the common man. To think in the term of caste or in the term of the past is a crime. It is a crime against the people and it is a crime against God. For thinking and acting in terms of the past and caste we have paid dearly—more dearly than any nation or any race in the world. We have pelted stones on Buddha simply because he cried in the name of divinity of the soul—the soul in every being. For that the people pelted stones on him. He cried aloud and called in the name of the Gods 'Take my limbs away because the soul that is in the animal is as precious to me as my own soul; the body of the animal is as precious to me as my own, so take my limbs." But Great Buddha was pelted with stones. Then came Swami Dayanand. He simply cried in the name of the depressed classes 'Think not of untouchability, think

not of pollution by the touch of these people' and he was poisoned. And what happened to our great Gandhiji? He cried aloud humanity is to be loved and served. Everyone is as dear and as precious as anyone else on the earth. So for crying for humanity, this great man was shot dead. Remember it is not one mad man's deed. It is the poison of caste. It is the poison of class. Of that poison this great man has been made victim. Anybody who today thinks in terms of caste, thinks in terms of class, at this moment is as bad as the man who actually shot Gandhiji. That man did not shoot Gandhiji. It is the poison of the caste, it is the poison of the class. It is the historical bondage of the class and past that bind our culture, that bind our history today. This is, Sir, a crime against history. How did it happen? I have not much time left for me to speak at length. The Hindu culture was a culture of classes. It was a cultural mode of life but that had its consummation in the time of Buddha. After that, class or caste should not have found any place in our history. We paid dearly in the fall of Rana Partap. Many of our great teachers who brought about a revival of the classes thought in terms of caste. They gave us great thoughts, great teaching and great system of philosophy, but revived forms without life so much so that in the modern age we have forms without life and therefore the whole nation as a nation and community has an unnatural life. Unless you creat new forms altogether forgetting the the past and thinking and acting in terms of the common man, your future is marred and the dream of freedom is a dream without any meaning whatsoever. Therefore in the name of our glorious past, in the name of the bright future that we are trying to build, I appeal to you, gentlemen, not to think in terms of the past, not to act in terms of the caste, but to think and act in terms of the common man and build this great nation and this great country.

With these few words, I resume my seat.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my task of speaking on this resolution has been considerably lightened both by the fact that quite a good many speakers have already expressed themselves strongly against the resolution and also because Government has declared its policy on the matter. In the beginning, Sir, I would like to assure my Honourable friend Mr. Diwakar that I am one with him so far as he aims at the elimination of this poison from the Hindu society. I also agree with him that caste considerations react badly and are bad for society and they have also far-reaching political repercussions: But, Sir, where I differ from him is in the potency and efficacy of the remedy that he has suggested. I do not wish to be autobiographical, I do not consider myself a big enough man to do it. And yet I am sure the House will bear with me if I say that it was full 21 years ago that I actually acted on advice which has found favour with some of the members today. In the year 1927 I married out of caste and at considerable sacrifice. I could have easily, by marrying within the caste, got property, etc., worth 10 lakhs of rupees as dowry. So, Sir, if I say that I am not in favour of this resolution, I hope my friend will not mis-understand me. I do not question his motives, I do not question his intentions. I also accept the ideal towards the realization of which I have made a substantial contribution by my own example. But the remedy that he has suggested is at the present moment not the proper one. Elimination of caste distinctions must come about out of the development of the Society, as my friend Mr. Chettiyar has said, out of the progress of people, and mere compulsory primary education will not do Inter-caste marriages will start in right earnest when we have large-scale higher education in the country. It is everybody's knowledge that recently caste barriers are disappearing automatically. Young girls and young boys who go today to colleges and mix among themselves do not care to enquire about the caste or sub-caste to which he or she belongs. No sooner they dis-

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

cover there is affinity between them and find they are in agreement on the broad aims and fundamentals of life, so to say, than they decide without waiting for the permission of their parents and in many cases against the wishes of their parents, and they inter-marry. What has been suggested by Mr. Diwakar here is at the present moment, Sir, highly suspect. The whole of India at the present moment, feels especially concerned with regard to the very two items which have been specifically mentioned in this resolution, namely purposes connected with the State or its services. Curiously enough these are the two items that have struck my Honourable friend, and it is exactly here that there is considerable heart-burning among the masses of people. It is probably well known even in this House that the Konkanesth Brahmin from the Maharashtra monopolise the services. If somebody else gets in, it is seen that he is chucked out at the earliest possible moment. It is common not only to the Central Provinces and Berar, but the whole of the Southern Peninsula. It is a matter of history that people rose in rebellion against this sort of partiality and domination of the Brahmin as my friend is taking about non-mention of caste only in Government records and for purposes of services. I cannot see Sir, what we can achieve by requiring parties and witnesses not being required to mention caste in witness boxes. My friend has not yet really studied the subject. It is not merely not stating your caste in the witness boxes that can help. What about the Hindu Law? Is he going to abolish Hindu Law today? Has he considered this? This resolution, really speaking, ought to have been declared out of order since it goes against the principles which this very Assembly accepted sitting for the purpose of drafting a constitution has as fundamental for the future governance of India. I am surprised that the Government should have been indiscreet enough to make a garbled and unnecessary statement on the subject. I think the Government went too far and showed itself too solicitous in making a lengthy statement which was absolutely unnecessary. That is why I wanted to speak before the Honourable Minister and appeal to the government that this was a matter which was being considered differently by a very large number of people and that there was considerable opposition in the House. As my Honourable friend Mr. Diwakar himself admitted, we are only few and far between here and we cannot abrogate to ourselves either the wisdom or the representative capacity to represent everybody and every interest in this country. And so I wish to tell him that the vast masses of people are looking on this resolution with suspicion and are most vehemently opposed to it My friend tried to blame the British Government that is wrong and irrelevant. Will my friend tell the House who created the castes? Those people who are shouting against it today, they are the creators of castes. All these years and centuries they preached it. They perpetuated it and profitted by it. They told the masses that secrets were embodied in ununderstandable Sanskrit books. They deliberately kept people from study of Sanskrit. Nay they prevented them .....

Mr. Chairman: Does the Honourable Member wish to continue for some time?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: Then, the House will adjourn.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday the 18th February, 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Wednesday, 18th February, 1948

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS

AFGANISTAN SUBJECTS INTERNED IN INDIA

313. *Shrimati G. Durgabai (on behalf of **Mr. R. K. Sidhva**): Will the Honourable the Prime Minister please state:

(a) whether any subjects of Afghanistan have been interned in India;

(b) if so, how many;

(c) when they were interned and the reasons for their internment; and

(d) whether they are being detained under International Law?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No subject of Afghanistan is now interned in India or placed under any kind of restriction.

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

Mr. Tajamul Husain: May I know, Sir, whether these were interned by the order of the British Government or by the order of the present Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member is referring to the past, because nobody is interned now.

ISSUE OF LICENCES FOR NON-CAPITAL GOODS

314. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that import licences were issued for non-capital goods in spite of the declared intentions of Government?

(b) If so, what are the goods, their value, quantity and origin of their import into India for the quarters ended 30th September 1947 and 31st December 1947?

(c) In view of the necessity of foreign exchange, what action do Government propose to take to discourage import of luxury goods?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) The Honourable Member which appear to be under a misapprehension. The Government of India have at no stage declared that imports of non-capital goods would be totally stopped. As will be seen from their Press announcement of the 16th May, 1947, import trade control policy was stiffened with a view to making the best possible use of India's foreign exchange resources and to restricting imports of certain consumer and other non-essential goods which had arrived in the country in very substantial quantities. There are many non-capital goods which are not manufactured in India and which are considered essential for the country's economy, imports of which cannot, therefore, be totally stopped.

(b) The time and labour involved in the collection of these particulars will be scarcely commensurate with the results that are likely to be achieved.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Government's announcement published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary*, dated the 12th December, 1947, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the Legislature. Imports of purely luxury goods have been prohibited during the January-June, 1948 shipping period.

ACTION ON COMMUNICATION BY SECRETARY OF INDIAN AND EASTERN NEWS PAPERS SOCIETY

315. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether Government have received a communication dated the 8th January 1948 from the Secretary of the Indian and Eastern Newspapers Society embodying the unanimous decisions reached by the meeting of the committee of the Society held in Madras on December 29, 1947, asking the Government to include certain additional items of printing materials of essential use to newspaper publishers in the list embodied in the Open General Licence IX which has been issued by the Chief Controller of Imports?

(b) If so, what action have Government taken on the same?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Society have been informed that Open General Licence No. IX has already been cancelled with a view to enabling Government to keep a watch on their exchange commitments, and that it is not possible to accede to their request. They have, however, been informed that shipments of goods which were covered by that Open General Licence and which are made up to 31st March, 1948 will not require a licence and that licences for the import of printing machinery and materials falling under Serial Nos. 67(1) and 67 (2) of Part V of the Import Trade Control Schedule will be issued freely from all sources.

APPLICATION FOR REVALIDATION OF IMPORT LICENCES BY CHIEF CONTROLLER OF IMPORTS

316. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that applications received for revalidation of import licences by the Chief Controller of Imports before the 15th June 1947 have not yet been disposed of;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that this delay in dealing with licences for goods under Open General Licence Nos. VII and VIII is causing inconvenience and loss to the trading community of the country; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this matter?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) and (b). No, Sir. On the contrary, all applications received by the Chief Controller of Imports for revalidation of old licences or for the grant of fresh licences for orders covered by Open General Licences Nos. VII and VIII have already been disposed of.

(c) Does not arise, in view of my answer to (a) and (b) above.

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES FROM PAKISTAN IN AJMER MERWARA PROVINCE

317. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of refugees who have migrated into the province of Ajmer-Merwara from: (i) Sindh, (ii) East Punjab, (iii) other parts of Pakistan and (iv) the States adjoining the Indian Union, during the period 1st August 1947 to 31st January 1948?

(b) What is the number of refugees who have settled in the city of Ajmer, the towns of Beawar, Nasirabad and Kekri and other parts of the Province?

(c) Has any official record regarding the communities or the religious sects to which such refugees belong, been kept by the local Government?

(d) Have the Provincial Government taken any steps for the resettlement of such refugees and have Government of India appointed any Relief and Rehabilitation Officer in Ajmer-Merwara?

(e) If so, on what date was the officer appointed and what are his duties and functions and is he under the direction and control of the Government of India or the Provincial Government?

(f) Do Government propose to appoint a Provincial Advisory Board consisting of a majority of non-officials to assist the Relief and Rehabilitation Officer and the Custodian of Evacuee Property in the discharge of their duties and functions?

(g) If so, what will be the constitution, powers and functions of such a Board, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The total number of refugees in Ajmer-Merwara is about 50,000. Information regarding number of refugees from various parts referred to by the Honourable Member, has been called for and will be laid on the table in due course.

(b) and (c). The information has been called for and will be laid on the table as soon as it is received.

(d) and (e). The Deputy Director of Relief and Rehabilitation was appointed with effect from 30th October, 1947. He is incharge of registration and rehabilitation of refugees and also registration of their claims for property left or lost in Pakistan. He was also looking after the Evacuees Property. He is under the control of the Government of India. A Custodian of Evacuees Property has also been appointed.

(f) and (g). The question of appointing an Advisory Committee consisting of Officials and Non-Officials is under consideration.

ORDERS OF CHIEF COMMISSIONER AJMER MERWARA PROVINCE *re* EXTERNING OF SIKH REFUGEES AND BANNING ENTRY OF OTHERS

318. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara passed any orders externing all the Sikh refugees from the Province? If so, on what date were such orders passed and for what reasons?

(b) Were the aforesaid orders modified or cancelled? If so, for what reasons?

(c) Has the Chief Commissioner passed any orders banning further influx of refugees from Sindh and other parts of Pakistan? If so, on what date and for what reasons?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes. The Chief Commissioner banned further influx of refugees on the 14th December, 1947, when local resources in respect of shelter to the refugees were stretched to the maximum.

REGISTRATION OF REFUGEES IN AJMER MERWARA PROVINCE

319. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken so far by Government to register the refugees migrating to the Province of Ajmer-Merwara? If so, what progress has been made in this matter?

(b) If not, do Government propose to ask the Provincial Government or the Relief and Rehabilitation Officer to take expeditious measures to register the refugees settling in various places in the Province?

(c) What progress, if any, has been made in registering the claims of these refugees?

(d) Is it a fact that all refugees are required to come to Ajmer, from various towns in the province to get their claims for property etc., registered?

(e) If so, do Government propose to ask the Provincial Government to afford facilities to the refugees to get their claims registered with the S.D.Os or any other appropriate officer, at the places where they ordinarily reside?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b) Yes. Upto the 1st February, 1948, the total number of families registered was 4,191 comprising of 24,901 persons. The registration was confined to Ajmer, Beawar, Pushkar and Deoli.

(c) The total number of claims registered upto 1st February, 1948 was 1,257 and the amount of the claims registered was nearly 6 crores.

(d) All refugees submitting claim applications have to make certain declaration in writing that they have not registered their claims elsewhere. These declarations have to be attested by a Registrar or an Assistant Registrar of Refugee Camps, by a Magistrate or any other responsible gazetted officer of the Government. In the earlier days of registration, complaints were received that considerable difficulty was being experienced in getting the claims thus attested. Instructions were, therefore, issued that members of the Provincial or Central Legislatures including Hindu and Sikh members of the West Punjab and N.W.F.P. and members of the Advisory Committee of the Ministry could also attest the Claim Forms.

(e) Provincial Governments and States have been requested to arrange to register locally the claims of refugees, residing within their jurisdiction and it is understood that they have taken the necessary steps in the matter.

Shri Sri Narain Mahtha: May I know if any claims have so far been compensated by the Government of India or the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: No, Sir. The object of getting claims registered is to obtain an idea, among other things, about the extent of the property left behind by the evacuees from Pakistan. The question of compensation is the subject matter of negotiations between the Government of India and the Pakistan Government.

GOVERNMENT HELP TO REFUGEES AT DEOLI CAMP AND INHABITATION OF A NEW TOWN

320. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state when the refugee camp at Deoli in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara was opened and what is the present number of refugees in that camp?

(b) What is the number of refugees who are being supplied with food ration or clothing at Government cost and what is the amount that is being spent every week on such refugees?

(c) Are Government aware that a number of refugee families are being accommodated in each barrack, and if so, do Government propose to have the barracks converted into small rooms by putting up temporary partition walls of bricks or wood?

(d) Are Government aware that at Deoli, there is at present a large number of pucca quarters lying vacant, sufficient to accommodate a large number of refugees and with arrangements for electric light and water supply?

(e) If so, do Government propose to consider the advisability of building a new town there, for the benefit of the Sindhi refugees who have already migrated or are now under the process of migration to the Province?

(f) Will the Honourable Minister consider in consultation with the Ministry of Transport the question of expediting the proposed B.B. & C.I. Rly., Broad Gauge new open line scheme connecting Kotah with Ajmer, thereby facilitating the inhabitation of a new town nearby the Deoli detenue camp?

(g) What arrangements, if any, have been made for (i) the education of the children of the refugees; (ii) proper medical aid to them: and (iii) the protection of their life and property?

(h) What help, if any, has been given by Government to the destitute refugees by way of grant or loan and by the supply of food rations, clothes and blankets or quilts? How many refugees were thus helped and what was the amount spent thereon?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The Deoli Camp was started on the 24th December, 1947. The number of refugees in the camp on 10th February, 1948, was 2,625.

(b), (c) and (d). The information has been called for and will be laid on the table as soon as it is received.

(e) The question of building a new town is under consideration and will be examined by the Rehabilitation and Development Board.

(f) Yes, the matter is being considered by the Ministry of Railways.

(g) It is proposed to start one or more primary schools in the Camp as early as possible. There is a Government dispensary in Deoli town which is supplying free medical aid to the refugees in the Camp. A separate dispensary will be provided in the Camp if and when the number of refugees necessitates it. Arrangements have been made to provide a police Guard for the Camp.

(h) Arrangements have been made to provide free food and clothing to the destitute refugees residing at Deoli Camp—2,000 cotton blankets costing Rs. 12,000 have been despatched. The information regarding the total number of refugees who have been helped and the expenditure incurred on free food, clothing, etc., has been called for and will be laid on the table as soon as it is received.

CUSTODIAN OF EVACUEES' PROPERTY AND TOWN EXPANSION SCHEMES IN AJMER MERWARA

321. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government have appointed any custodian for the property of the evacuees from Ajmer and other places in the province of Ajmer-Merwara?

(b) How many shops, houses, etc., of the Muslim evacuees have been occupied by the refugees at Ajmer and other places in the Province?

(c) Do Government propose to help the Municipalities with funds by way of grants or loans in their town expansion schemes for accommodating these refugees? If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes.

(b) The information has been called for and will be laid on the table as soon as it is received.

(c) Government of India have not received any requests for grants or loans from Municipalities for their town expansion schemes. Such requests when received will be considered.

IMPORT AND EXPORT OF CLOTH DURING YEARS 1942-1947

322. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the quantity of cloth imported and exported in each of the years 1942 to 1947?

(b) Do Government propose to permit any export of cloth during the year 1948? If so, what quantity?

(c) Are Government aware that India is deficient in cloth? If so, what is the reason for permitting any export?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) The quantity of cotton piecegoods imported and exported during each of the official years 1942-47 was as follows:

Year	Quantity Imported.		Quantity Exported	
1942–43	13,131,225	yds.	881,473,734	y
1943–44	3,752,361	,,	544,414,748	,,
1944–45	5,204,497	,,	487,123,099	,,
1945–46	3,186,815	,,	496,813,933	,,
1946–47	16,209,781	,,	363,032,296	,,

(b) Yes, Sir. The question of what quantity should be allowed for export during 1948 is under consideration.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is, however, considered necessary to permit export of limited quantities of cloth to foreign countries in view of the imperative need for foreign exchange and in order to retain, in the interests of future export trade, markets which have been dependent on us for their cloth supplies during the past as well as those where we have been able to establish ourselves during the last war.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Do Government scrutinise the transactions in regard to this export of cloth?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Yes, Sir; these transactions are scrutinised before a permit is given.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Are Government deriving any profit or does the whole profit go to the private companies?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: These export licenses are usually given to private individuals, but at the same time certain export permits are given to our sister Ministries like the Food Ministry which exchanges cloth for foodgrains.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the price paid by foreign countries for our cloth is three or four times the price of cloth that obtains in India?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That is so. There is no price control on the export of cloth excepting for a few destinations.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Have Government taken any steps to benefit the State so far as these excess prices are concerned?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: The only step taken in the past few months has been the levy of an export duty.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will Government freeze all this cloth that is to be exported and see that the whole of it is exported through Government agency?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That is not being considered.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: May I know whether there is any embargo on the export of *khaddar* from one province to another?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That question does not arise in this connection, but there is no such embargo.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that these export licenses have been on sale in places like Bombay and the licensees have been profiting by such sales?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Several cases of the nature complained of by the Honourable Member have been brought to our notice and suitable action has been taken against such persons.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Are these permits given to manufacturers only or are they given to middlemen?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: These are given to two types of traders,—one called established shippers, and manufacturers sometimes happen to be established shippers; and then there are other traders who are newcomers in the trade.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know what the Honourable Minister means by 'suitable action'? Has anybody been prosecuted?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid, this information was asked for on a previous occasion on similar questions. It is no use repeating them.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister consider the desirability of establishing a State corporation similar to the U.K.C.C. which existed during war time for the purpose of canalising all these exports, in view of the definite advantage that we seem to have in the matter of price over other countries?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: This question will be considered.

RULES *re* COMPOSITION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FOREIGN COMPANIES IN INDIA

323. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce please state if there are any rules and regulations governing the composition of the Board of Directors of foreign companies in India? If so, what are they?

(b) If not, do Government propose to frame any rules?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) No.

(b) Government have under consideration a revision of the Indian Company Law and the matter referred to by the Honourable Member will be considered in that connection.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, may I be permitted to put my questions now?

Mr. Speaker: I can make an exception just for this occasion but this will not be treated as a precedent. Honourable Members must take care to see that they are present here in time. The Honourable Member may put his questions this time.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I was busy at another meeting in Dr. Rajendra Prasad's place.

Mr. Speaker: That is no excuse.

SCHEMES OF DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

324. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (on behalf of **Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**): (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the various proposals and schemes of development initiated by the late Planning and Development Department during its existence are being given effect to and if so, to what extent?

(b) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement showing the present stage of the various schemes chalked out during the last two years and also the further action proposed to be taken on these plans and schemes?

(c) Is there any proposal before the Government of India for the creation of a separate Ministry or Department for Planning and Development?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, do Government propose to consider the desirability of creating a separate Ministry, or at least a department to look after Planning?

(e) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, when will it be given effect to?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). A summary of the Central and Provincial Government's Five-Year development plan is given in Appendix 1 to the Report of the Advisory Planning Board. The execution of development schemes by the Central and Provincial Governments commenced in 1946 and will be a continuous process over a number of years. Annual progress reports on the schemes under execution have been called for and are being received. When complete information has been received in respect of the year ending 31st March, 1947, it is proposed to prepare a consolidated report indicating the progress made. The report when ready will be placed on the table of the House.

(c), (d), and (e). The question of establishing a suitable Central machinery for planning is under consideration. In the meanwhile the recent establishment of the Rehabilitation and Development Board is a step in that direction.

COMPENSATION TO INDIANS FOR LANDS IN BURMA

325. *Shri Damoder Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Burma do not propose to pay the Indian landowners full compensation but would pay only a nominal rent for any land owned by Indians when it is brought under Government control;

(b) whether it is a fact that the value of the land owned by Indians in Burma is nearly 30 crores of rupees; and

(c) if so; whether Government propose to take up the question of the payment of full compensation with the Government of Burma?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Tenancy Standard Rent Act, 1947 and the Disposal of Tenancies Act, 1948 recently promulgated by the Government of Burma have the cumulative effect of giving the Government of Burma power to regulate or control lease of agricultural land and to require the owner to lease out agricultural land in excess of fifty acres to whomsoever Government might wish, the owner being entitled to receive from the persons to whom such land is leased only twice the land revenue which he has to pay to Government. As land in excess of fifty acres is not proposed to be acquired by the Government of Burma, the question of compensation does not arise, although the legislative measures referred to affecting, as they do, the income from land, may adversely affect the compensation payable to land-owners, when the Burma Government give effect to their policy of nationalization of land.

(b) Indians in Burma own over 2·5 million acres of land. The estimated value of that land is not known.

(c) The question of payment of compensation will arise when the Government of Burma decide to nationalise land in Burma. Meanwhile the Government of India have asked their Ambassador to make suitable representations to the Burma Government about the severity of the effect of their recent legislation on Indian landowners.

INDIANS SETTLED AND WILLING TO SETTLE IN U. S. A.

326. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the total number of Indians who have settled in the U.S.A.?

(b) How many of them have been naturalized?

(c) Are there any Indians who have expressed their willingness to go to the U.S.A. and settle there?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what facilities do Government propose to give to such persons?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Approximately 2,405. This includes immigrants from Pakistan but excludes a number of students and casual visitors, including businessmen, which may be estimated at over 1,200.

(b) Forty-eight up to the end of 1946. Figures for 1947 not yet available.

(c) and (d). Yes. The selection of immigrants to the United States of America is made by the United States Government and, therefore, the Government of India cannot give any facilities in this behalf.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know, Sir, whether the Indians settled in the United States of America are given the same facilities as are given to the European settlers?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to those who have been naturalized. If they are naturalized, they have the same rights and facilities as other citizens of the United States. If they are not naturalized, then they naturally have not got the rights and facilities of the citizens of the U.S.A.

327. *[Withdrawn.]

DISABLED EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL TRAINED AND UNDER TRAINING

328. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of disabled ex-service personnel who were given vocational training during the years 1946-47 and 1947-48; and

(b) the number of such personnel who are still receiving such training?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The Training Centres for the War Disabled were in the process of formation in 1946-47 and no trainee completed his training during the year. The number of trainees who completed their training in 1947-48 upto the 31st January, 1948 was 254.

(b) The number of disabled ex-Servicemen undergoing training on the 31st January, 1948 was 966.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know, Sir, whether these disabled ex-Servicemen who are trained are given any financial aid after completing their courses?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: No. They are not given any financial aid after completing the course.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know, Sir, whether the Government is prepared to give any loans to those people to set up vocations for their training?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: There are schemes for the formation of Co-operative Societies of the trainees and the Regional Directors have been asked to see that Co-operative Societies are formed for them.

DUTIES OF LABOUR ADVICE OFFICERS

329. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state the duties of the Labour Advice Officers?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: There are no officers known as "Labour Advice Officers" under the Ministry of Labour. The Honourable Member is probably referring either to the Conciliation Officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner's Organisation attached to this Ministry or to the Labour Welfare Officers functioning in individual Central Government undertakings, *e.g.*, Mints, Ordnance depots, etc. The Conciliation Officers are generally responsible for industrial relations in establishments falling within the 'Central sphere' and they have been vested with statutory powers under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. A statement indicating the duties and functions of Conciliation Officers as well as Labour Welfare Officers is laid on the table.

Officers and Labour Welfare Officers

(I) *Conciliation Officers.*

(i) Maintenance of continuous touch with the state of relations between employers and workers with a view to preventing industrial disputes and, where industrial disputes arise, their settlement by conciliation.

(ii) Assistance in the formation and maintenance of voluntary negotiating machinery in individual establishments.

(iii) Examination of welfare measures and advice to employers, employees and Government.

(iv) Administration of Labour Laws to the extent to which their administration is the responsibility of the Central Government.

(II) *Labour Welfare Officers (or Labour Officers).*

(a) Maintenance of cordial relations between the management and the workers generally by functioning as the recognised medium of contact between workers and the management. In particular a Labour Welfare Officer is expected :

(i) to maintain close contact with the management on one side and the workers and their recognised trade unions on the other and interpret to either side the intentions, aspirations and needs of the other;

(ii) to keep himself in readiness at all times to consider the grievances of the workers and to strive for their redress, and

(iii) to watch industrial relations and take all possible steps to prevent the occurrence of disputes and where they occur, to maintain close touch with the Government Conciliation staff.

(b) Maintenance of proper working conditions and securing of full co-operation between the management and the workers. Especially, the Labour Welfare Officer is required to see :—

(i) that all statutory and contractual (explicit or implicit) obligations as regards working conditions are fully implemented;

(ii) that workers, particularly new-comers to industrial life, are assisted to adapt themselves to their environment by proper treatment and advice;

(iii) that workers received their proper dues, particularly statutory benefits like the Workmen's Compensation, maternity benefit, etc., and

(iv) that arrangements for first aid and otherwise for dealing with accidents are properly understood and maintained.

(c) Adoption of welfare measures calculated to raise the standard of living of the workers. In particular, the Labour Officer is to advise the management as regards welfare needs inside the factory (*e.g.*, canteens, shelters, creches, etc.), as well as outside the factory (*e.g.*, housing, water supply and drainage, medical aid, educational facilities, recreational facilities, etc.), and ensure that the welfare amenities provided by the management are properly used by the workers.

CONDITIONS AND REQUISITION OF BUNGALOWS IN DELHI

330. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the number of bungalows in Delhi that have been requisitioned during the last five months?

(b) What are the factors taken into consideration in selecting bungalows for requisitioning?

(c) Do Government consider only their own requirements or also the necessities of the owner of the bungalow while requisitioning it?

(d) Have Government requisitioned any bungalows, occupied by the owners, where the owners had no other bungalows for their use?

(e) If so, what arrangements have Government made to provide accommodation to the owners?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) 33 houses since August 1947.

(b) The following factors are generally taken into consideration:

(i) Whether the house is being vacated by the occupants.

(ii) Whether the occupant had left Delhi and the house was vacant.

(iii) Whether the occupant owns some other house in Delhi or New Delhi.

(iv) Whether the presence of the occupant is essential in Delhi when he has property elsewhere in India.

(v) Whether the house is being sold to a person who was not staying in Delhi and whose stay in Delhi is not essential.

(c) No; the necessities of the owner are also taken into consideration.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

گیان گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر : کچھ Refugees ایسے ھیں جنکی اتفاق سے یہاں ایک ھی کوٹھی ھے - گورنمنٹ نے وہ بھی Requisition کرلی ھے - کیا گورنمنٹ ایسے کیسوں پر ھمدردی سے غور کرنیکے لئے تیار ھے ?

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: There are some refugees who happen to own a house here and the same has been requisitioned by the Government. Are the Government prepared to look into such cases sympathetically?

श्री एन० वी० गैडगिल : जहां तक बनता है वहां तक उनसे हमदर्दी करते हैं, लेकिन जहां मजदूर हैं, वहां तो फिर उनको खाली जरूर करना पड़ता है।

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: So far as it is possible the Government do sympathise with these men but where it becomes absolutely necessary these premises have got to be vacated.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Does the Government know that bungalows and flats allotted to Government Officers have been occupied by non-Government people during the former's absence on duty or on leave?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Unfortunately it is so, Sir. Roundabout 700 tenements belonging to Government have been occupied by non-official refugees and tactical efforts are being made either to persuade them to give them up or to use force where it becomes absolutely necessary.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Have Government arranged for accommodation for all the officers who are roaming about without bungalows or flats?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is an accepted principle with the Ministry that the officials are to be given the first priority and every effort is being made to accommodate them. But at the same time in view of the fact that refugees came in and occupied these premises and when Police Officers go to take possession, every day I receive half a dozen letters of recommendation from persons including Honourable Members.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Does the Government know that these officers who have been deprived of their flats and bungalows have to pay the rents in spite of the fact that they do not occupy the bungalows and flats?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: If that is so, it will be taken into consideration.

श्री मोहन लाल गौतम : क्या गवर्नमेन्ट यह मुनासिब समझती है कि इन आफिसर्ज़ (officers) को दूसरे आफिसर्ज़ (officer) के साथ रख दिया जाए और रेफियजीज़ (Refugees) से मकान खाली न कराए जाएं ?

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Do the Government think it expedient to accommodate these officers with their brother officers so that the Refugees are not asked to vacate the houses?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I will seek your permission to answer this question in some detail. There are nearly 13,000 officers who are in need of accommodation in Government quarters. Nearly 5,000 officers have opted for service in India from Pakistan and out of that we have been able to accommodate about 2,500 and nearly 2,500 are literally on the streets. The Ministry has issued a direction that in case any officer who is occupying Gov-

ernment quarters shares the same with other brother officer not only no step will be taken against him but his conduct will be duly appreciated. I have also relaxed the rule in so far as the bungalows that are usually allotted to members of this Assembly are concerned, and I have permitted them not to sub-let but to share with such refugees as they find congenial to accommodate. In fact this is a very big problem and the Government can only solve it with the co-operation of all concerned including the refugees.

RULES *re* ALLOTMENT OF ACCOMMODATION TO GOVERNMENT OFFICERS IN NEW DELHI

331. *Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government residential accommodation in New Delhi is allotted only to Government officers who are required to reside on duty in New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that this allotment is made to Government officers in the order of seniority according to the date of their posting to a qualifying appointment in New Delhi;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the case of an officer who has been posted to New Delhi from Simla, his service in Simla is taken into account in determining his date of posting for purposes of allotment of Government residential accommodation at New Delhi; and

(d) if the answers to the above parts be in the affirmative, whether any discrimination between Attached Office staff and Secretariat staff at Simla and/or New Delhi exists as regards allotment of Government residential accommodation at New Delhi?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The main criterion for allotment is seniority according to date of posting in Delhi or Simla; but in cases where an officer has qualified for higher class of residence by virtue of an increase in emoluments the date of posting for a house of his class will be the date on which he becomes out of class.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

CHANGE IN TIMING OF MEETING OF ASSEMBLY AND EXTENSION OF LUNCH INTERVAL

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the legislative business. Before we begin, I will make an announcement to the House about a change in the timing of the meetings of the House. In pursuance of a very pressing demand from Honourable Members that the Lunch interval should be extended to an hour and a half instead of an hour and a quarter, the Assembly will, from next Monday onwards meet at 10-45 a.m. instead of at 11 a.m. and will adjourn for Lunch at 1 p.m. It will reassemble at 2-30 p.m. as usual and carry on till 5 p.m.

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION BILL—*contd.*

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 27 of the Bill, for the words 'All expenditure incurred by the Central Government for and in connection with the establishment of the Corporation up to the date of its establishment' the following be substituted:

'The Central Government may advance funds necessary for and in connection with the establishment of the Corporation upto the date of its establishment and all sums so advanced'."

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

The purpose of this amendment is that the original clause does not clearly empower the Central Government to advance money. The power to advance money is only assumed. By this amendment I want to make it clear that the Central Government has the authority to advance money. As the clause stands, that authority has not been given, but assumed. The Central Government must have clear authority to spend money.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I do not accept the amendment.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Then, I do not want to press it, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 27, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 27 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 28 of the Bill, for the word 'scheme', the word 'Corporation' be substituted."

Sir, this clause reads, "All property acquired and works constructed for the purposes of the Damodar Valley scheme, etc., etc.". The word "scheme" has never been used anywhere in this Bill except in this place. I feel that "Damodar Valley Corporation" which has been accepted as the name of the scheme should be a better expression. The word 'scheme' has never been defined, nor even referred to anywhere else in the Bill. It of course appears in the correspondence and in the voluminous literature that preceded the Bill, but in this Bill this word occurs here for the first and the last time. I, therefore, submit that this amendment should be accepted. Again, with regard to the word "scheme" if it is considered a proper noun, it should begin with a capital letter.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): I think the amendment is not regular, Sir, because the Corporation has not yet come into existence. The Corporation comes into being only after the Bill is passed by the Assembly.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The Honourable Member's objection is falacious. We are proceeding in anticipation of many things. We have used the word "Corporation" in many other parts of the Bill. The amendment was in anticipation of the fact that the Bill would be passed and the Corporation would be a reality. Anyhow, if the suggestion is not acceptable to the House, I do not want to press my amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 28, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 28 was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 29 of the Bill, for the words 'Imperial Bank of India', the words 'Agency of the Reserve Bank of India', be substituted."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 29 of the Bill, for the words 'Imperial Bank of India', the words 'Agency of the Reserve Bank of India', be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 29, of the Bill, for the word 'carried', the word 'credited', be substituted."

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

Sir, this word "carried" occurs in this context: "The Corporation shall have its own fund and all receipts of the Corporation shall be *carried* thereto....." I submit, the word "carried" implies the carrying of some physical substance, as though money is carried in baskets, or boxes. What should actually be done is money should be credited—that is, the transactions should be done by means of book adjustments. This is the word usually used in accountancy.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The practice in book-keeping is that amounts are carried over from the previous page to the next page.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Carrying over is merely carrying over a balance or a figure from one page of the *same account* to another page.

Shri H. V. Kamath: (C.P. and Berar: General): At any rate, this amendment hardly carries conviction.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 29, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 29 as amended was added to the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 30, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 30 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 31 of the Bill, after the word 'Corporation', where it occurs for the first time; a comma be inserted."

Sir, this clause which consists of one sentence is very long and consists of two ideas and the insertion of a comma after the word "Corporation" will give some breathing time to the reader and subdivide the clause into two natural parts.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 31, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 31 was added to the Bill.

Clause 32 was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I beg to move:

"That after clause 32 of the Bill, the following new clause 32A be inserted:

'32A. The Corporation shall have power to spend such sums as it thinks fit on objects authorised under this Act other than irrigation, power and flood control and such sums shall be treated as common expenditure payable out of the Fund of the Corporation before allocation under Section 32'."

Sir, as the Bill stands at present, there is no provision at all for expenditure on matters other than these three, and therefore, this provision is necessary in order to authorise the Corporation to spend on the "other activities" of the Corporation mentioned in clause 21 and also in clause 12.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I have been advised by the highest constitutional authority in the House to accept this amendment in order not to leave any doubt in the body of the Bill. Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That after clause 32 of the Bill, the following new clause 32A be inserted:

'32A. The Corporation shall have power to spend such sums as it thinks fit on objects authorised under this Act other than irrigation, power and flood control and such sums shall be treated as common expenditure payable out of the Fund of the Corporation before allocation under Section 32'."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 32A was added to the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That Clause 33, do stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 33 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 34 and 35 were added to the Bill.

Shri Upendra Nath Barman (West Bengal: General): Sir, I move:

"That for clause 36, of the Bill, the following be substituted:

'36. Disposal of profits and deficits.—(1) The net profit if any, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 39 or the net deficit if any, attributable to either of the two main objects, namely irrigation and power, shall be credited to or made good by the participating Governments in proportion to their respective shares in the total capital costs attributed to that object.

(2) The net profit if any, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 39 or the net deficit if any, attributable to the main object of flood control shall be credited to or made good by the Government of West Bengal'."

The main difference between the clause in the Bill and my amendment relates to sub-clause 2 of my amendment; that is to say, whereas in the Bill itself, regarding the project of flood control, the Central Government proposes to share the profits if any out of the project, it shelves the responsibility of sharing any loss if it arises out of that project and throws it on West Bengal.

There are also amendments to this clause given by other members, wherein it has been proposed that the proviso be omitted. My proposition is that if Government will be prepared to accept the removal of that proviso from the clause of the Bill, I am ready to accept that position and share equally with the Centre either in the profit or loss that arises out of that flood control project. If, however, the Centre is determined that it shall not share any loss arising out of the flood control project, in that case my proposition is that the Centre should let alone the province of West Bengal so far as its operations regarding the flood control project is concerned. My reasons are as follows:

First of all, I submit, Sir, to the House that the Centre presages that this flood control project is not likely to be a profitable concern. That is quite evident from the proposition as laid down in the Bill itself. If that be so, the Centre should not interfere with the province of West Bengal so far as it works the project of flood control within its area. There will be administrative difficulty in joint operation of this flood control project, in this sense: there are two projects, namely, the irrigation project and the flood control project. In the irrigation project, the Centre will share the profit or loss along with the West Bengal Government. But in the flood control project it shall not share th loss that might arise out of that project. Both the schemes will have to be met by taxation or increased rates upon the agriculturists of West Bengal province. Now when the Centre will share the profit and not the loss so far as flood control is concerned it shall necessarily be the aim of the administration and the Central Government to so apportion the levy of rates and taxes between the water rates and flood control rates so that there may be profit on both. Now as our experience goes in the past, we have seen that in irrigation projects, the agriculturists of West Bengal had already made vehement objections when only water rates were going to be levied by the West Bengal Government up to the amount which is going to be spent over that project. I allude to the water rates that were once imposed upon the agriculturists regarding the Damodar irrigation canal. In that project also, the Centre contributed—perhaps I am not definite—to the tune of rupees 7 crores or a little more; and

[Shri Upendra Nath Barman.]

the Province of West Bengal had to bear the interest of it, pay the capital sum contributed or lent by the Central Government and at the same time meet the expenditure which was incurred in running the irrigation project. When the West Bengal Government—at that time it was only the Bengal Government—imposed a rate, it is the Congress who sided with the agriculturists because the rates were so high that the agriculturists could not bear them and they were put to great hardship. So from past experience we find that even the agriculturists could not bear the water rates that were imposed. This time it would be the policy, as I have said of the Centre to impose both the taxes in such a way that there might be profit and the agriculturists in such a case would be doubly taxed as it would otherwise create difficulties in the West Bengal Government, not to speak of the hardship imposed upon the agriculturists. Secondly, I do not exactly know what will be the items to be taxed, or what will be the manner in which the taxes will be collected or who will be the persons who will pay this tax. It is not only the agriculturists of West Bengal but the Railway Department and the Central Government that will be immensely benefited by this project.

In the year 1913 when there was a heavy flood of the Damodar, it is the railway department that suffered heavily due to many breaches and the consequent stoppage of railway traffic. In 1942, there was another heavy flood and there were many breaches and the railway department had to make up that loss with the expense of an enormous sum.

So this flood control project is not only the concern of the West Bengal Government, but it is indirectly or directly a benefit to the Centre also. Will the Centre be ready to bear any tax to be imposed by the Corporation or by the West Bengal Government upon the railway there? I think not. Even if the Centre agrees to it, I do not know upon what basis this tax will be levied. Therefore, Sir, there will be administrative difficulty and there may be some bad blood created between the Centre and the Province regarding the raising and levying of flood control rates. In my opinion, and it is my humble submission to the Government and to the Members of this House, that as this flood control project, which apparently is not going to be a profitable concern, will directly or indirectly benefit the Central Government also in a major way, the Centre should be charitable enough to denote this sum and keep its hands off so far as the administration of the flood control scheme is concerned.

In my opinion, Sir, it is a belated justice which is being done by the Centre to the province of West Bengal. Of course, those who are not in the know of the condition of the West Bengal, especially in the district of Burdwan and its neighbouring areas, may laugh at it or scorn at it.

But I would ask the Government to look at the report of Sir William Wilcox, who was neither a Madrasi, Marathi nor a Punjabi. This report was written many many years ago. According to Sir William Wilcox the district of Burdwan and its neighbouring area were one of the wealthiest areas in the whole of *Hindustan*. Sir William Wilcox has said that in the year 1852 this tract, the district of Burdwan and the district of Tanjore were the two wealthiest parts in the whole of *Hindustan*. This project is going to benefit West Bengal. Burdwan is now notoriously malarious but if you read the report of Wilcox it will be evident to you that Burdwan was one of the hallowed places in India and malaria was unknown. After the railway strengthened the *bund* on the left bank of the river in order to protect the E. I. Railway and the inter-provincial road was raised to a sufficient height, so that there could be no breach possible (Sir William Wilcox calls these *bunds* as 'satanic *bunds*') malaria spread over that area of Bengal, which was till then immune from it.

Ekā Jābo bardhamān koriā jaton

Jatōn nohilē kotha milibē rotōn

Jaton nohile kotha milibe roton

This means "I do want to go to Burdwan, though I have to proceed alone, because without taking care whoever had ever earned any jewels". So formerly Burdwan was one of the richest and healthiest places in Bengal but if today it is now one of the worst places so far as disease and malaria are concerned and the agriculturist there is the poorest of any in Bengal, perhaps it is not alone the fault of West Bengal but is also due to the deeds or misdeeds of the Central Government. I have no reason to accuse the present Government. Neither do I say that the railway line was not for the benefit of West Bengal. What I want to say is that Burdwan has been reduced to penury from its most prosperous circumstances in days past. Now that Bengal has been reduced to one third of its former size and economically she is so much handicapped. I think it is only just that the Centre should either make a contribution of the whole sum so far as the flood control project is concerned or if it be not so charitable, I would ask the Central Government to be an equitable sharer and an equal partner with the West Bengal Government so far as this non-profitable scheme is concerned.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That for clause 36, of the Bill, the following be substituted:

'36. Disposal of profits and deficits.—(1) The net profit if any, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 39 or the net deficit if any, attributable to either of the two main objects, namely irrigation and power, shall be credited to or made good by the participating Governments in proportion to their respective shares in the total capital costs attributed to that object.

(2) The net profit if any, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 39 or the net deficit if any, attributable to the main object of flood control shall be credited to or made good by the Government of West Bengal'."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I sympathise.....

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: We do not want your sympathy.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I do not accept this amendment but before I do that I should like to make a few observations, because it is a point...

Mr. Speaker: I am not calling upon the Minister to reply. At this stage he may state his views but he will reply to the debate later on.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, this question of allocating the capital cost as well as determining the proportion in which the participating governments should bear the current expenditure was most exhaustively gone into in the four conferences that were held and attended by the representatives of the Governments of Bengal, and Bihar and also the Central Government. The provision that has now been embodied in clause 36 has been agreed to both by the Governments of Bihar and Bengal. But I am not merely asking the House to reject the amendment on the ground that it has been agreed to by the participating Governments. As a matter of fact this question of allocation of expenditure on these three different aspects of the projects—irrigation, power and flood control—is an extremely difficult proposition. In the case of the Tennessee Valley this question was considered for years together and ultimately what is known as the principle of "alternative—justifiable expenditure" was accepted to be the most equitable. I do not want to go into a detailed description of that principle, because it is a very highly technical matter but all that I want to tell the House is that this is the most equitable principle and it has reduced the capital cost with respect to the flood aspect considerably. Now in the capital expenditure on this particular aspect of the scheme, namely flood, the Central Government has agreed to bear half the

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expenses and the Bengal Government is asked to bear the other half. It was contended by my Honourable friend that the entire deficit should not be debited to the Bengal Government and part of it should be borne by the Central Government. But I want to impress on my Honourable friend that the havoc that is caused by flood is mainly confined, in fact 99.99 per cent, to Bengal and correspondingly the benefit that will result from this will be entirely that of Bengal.

My Honourable friend referred to the sad plight of Burdwan. As a result of the scheme Burdwan will be a different city to live in and it is only therefore fair and proper that if there is any deficit on this particular aspect, it should be entirely borne by the Bengal Government. There must be a limit to the financial commitments to be undertaken by the Centre. On the one hand I am asked not to press for central taxation so far as such corporations are concerned and, on the other hand, I am also asked to leave the sources of provincial taxation untouched. I am also asked that the Centre should
12 N contribute, should give subvention. As a matter of fact if there is any Province in this country which has got most from the Centre but which has managed it worst it is Bengal.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Not at all.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am not making this statement in order to offend anybody. That is not my desire and not my nature either. I only want to bring this fact to the notice of the House that in the famine of 1943 crores of rupees were given by the Central Government to Bengal and when in 1946-47 the matters came up before the Standing Finance Committee we always found that the accounts submitted were not only not up to the standard but were definitely bad.

Shri Upendra Nath Barman: That was the League administration.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The late lamented administration.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That was during the regime of the Ministry that is no more. You cannot entirely disown the past. If you are willing to have some of the advantages which the former Ministry may have conferred you must not discriminate between the benefits and burdens. Both of them must go together. I therefore submit that on merits the Central Government has gone as much as it could by accepting this principle of alternative justifiable cost. It has agreed to bear half the share of the capital cost. It has kept enough sources for the Provinces. To go farther than this would be unfair to the general taxpayer and I am not prepared for this. Sir, I oppose this.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, we should be extremely grateful to the Honourable Minister for expressing his sympathy for the people of West Bengal. But is sympathy enough where relief is needed? Suppose native people are suffering from famine or from desolation and ruin, would the Honourable Minister go to them and say, "Well I have my sympathies for you, but I cannot give you the food, clothing, money or help you really need"? We are not ungrateful for the little sympathy which he has expressed. But something more than sympathy is needed.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Like Oliver Twist you ask for more and more.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: We only ask a perpetual injustice to be remedied. A tremendous injustice has been done to West Bengal by the act of the Government of India—not the present Government but its predecessor. On account of the misdeeds, miscalculations and injustices perpetrated by the late lamented Government, Burdwan and West Bengal have been suffering so long. And how? The Honourable the Minister says that Bengal is the worst in the matter of management. It may have been so with regard to the famine account of

1943. That was, let us say, the misdeed of a particular Ministry. But should you on that account punish the taxpayers? That would be something like 'Chinese justice'. If a boy in China commits an offence, according to Chinese justice, as the father is responsible for bringing the offending child into the world, the punishment goes to the father. Here the Chinese justice is going to be meted out to us. It is said that the late Ministry which was the offspring of the electorate in Bengal has committed some wrong. And who is responsible? The late Ministry. But who is to be punished? According to the 'Chinese justice' (adopted by the Honourable Minister) the electorate is responsible for bringing into existence that Ministry and therefore the electorate, the people of West Bengal, must now be punished. I submit to the Honourable the Minister for his better judgement—because I know he is a very straightforward and sympathetic man, and it is for this reason that I take the courage of appealing to him—to be a little more just and not merely be kind and sympathetic. Just look at the amount of injustice that has been committed by the Central Government—I mean the late lamented criminal Government. (*An Honourable Member*: Not lamented). If you say 'not lamented' I shall agree with you and I shall withdraw my expression. I shall say, that the late unlamented criminal Government that preceded the present Government did it. What did it do? The East Indian Railway was to be constructed near Burdwan and the floods would affect the safety of the railway. At that time the railway was owned and managed by big British interests. For their benefit a big embankment was set up on the left bank of the river Damodar and that led to the annual inundations. I submitted the other day at an earlier stage of the discussion on this Bill that this embankment created annual and widespread havoc in the district. On account of the embankment a large number of water channels, which irrigated a large fertile tract the left side of the river were closed for the benefit of the railway. This took away the fertility and introduced malaria. So far as the right bank was concerned it was ravaged and devastated by floods every year and the intensity of which increased by leaps and bounds from year to year. The outfall of this flood water into the Hooghly river was again closed because the European shipping interests would be affected if the flood water with its sand and silt fall into the Hooghly river making costly dredging operations necessary. The European shipping interests did not like to undergo the trouble and the expense. So outfall must be stopped. What happened? The outfall on the Hooghly was closed. The left side of the river was already strongly guarded in the interests of the railway. There was huge accumulation of water in a large part of the district, and the water resembled a huge lake. The result was the right side of the river was being devastated for the last 90 years. The left side was no better. The water channels were closed and irrigation was stopped and a large tract of the district lay fallow for 90 years. The Honourable Member, Mr. Barman, who is an ex-Minister of Bengal and who speaks with considerable amount of inside knowledge, spoke in the right note when he said that there has been a great deal of injustice done to West Bengal. He has quoted Major Willcox to say that Burdwan was very prosperous in the early fifties. But we can go back a little farther, to an indigenous authority namely *Ain-i-Akbari*. In that great book it is said that Burdwan was most highly advanced in the matter of agriculture. On account of the embankment these water channels which irrigated the land were closed and there was flood on the right side of the river, and we see the result now. You have really reduced us to this and must now right the wrong.

The mischief that has been done to West Bengal is due to the protection given to the railway and the shipping interests in Calcutta. The present Government has inherited the advantages of the railway without in the least acknowledging the sins which it must also inherit. With regard to the expected surplus of Rs. 10 crores in the Railway budget, a question has been raised as

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to whether the General Revenues will have a large slice of it or not. I submit that the railways have committed so much damage to the province of West Bengal that I think the province of West Bengal should get something out of the Central Government which now owns the Railway by way of belated justice.

I submit, Sir, that the proposition that has been sought to be established by the amendment is very sound. The Honourable Minister says that he stands for equity and justice. It is just like two brothers agreeing to start a business. The elder brother in the shape of the Central Government has the upper hand. He says all the profits we must share, but the losses must be borne by the younger brother—the Government of West Bengal. The Honourable Minister says that the Central Government bears half and West Bengal bears the other half. But I submit in reality, although the elder brother is eager for a half share of the profits, I think the elder brother is the better half and the West Bengal—younger brother becomes the worse half, having to bear the entire loss. In these circumstances I beg to submit that the matter should be considered not from the point of view of a superior authority, which the Honourable Minister possesses and who has been well established in this Legislature having an enormous voting power behind him without any opposition in the House. It is therefore all the more necessary that the Honourable Minister should carefully consider all these aspects—the miserable situation that has been created for West Bengal, the continuing injustice that has been perpetrated for the last ninety years, and the amount of benefit that has been enjoyed by the railways and the Calcutta shipping interests all these years. Therefore the Central Government should now generously come forward and agree to share with the Province the joys and sorrows, the profits and losses equally. In these circumstances the proper position would be that a share in the losses due to flood control should also be cheerfully accepted by the Centre. These flood ravages are the direct consequence of the acts of the Government of India as it then stood, and in order to give relief for the tremendous injustice which the predecessor of the present government perpetrated upon the people of Burdwan, that I think they should also agree in fairness to share the losses. There is nothing improper but sheer justice in the prayer made on behalf of West Bengal. You should share our losses. In fact that is so very simple and so logical that it should be accepted: but I do not know whether I am appealing to deaf ears. If the Honourable Minister would open his heart but close his fist, if he would only sympathize with our miseries but gives us nothing, then it is useless to argue. But I ask the Honourable Minister to forget that he is an official, to forget that he has only a decision to give on behalf of the Central Government, and to consider that West Bengal is also a fit object of his care and sympathy. I think the principle of the amendment should be accepted. If there is any drafting change that is necessary, I think the Honourable the Mover would certainly agree to that, but the principle should be accepted that flood control should be also a matter for the Central Government, having been the sole author of the situation that West Bengal finds itself in today. With these few words I submit that the Honourable Minister should accept the principle of the amendment and really give us some kind of relief, and not mere words of sympathy.

Shri K. Santhanam: I have great sympathy with the mover of the amendment and at first I thought that the deletion of the proviso might be equitable. But, Sir, we have to take clauses 33, 34, 35 and 36 together. Clause 33 says that "the Government concerned shall be responsible for the capital cost of the works constructed exclusively for irrigation in its Province". Sir, many works will be jointly both for irrigation as well as for flood control, and now under clause 35 the Central Government is placing 7 crores at the disposal of the West Bengal Government. Now if the deficits and losses are to be shared

equally, then they may not agree to allocate part of the capital only for flood control. They may insist that the scheme comes under irrigation and so the Bengal Government will be obliged to subscribe capital wherever there is a joint project both for irrigation and flood control. The allocation of deficit to West Bengal makes it more easy for that government to obtain capital allocated to flood control for irrigation projects also. Now they can say 'What does it matter to you?' and so even if it is partial only for flood control though it is largely for irrigation, it may be paid out of flood control as capital. Especially in the Tanjore district I know there is hardly any project which is meant only for flood control. You put up a drainage dam and out of that drainage channel there is land irrigated and therefore you get money for irrigation while it is mainly intended for drainage. The Government will say under clause 33 that the Bengal Government should subscribe it exclusively for irrigation. But as the provisions are, it will be easier for the Bengal Government to contend 'What does it matter? After all, if there is loss from flood control, we are going to bear it' and therefore rules can be made much more flexible, and from that point of view I think the Bengal Government themselves have accepted the provision. Otherwise they would have objected to the provision.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: That was the bad government referred to.

Shri K. Santhanam: From 1935 the Bengal Government has been bad to the Government of India, but has been very good in its own interests. It has tried to get as much money from the Government of India as possible. I do not think you can call it a bad government from the point of view of getting money from others. Of course how you spend the money is another matter into which I need not go, and therefore I think on reconsideration the proposals as they stand may be most suitable even from the selfish interest of the Bengal Government.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): I want to explain one point only in respect of this clause. The position is the Central Government finds 7 crores of the capital for flood control operation and it appears that this amount is more or less written off because we know that for several years to come, there will be no return on it, at all, probably not even after 50 years, so that what our friends want the Central Government to do is not merely pay half the capital at charge which will remain unremunerative but also pay half of the deficit. What they say is, if there is a profit, the Central Government would take it: but actually on the face of it, and in the light of our previous experience of similar projects, there will be absolutely no profit or any other direct benefit so far as the Central Government is concerned. The real intention seems to be that the Central Government is asked to undertake responsibility for all eventualities. That is what it boils down to. What I would suggest is, it is not a question of any appeal *ad miseri cordium*. Nobody need make an appeal of that sort. The benefits arising out of this scheme of flood control might probably outweigh the losses the Bengal Government might sustain. That is a factor to be taken into consideration, and surely in the future set up there will be provision for the Bengal Government to approach the Central Government now and again for relief and subvention in respect of matters which are beyond its control such as floods and things of that sort. The matter can be decided *ad hoc* every year or during a set period between the two governments rather than import a particular rigid clause into this Bill where the Central Government has been more than liberal, in that it has provided 7 crores of capital for which it is practically going to get nothing. That is the crux of the problem and there need be no question of any appeal *ad miseri cordium* to the House on this matter.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: May I ask, Sir, whether the Honourable Member was speaking on behalf of the Government or on his own individual account? He has been making lavish promises for the future. Can I take it that he speaks on behalf of the Government?

Mr. Speaker: It is unnecessary to put that question. It is obvious that he is not a Member of the Government and anything he says will not be binding on the Government.

Does the Honourable Minister wish to say anything further?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I do not wish to accept this amendment and beyond that I do not wish to say anything.

Mr. Speaker: Then I will put the Amendment to the House.

The question is:

"That for clause 36, of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'36. Disposal of profits and deficits.—(1) The net profit if any, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 39 or the net deficit if any, attributable to either of the two main objects, namely irrigation and power, shall be credited to or made good by the participating Governments in proportion to their respective shares in the total capital costs attributed to that object.

(2) The net profit if any, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 39 or the net deficit if any, attributable to the main object of flood control shall be credited to or made good by the Government of West Bengal'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 36, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 36 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move.

"That in clause 37 of the Bill, the words 'from time to time', be omitted."

This kind of amendment has been accepted by the House on other occasions. The words "from time to time" are unnecessary in view of the General clauses Act.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir I, do not accept it.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The point is that another Honourable Minister accepted this line of amendment. I submit that this House should be treated similarly on similar occasions and the treatment should not vary from Ministry to Ministry. After all it is a matter of general draftsmanship; it should not fluctuate with the presence of one Minister or the other in the House.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member desire that his amendment should be put to the House?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 37 of the Bill, the words 'from time to time', be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 37 of the Bill, the words 'and such interest shall be deemed to be part of the expenditure of the Corporation', be added at the end."

I have dropped the word "revenue" in view of the amendment in the name of Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena which has been proposed for that purpose.

Sir, this Amendment has become necessary owing to the decision to subject the profits of the Corporation to Central taxation. As the position now stands, the term "capital" makes taxation come first and interest afterwards because interest will be in the position of dividend. That will be a very unsatisfactory position. We want that interest should be treated as expenditure and only if there is any further surplus, should that be treated as profit for purposes of taxation. It is for this purpose that I have brought in this amendment

because if my amendment is accepted, the interest will be treated as part of the expenditure of the Corporation and so only what is left afterwards will be subject to taxation.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 37 of the Bill, the words 'and such interest shall be deemed to be part of the expenditure of the Corporation', be added at the end."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 37 of the Bill, the words 'and such interest shall be deemed to be part of the expenditure of the Corporation' be added at the end."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 37, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 37 as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 38 of the Bill, for the words 'other expenses', the words 'all other expenditure', be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 38 of the Bill, for the words 'other expenses', the words 'all other expenditure', be substituted."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I accept it.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, the House is not very much wiser for the laconic amendment and the laconic acceptance. I think the real difference between the text and the amendment should be explained in order to enable the House to follow the real scope and need for the amendment. It will be extremely helpful.

Shri K. Santhanam: For one thing it makes it read better. Then it has to be explained with reference to the original wording—

". . . the interest charges and other expenses shall be added to the capital cost . . . . . ."

I think it was the official draftsman who preferred the existing phrase instead of the phrase in my amendment. I find that there was no difference.....

.....

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I may be permitted to explain, Sir The provision in clause 38 is that—

"For a period, not exceeding fifteen years, from the establishment of the Corporation, if the Corporation runs in deficit the interest charges and other expenses shall be added to the capital cost and all receipts shall be taken in reduction of such capital cost."

In order to leave no doubt, "all other expenditure" has been substituted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: May I speak on this, Sir? The original clause speaks of "interest charges and other expenses". When you speak of interest charges and other expenses, all other expenses are necessarily included. The amendment wants to change the "other expenses" to "all other expenditure". The words "other expenses" apart from "interest charges" include "all other"; and there is no point in changing the word "expenses" by the word "expenditure". I think there is no real change; how the sense is more beautified, or appeals to some ears better, I fail to see. The explanation which has been given by the Honourable Minister does not justify the need. I am not quarrelling with the real purpose; with that I am in full agreement. But I think that the amendment is pointless, merely because a draftsman is supposed to have favoured this—we have had enough of the draftsman's point of view; the House has, I believe, already outgrown that It has survived attempts on the part of the draftsmen to improve the diction. It has survived attempts on the part of the draftsmen to improve the diction. phony nor in the interest of better sense nor in the interest of psychology, is this amendment necessary. If amendments of this type are going to be

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accepted by the Minister, simply on account of beautifying the language, then I beg to submit that many of my humble amendments would have deserved better consideration.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think any further discussion on this point is necessary at all. If it is a question of something sounding better than the other, to the ear, it will depend upon the ear and different people have got different ears. But, I was just wondering as to whether there could be any difference, because I myself carried a feeling that "all other expenditure" would be more clear statement of what is intended. It is possible that if we use the expression "interest charges and other expenses", it would perhaps be restricted to expenses of the nature of "interest charges". If that is not the intention and the intention is to include every other expenditure in what is to be added to the capital, then "all other expenditure" clarifies the position, that is how I view it, of course as a lawyer, not as Chairman presiding here. I do not think there is much to argue over this point.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I think expenditure is always "incurred", not "added".

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member seems not to have followed the scheme of the Clause. All other expenditure would be taken as a capital cost. It is to be added to the capital cost.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I was not referring to the scheme of the Clause. I was submitting that the word "added" after the word "expenditure" is inappropriate.

Mr. Speaker: Well, that is a question of English language. I cannot be presumed to be an expert in the English language. I am putting the amendment to the vote.

The question is:

"That in clause 38, of the Bill, for the words 'other expenses', the words 'all other expenditure', be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 38, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 38, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 39, 40 and 41 were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I move:

"That for clause 42 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'42(1) The Corporation shall be liable to pay any taxes on income levied by the Central Government in the same manner and to the same extent as a Company.

(2) The Provincial Governments shall not be entitled to any refund of any such taxes paid by the Corporation'."

This aspect has been sufficiently discussed in this House. So I do not want to make any further comments on this.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That for clause 42 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'42(1) The Corporation shall be liable to pay any taxes on income levied by the Central Government in the same manner and to the same extent as a Company.

(2) The Provincial Governments shall not be entitled to any refund of any such taxes paid by the Corporation'."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That for clause 42 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'42. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Corporation shall be exempted from liability to pay any tax on income, Corporation tax or any other like tax levied by the Central Government; and the participating Governments shall also be exempt from liability to pay any such tax in respect of any profits distributed to them by the Corporation.'"

Sir, with regard to the draftsmanship of this amendment, I do not claim any originality; nor do I claim any originality for the idea of the clause. I have bodily taken it as it stood in the original Bill. In the Select Committee, however,.....

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): On a point of order, Sir. Is this not a negation of the amendment suggested by the Honourable Minister?

Mr. Speaker: The point to consider is that both of these amendments in substance appear to be a negation of the original clause. That is what I was considering. The fact that it is a negation of another amendment made by some other member will not be the proper reason for ruling it out of order as negative.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I think it is negative of both.

Mr. Speaker: It appears to be so. Let me examine it.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I make a submission, Sir? Supposing this amendment is considered to be a negation of the original clause and it is ruled out of order and the House thereafter votes down the clause, the position will be that the Income-Tax Department can treat this Corporation as an association of individuals and not merely tax it but tax it as an individual. Some provision will, therefore, have to be put in there for taxing or for not taxing. We cannot leave whole question in the air. The mere negation of an important clause of this nature will leave the whole thing in a very queer position. Whatever might be the practice in matters like these, this particular aspect I think will have to be considered by the Chair before the Chair gives a ruling.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I do not stand on technicalities, Sir. I have taken the Clause as it stood in the original Bill. It was mutilated in a merciless fashion in the Select Committee. The point involved is a matter of great importance. We have to consider whether the strict rules of technicality, whether an amendment should not be a mere negation of the original proposition or not for it to be ruled out of order, really apply here or not. In substance and on first impression, my amendment is merely a reversion to the clause as it stood in the original Bill. The only question is whether it should be rejected on strict technical grounds. On that, I beg to submit that in the Select Committee some words were taken out and the rest were kept. I want to supply those passages which were taken out. In fact, I am merely supplying a few words here and there which were omitted. Therefore, I ask you to consider whether this is really a negation of the original clause or it is trying to take the clause back to its pristine purity. I shall abide by your ruling.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I do not think the rule about negation can be applied to a Bill. Supposing a word 'not' has been missed in a clause. If somebody brings forward a motion to supply that word 'not', is it negation of the original clause? Therefore, so far as Bills are concerned, we are entitled to propose any amendment, whatever the effect may be—even if it is negation. I think it is only for Resolutions and such purposes that that rule is applicable. If it is applied here, then we shall be faced with all manner of difficulties. So I think there should be no question about admissibility as far as amendments are concerned.

Shri H. V. Kamath: We are at liberty to even annihilate a Bill.

Mr. Speaker: I think there seems to be some misapprehension as regards the principle on which the negative of the original propositon is ruled out of order, That rule is universal and will apply to all, whether it be a resolution or a motion or a clause or an amendment. The principle seems to be that, if it is a negative pure and simple of the proposition sought to be placed before the House, the House has got the liberty of rejecting it an attaining the negative without the amendment. That seems to be the principle. For example, if a person wishes that a particular clause should not be in the Bill, he need not move that the clause be omitted. He need not move it as an amendment at all. The simplest course would be to vote against the clause and the clause is deleted. That is the principle underlying the ruling out of amendments of a negative character. The chief point which I was feeling doubtful about was as to whether this particular amendment is a negative of the original clause or not and not that whether the rule about the negative amendments being ruled out should be put in force or not. It seems Honourable Members have argued on that point.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I have conceded the general rule.

Mr. Speaker: I was just considering the substance of this amendment and I see some force in what the Honourable Member Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari has stated that, mere negation would mean dropping out this Section, which means the Act is silent as to whether the Corporation is liable to pay or not liable to pay. That will be the negative of the clause but the position will be left in doubt and it will be perfectly competent for the Income-tax authorities, under the taxing law, to come to the conclusion that the Corporation is liable to tax even though there is no provision about its being liable to tax in this particular Act. What the amendment seeks to do is something beyond mere negation. That is what I see from the provisions of the amendment. It wants to secure positive exemption and not leave anything in doubt, so far as the Income-tax law is concerned. It is this view that I was just considering and I am inclined to hold that this particular amendment will not be negative of clause 42. Any way, each proposition will be judged on its own facts and merits.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I am grateful for the clarification. In fact that is not a mere negation but rather something more. We were confusing the issue when we were arguing the matter.

Now, Sir, the question is whether this Corporation should be exempt from Income-tax and other taxes. That is the straight question. The decision in the Select Committee seems to have been very hastily arrived at and in fact at three different places some words were taken out. The Honourable Minister has to come in again with an amendment.

Clause 42 stands like this:

"The Corporation shall be liable to pay any tax on income, Corporation tax or any other like tax levied by the Central Government."

The Honourable Minister's amendment is not like an elder brother's amendment but like a step brotherly amendment and he wants not only to tighten his grasp over the Corporation but to tighten the screws also. The House will be pleased to note the rigour which the present amendment has introduced. It says the Corporation shall be liable to pay any taxes including future taxes also. Perhaps there is a threat of imposing new taxes levied by the Central Government in the same manner and to the same extent as a company. The Provincial Governments shall not be entitled to any refund of any such taxes paid by the Corporation. The sting of this amendment is at the tail. So there is no principle of equality which guides the Honourable Minister in approaching the very weak younger brother--West Bengal. Of course, Bihar is also in a similar position. The amendment was introduced in the Select Committee for the reason that this House has already decided to

tax another Corporation, *i.e.*, the Industrial Finance Corporation. This is also a Corporation, so why not tax this Corporation also, that is the idea which in a light hearted manner, the Select Committee acted. I however submit that the similarity between the two lies only in the name. There it is the Industrial Finance *Corporation* and this is the Damodar Valley *Corporation*. We know in a celebrated Shakesperian play that when a mob set out to destroy all conspirators, they caught hold of a man who answered the name Cina, and asked him: "Are you Cina"? He said: "Yes: but I am the Poet Cina and not Cina the conspirator." "But poet or conspirator, you are Cina" cried the mob and he was caught hold of and done to death. Here the authors of this happy idea said to themselves "We have already taxed a Corporation; this undertaking is a *Corporation*. Let us therefore tax it." In vain the Damodar Valley Corporation cries in agony "I am the nation-building Corporation and not the businessman's Corporation and should not be taxed." The Honourable Minister says "Never mind, you are a corporation and you must be taxed." So, unfortunately this Damodar Valley Corporation bears a bad name and has to pay the penalty. Sir, I beg to submit that there is radical difference between the Industrial Finance Corporation and this Corporation. The object of the Industrial Finance Corporation is to create a body which will finance industrial concerns, individual persons, companies and others. These recipients are business concerns. They take loans to develop their business. Their business is to make profits and the Government sets up a body to help that Body and that is a business body. They are all business concerns and are capitalistic pure and simple. But does this Corporation resemble that Corporation in any way? The beneficiaries of the present Bill are the down-trodden and suffering people of Bihar and West Bengal, specially the people of Burdwan district, for whom the Honourable Minister has abundance of sympathy. The beneficiaries will be the people whose agriculture is destroyed, whose lands have been laid waste, whose irrigation has been stopped, whose vitality has been sapped by *malaria*, and who have been paying high rates of rent but who are at the same time getting no profits out of agriculture. It is to them that you are extending your help. It is again a nationalised concern whose object is nation building. The Income-Tax Act itself creates a large number of exemptions and the Honourable Minister should consider whether this Corporation cannot claim the same kind of exemption. For instance, the Act exempts trust properties, charitable institutions, local authorities, interest on provident funds, provident funds themselves, and so on; and under section 60 of the Act exemptions have been allowed to educational scholarships, some military allowances and pensions, post office cash certificates incomes, savings bank incomes, universities and educational institutions, regimental institutions, and so on. These are some of the numerous exemptions. The question is whether this is also a suitable institution to be granted exemption. If you tax everything on the *bania* instinct of getting as much as possible you will be killing many institutions by this exacting method. If you tax this Corporation its beneficial character will be impaired. Government will be regarded as a business concern actuated by business motives only. It would be a capitalistic approach to a problem which is humanitarian in conception. If you tax this Corporation the cost of irrigation water will have to be raised as also the cost of electricity, and the cost of nation-building which this institution aims at will be increased. So the benefit and the justice which you want to give the people will be largely discounted. If irrigation water and electricity and other things are taxed, all products out of it will be rendered more costly and less profitable. So in this case the tax will be improper and unjust. If you forego the tax then in the long run the Central Government, I think, will not lose in the matter of taxation, because the beneficiaries of the scheme will get better returns out of their agriculture and better profits due to cheaper electricity. By becoming more prosperous they will be able to

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pay better taxes; but they will be prevented from being prosperous if they are taxed at the source. I think the tax motive behind this clause is very improper, and the Central Government will not lose in the long run if they will now forego it. I submit that water for agriculture and electricity should be made as cheap as possible. There are many poor cultivators who should be exempt from payment of taxes because their income is less than Rs. 2,000. How would you exempt them?

Pandit Thakudas Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Land itself is exempt from taxation.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Agricultural land is not exempt; it is liable to pay agricultural income-tax, and the West Bengal Government has already levied agricultural income-tax.

So if you tax irrigation water the poorest will suffer. But in taxing people who have made a certain income you should exempt the poorer people. How would you here exempt the millions of poor agriculturists? Government should tax only the prosperous people and should not tax them before they are allowed to be prosperous. So this tax, I submit, is in every way improper. In the same way you could also tax the Universities if they make a profit out of examination fees, or our educational institutions. Why not tax Government itself,—one department taxing another department? One day the Government may tax housewives if they effect a saving out of bazar expenses, (*An Honourable Member*: Also the servants.) or the servants if they make profits. The Corporation is a humanitarian venture and you tax those whom you pretend to help. You might as well tax educational institutions, sanitation, etc., and perhaps people's good looks and intelligence, until you tax people's patience. The Railway Minister is here; it is his department which has been responsible for creating this situation. In fact if any tax is to be levied it should be on the railways. About the Tennessee Valley scheme it is well known that its success lay in making water and electricity as cheap as possible. The Tennessee Valley more prosperous so as to be able to pay more taxes; they will buy more things more prosperous so as to be able to pay more taxes; they will buy more things and pay direct and indirect taxes. I see therefore no logic or reason about this taxation at the source.

Then you must provide for refunds. Most of the poor cultivators' income is per head less than Rs. 2,000. If you tax the Corporation at the source you must arrange for exemptions for the poor and you force these poor people to go to the income-tax authrities to plead for refund.

I do not envy the lot of a man who goes to the Income-tax Officer and tries to get a refund. Perhaps he will be caught in the net and he will be taxed. I do not think he will try the experiment. It is costly. It is troublesome.

1 P.M. It is risky. In these circumstances a large number of people would be taxed who should be exempted in the long run but to whom for practical reasons refunds would be out of the question. How would you exempt them? In these circumstances, I ask the Honourable Minister to pause. It is a big departure from our tax structure. I ask him to consider kindly whether this tax should be a beneficial tax, and whether it is really wanted, and whether in the long run by taxing the venture at the source the Government will make any ultimate gain. I do not object to the Government getting taxes but the principle is whether you will tax this institution at the source. The similarity between the other Corporaton and this Corporation is thus only in the nomenclature but, as I have explained before the difference is radical in spirit as well as in substance. I submit that this mischievous import is introduced as a most pernicious priciple and I ask the Government to pause. Now it is the case of West Bengal and Bihar. But this Damodar valley scheme is only the forerunner of many other similar schemes. Those Honourable Members who are not unfortunate enough to be inhabitants of

these two areas, will have their turn later on. The shape of things to come is in that direction. Other schemes are awaiting them and they will also be taxed. I submit that the entire House should take it as a problem involving principles—whether on sound financial principles you should adopt it. It is no use pretending that you are trying to benefit the people when at the same time you take away with the left hand what you are giving with the right hand. In fact it does not look well to tax this nation-building institution at the source. The Honourable Minister has said that the Central Government should contribute half and the Provincial Government contribute the other half and so they are equal halves. But you say "I want the tax". Then where is the equality? You have the whip hand everywhere. In these circumstances there is neither equality nor logic nor justice. Mere expression of sympathy will not cure the injustice. I submit the situation to which the people of West Bengal have been reduced is due to the act of the Government, the very Government which was the predecessor of the present Government which has now inherited their rights and liabilities with their assets. In these circumstances the Government should make a gesture. It will be appreciated throughout India; otherwise this will be a kind of sword of Damocles hanging over the heads of so many other schemes. Large schemes are already under contemplation, and though we are the first to be affected, we shall not be the last. Therefore, the tax proposals should be wholly abandoned. I would ask the Honourable Minister to stick to his first love. The first love was the original clause as it stood before it went to the Select Committee, and that is what I want to revert to. The first love is always the best: the second love is always secondhand love.

The Honourable Minister has used a very powerful argument—that the Provincial Governments had discussed and agreed to certain arrangements and that has been used by him as an argument.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I never said it with respect to this.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: That is what I was going to point out. I am grateful to the Honourable Minister for anticipating the argument? He has in many places advanced the argument that the Provincial Governments have agreed. Whenever that argument can be utilised for the purpose of *taking* something, the Honourable Minister eagerly stands upon it. But when the question of taking is concerned, the question of previous discussion and agreements and consultations does not arise. That is the very point I was going to make and the Honourable Minister has simply supported my argument—that when it is a question of giving you say I cannot give you more although it is justifiable and reasonable, because your predecessor Government, whom you describe as the mischievous Government, that Government has agreed to it. You do not want to give it to us because that Government has agreed: the mischievous Government has agreed: the mistaken, faulty Government has agreed, and you prevent us from asking it because it is controlled by agreement. But when it is a question of taking, you insert a clause in the Select Committee and say "I will take it". We say "There is no agreement in this context". I submit that generous as the Honourable Minister is he should take these facts into consideration and show his generosity not by a few sweet words of sympathy but by realism. Give us relief and not sympathy. I ask you to consider our suffering and give us relief—some relief. Although it will be a gesture, it will be highly appreciated. It will be something like a mere sentimental satisfaction to a harassed and much-injured people.

I submit that the Honourable Minister should consider all these and not merely stick to the prepared reply made in advance of argument. That would be just like a judge hearing arguments after the judgment is written and signed. As soon as the argument is heard the judgment is delivered. If the Honourable Minister will approach the problem in this spirit, I think there can be no free debate! And particularly for the reason that there is no opposition in this

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House, and though the Ministers are honourable philanthropic men, ready to do good to the people, they have a collosal majority in the House, there is a danger of being over-confident and of acting upon impulses and relying upon the tremendous *vote* behind them. If there was an opposition, things would not have been carried like this. We are not functioning as an opposition. We are submitting things not by criticism but by way of constructive suggestion. Therefore I ask the Honourable Minister to consider my speech as something like an opposition speech and then just to consider whether he has got to change his opinion. I appeal to him in the name of the larger interests of the country and in the interests of humanity, which is said to be the basis of this scheme.

With these few words, I hope the Honourable Minister will give us relief and not sympathy.

Then, Sir, with regard to this amendment, it has raised larger issues than would otherwise be implied on the face of it. It seems to me that the House listens to the speech with some sympathy, with some affection and with a charitable mind. The only difficulty is that the Honourable Minister can always rest assured on the feeling that the whole House will be behind him whether he is right or wrong.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I cannot say that about you!

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I have been supporting you. The Honourable Minister should approach the problem in a realistic and sympathetic manner. The Government is tackling many important and difficult problems in the country in a really sympathetic manner. I am not criticising the Honourable Minister. They have got so many things in their hands but the people have also their difficulties. The taxation is on a wrong principle and I submit that on all these considerations this proposal to tax the institution should be abandoned and the original clause as it stood restored. It was a healthy clause which should be accepted. Otherwise I shall go back with the impression that the Honourable Minister has a large fund of sympathy but nothing else for us. He has nothing to give us by way of relief in rupees, annas and pies. When a patient is ill, he wants medicines. He wants suitable diet. The least thing that a patient needs is mere sympathy without these. In fact that is not what we have come here for. I do not want your sympathy. Take away all your sympathy but give us some relief. I would rather prefer relief to sympathy. You are dealing with the question of relief under the rehabilitation problem. That shows that you have enough sympathy and you do not care for money, effort or trouble. You are doing a tremendous amount of justice and are giving relief to the refugees. Just consider the people of West Bengal as so many refugees. During flood time they have to climb trees and be refugees from their homes for a few days.....

Mr. Speaker: I hope the Honourable Member will bring his remarks to a close in a couple of minutes. He has said all that he had to say on the merits of his amendment.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I have only one word to add. Give us something, not your sympathies.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I support the amendment moved by the Honourable Minister because it makes the position better than what it is in the Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee. Actually the wording is so imperfect that without an amendment in the manner in which my Honourable friend has suggested it, would be hopelessly inadequate. At the same time, as it introduces a new principle, a principle which is diametrically opposed to the original intention of the Honourable the Mover himself as indicated at the time the bill was referred to the Select Committee, I think it would probably be desirable in the interests of the country at large that a few words should be said about the possible implications of this proposed change.

As regards the question whether this particular Corporation is going to have any surplus which can be taxed by the Central Government first and any surplus left over thereafter to be divided between the Central Government and the two Provinces in the manner determined by the various sections of this Bill, I could say straightaway that it is impossible that there is going to be any surplus at all for any purpose for a very long time to come. The present amendment is merely the enunciation of a principle, which Government probably now wants to make a matter of policy for the future rather than, obtain any tangible benefits by way of taxation. The question whether it is proper for the Central Government, in a combined cooperative venture between itself and two other provinces, to say "Well, I shall first take by way of taxation a substantial portion of the surplus and then we shall devide the balance in the manner we have agreed to", is one on which my Honourable friend has spoken at length.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

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

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the House rose for lunch I said that I felt that the Honourable the Minister's amendment is the proper one but that there are certain issues arising from the change that has been made in the Select Committee that have to be brought to the notice of the House and through them the wider public. I also emphasized the fact that I saw no chances of the Central Government getting any taxation revenue from this Corporation for a good number of years to come. It may be said that this particular amendment was motivated by a similar provision being found in the Coal Board's constitution in England where the Board has been compelled to pay income-tax and corporation-tax. On the opposite side there is the T.V.A. experience about which much was said in this House. The T.V.A. does not pay any Federal taxes though it seeks to boost its importance by showing how much is being paid by way of taxes to local bodies and states by the distributors of the T.V.A., people who take power from it and distribute it. They pay an enormous amount of money by way of taxes. But the T.V.A. does not poy any Federal tax. So, on the one hand you have the experience in Britain and on the other you have the experience of an almost similar Corporation in America. But then, if it is realized, as the Government would undoubtedly have realized, that there is no money to be got and that this Corporation is not on all fours with the Industrial Finance Corporation—where the capital is entirely furnished by the Central Government and the Provincial Governments of Bihar and West Bengal—why should this change be made? In my part of the country, South India, there is a proverb that a person who desired to eat flaked rice or beaten rice, and not having the wherewithal to buy rice which can be so converted, to satisfy his desire took out mortar and started beating the empty mortar with the pestle. The reason for this change is something like that. It is going to result in nothing immediately. It is not going to alter the financial position of the Central Government or the Provincial Governments to any considerable extent. But there must be some other purpose not related to this particular measure, some psychological effect that is sought to be achieved by this amendment. That is about what I feel is behind the whole change which is now attempted and which, as I said just now, is not material. I know my honourable friend Mr. Naziruddin pleaded for sympathy and all that.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: No. I did not want sympathy at all. We have enough of it. I want relief.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If it is a question of recognition of rights, even the rights are not going to be there. But I wonder how my Honourable friend over there who is such a studious member who looks into every point, did not find that there is another method by which his Province might benefit should it happen that this Corporation is going to pay taxes. On a previous occasion on a matter not concerning this aspect of the question I said that if no mention is made about taxation in the body some other results might follow and you were good enough to accept that as a possibility. I put the position the other way about. Suppose there is even this particular clause in the present carefully drafted form is put in this Bill. What happens to Section 155 of the Government of India Act by which the Provinces are exempt in regard to their incomes so long as they are earned by trading or other ventures within the borders of their own province? What is to prevent the Provincial Government asking for a refund of taxation in so far as its own income derived within the Province is concerned? And as the various Sections preceding this particular Section give an allocation in regard to the capital at charge being divided between various participating Governments it is made possible for incomes to be apportioned on this basis and a Provincial Government will be able to say: "This is the amount that is being earned by the capital that we have invested and in our own Province on which central taxes have been collected, so please refund this amount to us even if it is said in the Bill that Provincial Governments will not be entitled to a refund". Whatever we enact here and whatever we might do here might alter that scheme of things; we cannot go counter to the provisions of the Government of India Act as it stands today. I am not raising a point of order, but I am mentioning that there is a possibility of this particular provision being got over by a Provincial Government asking for a refund on the basis that there is Section 155 of the Government of India Act. Until that section 155 is altered—it might be altered later on—the position is more or less as if this provision does not exist at all or exists in the same manner as it was prior to the Bill being committed to Select Committee. I am sure the Government has available to it the services of very able lawyers and this point will not have been overlooked. But I feel that the other analogies quoted in support of this change were not merely not necessary but irrelevant. Even the instance of the Industrial Finance Corporation is not very relevant. There probably it was right to make the change because there are two sets of people in it, one the Central Government and the other the public companies. If the income of the Corporation was not taxed the income of the public companies obtained as dividend will not escape taxation. They will pay when the money goes into their hand. It is ultimately the same thing whether the tax is collected on the income of the Corporation or from the income of the companies. Only the Central Government taxes its own income. The position is not altered by the a provision of this nature or by its absence. Here the participants are three Governments and the two Governments really affected have the possibility of getting back the money if the Act remains as it is today and until it is changed—as it might conceively change when the new Constitution comes. I feel it would have been much better if we had not imported this particular provision. Probably the idea is as I surmise it, of something else, that is a policy to be initiated now which will have some psychological effect on affairs later on for some other different purpose. I wish my honourable friend had not made this change in the Select Committee. Since he has made it I feel his own amendment makes it better and fits in squarely with the idea that the Government has, and therefore his amendment has to be supported though I will once again emphasize this particular point that the House will have to carefully note the

implications of this provision and the resultant effects it will have on the Provincial Governments. Whether, the Provincial Governments will accept them lying down or not is a matter that is best left to them.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, I had no desire to intervene in this debate but for the turn which the debate unfortunately took before the House rose for lunch. I want the House to realize that the principle of taxation underlying the amendment tabled by my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil raises a very important issue. It is not confined to the question of any benefit being derived by the Provinces of West Bengal or Bihar. It affects the question of the future taxation policy of the Government of this country. I am surprised to find the debate in connection with this Bill carried on in such narrow channels. Does the House really mean that this Damodar Valley Corporation is a project which is designed only to benefit the Provinces of Bihar and West Bengal? If the House has taken that view I shall indeed be very sorry for it. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, this scheme, this Damodar Valley Project, is nothing new nor is it meant solely for Bengal or Bihar. I remember last year there was a full-fledged conference composed of the members of the Central Government, and also of the Governments of Bihar and West Bengal, in which I was also invited to participate. There the matter was made absolutely clear that though this project happened to be confined within the geographical borders of a particular province, its implications were far wider, and that it was an all-India project intended to benefit the whole of the Indian continent.

Sir, I want the House to realise more fully what this project means, and against that background this amendment will have to be seen. The partition of this country has cut the economic unity of this whole sub-continent with the result that one part of the country, the Indian Dominion, is deprived of the major portion of the irrigation facilities and establishments which undivided India possessed. We have more of industrial production, industrial and mineral resources and of power potential, while the Pakistan Dominion has more of water potential, food potential and agricultural resources. I want the House to bear in mind that out of the total irrigational investments in this country, more than half has gone over to Pakistan. Of the 33 million acres of land which used to be irrigated by the canal systems in undivided India, about 20 millions have gone over to Pakistan. Therefore to that extent the whole Indian Dominion has been impoverished. Of the four lakhs cubic feet of water which used to be conveyed by the canals in undivided India per second more than half has gone over to Pakistan. That is the position. Therefore if India has got to be self-sufficient in the matter of food supply, these projects must immediately be brought into operation. I do not think that this project is intended merely for bringing commercial benefits to a particular province or provinces or to the Centre. Now look at the price we are paying for food in this country. During the last three years this country has been paying more than 100 crores every year for importing food at fantastic prices from foreign countries. Even for the few months commencing from the middle of August to the 31st March 1948, we will have to pay more than 22½ crores of rupees for food to be imported from abroad. The cost that we have already incurred in this respect will be more than double the cost of the entire irrigational constructions which undivided India had. This is the position. Therefore this Bill is intended to give a lead for similar projects to follow in the very near future. Now the question has been raised whether this corporation, which is going to be constituted by law, will be liable to pay taxes. Now, Sir, this is a matter which must be discussed at a very high level in my opinion. It is a matter of state policy. For the first time I am going to be seriously told in this House that henceforth these undertakings would be subjected to the same laws of taxation as any other commercial undertaking. I ask the

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.]

House very seriously to consider it it is going to give its *imprimatur* of sanction to this dictum here and now. I am told that in the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill this principle has been accepted in some form or other; but I have not the least hesitation in telling the House that as I view it the project envisaged in this legislation is not on all fours with the Bill that we have passed. This is described as the Damodar Valley Multi-Purpose Project. As those who have read the Tennessee Valley Scheme and similar multi-purpose projects are aware, there is a variety of purposes which are to be served by schemes of this description. There is, for instance, irrigation. There is, for instance, flood control. There is generation of hydro-electric power. There is navigation. There is improvement of agriculture. There is improvement of health and sanitation. There is development of industry and thousand and one things arising out of it. This is in the very nature of a multi-purpose project. Taking the lowest view of it, if this irrigational project were to irrigate half a million acres of land, and I believe my Honourable friend claims that it will irrigate some three quarters of a million acres, assuming at the lowest that it will irrigate half a million acres, with the implements of modern agriculture, it will be producing a tremendous amount of foodstuffs. If the outturn is estimated at 30 maunds per acre, then you have only to multiply 30 by five lakhs to find out the food that will be produced for you. India has been producing 44 million tons of food. She is short of at least five million tons, or in other words the food shortage in India is somewhere about 6 per cent. If this project is successful, it will reduce that margin of deficit to a considerable extent, and to that extent India as a whole would be relieved not only from the task of importing food from abroad at all manner of absurd prices, but enabled to conserve her foreign exchange which is so badly needed for her all-round industrial development. So I submit that this is not a matter of purely parochial or provincial, interest. It is a matter of all-India importance and interest, and I beseech every member of this House to be clear in his mind that the Damodar Valley Project is as much his concern as mine. Now the question that has been raised in this amendment is whether or not such an undertaking should be subjected to central taxes. We have to decide once for all what is going to be the policy of our Government with regard to such undertakings. Is the Government of India going to tax public utility services, for instance? Railways are owned and managed by the Government of India. Then are the incomes—the surpluses—of the Railway Department going to be subjected to income-tax, super-tax, surcharge, and all the rest of it? Are you going to tax incomes on telephones taken over by the Government of India? Are you going to tax income from the Posts and Telegraphs Department? Have you decided that? Are you going to tax the corporation which is going to be started in connection with the Sindri project? Have you decided that? If we have not come to any decision with regard to these matters, is it at all advisable on the part of my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil to introduce casually by an amendment a principle of such far reaching implications? I am afraid I cannot consider this method as a very laudable one. I want to tell my friend Mr. Gadgil that I share the apprehensions voiced here that for the next generation perhaps,—we will not see any taxes derived out of this Corporation, the stage of taxation—will be a long way off. I do not know how this scheme is going to fructify; there are so many difficulties in the way. I am doubtful whether we can actually proceed in the way we wish to, notwithstanding the best intentions on the part of the Honourable Minister, the obstacles and difficulties in his way seem to be overwhelming.

With such a prospect before him, may I ask my Honourable friend if he has given his best thoughts to the question whether public utility undertakings by the Government of India like the Damodar Valley Corporation should be subjected to income-tax and corporation tax? We want the matter to be

finally decided in this House on a clear, specific proposition directly brought in, but not in any surreptitious way through a provision in this Bill or that; this is not the way to do it. The honest straightforward way to deal with it is this: let the Finance Minister come forward with the proposal that henceforth it is going to be the financial policy of the Government of India to tax all manner of undertakings, whether State or private—private undertakings are already taxed—but all State undertakings such as the Railways, steamship companies, posts and Telegraphs and let the final decision be taken on it. So long as that is not done, I will certainly protest against this method.

I wish to say, Sir, that in view of the fact that there is no prospect of earning any income by the Central Government out of the Corporation within the next fifteen or twenty years, the Honourable Minister would be well advised not to introduce this highly controversial thing into this Bill. We do not like that the Government would plead in future that there have already been two precedents—that in the Industrial Finance Corporation and in the Damodar Valley Corporation this principle has been accepted. I do not think that is the proper way to do it. May I suggest to him that instead of drafting the amendment in that way, he may put it thus —"Such Corporation may be liable to taxation." Of course, in taxation measures "may" does not help you much. But I am certainly opposed to this method of approach. I am not giving my opinion one way or the other—much can be said on either side. But why not have a full-fledged debate on it? Why not have a full discussion on the floor of this House? Let the House decide whether or not this principle should be accepted as a matter of policy by the Government of this country. Then we will have nothing to complain against.

You are talking of nationalization of all industries. My friend Prof. Ranga is there. He is one of the exponents of that doctrine, not knowing fully perhaps all its implications (*Interruptions*). Assuming that the State would take over control of all important industries, the question would arise: are you going to tax them? In effect it does not matter much. Mr. Speaker, whethehr wou take the income-tax from those nationalized industries or you say that no tax need be paid, because after all it is passing the money from one pocket of the Government to the other. But when there are two parties the position becomes different. Therefore, I would beseech my Honourable friend not to do this.

Sir, the House is aware that only the day before yesterday the Railway budget was presented; it disclosed an anticipated surplus of rupees ten crores. Now the Finance Minister demands a moiety but the Railway Minister does not want to give it; therefore, to come to a decision, a Committee has been set up. If you had decided that they would be subject to income-tax and corporation-tax then this quarrel would not have arisen. Decide that point. Unless you decide that main issue these controversies are bound to crop up.

But my opposition to his method does not mean that I do not understand his difficulties, his anxiety to please the Finance Minister though he knows very well that in the next twenty years he cannot pay him anything out of this. If the insistence with which he supports it means that he has made certain commitments to the Finance Minister, I am not bound by it, the House is not bound by it. There ought to be an enunciation of clear policy We must have a full discussion, a clear expression of views on it. And this question should be decided once and for all that henceforth all State undertakings also are to be taxed; if not, I will oppose the taxation in this way. Sir, I oppose this amendment.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I have listened very carefully to the speeches of the two Honourable Members, both of whom fortunately or unfortunately come from Bengal. We, Sir, who do not belong to Bengal are not lacking

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

either in sympathy of heart or the generosity of action for which my Honourable friend Mr. Naziruddin pleaded so much and so repeatedly. The Honourable Member who just sat down advanced certain arguments in addition to what had been advanced by the previous Honourable Member from Bengal. The main point that was just advanced was that it is necessary that the Government should have a certain definite policy and, before that policy is decided upon, this House should have a full-fledged opportunity of expressing itself, and that in view of that discussion alone should any decision be taken.

As has already been pointed out to him, and as he has himself admitted, the present Corporation would not in fact pay any taxes for a long time to come.

He mentioned one great advantage that was going to flow from the scheme, and that was that the deficiency in foodstuffs for which we were paying so dearly, was likely to be made up by the establishment of this Corporation and the Damodar Valley Project.

An Honourable Member: Not completely made up.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No. Actually, Sir, although India may be deficient for a long time in foodstuffs, the amount of money that we are required to spend has only recently been so large; we have not paid so dearly for our deficiency in foodstuffs at any previous time and this present period of crisis, a period of change and of dislocation owing to war, is not I am certain likely to last so long as the Damodar Valley Corporation is going to take for starting to function. So the promise of relief that my friend has held out as coming to India because of the establishment and working of this Damodar Valley project is going to be far too distant to be taken into account so far as present emergencies are concerned. And his contention that we must take a decision one way or the other and then stick to it whenever such a project is intended.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I am sorry I did not say that. All that I said was that the taxation policy should be decided—whether or not these undertakings could be taxed by the Government of India.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That was what I referred to—the question of taxation. Now, Sir, the first thing I would like to point out to my learned friend is that Governments are not carried on on mere formulas. There are no mathematical formulas which can be laid down for any Government.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Hear, hear.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as the intention of taxing this Corporation is concerned, I am glad that at least on second thoughts the Government has acted wisely. In the beginning the proposal was not to tax it. That was really wrong because we had not the opportunity of knowing what the consequences shall be.

Already, Sir, because of one single mistake which was committed in the beginning of exempting this Corporation from taxation my learned friends are trying to hold the Honourable Member guilty of having promised something and now having gone back upon it. Now, Sir, if we, for instance, ultimately decide to exempt this Corporation and if the exigencies of time and circumstances of the Government require that this Corporation should be taxed. I am sure there will be a veritable revolution if the Central Government intended to do that. So if we want to err on the safe side, I think the proposition now placed before the House by the Honourable Member is the wise one. If later on, the Central Government can afford to give up the income accruing to it as a result of this taxation, it would be welcomed to do so at any time and nobody would object that because we had imposed taxes by one Act we were precluded from acting otherwise.

3 P.M.

Then my learned friend argued very fallaciously in referring to the Railways and the Telephones. If I may say so, the whole of the revenue of the Railway Department and the Telephone Department is taxed. We tax it cent per cent. The whole of the income that is derived from the Railways and the Telephones is the Central Government's revenue. There is therefore no question of taxation of that revenue.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: My friend forgets . . . . . .

Mr. Speaker: No replies. Only personal explanations.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are no longer labouring under the old regime when private companies were there and they were allowed to make profits. We are under a National Government and all the rupees ten crores which have been saved from the Railways is going to be the income and revenue of the Central Government. So this argument that we would have to tax the Railways and Telephones and if they are let free of taxation, we must also do it in the case of the Corporation, is I think no argument in favour of the case which my learned friend was putting forward.

Then, Sir, so long as the actual Corporation's working is not going to be affected for a long time, there is no harm in our putting down a provision by which the revenues from the Corporation would be subjected to taxation. If, at a later date, we discover that not only this Corporation but every other Corporation which is of a multi-purpose nature, which are of a really nation-building character and not merely a commercial concern and whenever we think that this or such of them as may be selected ought to be exempted from taxation, and if it is justifiable and the Central Government could afford it, then it would be time enough for the House to discuss and decide upon. I think, Sir, the Honourable Members coming from Bengal should not take amiss our voting in favour of the amendment because we are not really lacking in sympathy and if at any later date there is justification for an exemption, certainly the House would be in favour of it. With these words, Sir, I support the amendment which I think deserves to be supported.

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Bihar: General): Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Now, there are two amendments before the House, one by the Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil and the other by the Honourable Member Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad. Before I put them to vote, the Honourable Minister may reply if he wants to.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, there is not much for me to say, because all the points have been discussed several times in the consideration stage of this Bill as well as on the occasion when the Finance Corporation Bill was under discussion.

I have great respect for my old friend, Mr. Maitra, but he will pardon me if I say that I remain unconvinced by his arguments. If the Centre is to be asked in all difficulties and in all delicate situations for monetary help, it will be only proper to leave some sources of revenue for the Centre. He referred to Railways and Posts and Telegraphs. They are all Departments of the Government of India and whatever is saved automatically goes to the general revenues. If it is the intention that this Corporation should be a Department of the Government, that is another matter. We avoided that position for the simple reason that a Corporation of this type must be run on sound businesslike and commercial principles and in order to enable it to do so, some such provision is absolutely necessary. He also stated that for some time to come there is

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no chance of our getting anything by way of taxation. That is true to some extent, but I do hope, having studied carefully the scheme, the various Reports and the literature, that it will not be long before this Corporation becomes not only self-supporting but will certainly yield something to the Central revenues and when it does that, automatically a part of it goes to both the Provinces.

My Honourable friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad accused me of not possessing adequate sympathy for Bengal. I want to tell him that within seventy-two hours of my assuming office, the first thing that I attended to was the Damodar Valley scheme and I do not want to say much, but if I had not been very much interested in this and if I had not taken the keen interest that I have taken this Bill would not even have been introduced in this Session. I therefore invite the co-operation of every member in this House, and particularly members who hail from Bihar and Bengal who would be *prima facie* the first beneficiaries under this scheme, although I agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Maitra that prosperity is indivisible. I therefore request that this opposition which is based on misunderstanding should not be carried beyond what has been said already on the floor of the House. There is no ulterior motive; there is no backing up of the Finance Minister—the insinuations are quite wide of the mark,—there is no effort to create any psychological background, but this is simply a method whereby it is desired that as in the past, so in the future, the Central Government has got to be run and it cannot be run unless there are adequate finances.

That is all, Sir, I have to say.

Mr. Speaker: So I am placing before the House first the amendment of the Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Strictly, Sir, my amendment should come first.

Mr. Speaker: Really it makes no differences as to which is placed first. It will be ultimately the vote of the House which will decide.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: It is a question of sympathy, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. If the Honourable Member wants sympathy, I am prepared to accommodate him. I shall place his amendment first.

The question is:

"That for clause 42 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'42. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Corporation shall be exempted from liability to pay any tax on income, Corporation tax or any other like tax levied by the Central Government; and the participating Governments shall also be exempt from liability to pay any such tax in respect of any profits distributed to them by the Corporation.'"

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That for clause 42 of the Bill, the following be substituted;

'42. (1) The Corporation shall be liable to pay any taxes on income levied by the Central Government in the same manner and to the same extent as a company.

(2) The Provincial Governments shall not be entitled to any refund of any such taxes paid by the Corporation'."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I suggest that the heading may be suitably changed.

Mr. Speaker: The marginal note? That will have to be corrected, but it is not part of the statute as it is often stated.

The question is:

"That clause 42, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 42, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, before I move the amendment which I have tabled there is one amendment which I think should be accepted at once. It is about sub-clause (3) of clause 43. Here the expression "Dominion Legislature" has been used which I attemped to introduce in another connection with the sole object of removing it here. Now, Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 43 of the Bill, for the word 'Dominion', the word 'Central' be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: I believe the Honourable Minister said once that he would accept this amendment at a later stage.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 43 of the Bill, for the word 'Dominion', the word 'Central' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 43 of the Bill, the words 'in consultation with the financial adviser' be omitted."

Sir, the idea of the financial adviser is a new one. It was introduced for the first time in the Select Committee. Originally there was no such thing. This introduction creates some amount of misgiving in the minds of some people and that it would be something like a Gestapo chief to sit in judgment over the so-called mis-conduct of the members of the Corporation. In fact if there is a financial adviser, he is really a financial adviser and must advise on financial matter. There is no point in underlining this function. I believe the clause underlines it unduly. I think, that if there is a financial adviser that should be enough. That the Corporation should be required to work in consultation with him goes without saying, but it has its unhappy implications. That is why I think that these words should go. It should be merely an adviser and instead of being an adviser, he is given a dominant place. That is the thing which will go against the growth of self-governing ideas within the Corporation. We should not have in the guise of an adviser somebody who is really a chief or who has got certain secret overriding powers. He should be a subordinate officer to the Corporation and as such his duty should not be emphasized and converted into a power.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 43 of the Bill, the words 'in consultation with the financial adviser' be omitted."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I cannot accept it, but only I want to tell my Honourable friend that what is grammar to language, consultation of financial adviser is to a successful scheme.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think my Honourable friend was also agreeable when we were making this amendment in the Select Committee, but I find now that he had already added his Minute of Dissent, may be on later advices. I dare say he knows that there is what is known as Chief Financial Commissioner for the Railways and he has direct access to the Finance Member and in that way he is expected to look to the sound finances of the Railways. We have a similar officer also for the Posts and Telegraphs and another for Military Finance. We had all these things in our mind when we were making the suggestion and after all when once you appoint these three gentlemen as members of this particular Board, it is not expected that they should be very well qualified in regard to finance and we want this Corporation to become successful and in course of time to yield profit also, at least not to go on incurring losses. It is not possible for this House to give that much of consideration as is necessary in order to see that its finances are properly administered, nor will it be possible for the Government and their Department otherwise to give that much detailed consideration as to see that

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

it is carried on as a commercial Corporation. If you make this financial adviser merely a subordinate of this Board of three members, then it will not be possible either for the Government or for this Legislature to ensure that it will be worked satisfactorily, that its budget will be framed and passed with due regard not only to the canons of finance, but also canons of business. Therefore, Sir, we thought it better to give an additional amount of power to this particular financial adviser. What does it amount to? It only amounts to this that this particular officer is charged with the special responsibility of seeing to it that the finances of this Corporation are properly administered and the budget is properly prepared and when the budget is being prepared that no loans are being suggested or any capital expenditure is being suggested or any non-recurring expenditure is being suggested. He must give his individual attention to it and take individual responsibility also and hold himself responsible to the Finance Minister of the Government of India in addition to being responsible to the corresponding department of the Government. It is for that reason that we wanted him to be there with this special responsibility. My Honourable friend has suddenly brought in this word 'Gestapo'. There is no such thing as that in our conception anyhow. He did not make any such suggestion at the Committee stage. We certainly wanted him to be watch-dog of the Government of India, to be the watch-dog of the Finance Department of the Government of India, to be the watch-dog also of this House, but in a sort of indirect manner.

The three other members of the Board are not going to be members of this House and are not going to be politicians or any such thing. They are going to be officers of the Government; they are going to be responsible to the Government, but in their own way and therefore they need not take any offence at this additional power given to this particular officer, a fourth officer. In regard to everything else he may be subordinate, but in regard to this particular matter he must necessarily be able to assert his right, to advise them, and to be consulted by them and if there was to be any difference of opinion at all, between him and the other three Members, then he should have direct access straightaway to the Department concerned, and if necessary, to the Finance Minister also. Therefore, Sir, I think the House will be well advised to accept this provision that we have made in the Select Committee and to reject my Honourable friend's amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 43 of the Bill, the words 'in consultation with the financial adviser' be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 43 of the Bill, for the words 'financial adviser' the words 'Financial Adviser' be substituted."

I think this officer has been described in other places in capital letters and this must be the same old gentleman who has been described by Prof. Ranga as the watch-dog of the Central Government. If so, I think he is here a spaniel and not a bulldog.

Mr. Speaker: I think it is not necessary to have a discussion on this. We will take it for granted that wherever there are mistakes like this the draftsman and the printer, will see to them; but I cannot give the assurance that they will not commit further mistakes.

The question is:

"That clause 43, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 43, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 44 of the Bill, in item (xi), the words 'living in the area of operation be omitted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 44 of the Bill, in item (xi), the words 'living in the area of operation' be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 44 of the Bill, in item (x), the word 'and' be added at the end."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 44 of the Bill, in item (x), the word 'and' be added at the end."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (5) of clause 44 of the Bill, for the word 'dominion', the word 'Central' be substituted."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub clause (5) of clause 44 of the Bill, for the word 'Dominion', the word 'Central' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 44, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 44, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 45 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 46 of the Bill, the commas after the word 'may' and 'India', be omitted."

The reason is that the sentence will be quite plain without the commas. The rule is that where a sentence is clear without commas they should be eliminated. This is the advice of Fowler in his "King's English". Unless the commas are really needed to a proper understanding of the passage, or unless a confusion or misunderstanding would arise without the commas, they should not be used.

Mr. Speaker: At best they are superfluities and do not very much matter.

The question is:

"That clause 46, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Cause 46 was added to the Bill.

Clause 47 was added to the Bill.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 48 of the Bill, for the words 'arbitration by an arbitrator', the words 'an arbitrator who shall be' be substituted."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 48 of the Bill, for the words 'arbitration by an arbitrator', the words 'an arbitrator who shall be' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 48, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 48, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 49 was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (6) of clause 50 of the Bill, for the words 'supersede the Corporation and appoint a new Corporation in its place', the words 'remove the Chairman and the members of the Corporation and appoint a Chairman and members in their places' be substituted."

The word "Corporation" has two meanings in this Bill. One is the institution itself which is permanent and cannot be superseded or dissolved, and the other is the executive of the Corporation. As the clause stands it does not read correctly and so I move this amendment so that the continuity of the Corporation may not be disturbed.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I accept the amendment

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (6) of clause 50 of the Bill, for the words 'supersede the Corporation and appoint a new Corporation in its place', the words 'remove the Chairman and the members of the Corporation and appoint a Chairman and members in their places' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That sub-clause (7) of clause 50 of the Bill be omitted."

This is wholly superfluous.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That sub-clause (7) of clause 50 of the Bill be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 50 of the Bill, after the word 'Government', a semi-colon be inserted."

Sir, I submit that up to the word "Government" it is practically one sentence: the rest is virtually another sentence. They have been connected by the word "and". Therefore, it seems to me that a semi-colon is required. At any rate, a comma is almost indispensable. Elsewhere superfluous commas have been retained, but here, where it is essential, it is omitted.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): On a point of order, Sir. With regard to these grammatical mistakes, could they not be referred to the draftsman, and corrections wherever required made at the third reading stage?

Mr. Speaker: That is what I have been repeating. But the Honourable Member's contention has always been that, if he explains his point of view, it will be helpful to the draftsman. That is why he is only speaking on the amendments and is not pressing them.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I had submitted these amendments in the Select Committee, but they were not considered.

Mr. Speaker: If the Honourable Member so chooses, he can give me a list of his amendments in advance, giving his reasons for each, and I shall pass the list on to the draftsman without the intervention of the House.

The question is:

"That clause 50, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 50, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 51 was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I beg to move:

"That for clause 52 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

'52. *Penalty.*—Whoever contravenes the provisions of sections 17 and 18 of this Act or any rule made thereunder shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine or with both'."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I have one suggestion to make. The words "of this Act", I feel are absolutely redundant, on account of the provisions of section 3, clause (50) of the General Clauses Act. If we say 'sections 17 and 18', they necessarily mean sections 17 and 18 '*of this Act.*' Similar amendments moved by me on previous occasions have been accepted. I, therefore, suggest that the words "of this Act" be omitted.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Had they been omitted the Honourable Member would have suggested their inclusion.

Mr. Speaker: There is some difficulty in accepting the Honourable Member's suggestion. The clause further on says "any rule made thereunder", which means under the Act. If the words "of this Act" were to be omitted it would mean rules made under those two particular sections. The question is:

"That for clause 52 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

'52. *Penalty.*—Whoever contravenes the provisions of sections 17 and 18 of this Act or any rule made thereunder shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine or with both'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I am very glad to state Sir, that the word "punished" has been used in this clause and not "punishable" over which there was some difference of opinion before. The House has again reverted to the correct word both in the original clause and the amended one, though I had not pointed it out.

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter for congratulation to the Honourable Member that his view has been accepted at least once.

The question is:

"That clause 52, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 52, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 53 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 54 of the Bill, after the words 'under this Act', the words 'or under any rule or regulation made thereunder' be inserted."

Sir, we have adopted the inclusion of rules made under the Act in the amended clause 52. The word "Act" does not necessarily include rules made under it. To make the meaning of the clause clear, I would suggest the inclusion of "rules and regulations" also.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I do not accept this amendment, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Rules and regulations stand on different footings. While the rules will be made by Government, regulations are to be made by the Corporation with the previous sanction of the Central Government—*vide* clause 59.

The question is:

"That clause 54, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 54 was added to the Bill.

Clause 55 was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in the beginning of sub-clause (2) of clause 56 of the Bill, the words 'Save as otherwise provided in the Act' be inserted."

This is needed to provide for suits and compensations and other things under the Act.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in the beginning of sub-clause (2) of clause 56 of the Bill, the words 'Save as otherwise provided in the Act' be inserted."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I accept this

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: My Honourable friend who has moved the amendment has really caught the weakness of the sub-clause, namely that this sub-clause is a mischievous one. There is no parallel to this sub-clause in any other Act or Constitution. We always give protection to officers of Government, officers who act honestly and in a *bona fide* manner. But suppose the Corporation causes a loss to a particular man. Then this clause shuts out any legal remedy. In fact, it is under a belief that good faith always shuts out all remedies. Good faith protects servants, but not employers. Action in Tort does not require any bad faith or bad intention. If my dog bites someone, then without my intention I shall be liable. If my servant as such causes a loss to anyone, although I do not intend it, I shall be liable. It is well known that in Tort that intention or knowledge is not material. This is confirmed by English, American and Indian law and if any authority is necessary, then I would refer the House to Ramaswamy Iyer's classical book on Tort, third edition, at page 384. But the point is clear that where an injury or loss is caused, then an action for Tort will lie. So far as individual acts are concerned, the acts of servants and other officers, if they act in good faith for the purposes of the Corporation, they will not be personally liable. But it is another thing to say that the Corporation itself would not be liable. Supposing a *bona fide* act of the Corporation causes some loss to somebody. Then in that case that loss cannot be compensated by a suit. We are preventing individuals from coming to court for proper remedies. In fact, the rights and privileges of private persons are being interfered with. If any loss is caused unintentionally by an individual a remedy against him in courts is not barred. There is no provision similar to the clause anywhere in any other Act or law. I submit that the amendment of Mr. Santhanam shows that he is aware of the fact that there should be some remedy in the Act and therefore wants to guard against it. He has really found the danger. But his amendment does not cure the defect by adding the words "Save as otherwise provided in the Act", since the Act provides for no suits or legal proceedings against the Corporation. His remedy will therefore be meaningless. I therefore submit that the entire clause is mischievous. Suppose a servant of the Government causes a loss to someone, although it may be *bona fide* and without malice or ill-will. Will not a suit lie against the Government? Supposing it is the Honourable Minister's department? All that is necessary for the injured party is to give a notice and then institute a suit. Whether the act is *bona fide* or not is not material in many action for Tort. I submit that the power given by sub-clause (2), is not even enjoyed by the Central Government or any other Government. A right of suit by an individual, a subject is guaranteed and in a matter of Tort and is not dependent upon the element of intention. I request the Honourable Minister to have this clause examined, and as the Honourable the Law Minister is also here, he can throw light on the subject. I think even the Central Government is not immune from a suit even where acts are done *bona fide*. This is not an amendment of a drafting nature but really a substantial one and the sub-clause is a very bad departure from the salutary principle. I think the matter should be carefully examined. It is to my mind a matter of great importance.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I cannot accept his view.

Mr. Speaker: He wants the Honourable Minister to take it into consideration.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I move:

"That sub-clause (2) of clause 56, be omitted."

Mr. Speaker: That is a new amendment. The Honourable Member has not given notice of it. So it would not be proper to accept it, as a new amendment; because I have already ruled that I shall not waive notice for an amendment unless it is substantially agreed to by the House.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I have no particular grievance about the practice.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in the beginning of sub-clause (2) of clause 56 of the Bill, the words 'Save as otherwise provided in the Act' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 56, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 56, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 57 was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 58 of the Bill, after part (6) the following new part (7) be added:
'(7) the punishment for breach of any rule made under this Act'."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 58 of the Bill, after part (6) the following new part (7) be added:
'(7) the punishment for breach of any rule made under this Act'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: There are two amendments in the name of Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad which are really meant for the attention of the Draftsman. These will be conveyed to the draftsman.

The question is:

"That clause 58, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 58, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I move:

(i) "That in sub-clause (1) of clause 59 of the Bill, for the words 'official gazette', the words '*Gazette of India*' be substituted;" and

(ii) "That in sub-clause (3) of clause 59 of the Bill, for the word 'participating' the word 'Provincial' be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: Amendments moved:

(i) "That in sub-clause (1) of clause 59 of the Bill, for the words 'official gazette', the words '*Gazette of India*' be substituted;" and

(ii) "That in sub-clause (3) of clause 59 of the Bill, for the word 'participating' the word 'Provincial' be substituted."

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I only wanted to point out that in order to make sub-clauses (1) and (3) consistent these notifications should be in all the three gazettes. Even in sub-clause 1 it would be more proper, because it is essential that people not only in Delhi but in Bengal and Bihar should be informed about them. Instead of only '*Gazette of India*', it should be "by notification in the official gazettes."

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member wants to have it in plural "official Gazettes" instead of "official gazette".

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): With your permission, Sir, I beg to move both my amendments to this clause.

(i) "That in sub-clause (1) of clause 59 of the Bill, the words 'by notification in the official Gazette' be omitted" and

(ii) "That for sub-clause (3) of clause 59 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

'(3) All regulations made under this section shall be published in the *Gazette of India* and the official Gazettes of the Provincial Governments and shall come into force on such publication and shall also be laid on the tables of respective legislatures'."

Mr. Speaker: Amendments moved:

(i) "That in sub-clause (1) of clause 59 of the Bill, the words 'by notification in the official Gazette', be omitted;" and

(ii) "That for sub-clause (3) of clause 59 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

'(3) All regulations made under this section shall be published in the *Gazette of India* and the official Gazettes of the Provincial Governments and shall come into force on such publication and shall also be laid on the tables of respective legislatures'."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sub-clause (3) refers to sub-sections (1) and (2). The sub-clause says "All regulations made *under sub-sections* (1) *and* (2)". The amendment of Mr. Das says "this section." If we accept this part of the amendment of Mr. Das, the text would be better. It would then read "All regulations made *under this section*".

With regard to the expression *Gazette of India* the General Clauses Act says that "Official Gazette" would mean the *Gazette of India* in the case of the Central Government, and in the case of a Province, the official Gazette of the Province. I suggest that in order to make the text complete we must say "in the Official Gazettes of the Central Government and the participating Governments."

Shri B. Das: Let me explain the amendment which I have moved. For sometime we have been pressing on the Government and on the various Ministers concerned that whenever rules and regulations are made under an Act they should be laid on the table of the legislature. That principle was considered and accepted in connection with the Industrial Finance Corporation Act which we passed recently. I am glad that my Honourable friend the Law Minister is here. It was unanimously agreed that all regulations made under that Act would be laid on the table of the Legislature. Now we are going to have many nationalised or semi-nationalised concerns, where we are creating corporations or authorities, which may not fulfil the objectives that the legislators may have had. If all regulations are laid on the table of the legislature, that salutary practice will help the scrutiny of this legislature. It may be that we may ask a question and then the Honourable Minister will have to lay these regulations on the table of the House and some industrious member may raise a discussion about the propriety of those regulations. So I think the Government should have a uniform practice. If the House has legislated that all regulations under the Industrial Finance Corporation should be placed on the table of the House, I do hope on this Damodar Valley Corporation Bill and all other future bills, wherever the Central Government take upon themselves the power of framing the rules and regulations, those should be laid on the table of the House, so that the House might have an opportunity to discuss them. I do feel that our national government should have uniformity in the legislature. I feel diffident before lawyer members to talk about uniformity of legislation but when the principle has been conceded in one Act, that should be the principle that should control all future legislations. With that object I have tabled this amendment.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I cannot accept the amendments. As regards publication, the rules will be published in the Government of India Gazette first and as sub-clause (3) provides all regulations made under sub-sections (1) and (2) shall as soon as possible be published also in the official gazettes of the provincial governments. Only a little time will intervene between the two publications.

Shri B. Das: Will not Government consider it desirable to have a uniform practice in every new legislation? Why did they accept this principle under the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill and why do they not accept it under this legislation?

Mr. Speaker: That will land us in further arguments.

The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 59 of the Bill, for the words 'official gazette', the words '*Gazette of India*' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I shall put his next amendment. It says:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 59 of the Bill, for the word 'participating', the word 'Provincial' be substituted."

Will it not mean all Provincial Governments throughout the whole of India? Is that the idea?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: "Participating Governments" has been defined in clause 2(4) as meaning all the three Governments the Central Gov-
4 P.M. ernment and the Provincial Governments of Bihar and West Bengal. So "participating" will have to go in any event.

Mr. Speaker: I was referring to the other difficulty. Is it expected that these rules should be published by Governments other than those of Bihar and West Bengal?

Shri K. Santhanam: Only by the two Provincial Governments. By the definition it means that

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: "Provincial Government" is defined in clause 2(6). So sub-clauses (4) and (6) of clause 2 cover the position.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 59 of the Bill, for the word 'participating', the word 'Provincial' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I will now put the amendments of Mr. B. Das.

The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 59 of the Bill, the words 'by notifiaction in the official Gazette' be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That for sub-clause (3) of clause 59 of the Bill, as amended, the following be substituted;

'(3) All regulations made under this section shall be published in the *Gazette of India* and the official Gazettes of the Provincial Governments and shall come into force on such publication and shall also be laid on the tables of respective legislatures'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 59, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 59, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in the second paragraph of the Preamble to the Bill, before the word 'resolutions', the following be inserted :

'as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order 1947'."

There is, in the Preamble, a reference to the Government of India Act, 1935, but the Government of India Act does not now stand as it was. It is now adapted by the Provisional Constitution Order, 1947. This expression should find a place in the text in order to make the preamble absolutely accurate. I find in the title page of the Bill, signed by the Secretary, there is a reference to the Government of India Act in another connection as 'the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order 1947'. It shows the accuracy with which the Secretary described it. It may be printed in the proceedings, but it forms no part of the Bill. I submit that these words should be there. I was given to understand at an earlier stage that these words are not necessary because Section 103 which was under consideration here, was not at all adapted by the Provisional Constitution Order. But I find it has really been adapted. In these circumstances we should have a reference to that Section as it stands after it has been adapted by the Provisional Constitution Order.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, the Law Minister says this is not necessary.

Mr. Speaker: In that case, I am not placing the amendment before the House.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Then I shall move my next amendment on Preamble.

I beg to move:

"That after the second paragraph of the Preamble to the Bill, the following new paragraph be inserted :

'AND WHEREAS sanction of the Governor General has been obtained under sub-section (3) of section 299 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order 1947, to the introduction of the Bill, and his recommendation to the Legislature for the consideration of the Bill has been made under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the said Act;' "

I should suggest that this should be inserted after the second paragraph. In fact, under Section 299 (3) of the Government of India Act in certain classes of legislation relating to land the previous sanction of the Governor General is necessary for the introduction of the Bill. Para. 2 has been inserted to show that proper conditions under section 103 have been satisfied. If we have the second paragraph we should also have the third paragraph. I have an alternative amendment that if this third paragraph is not accepted paragraph 2 should also be eliminated. Paragraph 2 stands exactly on the same footing as the paragraph which I want to introduce. In fact it shows at once that the necessary sanction has been taken. I have in fact taken the text from the Secretary's note at the front page of the Bill, which unfortunately is no part of the Bill. That is why in my opinion it should be stated in the Bill that this condition has been satisfied. If it is argued that this need not be inserted here, then it makes out a case for the omission of paragraph 2 because that stands on the same footing. If the last paragraph which I want to insert is accepted it is all right. If it is rejected the other paragraph should also be omitted. I have tabled a suitable amendment for that.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The sanction has been obtained and an endorsement has been made on the original Bill. Whether such an insertion is necessary or not, I do not know, but the Honourable the Law Minister whom I have consulted says that such insertion is not necessary.

Mr. Speaker: I am told that it is also the consistent practice that the particular recommendation is printed as an endorsement on the Bill and not incorporated therein.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Then I do not press it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Title and the Preamble, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Before I call upon the Honourable Minister, I want to make one announcement to Honourable Members. There was a desire expressed by Members that so far as possible, there should be no meetings of the Assembly on Saturday. I am not making any statement about all Saturdays, but I am making a statement only about Saturday the 21st. The House will not be sitting on that day and that means on the day reserved for discussing Demands for Grants for Railways. The Demands for Grants will be discussed on the 24th in addition to Monday the 23rd. So instead of Saturday the 21st, Monday the 23rd and Tuesday the 24th, the days for Demands for Grants for Railways will be Friday the 20th, Monday the 23rd and Tuesday the 24th. Honourable Members may kindly take a note of this.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I move:

"That the re-numbering and re-lettering of the clauses and sub-clauses consequential on the amendments made by this House be carried out."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the re-numbering and re-lettering of the clauses and sub-clauses consequential on the amendments made by this House be carried out."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I desire to express my heartfelt thanks to the Honourable Minister for initiating the Bill and carrying it through.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen)].

I suggested certain amendments. Some have been accepted in the Select Committee and also here, though others have not been accepted. For that also I am personally grateful. I only desire that at the Select Committee stage more care should be taken to free Bills from mere clerical errors. I suggest that instead of forcing a Member to move drafting amendments, and then blaming him for it, the better course would be to remove those drafting defects beforehand so that the attention of Honourable Members may be directed towards more important points. The reason why I have moved some drafting amendments was that I found there was a large number of mistakes. Such errors and mistakes never happend before. That is the reason for my arguing before the House several times in connection with those amendments. I am grateful to the Honourable Minister for his kind references to me and I submit

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

that whatever I have said was in the discharge of a duty not meant personally to him. I know that his heart is with us and I believe that he will give the people of Burdwan and West Bengal something for which they will remain grateful to him.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I wish to congratulate the Honourable Minister for not only having successfully piloted this Bill to this stage but also for having had the good fortune to introduce this Bill in this House. Sir, this Bill when it becomes an Act, will usher in a new era in the economic and social development of our country. There are many friends who are rather frightened of the idea of nationalization or socialization: but even these friends will certainly have the least possible objection to the social reorganization of our country on lines which are generally outlined in this Bill. There are many areas, Sir, which are undeveloped in our country like the Santhal Parganas, the Assam Hills, and Rayalasima in my own province which today need very great development, and their development is not to be in water-tight compartments, in one small section of economic development or social development or any such thing at all. They need all round development and they need local attention to be paid to all their needs. And if their development is to be achieved on right and healthy lines, then some such authority as this, which is expected to specialize in their special development, will have to be created. Therefore I sincerely hope that this authority when it comes into existence will begin to work in a dynamic manner and achieve quick results within the next four or five years so that it will lead the way to the foundation or the formation of similar authorities in various other areas. I have in particular in mind parts of our own country known as the agency areas or hilly tracts or the excluded areas which till now have been very much neglected. We have vast forest wealth there, economic and social resources yet to be developed, the tribal people in an undeveloped condition, and many of the plains people going over there and playing havoc with their own social economy and creating any amount of trouble for them. There are mineral resources, hydro-electric resources too, and many other resources which have not yet been planned and explored and in regard to which plans have yet to be made. These areas cannot be exploited and developed just as well by any provincial government or the Central Government taking direct responsibility for their development, and we have seen also the evils of such direct responsibility from governmental sources because of the poor human quality that we have been able to develop through our own services. There is also a very great need for training and developing social civil service and we can develop it only when we organize these authorities, give them an opportunity of gaining experience, and thereafter making themselves available to the state so that the state may venture upon various other bigger nationalization projects. Therefore, Sir, I sincerely hope that the Honourable Minister will go ahead with this method of approach and will try to come forward with similar proposals for all these various other projects—chiefly the Machkund project, the Ramapadasagar project, the Sangameswar project and various other projects that he has in store and I can assure him that this House will be only too glad to give him every possible encouragement as well as assistance and co-operation in seeing that these authorities are brought into existence and are helped to begin to work at the earliest possible opportunity.

گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر : سبھا پتی جی ! دامودر ویای کارپوریشن بل پاس ہونے والا ہے — اس سلسلے میں دو چار الفاظ میں آنریبل منسٹر کو جنھوں نے کہ بڑی محنت سے یہ بل تیار کیا ہے مبارک باد دینا چاہتا ہوں — دامودھر لفظ دو شبدوں سے مرکب ہے دام (Dam) اور اُدار (udar) - دام (Dam) کے معنی ہیں ویسی اور اُدار (udar) کے معنے ہیں پیٹ نہ رسمی سے یہاں مراد لکھشمی ہے - یعنی

جس کے پیٹ میں لکھشمی ہو - میں چاہتا ہوں کہ جیسے اس بل کا نام ہے دامودر یہ اسم بامسمیٰ ہو - اور جیسا اسکا نام ہے ویسا ہی اسکا کام بھی ہو - یعنی یہ اتنی مایا یعنی لکھشمی ہمارے دیش میں پیدا کرے کہ ہمارا دیش خوشحال ہو جائے - اسلئے یہ ضروری ہے کہ اس بل کو چلانے کے لئے ایسے طریقے اختیار کئے جائیں جن سے سب کو فائدہ پہنچے - یعنی ایک سارتا ہو اور جب ایک یونیفیکیشن (unification) سے اس بل کو چلایا جائیگا تو میرے خیال میں سچ مچ یہ بل اسم با مسمّے ہو جائیگا - اور تھوڑی ہی دیر میں ہمارے کسان کی پتوں کی جھونپڑی سیمنٹ کی شکل میں بدل جائیگی اور ہمارے کسان کی بیل گاڑی اور گرے موٹروں میں بدل جائینگے - یہ میری خواہش ہے -

اس بارے میں میں ایک بات ضرور کہونگا کہ اس بل کو چلانے کے لئے صرف معمار انجنیر کی کو اوڈینیشن (co-ordination) ہی کافی نہیں ہوگی بلکہ معمار کے سٹینڈرڈ (Standard) کو اُونچا کرنے کی کوشش کی جائے - اگر ہمارے بھلچھ اُٹھانے والے مزدور صرف مزدوری کرتے رہیں اور بڑی بڑی تنخواہ لینے والے انجنیر کرسی پر بیٹھکر اپنے نقشے ہی تیار کرتے رہیں تو پھر شاید اسکا کوئی فائدہ نہیں ہوگا - یہ فائدہ مہز اسی صورت میں ہو سکتا ہے جبکہ ان میں ایک سارتا ہو اور unification ہو - یعنی مزدوروں کا سٹینڈرڈ آف لیونگ (Standard of living) اونچا کرنے کی کوشش کی جائے - انکا سٹینڈرڈ آف لیونگ (Standard of living) تب ہی اُونچا ہو سکتا ہے جبکہ جن لوگوں کے سپرد یہ کام ہو اُنکا نظریہ بالکل ایسا ہو کہ وہ اس خیال سے کام کو انجام دیں کہ جو جو اس کام میں ہمارے ساتھ ہیں اور جہاں جہاں بھی ڈیویلپمنٹ(development)کرنی ہے - اس میں ہمارے ساتھ حصہ لینے والے جتنے ہو ہی سب اُنکا سٹینڈرڈ آف لیونگ (Standard of living) اونچا کرنا ہے - یہ بہت ہی ضروری بات ہے - اس کے ساتھ ہی اس بل کو چلانے کے لئے یہ بھی ضروری ہے کہ ایک ایسی کمیٹی بنائی جائے جسکا صرف یہ کام ہو کہ وہ یہ دیکھ لیاکریں کہ لوگوں کا سٹینڈرڈ (Standard) کیسے اُونچا کیا جا سکتا ہے - اور وہ اس بات کا بھی خیال رکھیں کہ اسکام کے چلانے میں کوئی کرپشن نہ ہو - اور جو بھی اُنکو کرپشن کی کوئی بات نظر آئے اُسکو پہلے سے ہی نکالدیں - اور ہر ایک کرپشن کی بات پر ابتدا سے ہی چیک (check) رکھا کریں -

ان الفاظ کے ساتھ میں دوبارہ آنریبل منسٹر صاحب کو سچے دل سے مبارکباد دیتا ہوں - اگر اس قسم کی ڈیویلپمینٹس (developments) ہمارے دیش میں کی جائیں تو ہماری سرکار کی بھی نیک نامی ہوگی اور دیش بھی خوش حال ہوگا -

(*English translation of the above speech.*)

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar (East Punjab: Sikh): Mr. Speaker. The Damodar Valley Corporation Bill is going to be passed. In this connection, in a few words, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister who has prepared this Bill with great labour.

The word 'Damodar' is made of two words 'Dam' and 'Udar'. 'Dam' means a rope and 'Udar' means a belly. Here 'rassi' (dam) means 'Lakshmi' *i.e.* the whole word means 'that which has 'Lakshmi' in its belly'. I wish this Bill which has been given such a name as 'Damodar' may prove true to its name, and its work may be as great as its name. I mean to say that it may produce so much wealth in our country that this country may become prosperous. To make the Bill a success it is therefore necessary to adopt such measures which are useful to all *i.e.*, we should have equality. As a matter of fact I think the Bill will prove true to its name if it is worked with 'unification'. In a short period our peasants thatched huts will be transformed into cemented buildings and his bullock carts will be replaced by motor vehicles.

In this connection I must say one thing: that to make the Bill successful not only the co-ordination of the artisan and the engineer will be sufficient but also efforts will be required to raise the artisan's standard of living. It will be of no use if our toiling labourers simply go on with their drudgery while engineers with fat salaries go on making maps sitting comfortably in their chairs. It can only be useful if there be an equal standard and 'unification' in the services. I mean that efforts to raise labourers' standard of living be made. This is possible only if the view point of those who are entrusted with this work be such that they perform their duties with the idea that the standard of living of the labourers working under them at this work and also of those sharing work under them at other places of development has got to be raised. It is very essential.

Side by side with this matter in working the Bill it is also necessary that a committee be formed which may consider how the standard of the people can be raised and they may also see that there is no corruption. If they find any corruption, they should nip the evil in the bud, and should exercise a check on corruption from its very beginning.

With these words I again heartily congratulate the Honourable Minister. If such like developments were made in our country then our Government will earn a good name and our country will prosper.

चौधरी रणवीरसिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं किसान के नाते मंत्रिमंडल और शेषतया मंत्रि महोदय केप्रति कृतज्ञता प्रगट करना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने यह बिल लाकर भारत के अन्दर एक नया युग आरम्भ किया है। लेकिन इसके साथ-साथ में एक बात कहे बगैर नहीं रह सकता कि अंग्रेजी राज के जमाने में, १० और १५ साल हमारे यहां जो युनियनिस्ट पार्टी थी वह भाखरा डैम का नाम इस्तैमाल करती आई और इस पार्टी ने इसका नारा लगाके लोगों से राय लेने का साधन बनाये रखा। तो मैं मंत्रि महोदय से यह विनम्र निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि वह विरोधी दल को यह अवसर नहीं देंगे कि कांग्रेस ने सिर्फ इलैक्शन में राय लेने के लिए यह स्टन्ट (stunt) खड़ा किया है बल्कि वह इसको जल्दी से कार्यक्रम में परिणित करेंगे। इसके साथ-साथ मैं एक चीज मंत्रि महोदय के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूं और वह यह कि देहाती मसल है : "दिया तले अन्धेरा।

मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि दश बदला, हम गुलामी से अजाद हुए। पहिले दीपक की रोशनी के अन्दर पढ़ते थे आज बिजली की रोशनी देखते हैं। तो कम से कम अब दीपक के नीचे जब कि दीपक के स्थान में बिजली आ गई है अन्धेरा नहीं रहना चाहिये। अन्धेरा ऊपर होना चाहिये, नीचे नहीं। लेकिन अभी तक इससे विपरीत है। ऊपर चांदनी है और दीप के नीचे अन्धेरा है।

मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि हम यहां यमुना के किनारे बैठे हैं। जैसी दामोदर वैली (valley) की हालत है वैसी हालत यमुना की घाटी की है। जहां हम बैठे हैं वहां से यमुना गुजरती है और यहां से पांच मील के फासले पर वही हालत देखते हैं जो शायद आपने बंगाल और बिहार में देखी है। बहुत अधिक बड़ी जमीन खाली पड़ी है जहां पर अच्छे-अच्छे फल फूल और साग सब्जी तैयार हो सकती हैं। हर साल वहां पर बाढ़ के कारण किसानों को लाखों रुपयों का नुकसान बर्दाश्त करना पड़ता है। इसके साथ-साथ मैं मंत्रि महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर भी दिलाना चाहता हूं कि इस से भी यू० पी०, पजाब के देहली प्रान्तों को फायदा पहुंचना है। अतः यह विषय एक प्रान्त का नहीं है और इस घाटी का सुधार एक प्रान्त की सरकार नहीं कन्टीन्यू (continue) कर सकती बल्कि केन्द्र की सरकार ही कर सकती है।

अतः मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि बगैर किसी विलम्ब के एक ऐसा बिल जिसका नाम 'यमुना घाटी संस्था' होगा जल्द से जल्द हमारे सामने लायेंगे। और ज्यादा न कहते हुए अन्त में फिर मैं मन्त्री महोदय के प्रति अपनी कृतज्ञता प्रकट करता हूं और बैठते हुए यह आशा करता हूं कि इस संस्था को जल्द से जल्द कार्य-रूप देंगे और हम जल्द से जल्द तमाम भारत के किसानों को बहुत अच्छी हालत में देख पायेंगे।

(*English translation of the above speech.*)

Ch. Ranbir Singh: (East Punjab: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as a farmer I wish to express my gratitude to the Cabinet Ministers and particularly to the Minister who has introduced this Bill which marks the beginning of a new era in India. But along with that I cannot help saying one thing. It is this. During the British rule in this country, the Unionist Party in our province had been using the name of *Bhakra* Dam for ten to fifteen years. By means of this slogan the party had been able to secure the votes of the people. I would, therefore, like to say to the Honourable Minister that he should complete this work as soon as he can so that the opposition gets no opportunity of saying that this is simply a stunt created by the Congress Party to secure votes in the elections.

One thing more I would like to bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister. It is this. There is a country proverb which says that the lamp burns to give light to others but it fails to dispel the darkness round its base. What I mean to say is that the country has witnessed a change; from slaves we have become freemen. There was a time when we used to read in the light of oil lamps; today we have incandescent bulbs. Today, therefore, when the oil lamp has been replaced by the incandescent bulb, there should be no shadow under the lamp. The shadow ought to be above it and not under it. But it is otherwise even upto this time. There is light above the lamp and the shadow under it.

[Ch. Ranbir Singh]

I mean that we are living on the banks of the Jamuna. The condition of the Jamuna Valley is not different from that of the Damodar Valley. The Jamuna flows by our city, but at a distance of just five miles from here you will find the same state of affairs as you have perhaps in Bengal and Bihar. There are long stretches of land where fruits and vegetables can be grown; but these places lie barren. Every year the farmers have to suffer loss of lakhs of rupees due to floods. Moreover, I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to this fact that this will also benefit the rural areas of the U.P. and the Punjab. This is, therefore, not a matter of one province; and the reform of this valley cannot be undertaken by a provincial Government. It can be done only by the Central Government.

The object of my speech therefore is to call upon the Honourable Minister to bring before the House, without any delay, a Bill called 'The Jamuna Valley Corporation'. Without saying anything more I once again express my thanks to the Honourable the Minister and resume my seat with the hope that this Bill will be immediately put into practice and that soon we will see all the farmers of this country in a state of prosperity.

श्री रामनारायण सिंह : इस बिल के सम्बन्ध में मैं माननीय मित्र भाई गाडगिल साहब को बहुत-बहुत बधाई दे चुका हूं और अपनी प्रसन्नता भी प्रकट कर चुका हूं और फिर से उसको दोहराने की जरूरत नहीं है।

लेकिन जो बहसें इस बिल के बीच चलीं और उसमें उन्होंने जो तत्परता दिखाई, उसके लिये मैं उन्हें फिर से बधाई देता हूं और बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूं, और जिस तरह और लोगों ने आशा प्रकट की है, मैं भी उनसे कहूंगा कि उनका यह काम सिर्फ छोटा नागपुर के लिये ही नहीं है, बल्कि सारे देश के लिये बहुत बड़ा काम है। अब उनकी बहादुरी और कार्य कुशलता इसी में है कि यह महान् कार्य सफलीभूत हो। यह कार्य जल्दी कार्यान्वित हो। और जो यह आशा की जा रही है कि हमारे लोगों के दुख दुर होंगे, वह सब हमारी आशायें पूर्ण हों। उसके साथ-साथ ऐसी सच्चाई के साथ काम हो जिससे वहां पर करप्शन (corruption) वगैरह की जो बात उठती है अब इस सरकार के जमाने में, भाई गाडगिल के माने में, यह बात न उठे। इसकी हमें पूरी कोशिश करनी चाहिये।

मैं भाई नज़ीरुद्दीन साहब को भी बधाई देता हूं जिन्होंने इस बिल में जरा सी भी ग़लती कौमा (coma) फुलस्टौप (full stop) और सेमीकोलन (semi colon) को दूर करने की कोशिश की। वह बहुत कोशिश करते हैं कि इस बिल में तनिक भी भूल न रह पाये। मैं डिपार्टमैण्टस् (departments) के ड्राफ्टस्मैन (draftsmen) को कहूंगा वह तो बड़े क़ाबिल होते हैं, उनको देखना होगा कि इसमें तनिक भी ग़लती न रह जाय, तभी वह तारीफ़ के बाक़ई काबिल हैं। अगर ऐसा नहीं है, तो मैं कहूंगा कि उनकी तलब कट जाना चाहिए और वह तलब मिस्टर नज़ीरुद्दीन साहब को मिलनी चाहिये।

इतना कहकर मैं फिर गाडगिल भाई को बधाई देकर बैठ जाता हूं और यह आशा करता हूं कि यह काम जल्दी पूरा हो और खूबी और मुस्तैदी के साथ सफलीभूत हो।

(*English translation of the above speech*).

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: (Bihar: General): I have already congratulated my friend Honourable Shri Gadgil on this Bill and have also expressed my joy over it. I need not, therefore, repeat it. But I do congratulate him once again for the dexterity he has exhibited in debating this Bill. I thank him very much for it. I also share with others the hope that this work will prove beneficial not merely for Chhota Nagpur but a big work for the whole of India. The greatness and expertness of the Minister lies only in the successful completion of this gigantic task. It should be completed without delay. May our hopes for putting an end to the difficulties of the people bear fruit and may it be done in such an honest way that under this Government, under Shri Gadgil, the question of corruption does not arise at all. We must spare no pain for avoiding corruption.

I also congratulate my friend, Shri Naziruddin, who has striven hard to point out the minor mistakes of comas, full stops and semi colons. He strains his nerves so that not even an ordinary error is left in this Bill. I have to say to the draftsmen of the Department that they are very able men; they must see that the Bill is free from the slightest flaw. That alone will deserve them praise. If that is not so I will say that their salaries should be reduced and the amount of cut in their salaries should be paid to Shri Naziruddin.

I resume my seat with these words and congratulations to Shri Gadgil once again. I hope this work will be completed successfully, skillfully and quickly.

Shri B. Das: Sir, I would welcome it if the Honourable Minister would take the House into his confidence and state how he is going to give effect at a very early date to this piece of legislation which this House has confided in him. This morning, I read in the paper that Dr. Sudhir Sen, who was Economic Adviser in Moscow has been flown to New York to study the management of the T.V. A. so that he can be made a functionary of this Corporation. That is a piece of very good work which the Honourable Minister has done and I congratulate him for that. I hope he will appoint other people immediately under this Act and arrange similar facilities for them, so that those who are in charge of this Corporation have some knowledge of similar concerns in U.S.A. and also in U.S.S.R. I do hope that Dr. Sen in his economic studies of Soviet conditions did look into the methods and systems of the organisation which did similar work in Russia, where the Dnieper Valley Dam that was destroyed by the Germans during the War was restored within the minimum time.

I am always afraid of Corporations, Authorities and Boards. I do not like institutions like that which may become perfect autocracies and may not function properly. We have only two days ago heard the speech of the Honourable the Railway Minister who gave a certificate about the good conduct of all railway employees and wanted us to believe that there is nothing wrong in the kingdom of Denmark the Railway Administration today. My Honourable friend, the Minister for Works, Mines and Power is too familiar with our views about that body—the Railway Board—for me to remind him. I do hope he will apply his mind not in the old Departmental way, the bureaucratic way of getting enmeshed in various Departments and officials, but take such action as will enable us within a year or two to reap the results of the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation, and enjoy the fruits, even what my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga is anticipating in the line of socialisation.

[Shri B. Das].

Sir, those who talk of socialisation and nationalisation, let them satisfy themselves by the interpretation they have put whether this is a socialist concern or not. I interpret it as a State controlled and state financed institution which will try to develop and bring prosperity and better conditions of living for fifty lakhs of people which my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil said the other day this Corporation would benefit. At the same time, I believe that what the Honourable the Prime Minister spoke to us only yesterday is worthy of remembrance, namely, that nationalisation or socialisation is not the kind of slogan which the nation should put before itself, but rather the problem of "production". I do hope that the Damodar Valley Corporation will think of production and think of it not in the matter of spending money alone for the next seven or ten years, but of planning it in such a way that it will bring immediate results for the nation.

Sir, once again I felicitate the Honourable Minister. I do felicitate him and I also felicitate this House, because for once in the history of this Legislature we have established a Corporation that will benefit the teeming millions and which has no ulterior motive behind it.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I find it difficult to resist the temptation of congratulating my Honourable friend and old colleague, Mr. Gadgil. The Bill that we have enacted into law today will mark a milestone in the path of economic progress and I am sure that when the future history of this period will come to be written, the Damodar Valley Corporation, when it fructifies, will occupy a very important place and the credit for it will go to my esteemed friend and colleague Mr. Gadgil. As I was trying to explain to the House a few minutes ago, this Damodar Valley Project has got very far reaching consequences in the field of economic reconstruction in this country. I do really feel that if this project, which is estimated to cost near about 60 crores of rupees, could really be brought into operation on the lines suggested in this Act, we will go a long way towards solving the most terrible and pressing of all problems of India today, namely, the food shortage. I am constantly bothered about this food shortage of India, not only because that threatens to be the one problem in India for the next few years, but because, coming, as I do, from the Province of Bengal and having had a taste of what famine means, I view with terror the implications of food shortage. We have got to realize that along with vast territories, our huge food resources also, have passed out of our hands and the vast food potential is not now within our reach though the vast industrial potential is with us. At the same time when I think of four millions of souls that are born in India every year to be fed, Mr. Chairman, I feel staggered at the problem of food production. Every year, we are spending over 100 crores for import of Food Stuffs and that whole amount is misspent is the sense that it yields no return. If 100 crores spent on this scheme could bring smiles in place of tears, could convert arid waste into a mantle of green and if in place of darkness it could bring in light, as we all hope it will, then, I am sure, future generations would not only bless the Honourable Minister Shri N. V. Gadgil, but also bless this House for having given its unstinted support to a measure designed to alleviate the miseries of a teeming millions in this country. Considered from this point of view, I think my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil can legitimately be proud of an achievement. I know for myself with what earnestness and zeal he set about his task. When he was replying to my Honourable friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, who was incessantly pleading for sympathy and sympathy and sympathy, he wanted to remind him that within a few hours of his assumption of office, he set his hands firmly to this task. Yes, he did. I can testify to that. But may I appeal to him that with the characteristic tenacity of a Mahratta, he would pursue this plan to full fruition. I know the tremendous difficulties that lie in his way; there is shortage of technical

personal and particularly the type of personnel which can do this kind of job, which is absolutely new, unheard of and unknown in this country. Here the most competent and distinguished Engineer is bound to quail before the magnitude of this task. But I would suggest to him that in the initial stage, it would perhaps be advisable to bring eminent engineers from America, a few of them, so that under their direct supervision our engineers may have specialised training in this respect. For as I was telling, this is not only going to be the pioneer scheme, but the pilot scheme for the future. On its success or failure depends the future of all such schemes, be it Hirakud Project or Ramapadasagar Project. There are the limiting factors of shortage of scientific personnel, equipments, materials, these are terrible obstacles, but I know the will and determination of my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil will see them through. At the moment all we can do is to wish him success in his mission and God speed in his work.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I am extremely grateful to the Honourable Members for the appreciative speeches they have made. It would be unfair on my part if I were to annex all this praise in its entirety to myself. I should very much like to tell the House that in this enterprise, I have got two esteemed partners, one my Honourable colleague and my old friend, Dr. Ambedkar. It was he who initiated this scheme and it was my Honourable friend and colleague, Mr. Bhabha who continued the effort. Apart from these two Honourable Members, as I said the day before yesterday, innumerable officials of the Ministry have been working at this Project and on the drafting of this particular Bill. So it is only fair and proper that I should share all this on their behalf and only to some extent on my own behalf.

In the course of the debate, Sir, I had an occasion to remark something about grammar. Although it was a sort of humourous remark, I find that it was not so understood. The very fact that I accepted a number of amendments of my Honourable friend, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad conclusively proves that I have great regard for grammar also. Coming as I do from the family of grammarians, I have always believed what the Sanskrit Pandit has said:

एकः शब्दः सम्यक ज्ञानः सम्यक् प्रयुक्तः स्वर्गे लोके काम इच्छुक भवति। इतिः व्याकणे नामे भनस्॥

One word well understood, well used, entitles a person to a place in heaven. That is the opinion of the grammarians.

So it was not in any disparagement of grammar that I made that remark, for I do believe that just as discipline is necessary for life, grammar is necessary for language. I am grateful to Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad for helping us all in making the Bill as perfect as it is possible for us mortals to make. I am also grateful to various other members who took great pains in sending amendments and also thankful to them for showing great restraint in not moving them.

I am also grateful to one of my Honourable friends Mr. Krishnamachari but for whose constant presence I am sure I would have found myself in utter confusion in some of the grammatical amendments of my esteemed friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad. Sir, I am particularly grateful to my Honourable friends Mr. Das and Pandit Maitra because all of us have been in this House since 1935, and we have been constantly chafing under a sense of frustration that here we are most of us decidedly capable of doing something constructive, something magnificent, something that will redound to the glory of this country, and yet no opportunity was given to us in so far as this particular House was concerned. And yet if, as has been suggested by my Honourable friend Pandit Maitra, today is a day for which I should feel proud, I am sure that feeling and sentiment is equally shared by him and also by my young friend who is the Chief Whip now, and who has been my friend all along these fifteen years. I

[Shri N. V. Gadgil.]

cannot forget my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga who has always been of help on occasions when his help was greatly needed and would always rush in unmindful of the consequences. That is the great thing about him.

Sir, I do not want to detain the House but I honestly feel that this measure is the first of its kind in the right direction of eliminating poverty in this country, which is really our fundamental problem. Having earned self-government, the emphasis is now on good government; and the test of good government is that people must have sufficient food, sufficient clothes and faith that justice will be done under Government. That is the test whereby this Government is going to guide its conduct, and the first test—that of providing sufficient food is the one which underlies the measure just placed on the statute-book. I do feel, Sir, that as a result of this not only will prosperity dawn on the provinces of Bihar and Bengal but, as I have often said, prosperity is infectious and it will spread from the waters of the Hooghly and the Damodar to all quarters of this great land, and that in the not distant future we will make our land as noble and as worthy as we have described in our national anthem:

सुजलां सुफलां शस्य श्यामलां

"Sujalām suphalām Shashyashyāmalām".

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 19th February 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Thursday, 19th February, 1948

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS

DELAY IN DECISION *re* CAPITAL OF EAST PUNJAB.

332. ***Shrimati G. Durgabai** (on behalf of **Mr. R. K. Sidhva**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs please state what is the reason for the delay in fixing up the new capital of East Punjab?

(b) Who is to take the *decision*, the Government of East Punjab or the Government of India?

(c) Are Government aware that the delay in arriving at a decision has made the people of the new Province anxious regarding the establishment of their business?

(d) Do Government propose to take an early decision?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The question of the selection of the new capital has been engaging the constant attention of the East Punjab Government. The selection has to be made with care after necessary surveys have been carried out by experts. These surveys have been in progress and the final report of the experts is expected shortly.

(b) The Government of East Punjab

(c) Yes.

(d) The East Punjab Government assure us that a decision regarding the site of the capital may be expected very soon.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Minister aware that assurances that a decision in this respect would be made shortly have been given by the Prime Minister and other Ministers and that there is a feeling among people that this period "shortly" should be defined and some definite date should be fixed?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is already defined in Webster's dictionary.

CLERKS CLASS FOURTH SERVANTS AND GAZETTED OFFICERS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS DURING 1947 AND 1939

333. **Shrimati G. Durgabai** (on behalf of **Mr. R. K. Sidhva**): Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—(i) number of clerical staff employed by the Government of India as at the end of December 1947 in all the departments of the Government of India as also the number of such staff on 30th August, 1939;

(ii) the number of Peons, Jamadars and other Class IV Servants employed on the above dates; and

(iii) the number of Superintendents and Gazetted officers employed on the above dates?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Information about the strength of Government of India staff, both gazetted and non-gazetted as it stood (i) before the War and (ii) in December 1947 was called for sometime ago from the various Ministries for the use of the Economy Committee recently constituted. When replies are received a statement will be placed on the table of the House.

INTEREST ON GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS WITH IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA

334. ***Shrimati G. Durgabai** (on behalf of **Mr. R. K. Sidhva**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Imperial Bank of India pay any interest on the money invested by the Government of India with them in current and other accounts?

(b) What is the average daily balance lying to the account of the Government of India with the head office and branches of the Imperial Bank of India?

(c) Do Government intend to make arrangements for realisation of interest by adopting other methods for the investment of Government money in places where there are no branches of the Reserve Bank?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanamukham Chetty: (a) The Government of India have not invested any money with the Imperial Bank of India.

(b) The Imperial Bank of India only act as agents of the Reserve Bank and their transactions on Government account are cleared by them daily with the Reserve Bank. As their branches are situated all over the country the transactions of all of them cannot be cleared on the following day and there will therefore be some amount outstanding on the Imperial Bank's books on account of Government transactions. The Government of India have no information regarding these outstandings which are bound to vary from day to day.

(c) Under section 21(1) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, the Government of India have to deposit, free of interest, all their cash balances with the Reserve Bank and to entrust all their money transactions to the Bank or its agencies. It is only at places where there is no branch of the Bank or its agency that Government conduct their own treasury business for which they keep a cash balance.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it so completely impossible to get an idea of the average daily balance even approximately, with a few lakhs or a few crores of rupees this side or that side?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not know whether such an average will indicate information on which any inference can reasonably be drawn.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But has any effort at any time been made?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: We never felt the need for making such an effort.

PROMOTIONS OF SECRETARIAT OFFICERS IN GRADE OF SECRETARIES, ADDITIONAL SECRETARIES, JOINT SECRETARIES ETC., ON 15TH AUGUST, 1947

335. ***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena** (on behalf of **Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state how many officers of the Secretariat in the grade of Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Under Secretaries, and Assistant Secretaries were promoted to such posts on or after the 15th August, 1947?

(b) How many officers in the several attached offices under the various Ministries were promoted to higher posts on or after the 15th August, 1947?

(c) How many of such promotions were made in the normal course, and how many were due to premature retirements, or transfer to Pakistan of the previous incumbents?

(d) What is the additional cost incurred by Government consequent on such promotions?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a), (b) and (c). The information is being collected from the various Ministries of the Government of India and a statement will be laid on the table of the House when ready.

(d) No additional cost is involved on such promotions as they do not involve any increase in the number of posts.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are there still any Additional Secretaries in the various Departments of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There are some.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that all Assistant Secretaries are not given an opportunity to be selected for the posts of Under Secretaries?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not know. But if the question is whether *all* are not given the chance, perhaps the answer is 'yes'. because some may not get it.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I was asking whether all Assistant Secretaries have an opportunity to offer themselves for selection.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Opportunities are always open—even to non-Assistant Secretaries. But the question is whether they would be selected.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I want to know whether it is a fact that only persons who have been selected by a Board of three or four Secretaries are allowed to go before the Public Service Commission for being chosen as Under Secretaries, or is it that every Assistant Secretary, whosoever desires, is given an opportunity to appear before the Commission for selection as Under Secretary.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no information on the point and I will enquire whether these questions at all go before the Public Service Commission. I think the appointments are generally made from the Civil Service and the Provincial Services and they do not go to the Public Service Commission.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How much longer is it proposed to continue the posts of Additional Secretaries?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: For as long as it is necessary.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The Honourable Minister stated that the promotions to higher posts do not involve any extra cost. Do I understand him correctly that the men do not get any higher emoluments when they are promoted to the higher posts?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The answer is that it creates no vacancy—no additional post is created—and therefore there is no additional cost.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The question seeks information on the additional cost involved for this reason. Because of the transfer of certain Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries or Under Secretaries to Pakistan and because of the retirement of certain others, those officers who have been promoted receive higher salaries.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: In many cases there is, on account of the time scale of pay, a saving instead of an increase in expenditure.

HATRED AND VIOLENCE PROPAGANDA BY *MILAP* AND *PARTAP* URDU DAILIES OF DELHI

336. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that two Urdu dailies published at Delhi, *The Milap* and *The Partap*, are carrying on an intensive propaganda of hatred and violence through their columns: and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). For their objectionable writings, a security of Rs. 3,000 has been demanded from the editor, printer and publisher of the *Partap* while the publication of the *Milap* has been banned for a period of three months.

RESOLUTIONS IN PUBLIC MEETINGS AGAINST COMMUNAL ORGANISATION, NEWSPAPERS AND PRIVATE ARMIES.

337. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a largely attended meeting of the mazdoors, kisans, students and others held on 3rd February 1948 on the ground near the Council House passed a resolution urging the Government to ban all communal organisations, newspapers and private armies?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Government have seen a press report regarding the meeting.

Shri Lal Mohan Pati: Will you permit me to put my †question No. 338? I was not present in the House when my turn came.

Mr. Speaker: I have already stated to the House that, Members who are keen on putting their questions should be in the House when their turn comes; and unless there are exceptional circumstances, I would not like to give permission to them to ask questions. However, as this is the second day of the rule, I am making an exception today, but from tomorrow onwards, Honourable Members will take a note that I shall not ordinarily give such permission. They must be present to put questions when their turn comes.

INDIA'S TRADE WITH NIZAM'S TERRITORIES IN VIEW OF BAN ON INDIAN CURRENCY

338. *Shri Lal Mohan Pati: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the export and import trade of India, to and from the Nizam's territories suffer adversely on account of the ban on the circulation of Indian Currency in Nizam's territories?

(b) Have Government taken any steps for safeguarding the economic interests of the Indian Dominion against the said banning in the Nizam's territories?

(c) If not, do Government consider the desirability of taking such steps?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The effect of the Ordinance on the economic relations of India with Hyderabad is under examination.

(b) and (c). We have already informed to the Nizam's Government that the ban amounts to a breach of the Standstill Agreement. The whole matter is, however, under negotiation with their representatives.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What was the amount of Indian currency in the possession of the Nizam's Government (according to the estimate made by the Government of India) when they placed this ban on the circulation of Indian Currency in Nizam's territories?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I am not able to give that information off hand.

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†Printed serially in the Debates.—*Ed. of D.*

Mr. Speaker: No. 339? Member absent?

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: No. 339, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I have been noticing that Members are changing their seats. I had once made a request. It is not possible for me to allot seats in the present situation. So whatever seats they are occupying now, it would be better if they keep to them. This time, I shall allow Mr. Balkrishna Sharma to put his question. The next time I do not find a member in his usual seat, he will not be permitted to put any question.

Yes, Mr. Balkrishna Sharma: Question No. 339.

ARMIES IN ACCEDING STATES AND RELATIONS WITH DOMINION OF INDIA

339. *Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the States acceding to the Indian Union are required to transfer Defence, Communications and External Affairs to the Government of India?

(b) If so, why are the acceding States still allowed to have their own Post Offices, railways and Armies and some, their own Agents in foreign countries?

(c) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the strength of the Army in each of the acceding States.

(i) before the last World War;

(ii) before 15th August 1947; and

(iii) as at present?

(d) Have Government fixed any limit to the Armed Forces of each State, as was done before 15th August 1947?

(e) Have the State Armies got their own Command Officers, or are these officers supplied by Government as was being done by the British Government in India, before 15th August 1947?

(f) Is it a fact that the Government of India have given monetary assistance to some acceding States for expanding and mechanizing their Armed Forces?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The correct position is that the States have acceded to the Indian Dominion in respect of Defence, External Affairs and Communications with the result that the Dominion Legislature has acquired authority to make laws for the States with respect to these matters as set out in the Schedule to the Instrument of Accession, a copy of which has already been laid on the table of the House.

(b) Under the Standstill Agreements with the States arrangements in force prior to 15th August 1947 continue.

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

(d) No specific limit has been fixed nor was any limit fixed before 15th August, 1947.

(e) States Forces have got their own commanding officers. In the case of some States, the Government of India have lent officers from the Indian Army to command the State forces.

(f) No.

Statement showing Actual Strength of Indian States Forces Units before the World War, 15th August 1947 and 14th February 1948

Name of States	Before World War	15 August 1947	14 February 1948
Alwar	1167	1255	1089
Barla	151	152	157
Baroda	1464	1924	1870
Banaras	229	221	205
Bharatpur	713	597	606
Bhavnagar	483	412	461
Bhopal	979	1655	1600
Bikaner	1283	2287	2536
Chamba	179	163	160
Cochin	..	611	627
Cutch	291	472	315
Datia	236	173	153
Dhar	236	160	195
Dholpur	165	111	146
Faridkot	355	664	375
Gwalior	5843	5192	5973
Hyderabad	4422	7269	7269
Idar	147	152	153
Indore	1101	2706	1381
Dharangadhra	165	..	142
Jaipur	2130	2634	3178
Jind	821	703	676
Jodhpur	1564	3271	3094
Kapurthala	585	383	373
Kashmir	6727	8709	9433
Kotah	577	765	765
Lunawada	..	..	164
Mandi	187	231	119
Malerkotla	267	249	383
Mewar	1082	1498	1465
Mysore	1402	3040	3520
Nabha	492	406	566
Nawanagar	561	842	857
Panna	130	139	146
Patiala	2449	4907	4656
Porbandar	254	129	152
Rajpipla	186	141	151
Rampur	1215	967	1023
Ratlam	95	..	..
Rewa	630	717	692
Sirmoor	69	317	441
Suket	310	67	90
Tehri-Garhwal	340	343	440
Travancore	1911	2970	2977
Cooch Behar	..	433	448
Tripura	362	435	523
Kolhapur	..	711	373
	43860	61183	62118

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: May I know in view of the answer given by the Honourable Minister for States whether the States are free to increase their Armies to any limit they like?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are they free to purchase arms, ammunition and all such things from wherever they like outside India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, they can get arms and ammunition only through the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the Government of India has, according to the standstill agreement, agreed to supply them whatever quantities of arms and ammunition that they ask for?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, whatever the Defence Department consider proper and necessary.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Can they manufacture arms in their own State to any extent?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the functions of the Military Adviser to the States Department with regard to the States Forces?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Military Adviser has got the authority to go and inspect the troops and forces and scrutinise the requirements of the forces with regard to arms and ammunition, their strength and any changes that are proposed by the States. He enquires into these things and makes his recommendations.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: In replying to (b) the Honourable Minister said that the acceding States were getting arms under the standstill agreement. May I know if this in certain respects continues to operate even after the States have acceded to the Indian Dominion?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Of course: the accession and the standstill agreement are signed together and they operate together.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do all these conditions and explanations given by the Honourable Minister apply also to the Hyderabad State?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: They apply to the Hyderabad State for a period of one year.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Is the Government considering the question of keeping only one Indian Army and asking the States to disband their armies?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is to the advantage of the Government of India to allow the States to keep their own armies at their own expense for the use of the Government of India.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Are the men and officers of the armies in the States required to take the oath of personal allegiance to the Rulers of their respective States or to the Indian Dominion?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: We do not know whether officers of the States' armies are required to take any oath to their Rulers. So far as the Indian Dominion is concerned, no oath is necessary because the States assume loyalty by their accession.

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: Who are the officers who train the soldiers and junior officers required for service in the States?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member means who makes the appointments for the required personnel in the States' armies.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is the States that make the appointments.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: May I know whether the armies in the States can be sent to other places under the orders of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: You mean the States' forces can be transferred to other services under the orders of the Government of India?

Mr. Speaker: To other parts of India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is so.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: May I know what sort of control, if any; the Defence Department exercises over the States Forces?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: For the internal use in the States themselves, no control is exercised by the Defence Department. For external use, that is when they are to be used outside the States then these forces are entirely under the control of the Government of India in the Defence Department.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Are the standards for the training of the officers and the forces of the Indian States the same as those of the Indian Army?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Generally they are up to standards approved by the Defence Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are the State authorities expected to give complete information about the strength of their armies, their equipment and training and all the other relevant matters to the States Ministry?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The States Forces are subject to the inspection of the Defence Department. The Defence Department is entitled to ask for any information and the States are bound to supply that information.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Do Government keep a watch to see all these conditions are observed?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Of course. If the Government are watchful then it does keep a watch!

श्री राम सहाय : क्या माननीय मिनिस्टर साहब यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि हैदराबाद में कितनी आर्मस फैक्ट्रीज़ (Arms Factories) हैं ?

Shri Ram Sahai: Will the Honourable Minister please state how many arms factories are there in Hyderabad?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise out of the answer.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: How many States have their agents in foreign countries?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There are no agents of any State outside India.

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE OF INDIA.

340. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state when the present Central Administrative Service was constituted?

(b) In what year was the first examination held?

(c) What is the total number of persons who appeared for each examination?

(d) How many were successful at the examinations?

(e) How many out of those who passed the examination were actually employed in each year?

(f) What is their distribution according to Provinces?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the Indian Administrative Service. This Service was constituted early in 1947.

(b) In July 1947.

(c) 1645.

(d) to (f). The results of the examination have not yet been received.

STUDENTS AND DEMORALISING CINEMA SHOWS AND THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES

341. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of students all over the country visit cinemas and theatres without any discrimination;

(b) whether Government are aware that many of the cinema shows and theatrical performances now in vogue are not conducive to the moral well-being of the juvenile students; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of taking steps so that at least students under 18 years of age may not attend such cinema shows and theatrical performances as are not specially approved for them?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) It is a matter of opinion.

(c) Government propose to introduce a Bill shortly for the amendment of the Cinematograph Act, 1918, in order to restrict to adults the exhibition of films not considered suitable for children and adolescents. It is proposed to define adults as persons over 18 years of age.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government taking any special steps to increase the number of films of educational and cultural value specifically designed to serve the adolescents and youths?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The question will be considered.

ARTICLE *re* INDIAN STANDARD TIME BY MR. R. V. VAIDYA IN *Indian News Chronicle*.

342. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an article regarding the Indian Standard Time by Mr. R. V. Vaidya, Lecturer, Jayaji Pratap College, Gwalior, published in the *Indian News Chronicle* dated 13th August 1947?

(b) Will Government consider the question of India having its own Standard Time?

(c) If so, do Government propose to build an Observatory which will be up-to-date in its equipment and personnel.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Government have seen a letter of this kind published in the *Indian News Chronicle* of the 2nd September and not of the 13th August 1947.

(b) India has its own Standard Time.

(c) The Government of India at present maintain an astronomical observatory at Kodaikanal. Their post-war plans include a scheme for the establishment of a central astronomical observatory with up-to-date equipment and a large telescope at an expenditure of about Rs. 15 lakhs, which has subsequently been revised to 30 lakhs.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will this central observatory be started at Kodaikanal itself or in any other place?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Not in Kodaikanal. It will be in some place either in Central India or in the North. The site has not yet been decided.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Will Government consider the question of renovating the *Jantar Mantar* in Delhi and Jaipur and Ujjain and prepare a comprehensive book so as to interpret the astronomical observations recorded thereon?

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: On a point of order, Sir, these questions are mostly meant, I believe, for the Department of Communications. How on earth are they being put to the Honourable Minister for Home affairs?

Mr. Speaker: If that is so, the Honourable Minister will say so.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: What is this *Jantar Mantar*?

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: That beautiful structure which is in the Parliament Street is an astronomical structure which was erected by a King called Jaigopal 210 years ago and it records time in the worlds cities by means of shadows on those curves and circles. It also records the zodiac and the solar and lunar calculations of time.....

Mr. Speaker: Will the Honourable Member now put his question?

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether the Government will take steps in consultation with the Maharaja of Jaipur to renovate the *Jantar Mantar*?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is a very interesting suggestion. We will have to look into the question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any plan or proposal to train efficient astronomers to man these observatories? We are short of astronomers in this country to man a good observatory.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If there is any definite need the Government will take action in the matter.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know the time of what place is regarded as the standard time of India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Longitude 82° 30'.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Government consider the claim of Ujjain, as has been pointed out by Mr. Vaidya?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Ujjain was once an old capital. It may be a suitable place but it will have to be considered.

AN ALL INDIA RADIO CENTRE FOR ASSAM.

343. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (on behalf of **Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri**): Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state if an All India Radio Centre will be opened in Assam and if so, when and where?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: We hope to instal a radio centre in Assam by the middle of April 1948. Two broadcasting units with interlinked studio and transmitter facilities will be provided, one at Shillong and the other at Gauhati.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government making efforts to get more radio transmitters so that they may be installed at various places?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is a programme fixed for the next eight years and according to that programme work is being carried on.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: May I know, Sir, whether Government's attention has been drawn to the presence of a gentleman in this town by name Hansraj 'Wireless', a man of remarkable genius, and whether they will be pleased to consider the possibility of availing themselves of the services of this distinguished scientist?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: This question does not arise from the question about the installation of a Broadcasting centre in Assam.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: When is the Nagpur station going to be opened, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: The scheme has already been submitted to the House once and all necessary information has been given.

ASSISTANT AND UNDER SECRETARIES IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

344. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that there are two categories of officers, Assistant Secretaries and Under Secretaries, in various Ministries of the Government of India;

(b) the difference in duties and emoluments of these posts; and

(c) the present system of recruitment of Under Secretaries?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) The duties performed by Assistant Secretaries and Under Secretaries are of the same nature. A statement showing the emoluments attached to these posts is placed on the table of the House.

(c) Under Secretaries are recruited from the following sources on the recommendations of the Selection Board: Indian Civil Service, Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Imperial Secretariat Service, Provincial Civil Services, Finance and Commerce Departments Pool, and General Administrative Reserve.

Statement showing the scales of pay of Assistant Secretaries and Under Secretaries in the Government of India Secretariat.

Name of post.	Scales in force before orders were passed on recommendations of the Central pay Commission.	Scales prescribed on the recommendation of the Central Pay Commission.
Under Secretary.—		
(i) Pool Officers.	Grade pay in service of origin plus Special Pay of Rs. 300/-p.m *or* Pool Scale plus S. P. Rs. 150/- Rs. 750-25-900. New.	* Old and New. To be fixed.
(ii) Officers of the Imperial Sectt. Service, Class I.	Rs. 1000-50-1250 plus S.P. 50 old. Rs. 750-25-900 plus S.P. 50 New	Rs. 800-50-1150
(iii) Officers of Central Services not included in (i) and (ii).	Grade pay in services of origin plus S.P. 300. Old. Grade pay in service of origin plus S.P. 300. Rs. 750-25-900. New.	Pay in senior scale of service of origin plus S.P. 100; or pay in junior scale of service of origin plus S.P. 200.
(iv) Officers of Provincial Services.	Grade pay in service of origin plus S.P. 300. Rs. 750-25-900.	To be fixed.
Assistant Secretary.	Rs. 1000-50-1250 Old. Rs. 750-25-900. New	Rs. 800-40-1000.

*Old—Pre-1931 scales.
New—Post-1931 scales.

RECRUITMENT OF PROVINCIAL SUBORDINATE SERVICES PERSONNEL AS UNDER SECRETARIES TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

345. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the personnel of subordinate services of Provincial Governments have been recruited as Under Secretaries to the Government of India; and

(b) the reasons for giving them preference over the claims of the Secretariat Officials of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

RESTORATION OF ESTATES AND ZAMINDARIES CONFISCATED DURING SEPOY MUTINY 1858

†346. ***Shri Biswanath Das**: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to restore all estates or Zamindaris confiscated by the British Government during or after the Sepoy Mutiny of 1858 either for having taken part in that mutiny or in the subsequent rebellion; and

(b) whether Government have received any representation direct or through the Government of Bihar for restoration of the area known as Porahat or Porahat Zamindari within Singhbhum District in the Province of Bihar?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) In so far as the Central Government is concerned, the answer is in the negative.

(b) No.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN FEDERATED STATES OF KATHIAWAR AND OTHER MERGER STATES.

347. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state what steps Government of India have taken to ensure democratic Government in the Federated States of Kathiawar and other merger States under the aegis of the Government of India?

(b) Do Government propose to make democratic Government in these States a condition of acceptance of such merger?

(c) Are these Federated States allowed to keep standing armies?

(d) If so, on what basis is the strength of the army fixed?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply I gave on the 29th January, 1948 to the Starred Question No. 18 by Diwan Chaman Lall, and to the documents placed on the table of the House in that connection. The Covenant signed by the Rulers of Kathiawar States provides for the setting up of a Constituent Assembly in the manner indicated in Schedule II of the Covenant. The Kathiawar Constituent Assembly so set up will frame a Constitution for the United State of Kathiawar (whether of a unitary or federal type) within the framework of the Covenant and the Constitution of India, and providing for a government responsible to the legislature. The question of democratising States which have been merged with the neighbouring Provinces does not arise as they will have the same administration as the Province in which they have merged.

(c) and (d). The Military forces of the individual States of Kathiawar will, as from the date on which the administration of such States is made over to the new State, become the military forces of the United State of Kathiawar. The States which have opted for merger with Provinces had no military force.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the policy of the Government of India to see that the Princes of the Kathiawar States do become constitutional heads of their States and not continue, as they have been continuing till now, to be autocratic heads?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If my Honourable friend had followed the constitution of the Union he will see that there is no room for separate constitutional heads, except that a Presidium has been formed, of

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

which the Jam Saheb becomes the President on election by five members, and the Maharaja of Bhavnagar becomes the Vice-President. There is no question of constitutional rulers being there. It is all a joint administration.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Has the Maharao of Cutch joined the Union?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Not yet, Sir,

Shri Yudhisthir Misra: May I know whether the system of administration now existing in the Orissa States is the same as in the Province of Orissa?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is no separate province and States in Orissa. The Orissa States form part of the province of Orissa. There is one unitary government there.

Shri Yudhisthir Misra: May I know whether the people of Orissa States have any responsibility in the administration of the States themselves?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Of course they have the same responsibility as the people of Orissa have.

Shri Yudhisthir Misra: May I know whether the people of Orissa States have got any representation in the present Orissa Assembly?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Of course it will be arranged: it cannot be done automatically overnight.

OFFICERS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FROM AMONGST BUSINESSMEN.

348. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (on behalf of **Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether there are plans for the recruitment of officers for the Administrative Services from among businessmen?

(b) If so, what are the plans?

(c) Have the Federal Public Service Commission been consulted with regard to these proposals and if so, what is their view in regard to such recruitment?

(d) What steps, if any, have already been taken to secure suitable officers from the business community?

(e) If any recruitment has already been made, do Government propose to give (i) the number of officers so chosen, (ii) their names and full qualifications, (iii) the provinces from which they come, (iv) the types of work which they have been assigned, (v) the terms upon which they have been employed, and (vi) the manner and procedure adopted for their recruitment?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a), (b) and (d). The Honourable Member presumably refers to the recommendations made by the Gorwala Committee appointed in September 1947 to review the shortage of trained manpower in the ranks of administrative officers. A copy of the Committee's Report was placed on the table of the House on the 19th November 1947. The recommendations are still under consideration in consultation with Provincial Governments.

(c) Yes; their views are awaited.

(e) Does not rise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government keep in mind the fact that if businessmen are appointed to important posts, they are likely to favour their own community?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not think, so, Sir. Strict tests are applied before the selection is made. I do not think that a businessman has a greater weakness to favour members of his own community.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if the Honourable Minister has considered the desirability of changing the rules for the appointment of Members of the Public Service Commission and the traditions that govern that body. Is Government aware of the fact that the same set of questions as were asked of the candidates during the bureaucratic days are being asked even now?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no knowledge of the questions that were being asked during the bureaucratic days. But I can say this much that the Public Service Commission is doing its work very efficiently.

Shri B. Das: In view of the vast business and commercial undertakings of the Government of India, such as the Railways and Posts and Telegraphs and new Development Projects, have they considered the desirability of recruiting businessmen to man these services?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Gorwala Committee did take into consideration the question of recruitment of businessmen to run the so-called commercial undertakings of Government.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know whether the Standing Committee of this House will be consulted about the recommendations of this Committee?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot say at present. The report has been circulated to the provinces and their opinions are awaited. When their opinions are received the question whether the Standing Committee of this House should be consulted will be considered.

Shri B. Das: What is the necessity for the Government of India calling for the opinions of the Provincial Governments, when the recruitment is to be made for their own Departments?

Mr. Speaker: That is an argument, and not a question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it proposed to recruit these businessmen directly without their being required to appear at a competitive or probationary examination?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: They will have to undergo certain tests.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will they take the same examination as the other candidates?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Not necessarily.

RECRUITMENT OF ALL JUDGES OF HIGH COURT EXCLUSIVELY FROM BAR.

349. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (on behalf of **Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**): Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the question of recruiting all Judges of the High Courts exclusively from the Bar?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, Sir.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know the reason, Sir?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is not fair to confine recruitment of High Court Judges exclusively to members of the Bar.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that there is a shortage of the I.C.S., and in view of that is it desirable to recruit Judges from that service?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: As far as possible, recruitment is made from the practising lawyers. But the services are not debarred from promotion to the Bench.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Is it the policy of Government to give preference to members of the Bar rather than to members of the services?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: A large majority of the High Court Judges are members of the Bar.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Is there any rule regulating recruitment of High Court Judges?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There are no rules as such.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Is Government aware of the fact that some of the most eminent Judges in the past have been recruited from the Provincial Judicial Service?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That was so in old days. Many eminent Judges of the High Court were drafted from the cadre of Subordinate Judges; but for many years now no such appointment has been made.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Are Government aware that just now an appointment is being made in the Madras High Court from the cadre of the Judical Service?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Probably it is so. But Honourable Members are aware that recruitment now made is not purely on merits, but on communal and other considerations, with the result that the standard has to a certain extent deteriorated.

DEMAND BY BIHAR GOVERNMENT FOR CONTROL OVER ADMINISTRATION OF SOME CHHATTISGARH STATES

350. *Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether the Government of Bihar have demanded the integration of the administration of some of the Chhattisgarh States with that of Bihar?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the names of such States?

(c) Have Government of India taken any steps with regard to the demand referred to in part (a) above?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No official representation has been received.

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

CHHATTISGARH STATES PEOPLE MEMORANDUM *RE* AGRARIAN AND ECONOMIC DEMANDS

351. *Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether the Government of India have received from the people and worker of the Chhattisgarh States any memorandum setting forth some agrarian and economic demands of the people in these States?

(b) If so, what action have Government taken thereon?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

RULES *RE* CONTROLLING OF ACTIVITIES AND ENTRY OF FOREIGNERS IN INDIA

352. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state if any rules and regulations have been framed for controlling the entry of foreigners into India?

(b) Is there any restriction as regards the number of foreigners permitted to enter India?

(c) If so, what is the number for each country and if not, do Government intend to impose any restrictions?

(d) Do Government intend to frame rules for supervising the activities of foreigners in India?

(e) Do Government propose to make it obligatory for foreign firms to employ Indians?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes; The Indian Passport Act, 1920 (XXXIV of 1920), the India Passport Rules, 1921; and Executive instructions issued by the Government of India from time to time.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government have adequate powers under the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, and the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the rules and orders made thereunder.

(e) No such proposal is under contemplation.

CONVICTS AND NON-CONVICTS IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS.

353. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of convicts living in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) the number of non-convicts who have settled there;

(c) whether Government propose to keep these islands only for the use of convicts; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to allow people who wish to settle there, to do so and also to grant them lands free of cost for cultivation?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Nil.

(b) 650 non-convicts from India have settled in the Island of Andamans.

(c) No.

(d) Yes. Government have a scheme for allowing people to settle in the islands but it is not proposed to grant them land free of cost. A premium would be charged.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government consider the advisability and the desirability of changing the names of these islands to Swaraj and Shaheed, the names given to them by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: In view of historical tradition it is not wise to change the names.

THE RAILWAY BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

FIRST STAGE.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the general discussion of the Railway Budget. Before the General Discussion of the Railway Budget commences, I have to announce to the House that under Rule 46, I fix the time limit for speeches as 15 minutes for each Honourable Member excepting the Honourable Minister of Railways for whom 45 minutes or more will be allowed, if necessary.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel it a great privilege to open this debate, for though we had an interim Railway Budget, this is the first full Railway Budget and the way in which we handle this budget will determine for many years the relations between this House and the Budget not only of the Railways but also of the General Revenues to be presented to this House. Sir I find myself in great difficulty. I think this difficulty is shared by almost the whole House. I am a strong supporter of Government and I cannot be a party to anything likely to censure or weaken the hands of the present Government. At the same time, in the absence of an effective Opposition party, every member of the House, including the members of the party which supports the Government, will have to safeguard the interests of the public. We have to be both friends and critics at the same time and it is not an easy matter to combine these two roles. So, I think, Sir the only way

this can be done is not to place any importance on motions for reductions of grants or rejection of grants. The only way the House can perform this dual function is to get a grip over the budget and offer constructive criticism. It is often more difficult and requires much more knowledge to offer constructive criticism than to offer destructive criticism. Therefore, I propose to confine myself to two questions. Is the House in a position to obtain a grip and offer constructive criticism from the facts placed before it and from the explanations offered to it? Secondly, is the Railway Standing Finance Committee in a position to be a reliable watch dog of this House? These are two most important issues which the House must consider. Now let me take the first question. Has the Railway Minister placed before the House sufficient material for us to get a grip over the railway revenues as well as the railway administration? My own feeling is that he has not. If you will please look into the Explanatory Memorandum of 1947-48 and the Explanatory Memorandum of 1948-49, you will find that many of the valuable appendices which give a comparative estimate of the railway items of the previous years and of the present year are absent. Of course the explanation is that from the 15th August we have turned a new chapter. The railways have been partitioned and so the old figures may not be strictly comparable. I do not quite agree with this view. Of all the railways, only two railways have been partitioned and it should be possible for the Railway Board to make necessary adjustments and give us figures of the previous years which are comparable with the figures for 1948-49. If Honourable Members will turn to the proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways dated 4th February 1948, there is a comment on page 30. It says:

"A member observed that it was difficult to scrutinize the provisions of the Budget in the absence of any comparative data. He asked that a statement should be prepared showing the average of the expenditure under each detailed head by railways for three pre-war years and three war years for comparison with the budget provision."

In the absence of such, what I may call, control figures, the figures given to us have no meaning whatsoever. Even the most intelligent, even the most conscientious member will be unable to find out exactly whether the figures given are reasonable, whether any economy could be made, or whether any mistakes have been made. He has simply to take the figures as they are and cannot do anything with them. Even more than the absence of comparative figures; I regret the absence of analysis and explanation of major heads by railway departments for use of the members.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: (Madras: General): You made the suggestion earlier also, and nothing appears to have been done.

Shri K. Santhanam: Let me give two examples. I do not want to make statements without giving concrete illustrations of the ideas behind them. Take for instance the ordinary working expenses. In the Budget 1938-39 the total expenditure of all railways of united India was 54 crores. Reducing approximately by 1/6th for the railways handed over to Pakistan, it may be estimated at 45 crores for the railways of the present India. The ordinary working expenses for 1948-49 are put down at 147 crores. That is, it is 326 per cent. of the expenditure for 1938-39. There are of course many causes for this increase in expenditure. I can think of five. For instance, there is increase of work: more passengers are carried; more goods are carried; and more work means more expenditure. Then again there is increase in salaries and allowances of the staff. Thirdly there is a higher cost of materials. Fourthly there is deterioration in the human efficiency, and fifthly there is deterioration in the efficiency of the railway plant. Is it not essential, was it not the duty of the Railway Minister, I ask, to show us how this 326 per cent. is distributed between these various items which have caused this increase in expenditure? So far as increase of work is concerned, it is mathematically determinable. Increase in pay and allowance, he should be able to get from the accounts: and the higher cost of materials could be easily estimated If he had given us

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru]

these three calculations, the House would be able to estimate what the country is paying for the deterioration in human efficiency, and for the deterioration in the efficiency of the railway plant. And then, Sir, if this increase had been more or less even over all the railways, then we could come to a rough judgment that the same forces have operated in a more or less uniform manner: but what exactly do I find? In the B.B. and C.I., there is an increase of 287 per cent., while in the East Indian Railway it is 372 per cent. In the B.N. Railway it is 380 per cent., while the G.I.P., M. and S.M. and S.I. Railways are more or less the same as the all-India average, the increase is 332 per cent. Now an explanation is certainly needed, as to why the B.B. and C.I. could manage to increase its expenditure only by 287 per cent. while the East Indian Railway and the B.N. Railway should go 60 per cent. over the all-India average. Even in the Interim Budget I pointed out that there was something rotten in these two railways—the East Indian Railway and the B.N. Railway,—which requires looking into, and I thought some explanation might be forthcoming at least in this Budget. But I do not see any reference anywhere, either in the Budget Memorandum or in the Railway Minister's speech concerning this.

Let me take another illustration: the losses on railway grain-shops. This year the total loss amounts to 25 crores. The Honourable Members may turn over to page 69 and they will find the total loss for this year under Demand No. 9 is 24,80,00,000. It is certainly a big sum. I am not in the least suggesting that this is not a justifiable loss. But I do want that a proper explanation may be given to us. How much of this loss has been rightly incurred? What quantity of wheat was supplied through these grain-shops? What was the loss which occurred on wheat, how much on rice and how much on cloth? We want to be sure that the entire loss is due to benefits accrued to Railway workers, that there is no leakage, that there is no wastage, there is no misappropriation or corruption. We want to know this. I think this Memorandum should have contained a proper analysis of the losses on grain-shops and of how they are working, so that the Members might know why they are footing a bill of such a huge sum as Rs. 25 crores in a year. This is a new expenditure which has sprung up in the last four or five years. Therefore, it requires a proper scrutiny.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: And it is going on every year.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): It was much better in the past.

Shri K. Santhanam: Therefore, Sir, I think that these two illustrations show that the material placed before us is not adequate for coming to a proper judgment, for being convinced that the Railways are working as efficiently as the circumstances permit.

Let me go to the second question which I put before myself. You have put up a Railway Standing Finance Committee; it is intended to be a watch-dog of this House—it should be a watch-dog and you should like to know how this Committee is functioning. As a member of that Committee, I am responsible to this House and I am bound to give a faithful account. In this connection. I have nothing to say about the attitude of the Minister; he has always been appreciative, he has always been willing to take points and I have no complaint to make against him personally. Nor have I any complaints to make against the Railway officials. I think the present Chief Commissioner and other members of the Railway Board are as efficient as, if not better than, their predecessors. But somehow the tradition has come down to us that this Committee has become a nominal Committee. The memoranda are supplied at a very short notice, and then we are called in for two or three hours. Can you think that anybody can scrutinise all the masses of figures supplied to him in these books—the Standing Finance Committee Reports and the memoranda—in two hours and three hours? Unless you see to it that your Committee functioned like the Committee of the Senate of the United States

Congress, unless they are able to put every Railway official to a cross-examination whereby these officials are able to explain every point and convince the Committee that it is legitimate, that it is the proper thing to be done, unless that is done I do not think your Committees can be said to be of very much use, that you can rely upon the recommendations of the Committee as if every thing has been scrutinised by it. At the end of every item it is said, "The Committee approves." That is the legend which is entered in these Reports but I do not think it is a true legend—it is largely a false legend. The Committee meets, the figures are placed before them and the members ask, "what do they mean?" The reply is, "Oh, yes, they have been prepared by the General Managers." Often, I am convinced that the Railway Board Members themselves do not exactly, know how the figures have come—they have to rely on their General Managers. Of course, I am not blaming them, tha is inevtiable in any big organisation. But I wish to suggest that the Railway Organisation has become like one of the big giant chariots of South India which millions of people have to drag but no one knows when it will start and where it will go.

I think the whole Railway Board administration has become unsuited to the present requirements. It is purely an administrative control organisation. In the matter of business control, in the matter of business efficiency and in the matter of planning efficiency, it leaves much to be desired and that is a matter which has to be looked into.

Sir, I have not been able to cover more than a few points but I hope I have made some points which will be useful to the House.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C.P. and Berar: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Mr. Santhanam has already pointed out mistakes in procedure and insufficient supply of information. I will only discuss the policy affecting the general Railway administration.

In my opinion, the presentation of this Budget in an extempore speech by the Railway Minister was really remarkable. The lucid and honest way in which the whole case was presented is certainly laudable. Admissions of successes and failures, strength and weaknesses, so vividly described in his speech, have disarmed the opponents and the critics. Sir, I congratulate the Railway Minister for the clarity of thought and integrity of ideas. When I heard his remarkably eloquent speech, I remembered a couplet from the poet Ghalib.

دیکھنا تقریر کی لزت کہ جو اس نے کہا

میں نے یہ جانا کہ گویا یہ بھی میرے دل میں ہے

For the understanding of the Minister in charge, I will translate it: "Look at the magic effect of the eloquent speech! I began thinking that what he was saying were all my ideas."

This is a Budget of hope and expectation. The Railways have stood, there is no doubt, a very great test in war and after the war. People do realise that the Railways have been working under a very great handicap, particularly due to the overcrowding, the refugee problem in this country and the control policy of the Goverament during war and after the war. It is not an easy thing that three million people were moved from one Province to the other as refugees.

Another aspect in the Budget is that it is very gratifying to note that there is no reference about any labour unrest or any labour problems. Sir, I presume as a lawyer that the non-mention of this fact in the Budget speech shows that this year there are neither any strikes nor any very agitating problems regarding the labour, and I hope the Department has gone a long way in solving those problems which is a very necessary factor in the development of the Railway industry.

[Kazi Syed Karimuddin]

One thing about which I have a very strong opinion is the proposed contribution from the Railway surplus to the General Revenues. In the speech of the Honourable Minister in charge it is mentioned:

"These drops in earnings and in working expenses have resulted in an increase in the net loss that we estimated from 2·7 crores to 5·2 crores and the result of that increase in the net loss is that we have had to make larger withdrawals from our Reserve Fund. And the Reserve Fund, therefore, in March 1948 will stand at a figure of Rs. 3·8 crores."

In 1943 it was Rs. 22.5 crores; now it is reduced to only 3.8 crores.

Now, it is mentioned on page 3 of the speech of the Honourable Minister:

"The question arises: what is to be done with this net surplus of Rs. 9·85 crores which we expect for the year 1948-49? First of all, there is the question of the contribution payable by the Railways to General Revenues. That question at present is determined by a Resolution which the Legislature passed in 1943, which practically lays down that the contribution to General Revenues is to be fixed with reference to the requirements of the Railways and of General Revenues in each particular year."

Looking at the reduced amount of 3.8 crores in the Reserve Fund, I am really opposed to any contribution excepting the percentage contribution that is usually made to the General Revenues. Sir, there are many who think that if the Reserve Fund is not strengthened, in years of depression it would be very difficult for the Railway Department to depend on the Reserve Fund. It is also the opinion that any surplus after meeting this requirement should be used for building up a strong Reserve Fund to help the Railway system during depression. The maximum limit of the Reserve Fund should be at least 30 crores in India. This Fund should help to preserve stability in rate structure and in times of depression it should be a fund on which you can rely. In the Convention of 1924, Sir, no fixed amount is to be given to the General Revenues. The Reserve Fund is used for payment of the percentage contribution to the General Revenues, for arrears of depreciation and for improvement of the services rendered to the people. Now, from the point of view of sound railway finance and post-war development, determined effort should be made to increase that amount. In the year 1945-46, the then Railway Minister had announced that the amount of Rs. 20 crores was a very low amount and that it should be increased. Therefore, I submit that the present purplus of Rs. 10 crores should go to the Reserve Fund. The surplus should be used for building up an adequate reserve and spending sufficient amount on the comforts of third-class passengers. Everytime during the Railway Budget discussions, we show sympathy for the third-class passengers who contribute about 80 to 85 per cent. of the passenger income, but in practical effect, no comforts are provided for them.

12 Noon

Then, Sir, there is another Fund which deserves consideration. I mean the Depreciation Fund. It is about Rs. 91 crores and seems sufficient, but in my opinion, if this fund is used for replacing the existing worn out machinery with new ones, I think this replacement was not done before because machinery was not available during the war time as well as after we accumulated the necessary funds—if the locomotives are replaced, this Fund would prove to be quite insufficient for the purpose.

There is also, Sir, another reason why no contribution except the percentage contribution, should be made to the General Revenues from this surplus of Rs. 10 crores. The prices in the country are very high. They are shooting and as we all know, it is an established economic law that when prices go high, there is a point when depression begins and if there is a depression and if there is no Reserve Fund, it would prove very difficult for the Railway Department to run the Railways to the advantage of the people and the only other alternative will be to increase the fares. What will the effect of that be? It will be to the detriment of the masses.

Now, Sir, the reason to my mind is pressure from the Finance Department on the Honourable the Railway Minister to have money out of this surplus. If that is so, my submission is that you must first of all make up your mind whether this is a commercial concern or a utility concern. In developing the Railways, we indirectly develop industry; we develop agriculture; we move food from place to place. In this way there is all round development of the country. Therefore, I am definitely opposed—and I want every other member to be opposed—to any further contribution to the General Revenues from the surplus, because the Railway Reserve Fund is almost exhausted—the present figure is only Rs. 3 crores—and in times of depression it will prove a very negligible amount indeed.

Turning now, Sir, to the passenger earnings, we find that the earnings have fallen. In my opinion, one of the greatest causes for this in both third-class and other classes is the insecurity that was attached to travel in the last four or five months. The conditions are now improving and a slight improvement in the situation is perceptible; if the present security arrangements are maintained, I have not the least doubt that income for the coming year will be more than in the past months.

Then, Sir, I want to say a word on the convenience of the third class passengers. In every Budget in every year, promises are being given, but when it comes to actual facts we find that to have better coaches is a dream, reduction in the number of passengers for each coach is unthinkable and increase in water storage capacity is unimaginable and people have to travel in third-class without answering call of nature for hundreds of miles. I hope at least the present Railway Minister will translate some of the promises into actual facts.

Then, Mr. Speaker, the Minister in charge paid glowing tributes to the loyalty of the railway servants and their devotion of duty. Well, I join that chorus of praise, but with reservation. It is not correct to say that all the servants employed in the Railways are honest to a degree where we can call them real servants of the people. In the Goods Department and in the class of people known as Ticket Collectors, corruption is rampant and I am sure many members of the House who come from different Provinces will bear testimony to what I say. Ticketless travel is of course due to the defiance of the law. There is no doubt about that. Refugees have had to go from one place to another. They had no money to fall back upon and nothing to pay. But apart from that, there is one reason why ticketless travel is on the increase, and that is, the encouragement of the Ticket Collectors for receiving not a ticket which has no face value, but a currency note in place of that.

Another point, Sir, which is very important from the administrative point of view is the establishment of Tribunals. In the Railway Department the Heads of the Departments are already overworked. The Railway Unions and other Labour Unions in the country are agitating that the decisions arrived at by the Heads of Departments are more or less influenced by the administrative machinery. For creating confidence and a sense of justice in the railway servants, it is very necessary to establish Tribunals. It is an accepted principle of criminal jurisprudence that not only that you should do justice but it should appear that justice would be done. In foreign countries, particularly New Zealand, such a system of Tribunal has been established and I submit that it should be adopted here also.

Sir, the principle of de-control has been accepted by the Government. The success or failure of this policy entirely depends upon the working of the Railways in India and I am glad that the Minister in charge of Railways has taken care to refer to it in his speech, and with his capacity to discharge his functions, I am sure the priority system would be strictly enforced.

[Kazi Syed Karimuddin]

I again congratulate the Minister in Charge for the surplus Budget and express my fullest confidence in him for his capacity to deal with railway matters. In India, Railways are a great asset and I am sure he will nurse them carefully and administer them firmly.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U.P. : General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I offer a few remarks with regard to the Railway Budget, may I bring to the notice of my Honourable friend, the Minister for Transport, that his speech was circulated to Honourable Members only this morning and that the first volume of the Railway Administration Report has not yet been published. We used to get it every year by the end of January, but this year, while the second volume is available, the first volume is still in the Press. I know that this has been due to the abnormal circumstances that have prevailed in recent times, but I hope that the Honourable Minister will see that better arrangements are made in future in respect of the delivery of his speech to the members of this House and the publication of the Railway Administration Report.

Now, Sir, I shall deal with certain points which are raised by the Transport Minister's speech. Sir, in order to determine to what extent our Railways are functioning efficiently, I tried to compare the ratio of working expenses to the gross revenue, which is known as the 'operating ratio'. I tried to compare the operating ratio for the year 1938-39 with the operating ratio for the years 1946-47 and 1948-49. Although great changes have occurred in the current year, I thought nevertheless that a comparison between the operating ratio of 1938-39 with that for the year 1948-49 could not fail to be instructive. Now, I found, Sir, that while the operating ratio in 1938-39 was 66.44, in spite of certain special factors which had to be taken into consideration that year, it was 76·7 for the year 1946-47 and 83·3 for the year 1948-49. I shall not ask, Sir, why the operating ratio is so high, partly because we know a heavy rise in prices and wages has inevitably affected the ratio by increasing the working expenses, and partly because, my Honourable friend, the Minister for Transport will say that he had appointed the Indian Railways Enquiry Committee in order to look into that matter. The reason why I have put forward this point is that the operating ratio being so high, it is obvious that the successful working of the Railways depends on the efficiency with which they are managed. The heavy increase in expenditure makes it more necessary than ever that there ought to be better supervision than there was in the past and that the Labour should not merely complete its statutory work, but should perform it in a patriotic spirit.

In order to be in a position to consider whether the standard of efficiency at present was fairly high, I paid special attention to two factors. These are factors on which the Honourable the Minister for Transport has laid great stress in his speech. The first important question which deserves mention in this respect is the turn-round of wagons. The Honourable Minister told us in his last speech, *i.e.*, in November last, that leaving South India out of account, the turn-round of a Broad gauge wagon was between 14 and 15 days. When the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee reported in 1937, it commented adversely on the slow turn-round of the wagons at that time. I gathered from its report that for load of 204 miles, the turn-round of a Broad Gauge wagon was between 10 and 11 days and it recommended that this should be reduced to 5 or 6 days. It is not necessary that we should be able to do what South Africa has been able to. Everyone of us knows that we are less fortunate than South Africa in respect of our Gauges. There is no uniform gauge in this country and it is inevitable, therefore, that the turn-round should be a little longer than it is in South Africa. But even allowing for this fact, the Committee considered that the turn-round was excessive. Now, my Honourable friend told us last November that it was between 14 and 15 days. He has told us in his latest speech that this period has been considerably reduced, but I should like to know what

the overall figure is. I am glad to know that there has been improvement on certain Railways. But the progress that has been made when considered in the light of the observations of the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee is not enough. There is further room for improvement and considerable improvement. My Honourable friend has in his speech—I am sure inadvertently—confused turn-round with the period required to repair a wagon. On page 5 of his speech I find him saying that the average period of turn-round of a broad-gauge wagon was 48 days. I believe what he meant to say was that the period required for the repair of a broad-gauge wagon was 48 days.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, may I explain? I think it is obviously a mistake in a source for which I am not really responsible. Obviously the Honourable Member is correct in saying that the figure I refer to is the figure of the period of detention for overhaul and repair in a workshop.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: As this paragraph confused me, I drew the attention of the Honourable Minister to it so that the speech might be corrected.

The second point to which I should like to draw attention relates to the percentage of engines under repair. My Honourable friend has been able to report some improvement in this respect too; but we do not know what the percentage of engines under repair at any particular time is. But I find that in 1946-47 it was as high as 19, *i.e.*, about one-fifth of the locomotives were out of action on any particular day. That is a very high figure and this point also received the consideration of the Railway Inquiry Committee to which I have already referred. The percentage was probably a little higher at that time, and owing to the efforts made as a result of this Committee's report it was brought down. But it again increased considerably. This is another matter which requires serious consideration, and I lay stress on these points because as I was looking into the figures relating to the increase in traffic since 1938-39 and the increase in broad-gauge wagons it seemed to me that the difficulty that we were experiencing in handling traffic was due less to the shortage of wagons or age of the locomotives than to other factors. I made my calculations with the assistance of the Financial Commissioner of Railways to whom I am very grateful for the help he gave me in understanding certain points in connection with the Transport Minister's budget speech. And I found that while the increase in traffic amounted to about 24 p.c. that in broad-gauge wagons amounted to about 17 p.c. Now if the turn-round was not so slow as it is it seems to me that the traffic that is offering, even though it is substantially more than it was in the year 1938-39, would be efficiently handled.

Sir, I had intended to deal with the question of spare parts and overcrowding in third class carriages but I shall not do so in view of the fact that my time is nearly over. I shall therefore make one suggestion to the Honourable Minister with regard to a matter of some importance. I think the manufacture of wagons in this country should be increased and the cost per wagon should be brought down. Now at present there are four or five concerns which offer tenders for the construction of wagons. They seem to have combined and to keep the prices at a pretty high level. If some other concerns can be induced to take this up—and I think Tata's alone can do so—the number of wagons manufactured in this country might be increased and at the same time economy might be effected. I hope this matter will receive the attention of my Honourable friend.

Sir, before I sit down I should like to refer to the question of regrouping and the division of capital liabilities of the railways between the Pakistan and Indian Dominions. As regards the first point I am sure my Honourable friend remembers that he told us in November last that he had appointed an officer to look into the matter. I understand that the report of that officer has been received, and I hope that before any decision is arrived at the matter will be

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru]

placed before the Indian Railways Inquiry Committee so that its opinion might be ascertained before any action is taken. As regards the capital liabilities my Honourable friend told us what the points at issue were between the two Dominions. We were told some time ago that a settlement on all points had been arrived at between the Dominions. I request the Honourable Minister to tell us on what basis this settlement has been arrived at. We remember the financial effect of the difference in opinion between the two Dominions which he placed before the House in November last year. It seems to me that our capital liabilities, according to his speech, are about 30 crores higher than they were expected to be then. I should like to know how this has happened and exactly how the liabilities have been divided.

Dr. B. V. Keskar (U.P. : General): Sir, with the limited time at my disposal I do not propose to pick holes or criticise any aspect of the budget speech of the Honourable Minister. I would leave it to my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam. I should like to deal with certain important principles about the development of Indian railways; but before proceeding to what I consider a very grave defect in this respect in the budget speech I should like to refer to one thing in passing, namely, his reference to corruption on Indian railways. The Honourable Minister made a kind of assertion that members of the House and persons outside also are in the general habit of very irresponsibly accusing the railway administration of corruption. I may assure him, and I am sure that I am speaking on behalf of a large number of members, that most of us are not so irresponsible as to accuse the railway administration generally or the vast majority of officials of corruption. But at the same time, we would be failing in our duty if we did not bring it to the attention of the Honourable Minister and at the same time of the other members of the very large amount of corruption present in all ranks of the railway administration. It is no use trying to confuse this issue which is a very important one from a moral and administrative point of view. I do not think my friends of the Railway Board and high officials of the railway administration would be able to deny the very large amount of corruption present on the railways in all ranks. I am at one with the Honourable Minister in appreciating the services rendered by the Indian railways from the highest to the lowest and the high efficiency at present operating on our railways. But at the same time it is no use denying that the corruption which probably has increased to a great extent due to the war is even now a very important and a very serious obstacle to a greater efficiency in Indian railways.

Sir, I in vain tried, while listening to the speech of my Honourable friend, the Minister for Transport, for any indication of a general plan for the development and progress of Indian Railways. I looked also at the memorandum prepared by the Honourable Minister and searched in vain for finding any line or indication of the way in which the Indian Railways were going to progress and develop. I am quite aware of the enormous difficulties in the way: I am quite aware of the abnormal circumstances at present, but we all expected that when India has become free after the 15th August, some new line is going to be laid for our railways as we expected in other departments of our life and administration. I expected that the Honourable Minister would give us some indication, some plan, some over all view of how we are going to develop our railways. Sir, it is not, I submit a small matter. To my mind it is a fundamental and a most important point. How are we going to develop our railways? Are we going to administer them as the private companies used to administer them? That is for getting a certain amount of profit for getting a certain percentage, some of which will be paid as interest and the rest will be paid into the general budget as an alleviation to the taxpayer? Or are we going to develop the railways as a great social service for the general development of our country and our society? I am sorry, Sir, that after looking carefully at all the papers, and

all the figures and the memoranda presented to us, I feel that the outlook of the Railway Board is yet very conservative and if my Honourable friend the Minister will forgive me, out-moded. I do not see yet any sign that the policy laid down during British rule, probably from the time of the company railways, has yet changed to any appreciable extent. We still consider—I mean the Railway Board appears to consider—that the Railways are naturally the means for transport: but at the same time are a great industry which give a certain amount of profit which for giving that profit have to run efficiently, and there ends the matter. I submit, Sir, that unless we completely change this point of view, unless—and I submit it very humbly to the Honourable Minister for Transport—we hereafter consider the railways as a means to an end *i.e.* to develop our country economically, socially, strategically and militarily, we will not use this great instrument for the purpose for which it ought to be used. I would like therefore at least very soon the Honourable Minister will take into consideration this fundamental problem of Indian railways which to my mind is as important as carrying out the details of administration. How are we going to use this great instrument? Vast areas of our country are still unopened: immense regions cannot be reached by railway transport, and therefore they are practically unknown to the rest of India and to the rest of the world. Do we propose to develop them or not?

When I referred to the rather conservative outlook of the Railway Board I am reminded of the conversation that I had with an expert of the Railway Board on developing certain regions by having railways there. The immediate answer was that it will not be remunerative. It will not give us a certain percentage of profit and therefore it is out of the question. Now I submit, Sir that with such a great social system as our nationalized railways, are we going to look to the immediate profit? Are we going to see that if I build a railway in 1948 I should get 5 per cent. in 1949, or are we going to see that if today we invest a large amount of capital we will get probably 500 per cent. in 1960 or 1970? I submit, Sir, that the building of railways, the opening up of large parts of our country is important for the future of this country, and any amount invested for that purpose if it does not give any profit today is a better investment than getting 5 per cent. today. So I just referred to this matter to indicate the mentality that is ruling in the Railway Board. I do not mean to say, Sir, that we should not look to the financial side of the question. I agree that the railways have to run as an economical concern. But I do submit that the railways should not think, specially after they have been nationalised, that they are a profit-making concern. Whatever profits they earn should remain with them and should be utilised for improving the railways and for further extending communications in different parts of the country. To my mind this is the gravest defect in the otherwise very remarkable speech of my Honourable friend the Minister for Transport.

I am at one with my Honourable friend here in appreciating the very good work that has been done during this abnormal time. We all appreciate the remarkable work that the Honourable Minister has done. But I do submit that the vestiges of the conservative and imperialistic outlook that we still have must be changed, that we must have an overall plan, a five or ten year plan, for the rebuilding of the Indian railways and the basic principle on which that plan should be built must not be whether a certain scheme is going to give us 5 or 10 per cent. profit but it should be whether in the years to come and generations to come they are going to develop our country fully and completely. I therefore submit to my Honourable friend, the Transport Minister that this urgent problem should be tackled. With reference to the problem which is likely to come up today (and I represent the views of many of my Honourable friends) we must not expect the railways to be great contributors to the general revenues but we must expect them to be great arteries in the social development of our country.

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar: General): Mr. Speaker, the tradition of offering congratulations to the Honourable Minister after such a performance as he has just given, has become so hard and fast that I wonder if much meaning will be left in it if I were to offer my very sincere congratulations for the lucidity of exposition and the marshalling of facts with which he presented his statement. On the last occasion I was unable to testify to my appreciation in this manner when he presented the interim budget, so to say, and it was perhaps just as well for me that I did not, because I had intended to end up those congratulations, at the risk of being presumptuous, by saying that I could not have done it better myself. As it is, I am very glad that I escaped from the sin of presumptuousness, because today I do not feel very much in the mood of repeating that expression: not that I have any chance of emulating him now or in the near future, but I would say that judged as a performance in the presentation of a large array of facts and figures in the most clear and lucid manner, marshalling fact after fact, each in its proper perspective, it was edifying and even instructive. The sum and substance of it left me free to offer also some critical remarks which I hope will not be misunderstood by the Honourable Minister.

In the first place, I feel inclined to endorse some of the remarks which my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam has presented to this House with regard to the basic principle as to the place of the House in acting as the watch-dog of public finances, whether in a commercial and public utility service like the railways or in general finance. I feel free to confess that the little experience that I have had of the working of these committees makes it difficult for members of this House to express whatever constructive criticism we may have to offer, if for nothing else, for lack of time. I am aware that there is a congestion of business. There is a great deal of business, which this Government has got to get through within a limited time, and this makes it naturally difficult to apportion proper time for a proper study and suggestions which Honourable Members may have to make for the information or for helping the Ministers in charge of such departments as the railways or the transport services of the country. In that case, may I, without meaning any offence, suggest that we need not be tied down to the tradition which we have inherited from the past bureaucratic and non-responsible government. For instance, I do not see why this House, if it really wants to do its business, should only sit for 14 or 15 weeks in the year and leave the rest of the business to be handled as it used to be in days gone by. The little experience that I have of the Standing Committee on Finance has enabled me to see and I am sure that must be repeated in the Standing Committee on Railways that 20 or 30 items are presented to be disposed of by 12 or 15 people taking part in a couple of hours, which does not come to an average of more than 2 minutes for each item and they involve figures of the dimention, as my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam pointed out, of 20, 50, 2 or 5 crores. We seem to be nowadays playing with crores and the miserable lakhs do not seem to appeal to us at all.

Take the case for example of the Postwar Railway budget. I do not know (the Honourable Minister will correct me if I am wrong) if that plan which is said to have been prepared in the department has specially received consideration at the hands of this House. I do not know whether it would be put into execution by the Ministry straightway without its being brought to this House. But I may at this stage even tell the House that on the last occasion after the last war (I am speaking of the war of 1914-18) when this Convention was introduced first in 1923-24, and the railways after 75 years since their introduction in this country were placed on a commercial footing with commercial accounting a five years' budget was voted straightaway involving an expenditure of 150 crores. The country suspected at that time that there were other motives at work in voting this lumpsum grant for capital expenditure, *viz.*, for relieving unemployment in England, which was very acute in those days. I do hope that

we are not going to repeat anything of this kind and I shall most cordially welcome any assurance from the Honourable Member (which I hope will come during the course of his concluding remarks) as regards plans, if any, of the Railway Department that are to be placed before this House and when they will be placed before this House.

Observations have been made with regard to the surplus I understood that the disposal of the surplus of 10 crores is being considered by a committee of this House presided over by your honoured self, Sir. While I have not the slightest intention to prejudge or take the final authority away, I do hope that before a final decision on that is taken, the House will have an opportunity to see whether any reversal of the Convention which was established in 1924 is to take place, while making any decision of that kind. We are having no opposition in the House and the House have automatically registered their decision with their *imprematur* by passing 10 crores of expenditure. Please do not misunderstand me: I do not grudge them. Democracy, however expensive it is, will be failing in its mission if it also did not pay some attention to economy. At the risk of being misunderstood I fear that the comparison that my Honourable friend Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru made just now suggests that we are not having all the economies which we may have a right to expect in the administration of the railways. I am speaking with considerable handicap because I have no knowledge of the working of the railways. The so-called Administration Report of the Railways, Volume I which in the past used to be given to us is not before us so that we do not know how the railways are worked. The railways have a double face. They are a commercial department whose accounts have been placed on a commercial footing about twentyfive years ago. The Railways are also—and I am glad that an Honourable Member has stressed that particular aspect—a public utility service whose utility value should not be overlooked while considering the commercial aspect or the purely financial aspect of the railways. I am not suggesting that one should necessarily exclude the other. I am not suggesting that we should sacrifice the utility aspect for the sake of the financial aspect or *vice versa*. But I am definitely suggesting that it is up to the Ministry to see the force of it that the two can be reconciled and as a competent and able minister that he is it ought to be up to our present Railway Minister to do so. He has been good enough to give us comparisons of the signs of hope that he has observed in regard to improvement in turnover, in regard to improvement of working efficiency and so on. May I say that you are perhaps obliged to make these comparisons in relation just to the last preceding pre-war year? I do not know whether the Honourable Minister wants us to believe that in 1938-39 the railways of India were administered at the most efficient possible level so that we should return to that, considering that as the acme of perfection for the administration of railways. If he does so I am afraid I cannot agree with him. The railways of India in the world's history of railways have not been by any chance the most efficient that could be found. While I have no desire at all to introduce the slightest note of carping criticism I am also unable to agree with him in the warm tribute he paid to the railway staff. I very much regret it. I do not wish the employer to be thankless or unappreciative. But I do think that if the Honourable Member had the same experience as perhaps a good many in this House and far more outside would have had as regards the indifference not only of porters and ticket collectors but even station masters and more responsible people, he would not be quite so handsome in the praise that he has given. It is all to his credit that he is so appreciative. I also appreciate the psychological value of encouraging people to be good by appreciative references of this kind. But I also want him to note and appreciate that there is such a thing as deliberately closing our eyes to the facts which we should have the moral courage to point out even if we happen to be in the unfortunate

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position—I hope he would not misunderstand me—of being a responsible Minister. Sir, if you look to the whole history of the railways of India they have completed a century in this year of grace. In this period they have had hardly twenty years of surplus. For seventy-five years, up to 1923, they had no depreciation fund, they had no reserve fund. Everything that came by way of seeming surplus over expenses was just taken over and shown as an index of the successful working of railways. Since 1924 they have been placed on a commercial footing because the state took them over. For five years only they worked on a surplus basis. For seven or eight years thereafter they ate up all the reserve and the depreciation fund so that by 1937 there had to be something like Rs. 60 crore moratorium due to the general revenues from the railways. From 1939 to the end of the war the railways showed a profit. May I say that it was a very deceptive profit? It was no profit. It was the state putting from one pocket to another and therefore such profit as the railways showed was no profit at all.

I would before concluding, invite the Honourable Minister to consider this matter believing me that I have not spoken in any spirit of carping criticism. I am not the last among those who admire and appreciate the work he is doing and I can assure him that that appreciation and admiration would be a hundredfold strengthened if he will also see to it that points like this placed before him in all modesty are attended to.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri (U.P. : General): Sir, while speaking on the Railway Budget I propose to confine my remarks to the problems of railway employees. At the very outset I acknowledge with gratitude the earnest endeavours that have been made by the Honourable Minister for Railways to come to a settlement of the problems of railway employees. The very fact that he has succeeded in appeasing the All India Railwaymen's Federation is a high tribute to his tact and foresight. While according him my hearty appreciation I shall be failing in my duty to my constituent unions—the unions that are affiliated to the Indian National Trade Union Congress—If I do not avail of this opportunity to bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister certain hardships that the railway employees are still subjected to. I would first deal with certain questions arising out of the recommendations of the Pay Commission as implemented by the Government. In the Explanatory Memorandum on the Railway Budget it has been said that the recommendations of the Pay Commission have been liberalised in several directions. In whatsoever direction the recommendations of the Pay Commission may have been liberalised, the position as it stands today is that there is still a large number of employees in railways who feel aggrieved due to the recommendations of the Commission as implemented by the Government. I would, with your permission, Sir, take only two instances on this occasion.

Firstly, there are cases of pre-1931 employees who have put in at least eighteen years of service in the railways. Originally, when the recommendations of the Pay Commission came out, the wages of pre-1931 employees were reduced in a large number of cases. Later on the Railway Board saw through the flaw and efforts were made to rectify the mistake. What they did was that they put the pre-1931 employees on the new scale and gave them one annual increment. But even inspite of that it is hardly any consolation to a large number of employees most of whom have attained their maximum of efficiency and it is only in the fitness of things that the number of years that they have put in should be taken into consideration while determining their scale.

The next point that I would refer to in this connection is about the employees employed in the O.T., S.I. and M.S.M. Railways. The fixation of pay in the said Railways is most inequitous. The pay of employees in them is extremely low as compared with employees in other Railways. When the terms of

reference of the Central Pay Commission were announced the standardised pay to various categories of workers in different Railways was visualized. The workers in these railways were in the hope that when the recommendations of the Pay Commission would come out, they would be put on the same plane as employees in other railways: but when the recommendations of the Pay Commission came out, the matter was shelved. The result is that em-

1 P.M.

ployees of the same category, working in the same city and at the same station but belonging to two railways are getting different wages—the employees in the above three railways in most cases getting as low as half the pay of employees in other railways. Before the appointment of the Central Pay Commission, the unions in these three railways represented their case to the Government and sympathetic consideration was assured to them. Later on when the recommendations were published they again represented their case, but nothing seems to have so far been done. I understand that a special officer has been appointed to look into the implementation of the awards of the Central Pay Commission. So far as these three railways are concerned, he too has not moved in the matter, and one does not know if he is even competent to deal with the cases of these three railways.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: May I ask the third railway?

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: O.T., S.I.R., and M.S.M. are the three railways concerned.

There are certain other matters connected with the pay question which were referred to a separate adjudicator, I mean Justice Rajadhyaksha. The report of the adjudicator, though submitted long ago, has not yet been published by the Government for reasons best known to themselves. Apart from other matters, there is just one question that I would submit on this occasion. It is the question of reduced working hours. I would particularly invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to cases of certain categories of workers for reduced working hours, particularly cabin masters and their staff, controllers, gate keepers, engine crew and guards. Reduction in their working hours is essential not only from the point of view of labour but also in the public interest and to ensure efficiency in railway transport. Now, Sir, there is another vital question that has been raised on the floor of the House, so far as I am aware, for the last fifteen or sixteen years, and that is the question of the security of service. Of all the departments of the Government, the Railway is the only department where an employee even today has practically no security of service. The railway can dispense with his services without assigning any reason, a practice which does not obtain in any other department. There are provisions with regard to appeals and enquiries, but they too—I may be pardoned for using a strong expression—are a mere farce. Even in an ordinary court of law, if a man is convicted, he can get copies of evidence on the basis of which he is convicted. Here in the railways a man is dismissed and when he asks for copies of the evidence against him, the same is denied to him. The method of appeal is equally unsatisfactory. An employee puts in an appeal to the Superintendent who calls for a report from the clerk or the person who has been instrumental in passing the order against him. He of course supports the order and the appeal is dismissed. Then again he files an appeal to the General Manager and the usual practice that obtains is that the General Manager writes in a printed form that the appeal is dismissed and that he has got no reasons to interfere in the matter. The same fate he meets when he refers his case to the Railway Board. It was suggested by the Whitley Commission as early as 1931 that a committee composed of representatives of workers and railways administration should be appointed to look into the question of appeals. About sixteen or seventeen years have passed and nothing in that direction has been done. In a number of countries, especially in South Africa, there is a committee composed of eight or nine members, half the members being represen-

[Shri Harihar Nath Shastri]

tatives of unions and the other half being representatives of the management, and it has one Chairman, and all cases are dealt with by that committee. Now the time has come when this important question which has been hanging on for the last fifteen years should be dealt with in the interests of efficiency as well as of justice.

Now, Sir, there is one more question that I would like to make a passing reference to. There are persistent rumours that have been going on for some time that there is going to be a reorganisation of the railways and that the railways in the country are going to be consolidated or amalgamated into four different lines. I do not know how far it is correct, but without passing any judgment on the contemplated scheme I should only submit on this occasion that the question of reorganization will involve many factors affecting the interests and well-being of workers, and I would earnestly appeal to the Honourable Minister that before any such scheme is put into operation, the unions and the principal labour organizations of this country should be taken into confidence and consulted in advance.

Sir, a number of speakers have referred to the prevalence of corruption in railways. I am pained to find that speakers of the eminence of Professor K. T. Shah have made such allegations. I do not deny that corruptions are there in railways, but they are not of such a nature and they are not prevalent to such an extent as efforts have been made to make out.

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: While admitting that there is a certain amount of corruption, I strongly dissociate myself from the sweeping observations that have been made in this respect.

An Honourable Member: You do not know.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Whatever may have been the position during the war, now with the changing times and with the assurance of better amenities and increased wages, there is an increasing sense of responsibility among employees of every rank in the Railways. With the moral level of our country rising, the time is fast approaching when this House will cease to hear of such corruption.

Sir, I have referred to certain points. I would have liked to refer to some more. But as there are only two minutes at my disposal, I would conclude.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may carry on till recess time; there are two minutes more.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Since the reins of Government have passed into the hands of popular representatives of people including some of our esteemed leaders, there is no doubt that earnest efforts have been made to tackle the problems of railwaymen with sympathy and imagination. The present Government have created a feeling of confidence in them that they have got the best interests of these men at heart. Now the next step is for the Government to understand and appreciate their basic difficulties and to remove the same. It is not in a spirit of criticism that I have made these observations; I have done so as I want peace for the country and prosperity for the masses. Only a few months back there was an Industrial Conference. In that Industrial Conference, I, speaking for myself and on behalf of the great National Organisation that I have the honour to represent, pledged my support to the three years' industrial truce; and although there are certain parties that have backed out from the said undertaking, we still feel ourselves in honour bound to implement that undertaking and it is only with a view to see the materialization of the idea of industrial peace that I am placing the few points which I have done just now for the consideration of the Honourable Minister.

Sir, there is just one more point. In the speech which the Honourable Minister made the other day he referred to reduced outturn of work. I may

assure the Honourable Member that so far as we are concerned, we stand for maximum utilization of the capacity of the workers to work. I do know that workers are patriotic, and our organization will do its level best to induce the workers to create efficiency in them and to have a better sense of responsibility to the country and to the community. Sir, I thank you.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

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

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I must, I think, offer my congratulations, although it has become somewhat.....

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Hackneyed?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Somewhat hackeneyd, yes, as some of the members of this House consider it—although I do not think that that remark by my friend who has the habit of interjecting his own opinions for the consideration assure the Honourable Member that so far as we are concerned, we stand for of the Speaker who is on his feet, was really justified. Indeed, Sir, the speech delivered by my Honourable friend the Railway Minister was an excellent performance and at least those who cannot imitate him must recognise the merits of it.

Sir, the Indian Railways are, as we all know, a national concern, and it is therefore proper that we should give it very great importance and every member of this House should be anxious to offer his own opinion and criticism. Sir, the success or failure of this national concern and its management are matters of vital importance, inasmuch as its success or failure will determine the advisability or otherwise of nationalisation of other concerns and industries in the country for which there is so much demand in this House. This Point was emphasized when we discussed the Railway Budget last time and I do not want to say anything more about it. But I must say, at the same time, that when we look at it from this point of view, the surplus that has been shown by the Honourable Member is unsatisfactory. After the year's working, we do not know whether the expectations would be realised or whether we shall fall short of even what we have budgetted for. Be that as it may, the Budget has not disclosed anything very attractive for. The condition of travel in third class—not only in third class but also in other classes—continues to be abominable and in spite of the fact that the House, without any grudge or complaint, voted the raising of freights and fares last time, we find that there has been no improvement of any sort. One of the Honourable Members who spoke before me suggested than an independent and a somewhat radically different standpoint must be brought to bear upon the whole Administration and that as a result at least of our independence there was great need to re-organise the whole structure of the Administration. If I may offer some advice, Sir, I would suggest to the Honourable Minister that more trust, better supervision and exemplary and deterrent punishment for those who are guilty and are worthy of it should be the guiding principles on which re-organisation may be undertaken.

The Honourable Minister told us, a tactful minister that he is, at the very beginning of his speech a denfinite piece of bad news. He told us that we were short of our expectations by as big a figure as Rs. 8 crores during the working of the Railways in the last 7½ months. I would like to ask him, Sir, whether a lot of this was not really due to the increase in fares and freights and whether the principle of diminishing returns has not actually started operating. I fear that in all probability that was the reason which has brought about this astonishing fall in the earnings. After all, Sir, even today one travels by rail only

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when one has no other course open. Because, Sir, railway journey is no pleasure. It is a penalty and a persecution. However, much my Honourable friend may hold up hopes of improvement, so long as they are not translated into action, we can have no satisfaction and derive no consolation.

The Honourable Minister must also bear in mind one grave danger. The Railways are still crowded and overcrowded because there are no facilities of motor transport yet available to the public. He will do well to remember the situation with which the country was faced in the years 1930 to 1934 when we had to issue 'zone tickets' and try to attract everybody to travel by Railways in preference to other modes of travel. I would not be surprised, Sir, if as soon as the ban on import of motor cars is lifted and petrol becomes more easily available, the Railways, if they continue with the reputation they have earned so far, find that they have to issue zone tickets before long. The three years that he is wanting to improve the railways may then be too long a period. Probably, within a year and a half, the circumstances which I am picturing to myself might arise. Therefore, from that point of view, I would suggest to him that he should try his utmost to cut down this period. If he does not, it is more than likely that by the time that he gets his improvements effected and puts his new and attractive coaches on the rails people would not care to travel by the Railways.

One other point, Sir, which I would like to point out is that the Honourable Minister held out us hope of speeding up of our trains. Well, the position there is this. We used to be far quicker; the trains used to be far swifter only a little time ago, but the war probably put a strain upon them and they have been slowed down and they continue to be more and more slowed down rather than be speeded up in any fashion. I think this is also one of the things that he may kindly bear in mind.

Then, Sir, another question I would like to put is I must rush up with my points without elaborating them because the time is short—what has happened to the promise that was held out by Sir Reginald Benthall, or Edward Benthall —I do not know which—that India itself was going to manufacture certain locomotives? If I remember aright, sitting in a Post-war Reconstruction Committee meeting a few years back, we were told that in the course of a few months Indian-made locomotives were being placed on the rails. I wonder, what has happened to them. I hope Sir Edward Benthall has not run away with them. In any case, the Honourable Minister has made no mention about them.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend seems to be very keen on stopping ticketless travel. In the opinion of some, it might be a good object to aim at; but I have my own misgivings about it. The ticketless travellers can, I think, be classified into three categories. The first is the "occasional" ticketless traveller. This type, taking advantage of the overcrowding, thinks it unnecessary to purchase a ticket because there is nobody to supervise, nobody to check. The compartments are over-full and even if the Ticket Collector were to make an attempt to catch him he could not get inside the compartment.

There have been some people who were probably habituated to purchase tickets but who are now cultivating a habit of going without it. There is also another way out of this situation quite easily available these days and quite extensively used. If at all one is caught without a ticket it is not at all impossible to escape with a far less penalty than he would have been required to pay if he were to purchase a ticket. Therefore, Sir, this ticketless travel has in my opinion increased. The other class of persons may be styled as 'habituals' and the third are those who are "incurables". Incurables will remain incurable

whatever my Honourable friend may do. There are persons who according to the society that we have at the present moment are the professional beggars and other miscreants. They will never purchase a ticket, firstly because in all probability they are incapable of doing so and secondly because they know that they can escape without tickets under any circumstances. So, Sir, all that my Honourable friend will be able to tackle are the first group, namely, the occasionals, and probably, he might be able to shell something out of the habituals, but so far as the incurables are concerned, they will remain incorrigible and intractable in spite of what my Honourable friend may do. And if we take into account the fact that there is going to be more and better supervision, I am sure the occasionals will probably diminish to a very small number. After careful consideration I feel that we should not be surprised if at the end of the working of this paraphernalia for stopping ticketless travel, we may find that the expenses were much more than what we will realize from the ticketless travellers.

Some Honourable Members of this House do not agree with the Honourable Minister in the lavish praise he has accorded to the railway staff and the railway personnel. I personally think that in doing so, the Minister was doing his duty. Let him do his duty in patting his staff on the back with a view to encouraging the good officials as much as possible and let us carry on and point out the defects of those who are guilty of it. Of course my Honourable friend who preceded me went the whole hog because he wants to advocate the cause of labour and his dictum certainly is: "Labour, right or wrong." He said that the labour was on the whole honest and hard working and that Independence was going to make a real difference. But, Sir, the experience of most members of this House does not accord with these statements and the people are still harassed by irresponsible and corrupt officials in the Railway Department.

Now that only two minutes are available to me, Sir, and since I am not likely to have a chance of moving any cut motions, I had better refer to the various subjects I have put down as cuts and of which I have given notice of and I hope, Sir, the Honourable Minister will make note of them and consider them sympathetically.

My first complaint is that there is no provision for connecting Khandwa meter gauge with the Nizam's border, which project was very seriously considered some time back. There is also lack of provision on the Amraoti-Narkher connection and I would also like to ventilate all the local grievances of Berar. Sir, Amraoti not being on the main line has held up the progress of the whole of Berar. The Government had come to a decision to put it on the main line. I hope that the matter will be reconsidered and that wise decision restored. The bridge on the Badnera road being too narrow is very dangerous and inadequate for the traffic on it. This should, Sir, be widened at an early date. There is also great need of having an over-head bridge on the level crossing at Amraoti. These are some of the items, Sir, which I hope, even if they have been rejected some time back, should be reconsidered, because I assure the Honourable Minister they are all worthy of being re-considered and worthy of attention. There is very great popular demand for them.

While we do thankfully accept that the railway staff has done its best and have really rescued us from a fearful crisis as a result of the Punjab situation. It must be borne in mind that the House, the country and the Railway Department have not been slow in looking after their condition and comforts and so we are entitled to expect much of them. I tried to calculate from the figures given to me and I find, Sir, that as much as 67 crores of rupees are being spent on providing dearness allowance, cheaper grain, on providing health and other conveniences. So, Sir, when we remember that we are spending such a large sum and doing our best for their comforts, it is but natural that we should expect better co-operation and better behaviour on their part.

Shri B. Shiva Rao (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have listened to the budget presented by the Railway Member for several years from another place, though it is for the first time, I am doing so from the floor of the House. And as I entered the House to-day, and was stopped by a policeman, I was reminded of a remark made by late Mr. Keir Hardie. The policeman looking at his shabby clothes asked him as he was trying to enter the House: "Are you working on the ceiling, comrade"? And Keir Hardie said: "No, this time on the floor of the House."

Sir, as I listened to the Transport Minister's speech, two features struck me as being of special interest. The first was his note of confidence in the future and a justifiably restrained optimism with which he regarded the next twelve months; and the second was the evidence of a very sincere endeavour on his part and of the Railway Board to tighten up and to invigorate the administration. Speaking for myself, I feel, Sir, that considering the very exceptional strain which has been put on the railways in recent months, both by the partition and a refugee movement of almost incredible proportions, I think it is only due to the Railway Administration to say that the Railways have come out very well through the crisis. If in the course of my remarks I offer certain suggestions or criticisms, it is entirely from the stand-point of wanting the Railways to do even better next year, than from any lack of appreciation of what they have done.

Before proceeding further, I would like to make one or two suggestions which might improve the presentation of the Budget. I was somewhat encouraged by the remarks which Mr. Santhanam made this morning about the difficulty of understanding masses of figures and statistical tables which are presented to us at budget time. As a new member, I feel this difficulty more than other members. It seems to me that the various volumes which are given to us at budget time could be made much more easily intelligible to us if there were in each volume a few introductory paragraphs giving us the salient features contained in that particular volume. For instance, there is a volume about collieries. As one who has taken a great deal of interest in the labour movement, I would have appreciated if there had been attached to this volume on collieries a statement indicating the total amount of coal raisings during the year, the number of workers employed in the various collieries owned by the railways, the wage rates in the different collieries and any variations that may have been introduced therein.

Now, speaking about collieries, I do not know if my Honourable friend Shri Harihar Nath Shastri made any reference to it—unfortunately I could not be present during the latter half of his speech—but it does seem to me a source of great regret and disappointment that the Railway Board has done almost nothing to eliminate the pernicious system of handing over work to contractors. We have had various inquiries through Commissions,—the Royal Commission on Labour 17 years ago, the Bihar Labour Inquiry Committee on the eve of the war, and then the Rege Committee which went into the same subject in the last two or three years. This practice has without any qualification been condemned by all these three Commissions. It does seem to me a matter of surprise that the Railway Board has not yet started taking any tangible action on that particular recommendation. I believe, Sir, that at the present moment there is a European firm in charge of the labour machinery that was installed during the war for improving the raisings of coal; and I hope that the Transport Minister, when he replies to the debate, will give us some assurance that this matter will receive his immediate attention.

In regard to labour I should like to make another suggestion. In view of the importance of labour problems, particularly at this time, I should like to see at the next budget a separate volume similar to this to indicate the conditions of railway labour during the year and the results of the negotiations which take place every six months with the representatives of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation.

Now, Sir, I spoke at the beginning of the evidence of attempts made by the Honourable Minister and the Railway Board to improve the efficiency of the working of the railways in more than one direction. We have had figures given to us to illustrate how there has been improvement in the handling of goods traffic and also of the movements of coal; and I hope that during the next 12 months he will inaugurate a many-pronged drive to obtain similar results in other directions. The last speaker spoke of passenger traffic, and I think it is a scandal that some of the passenger trains run late almost every day. It would have been of interest to us who come from Madras to know how many times in the month the Grand Trunk Express is punctual; and if the Transport Minister cannot speed up that particular train, I would suggest in all seriousness that he might change the name of the train to the Madras-Delhi Slow Passenger.

There have been references in previous speeches to the existence of corruption, and I myself feel as strongly on this subject as other speakers do. It is a long-standing and chronic evil which has grown in recent years. I remember some years ago Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru narrating to me a conversation that he had with a retiring colleague of his who was in charge of Commerce and Railways. He said to Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, "Sapru, I have held many high offices and I am now retiring from the Executive Council. But I have not been able to put by much money. I wish, before I finally return to England, I could be Chief goods clerk of Howrah station for one year." I do not know if the present Transport Minister has any similar ambitions. But since he has given statistics I think it would be interesting to compare the income—the visible and the invisible income—of some of these subordinate officials with the salaries drawn by members of the Railway Board.

Speaking quite seriously on this subject, I think a great deal can be done through publicity and intelligently directed propaganda, particularly in regard to ticketless travel. I feel a great deal of propaganda is necessary amongst the members of the railway staff. I think if there could be propaganda among the passengers also to resort to the practice of queueing up for the purchase of tickets and if the sale of platform tickets could be restricted much more severely, you would see a considerable improvement in handling this problem of ticketless travel. I noticed in America that no one—without any exception—is permitted to go to the platform of a railway station unless he is a passenger; and I think that if our railways would at least restrict the practice of selling platform tickets, they would see a visible improvement in this direction.

Looking at the figures spent on publicity and propaganda, as a newspaper man I must confess I was surprised at the extremely the pitifully small amount devoted by the railways to propaganda. I think it is in the neighbourhood of 6 lakhs for a department whose annual estimated income is in the region of 190 crores. And when I speak of propaganda, I think there is a great deal of possibility of improving not only our railway administration, but our railway income. I am aware that in the last 12 months there has been what has been called a Tourist Traffic Committee. That Committee seems to have faded into extinction after producing a report which I believe is being shelved by the Railway Board. So far as tourist traffic is concerned, undoubtedly there are several difficulties in stimulating it to the extent that one would like to see. Nevertheless, when we see other countries taking special pains to develop tourist traffic without the appointment of a Committee, I see no reason why we should not follow their example. And even if tourist traffic does not begin to start in the next few months there is a great deal of preliminary work which, as I said, an intelligently directed propaganda section can do. I am quite sure the Finance Minister would welcome the prospect of having more dollars spent in this country by American visitors from abroad.

[Shri B. Shiva Rao]

And now, Sir, there is one other point to which I should like to refer, that is the expenditure on dispensaries and hospitals. I hold a view in regard to this which may seem peculiar to members of this House. I want the Transport Minister to consider very seriously whether this policy of establishing separate dispensaries and hospitals for the exclusive use of railway servants is justified in existing circumstances. It is a policy which has been inherited from the past. In the old days when the railways were company-managed and manned entirely by Europeans at the top, and medical facilities were far fewer than they are at the present moment, it might have been necessary for these companies, in order to attract British personnel, to offer these privileges. But it seems to me wrong and indefensible at the present moment for the railways to spend vast sums of money on separate railway dispensaries and hospitals, particularly in a city like Bombay. There is provision I find for a 300 bed hospital in Colaba for the use of the servants of the B.B. and C.I. and the G.I.P. railways. I can understand a dispensary or hospital being established in a railway colony which is at some distance from a city or town. I can understand a hospital being established and attached to a railway workshop, which would not be different from the practice of many large-scale factories. But I do take strong exreption to the State conferring special and exclusive privileges on favoured sections of the company.

3 P.M.

Shri B. Das: It has always been so in the past!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is the case in other cities also.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: There was one passage in the speech of the Transport Minister which struck me as of very significant interest. He emphasized the enormous scope for social service of the highest quality that railway administrations can render, and in this connection he said that he had asked railway administrations to get into touch with social service organizations. I would like to add that railway administrations would do well also to get into touch with the universities and to try to interest post-graduate students to do research in regard to many problems which are of either direct or even indirect interest to railways.

I remember about a year ago having some correspondence with the Transport Minister on this very subject. He referred in his budget speech to the special train which conveyed Mahatma Gandhi's ashes to Allahabad. Although I was not present in the train (I met it at the other end) I know what enormous crowds greated this train *en route*; and it seems to me that the railways should try an experiment of running exhibition trains throughout the country for the main purpose of bringing the results of research, agricultural research, medical research, general scientific research, even nutrition research to the door of the masses. I remerber seeing a train in New York a few months ago called the "Freedom train". That train went through the United States carrying documents, original documents, starting with the Declaration of Independence right down to documents signed by President Roosevelt: and I know the large and enthusiastic crowds which went to see this train. It seems to me that the railways could do a great deal to foster mass education of the right type by placing a few exhibition trains on the rails, in spite of the shortage of wagons and passenger coaches.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva (C.P. and Berar: General): Not at the cost of the travelling public!

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Another suggestion which I made to the Transport Minister last year, and which I would like to repeat, is this. The movement for the use of the documentary film has gained an enormous impetus in countries like the United States, Britain and Soviet Russia, and I ventured to suggest to him last year, and I repeat it here on the floor of the House, that if he could convert some of the superfluous refreshment rooms at big stations, and even third class waiting halls, into cinemas for the exhibition of documentary and instructional films, I think he would do a great deal to foster mass education.

One final point I would like to make. I think every side of the House is as anxious as the Transport Minister is to see that the railways furnish to the public a service of increasing efficiency and satisfaction. But I would like to add that there is a new reason for saying this at the present moment. Many years ago we accepted the principle of State-management for railways. The issue at that time was more political than social or economic. The issue then was State or Company management, company-management at that time meaning mainly foreign influence. But now the nationalization of railways has a new significance, a social and economic significance and it is from that point of view I am considering the future administration of the railways. And if our railways under State-management can prove just as efficient as any private enterprise, and in addition become a potent instrument of social service to the millions in this country, I for one would not very much bother about the precise significance of statements on economic policy from members of the Cabinet. Our railways should be run on this consideration: that the whole principle of nationalization is on trial. The more practical results our railways can show, the more quickly we shall advance on the part of nationalization.

श्री जयनारायण व्यास : सभापतिजी, माननीय यातायात मंत्री नें जिस उम्दगी और काबलियत के साथ अपना बजट पेश किया है उसके लिये आपको इतनी बधाइयां और धन्यबाद दिये गये हैं कि आप को उनका भार उठाना भारी पड़ जायगा। लेकिन एक बात के लिये तो बधाई दे दूं कि इस बार भाड़ा नहीं बढ़ाया गया हमारे ऊपर। लेकिन जो बातें पहले कही जा सकती थीं आज भी कही जा सकती हैं। हां यह बात और कुछ बातें मैं मिनिस्टर महोदय के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूं। कल अभी जो आपने अपने भाषण में बताया था कि कोई चार हजार सात सौ वैगन्स (wagons) नये आ गये हैं या आ जायेंगे, सात सौ, आठ सौ कोचज (coaches) हैं जिससे मुसाफिरों को आराम से बैठने का मौका मिले। लेकिन मुझे मालूम है कि कुछ वैगन्स (wagons) ऐसे हैं जिनका कोई हिसाब नहीं है शायद वह कई सौ हों या हजार तक पहुंच जायें। अगर ऐसा है तो उसके ऊपर कुछ ध्यान दिया जायगा। अगर नये वैगन्स (wagons) बनते रहें और दूसरों का हिसाब ही नहीं रहे, बेहिसाब वैगन्स (wagons) हो तो शायद बेहिसाब आराम नहीं देंगे, बेहिसाब तकलीफ दे सकते हैं। यह बात मैं माननीय मिनिस्टर साहब के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूं।

इसमें शक नहीं कि हमारे बजट अब भी जब पेश किये जा रहे हैं और जो बजट स्पोचेज (Budget speeches) होती हैं, जैसा डाक्टर केस्कर साहब ने कहा था उनमें अभी हमारा दृष्टिकोण जो एक राष्ट्रीय दृष्टिकोण होना चाहिये पापूलर (popular) दृष्टिकोण होना चाहिये, वह नहीं हो रहा है। लेकिन इसमें भी कोई शक नहीं है कि जिस मुशकिलात के अन्दर हमारा रेलवे डिपार्टमेन्ट (Railway Deptt.) गुजर रहा है वह मुशकिलात भी मामूली नहीं हैं, गैर मामूली हैं। आज जगह जगह दंगे फिसाद होते हैं तब भी दंगे फिसाद जो दूसरी जगह होते हैं या जहां से रेफयूजीज़ (Refugees) आ रहे हैं वह भी हमारे सामने प्रौब्लम (problem) है और उसकी वजह से घर नहीं मिलता है लोग वापस रेल में बैठ कर चले जाते हैं।

[श्री जयनारायण व्यास]

इसमें मिनिस्टर साहब का कोई दोष नहीं है बल्कि रेफयूजी मिनिस्टर (Refugee Minister) को कह सकते हैं कि कोई योजना बना दी जाय ताकि जो रेफयूजीज़ (Refugees) आयें वह दो चार बार रेल को चेन्ज (change) न करें। फिर भी यह प्रौब्लम (problem) हैं और मेरा ऐसा खयाल है कि जैसा रेलबे मिनिस्टर (Railway Minister) साहब ने कहा था कि रेफयूजीज़ (refugees) की प्रौब्लम (problem) खत्म हो चुकी है। यह खत्म नहीं हुई है बल्कि इसकी शुरुआत ही कई हिस्सों में हुई है। सिंध का मामला ले लीजिये। जहां के सिंधवा साहब मेम्बर हैं, मेम्बर तो वहां के नहीं हैं, लेकिन रहने वाले हैं। सिंध से जितने रेफयूजीज़ (refugees) आज तक गयें थे वह बिल्कुल बीच के मध्य श्रेणी के लोग थे, और अब जो सिंध के लोग आ रहे हैं वह ऐसे हैं जिनका रखना बड़ा मुशकिल हो रहा है, और जैसा प्राइम मिनिस्टर (Prime Minister) साहब ने उस दिन फ़र्माया था एक सवाल के जवाब में कि इतने लोग आ कर मारवाड़ के जंक्शन पर भर गये थे कि उन्हें कई दिन रोकना पड़ा। यह जो रोकना है या भेजना है वह मुशकिल मामला है और रेलवे के साथ और मुहकमों को इस मामले को देखना पड़ेगा।

साथ ही साथ यह बहुत आसान बात है कि हम रेलवे डिपार्टमेन्ट (Railway Deptt.) को यह कह दें कि आप यह फैसिलिटी (facility) नहीं देते। वह फैसिलिटी (facility) नहीं देते। लेकिन आज सामान आने की दिक्कतें हैं, कामों की ज्यादती है, इस दृष्टि से हमें रेलवे डिपार्टमेण्ट (Railway Deptt.) के साथ थोड़ी सहानुभूति रखनी पड़ेगी। लेबर ट्रबल (labour trouble) जो होती है उसको ध्यान में रखना पड़ेगा और वह ट्रबल (trouble) आज भी है इस लिये और जिन्होंने अब तक लेबर (labour) को हैन्डल (handle) किया था, उसे नौकर शाही कह सकते हैं उन लोगों नें हैन्डल (handle) किया था और आज वह कर रहे हैं जो जनता के आदमी अपने को कहते हैं। ऐसी हालत में लेबर (labour) अगर उनसे कुछ मांगे तो ठीक भी है। साथ ही साथ अगर हमारे मिनिस्टर (Minister) साहब यह कहें कि रेलवे के स्टाफ़ (staff) ने हमारे साथ अच्छा वर्ताव किया और ईमानदारी के साथ काम किया, यह भी ठीक है। लेकिन लेबर (labour) का और मिनिस्टर (Minister) का जो ताल्लुक है वह बाप बेटे का ताल्लुक हो सकता है। वह जो भी काम अच्छा करें उसके लिये उनकी पीठ ठोकनी ही पड़ेगी। लेकिन साथही साथ एक नोट आफ़ वारनिन्ग (not of warning) भी उन्हें देनी चाहिए कि जो गड़बड़ी करते हैं। जो करप्पशन (corruption) बढ़ातें हैं उनके साथ थोडी सख्ती भी की जायगी। यह नोट आफ़ वारनिन्ग (note of warning) हमारे ट्रान्सपोर्ट मेम्बर (transport member) के भाषण में नहीं था। मेरा ऐसा खयाल है कि अब जो जवाब में भाषण आप देंगे

आखिर में उसमें थोड़ासा यह भी कह देंगे। न सिर्फ़ यह कहेंगे बल्कि कोई एजेन्सी (agency) ऐसी पैदा करेंगे जिसके ज़रिये से करप्शन (corruption) का पता लगाया जायगा। और जो लोग मेहनत करते हैं उनको कुछ बढ़ावा भी दिया जाय तो हमें कोई एतराज नहीं है। लेकिन जो मेहनत नहीं करते हैं और रूपया कमाने की मेहनत करते हैं उन्हें रूपया कमाने की मेहनत से थोड़ा बरी करें। हिन्दुस्तान आजाद हो गया लेकिन इसके यह मानी नहीं हैं, कि स्टाफ़ (staff) को रूपया कमाने की आज़ादी हो गई है। आज़ादी को इस हद तक बढ़ाया नहीं जायगा यह मैं उम्मीद करता हूं।

एक चीज़ जो मैं अर्ज़ करना चाहता हूं, जो पहले भी मैंने अर्ज़ की थी वह यह थी कि मेरी समझ में नहीं आ रहा है कि रेलवे पर जो ज्यूरिसडिक्शन (jurisdiction) हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार का था वह जहां तक रियासती इलाक़ है वह १५ अगस्त के थोड़े ही दिन पहले कैसे हट गया ?

यह ज़रूर मैं देखता हूं कि इस बार जो बजट रक्खा गया है उसमें स्पेशल पोलिस (Special Police) के लिये थोड़ा बजट ज्यादा रक्खा गया है। क़रीब डबल (double) से भी ज्यादा रख दिया गया है, में डिमाण्ड (Demand) No. 3 आइटम (item) No. 6 को रिफर (refer) कर रहा हूं। यहां के प्रोटेक्शन (protection) की ज़िम्मेदारी केन्द्रीय सरकार ने ली थी रेलवे के अधिकारी मिलिट्री (Military और पुलिस तीनों मिल कर इस के ऊपर जोर न देंगे तो गड़बड़ी पैदा हो सकती है। इस देश में दो चार मिसालें हमारे सामने आई थीं वह मिसालें हैं अलवर और भरतपुर की जहां रेलवे मिनिस्टर (Railway Minister) ने कहा था कि यह बात ठीक मालूम होती है कि हमारे वैगन्स (wagons) वहां गायब हो गए हैं और यह भी ठीक मालूम होता है कि हमारे जो मुसाफ़िर ट्रेवल (travel) कर रहे थे उनके साथ ज्यादती की गई। लेकिन जब हम रेलवे (Railway) चलाते हैं तो "ठीक मालूम पड़ता है" कहने से काम नहीं चलेगा, बल्कि ठीक करना पड़ेगा। हमें अपने लोगों को जो इन इलाकों से गुजरते हैं उन के प्रोटेक्शन (protection) को हाथ में ले कर उनकी रक्षा करनी पड़ेगी। और यह हमारा खास तौर से चार्ज (charge) है बड़ी गड़ बड़ हुई और वह केआस (chaos) के रूप में बदली और उसके साथ साथ सरकार के खिलाफ़ वहां इतना भयंकर षड़यन्त्र हुआ उसका पता हमें बाद में चला। इतना पता तो चल गया है कि अल्वर और भरतपुर का जो इन्तजाम है वह सरकार को अपने हाथों में लेना पड़ा है, और आइन्दा भी, मैं नहीं चाहता कि जबर्दस्ती गवर्नमेन्ट स्टेटों को हाथ में ले ले। लेकिन उन स्टेटों को प्रोटेक्शन (protection) में हमें लेना पड़ेगा, साथ ही साथ हमें उन स्टेटों की अपनी जनता की रक्षा करनी पड़ेगी जो यूनियन के इलाकों से गुजरती हैं। मिसाल के तौर पर खरवा

[श्री जयनारायण व्यास]

का रैफरेन्स (reference) देता हूं जो B.,B. & C. I. के ऊपर एक रेलवे स्टेशन (Railway station) है, जहां कुछ स्टेटों के लोग आये और कितनी गड़बड़ी कर दी और हम उनकी रक्षा नहीं करते। मैं इस बात पर आपका ध्यान खास तौर से दिलाऊंगा कि वह हमारे मुसाफिरों की रक्षा के लिये खास तौर से तवज्जह दें।

ट्रान्सपोर्ट मिनिस्टर (Transport Minister) साहब ने अजमेर-मेरवाड़ा का खास तौर से ज़िकर किया है और इस बात को बताया है कि उसकी वजह से हमारे डिब्बे रुके पड़े रहते हैं। अजमेर-मेरवाड़ा इसमे शक नहीं ऐसी जगह है। ऐसे टापू का सा है जो चारो तरफ रियासतों से घिरा हुआ है और इस इलाके पर रियासतों की वैसी ही दृष्टि हो सकती है जैसी तमाम गृहों पर शनीश्चर की हो सकती है। कुछ रियासतें इसे लेना भी चाहती हैं। मैं इस सिलसिले में आपकी तवज्जह दिलाऊंगा। अजमेर-मेरवाड़ा के कारखाने की रेलवे डिपार्टमेन्ट (Railway Deptt.) ने ध्यान नहीं दिया है, पहले ध्यान देते हैं बंगाल की तरफ इन्जन असेम्बिल्ड (assembled) करना है आसन्सोल में वर्कशौप (workshop) होना चाहिये। वैस्ट बंगाल (West Bengal) के किनारे पर नहीं तो आसन्सोलन में बदल ले। लेकिन अजमेर-मेरवाड़ा (Ajmer-Merwara) को इतना डैवैलप (develop) करें कि अच्छे एंजिन यहां बनें, रेलें बनें। वर्कशौप (Workshop) का एक्स्टेन्शन (extension) हो। इसकी तरफ तवज्जह देनी पड़ेगी सिर्फ रेलवे के पुआयन्ट आफ व्यू (point of view) से नहीं बल्कि रक्षा के पुआयन्ट आफ व्यू (point of view) से।

मैं यह भी बतला दूं मुस्लिम लीग के कार्यक्रम के लिये जो बातें करने वाले थे और एक्शन कमेटी (Action Committee) के लोग थे उनसे हमें खतरा था और वह हमारे सामने आया। उन लोगों में से जो इन्ट्रीग (intrigue) कर रहे थे करा रहे थे उनसे हमें खतरा था। इसी में हमने एक महान् आदमी दिया। अब एक दूसरा खतरा जिसकी तरफ तवज्जह नहीं दी जा रही है वह रियासतों का खतरा है। रियासतों में साम्प्रदयिकता का जो जहर हम आजकल देखते है और जैसा कि कुछ दिनों बाद मालूम हो जायगा, उससे हमको सावधान हो जाना चाहिये।

अजमेर-मेरवाड़ का हमें एक इम्पौर्टेन्ट (important) जंकशन बनाना पड़ेगा और वह कारखानों का भी केन्द्र बनेगा इस तरफ ध्यान देने का एक कारण यह भी है कि यह पाकिस्तान के किनारे पर है और उसके साथ हमारा व्यवहार अच्छा नहीं मालूम पडता है। एक छोटी बात मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि अपने बढ़वान स्टेशन के लिये जो १ लाख ५० हजार रुपया शैड्स (sheds) बनाने के लिये मंजूर किया है उसी तरह आपको और स्टेशनों के लिये भी शैड्स (sheds) बनाने मजूर करना चाहिये। खासतौर से उन स्टेशनों पर शैड्स (sheds) की बहुत जरूरत

है जहां से शरणार्थी आते हैं। सिन्ध गुजरात और अहमदाबाद को शरणार्थी जाते हैं और उनको स्टेशनों में शैड्स (sheds) न होने के कारण बहुत कष्ट उठाना पडता हैं। जंकशन का एक पुराना मुसाफिर खाना है और सोजत रोड में सिर्फ ५ आदमी आ सकते है। गरमियों और जाड़ों में लोगों को काफी कष्ट सहन करना पड़ता है और बरसात में पानी मे भीगना पड़ता है। बी० बी० एन्ड सी० आई० में और भी स्टेशनो पर काफी शैड्स (sheds) की जरूरत है।

मुझे अफसोस है कि मैं बहुत सारी बातें कहना चाहता था, वह शायद नही कह सकूंगा। एक बात मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं और वह स्टाफ (staff) के बारे में है कि जो गड़बडी से काम करते है उनके ऊपर सख्ती करनी चाहिये। सांभर के इलाके से नमक की रोजाना कई गाड़ियां इधर से उधर जाती है और साथ ही कई गाड़ियों के पीछे एक गाड़ी रुपये की भी इधर से उधर चली जाती है। इस तरह से इसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि बिहार में नमक बिल्कुल नहीं गया। हमारे फूड मिनिस्टर (Food Minister) साहब को वहां जाना पड़ा और वहां सब बात ठीक करनी पड़ी इस तरह की चीजों को हमें आयन्दा के लिए ख्याल करना चाहिये कि वह न हो।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Jainarain Vyas (Jodhpur State): Sir, the skilful and praiseworthy way in which the Honourable Minister for Transport has presented his Budget has loaded him with congratulations and thanks that literally it might become difficult for him to carry away this bundle of praises. But let me congratulate him for this thing that he has saved us from an increase in fares. Nevertheless all that could be said in the past holds true even today. Of course, I do want to point out to the Honourable Minister this one thing along with some others. Yesterday in his speech he told us that about four thousand and seven hundred new wagons have arrived or are about to arrive. There are seven to eight hundred coaches which might enable the passengers to sit comfortably. But I know there are some wagons which have not been entered in any books. Their number runs into hundreds; it may even touch one thousand. Will this matter be looked into? If the manufacture of wagons goes on and no accounts are maintained of others, there may be innumerable wagons; but perhaps instead of giving innumerable comforts they may cause innumerable difficulties. To this I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister.

There is no doubt that even now the Budget that is presented to us and the Budget Speeches that are made here lack, as Dr. Keskar has said, the national and the popular outlook, the outlook which the present time demands. But it is also true that the Railway Department is passing through extraordinary ordeals. Riots are breaking out every where. The rioting outside and the ingress of the Refugees are also problems before us due to which accommodation is not available. People take trains for going back. The Honourable Minister is not to be blamed for this. Rather he may ask the Refugee Minister to evolve a scheme by which the refugees may be saved from changing the trains many times. Nevertheless this problem is there and I think this problem of the refugees has not yet ended as was stated by the Honourable Minister for Railways; it has only assumed different forms. Take the case of Sind which Mr. Sidhva represents; of course, that is not his constituency but he only belongs to that place. The refugees from Sind who had come upto this time belonged entirely to the middle class. But those Sindhis who are pouring in

[Shri Jainarain Vyas]

now are such that it has become a problem to accommodate them. As was stated by the Honourable the Prime Minister the other day in reply to a question that so many people had crowded at the Marwar Junction Railway Station that they had to be stopped there. This stopping or sending of these persons is an onerous problem which will have to be attended to by other Departments besides the Ministries of Railways.

It is very easy to charge the Railway Department with this thing that it is not giving this facility or that. But today there are bottlenecks of transport of goods and of excess of work. From this point of view we will have to show some sympathy with the Railway Department. We will have to take into consideration the 'labour troubles'. But that trouble exists even today. Those who handled labour in the past were bureaucrats, but today those who handle labour call themselves the representatives of the people. Under the circumstances the labour is justified today if it demands of them certain rights. The Honourable Minister is also right when he says that the Railway Staff has co-operated with him and has worked honestly. But the relations between the labour and the Minister can be the relations of a father and a son. The labour deserves to be patted for whatever good they do. But along with that a 'note of warning' must also be given to them that those who work dishonestly and encourage corruption will be dealt with severely. The speech of the Honourable Minister for Transport lacked this 'note of warning.' I think while replying to it the Honourable Minister will, towards the end of his speech, make a mention of this too. Not only will he mention it but will create such an agency as will detect corruption. We have no objection to increments being given to those who work hard. But those people who do not work sincerely but only labour hard to make money should be removed. India has attained freedom but that does not mean that the staff has got the licence to make money. I hope such liberties will not be taken.

One thing which I want to place before you and which I pointed out before too, is that I cannot understand how the jurisdiction which the Indian Government had over the railway in territories of the States came to an end a few days before the 15th of August. I do find that this Budget provides for the Special Police a little more this time. It is almost more than double. I am referring to the Demand No. 3, Item No. 6. The responsibility of protection was taken by the Central Government. If the Railway Administration, the Military and the police do not exert much it is likely that there may be some trouble in this country. Alwar and Bharatpur have furnished a few such examples. The Honourable Minister stated that it was correct that our wagons had disappeared in these states. This also seems to be correct that our passengers who were travelling in these territories were molested. But when we run the railway we find that mere words and messages will not help us. We will have to set it right. We will have to protect and safeguard our passengers who pass through these territories. This is our special charge. There was a great upheaval which turned into a chaos and such a formidable conspiracy was hatched there that we have been taken unawares. We have come to know only this much that the administration of Alwar and Bharatpur had to be taken over by the Central Government. I do not desire that in future the Government should be forced to take over the administration of States. And for the sake of protection we will have to acquire these states. Moreover we will have to protect those of the states subjects who pass through the Union territory. For example take the case of 'Kharwa', which is a railway station on the B.B. & C.I. Some States subjects had collected there; there was serious trouble at this station and these men were not protected. I will particularly request you to see that special attention is paid to protect our passengers.

The Honourable the Minister for Transport has made a special reference of Ajmer and Merwara and has stated that this province detains many of our wagons. There is no doubt that the province of Ajmer Merwara is surrounded like an island on all sides by the native states. The influence of these states on this place may be compared with that of Saturn on other planets. There are some states who even desire to annexe this territory. To this I solicit your attention. The Railway Department has not paid much attention to the workshops at Ajmer-Merwara. They have preferred to attend first to Bengal. If engines have to be 'assembled' there should be a workshop at Asansol. If it cannot be done on the border of West Bengal change over to Asansol. But Ajmer and Merwara should be developed so much as should make possible the manufacture of good engines and railway carriages. Its workshops should be extended. Attention will have to be given to this not only from the point of view of railways but also from the point of view of defence.

Let me say that the workers of the Muslim League and the members of its Action Committee were dangerous elements. We came face to face with that danger. We expected trouble from its intriguing members. This has cost us the life of a great man. The other menace which threatens us next and to which we are not paying much attention is the menace of the states. The bane of communalism with which we find the states permeated today is bound to show its effects in a short time. We must read the warning on the wall.

We will have to convert the Railway Station of Ajmer Merwara into an important junction. It is bound to be the centre of industry. Another reason for paying attention to it is that it is situated on the border of Pakistan and we do not seem to be on good terms with that country.

One little thing more I want to say. Just as a sum of rupees one lakh and fifty thousands has been sanctioned for erecting sheds at the railway station of Wadhwan, sanctions should also be given for erecting sheds at other railway stations. These sheds are particularly required at the stations where refugees either entrain or detrain. The refugees from Sind go to Gujerat and Ahmedabad and on account of the absence of sheds at the railway stations they are put to great inconvenience. The railway station of Marwar Junction has only a small waiting room. Sojat Road has got a waiting room which can hardly accommodate five persons. Both in summer and in winter passengers have to suffer a lot and in rainy seasons they get wet. Many other stations of the B.B. & C.I. require sheds.

I regret that I will not be able to say all that I wanted to say. One thing which I must say is in connection with the 'staff'. Those who do not work sincerely should be treated severely. At Sambhar many wagons are loaded every day with salt for transport to other places. And often the movement of salt wagons involves a transfer of wagon load of money. As a result of this no salt reached Bihar and the Honourable the Minister of Food had personally to go there to set things right. We should see that such things are not repeated.

श्री मोहन लाल गौतम : जनाब स्पीकर साहब, ९ और १० सदस्यों के बोलने के बाद कुछ ज्यादा बातें कहनी नहीं रह जाता। इसलिये मैं उन चीजों को दोहराने की बजाय जो अब तक सब लोगों ने कही हैं सिर्फ दो एक बातों की तरफ आपका और मिनिस्टर साहब का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं। इस वक्त जबकि हमको आजादी मिल गई है तो सबसे पहले और सबसे जरूरी काम जो हमें करना है यह सिर्फ मिनिस्टर साहब को बजट (Budget) हाउस (House) के सामने पेश कर देना ही नहीं

[श्री मोहन लाल गौतम]

है, चाहे हाउस (House) उसको पूरी तरह समझे या न समझे, उसको उस पर गौर करने का मौका मिले या न मिले, उसको पेश कर दिया। बल्कि मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि इस हाउस (House) के ऊपर एक बहुत बड़ी जिम्मेदारी है वह यह कि उसको एक ट्रैडीसन (tradition) बिल्ड (build) करना है। हमें आगे आने वाले लोगों के लिये एक नया कन्वेंशन (Convention) सामने रखना है।

मिनिस्टर साहब की स्पीच आज सुबह हमको मिली। ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन रिपोर्ट का पहिला हिस्सा अब तक नहीं मिला। और भी बहुत से कागज़ हमारे सामने नहीं आये है और हम आज बजट पर बहस करने को तैयार हो गये। इसलिये मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि इस बात का काफी ख्याल रक्खा जाना चाहिये ताकि हम आगे के लिये एक हैल्दी ट्रैडीशन बिल्ड (healthy tradition build) कर सकें। इस वक्त ज़रूरत इस बात की है कि जो चीज हम यहां पेश करते हैं उसको अच्छी तरह से समझ जायं। इस वक्त रेल्वे के जो पोस्ट वार प्लान्स (Post war plans) है उनको सिर्फ अफसरों तक ही नहीं रखना चाहिये बल्कि हाउस के सामने उनको रखना चाहिये ताकि हाउस उन पर गौर कर सके, और उस पर तरमीम तनसीख कर सके।

मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि यह पहिला बजट हमारे सामने नहीं है। हमारे सामने एक पूरी तसवीर रखी जानी चाहिये कि हमारी पौलिसी (Policy) क्या है हमारा प्रोग्राम (Programme) क्या है और हम क्या करने जा रहे हैं। यह चीज़ हमारे सामने नहीं है। इसलिये मैं बड़ा परेशान हूं कि यह जो चीज़ हमारे सामने रखी गई है, क्या वह काफी हैं? मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि एक पूरी स्कीम जो आगे आने वाले वर्षों के लिये उनकी है वह हमारे सामने पेश करें, बल्कि इस हाउस को मौका दें कि उस पर बहस करें। वे स्कीमें जोकि हमारे हुक्मरान अंग्रेज साहब बना कर रखे गये हैं उनको हम पूरा करके ही अपना फर्ज अदा न करें क्योंकि जो स्कीमें अंग्रेजों ने बनाई थी वह हमारे मुल्क के लिये मुफीद थी या नहीं हम उनको ज्यों का त्यों मंजूर कर लें। वे लोग लाखों और करोड़ों रुपया का सामान खरीदने में खर्च करते थे तो वह अंग्रेजी कारखाने वालों से लेते थे जिससे उनकी दस्तकारी की उन्नति हो। अब हमको चाहिये कि सड़कों और दरियाओं के द्वारा सफर करने का एक कोआरडिनेट प्लान (Coordinate-plan) तैयार करें और उसको हाउस के सामने रखें।

आज लड़ाई खत्म हुई है। इस वक्त जो पुरानी रोड ट्रैफिक (road traffic) थी वह करीब करीब खत्म हो चुकी है। लड़ाई के दिनों में जो buses petrol से चलती थीं वह करीब करीब खत्म हो चुकी थी। इसलिये आज हम अपनी रेलवे की इस योजना को उस आधार पर बना लें लेकिन यह ग़लत होगा, क्योंकि लड़ाई शुरू होने से पहले

हमने अपनी आंखों से देखा था मिनिस्टर साहब भी जानते होंगे, कि उस वक्त कौम्पीटीशन (competition) इतना ज्यादा था और रेलवे को मुसाफिर मिलना मुश्किल हो जाता था और मुसाफिरों को बसेज़ (buses) लेजाती थीं। अगर ऐसा अनहैल्दी कौम्पीटीशन (unhealthy competition) हुआ तो रेलवे की क्या पोजीशन (position) होगी।

हमको इन बातों का ख्याल रखना है पेश्तर इसके कि हम कोई एक ऐसी स्कीम बनायें। दूसरी बात मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि रेलवे एक नैशनालाइज्ड (nationalised) संस्था और स्टेट ओन्ड इन्डस्ट्री (state owned industry) है यह कमरशल कनसर्न (commercial concern) है, या युटीलिटि कनसर्न (utility concern) है मैं इस बहस में नहीं पड़ना चाहता क्योंकि मेरी इस समय की बहस से इसका ताल्लुक नहीं है। लेकिन मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि उसकी efficiency उस वक्त हो सकती है जबकि वह इस तरह से उस ढर्रे से न चलायी जाय जिस ढर्रेसे आजतक चलायी गयी है। आजतक जिस इरिस्पोंसिबिल (irresponsible) तरीकेसे ऊपरसे हुक्म चलता रहा वह तरीका अब चलने वाला नहीं है। जो मेम्बर साहबान स्टैंडिंग फाईनैंस कमेटी (Standing Finance committee) स्टैनडिंग रेलवे कमेटी (Standing Railway Committee) के मेम्बरान हैं उन्होंने इस वकत यह शिकायत की है और शिकायत जो है कि पच्चीस आईटेम्ज़ (Items) सामने आये घन्टे दो घन्टे बैठक हुइ और हर item पर मिनट दो मिनट बहस करके बैठक खत्म हो गयी। उन लोगों को यह मौका नहीं मिलता कि उस पर अच्छी तरह से गौर कर सकें ओर इसलिये इस तरह की एडवाईज़री कमेटी (advisory committee) या स्टैनडिंग कमेटी (standing committee) से काम नहीं चलेगा और उसके साथ साथ यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि आप जब तक इन कमेटियों में मज़दूरों के नुमाइन्दे नहीं लेंगे तब तक आप उनकी दिक्कतों को समझ नहीं सकेंगे और तब तक आप इसको अच्छी तरह से कामयाब नही बना सकते। इसलिये मैं अर्ज करता हूं कि अब ऊपर से हुक्म देने का तरीका बदलना चाहिये। इस चीज़ को अब हमें डेमोक्रेटिक ढंग से चलाने की ज़रूरत है।

मिनिस्टर साहब की स्पीच में जो उन्होंने कहा कि only redeeming feature on this occasion यह है कि इस मर्तबा रेट्स (rates) और फेयर्ज (fares) में इज़ाफा नहीं हो रहा है। मिनिस्टर साहब के कहने से यह ज़ाहिर है क्योंकि उन्होंने जब पहले दो बजट पेश किये एक पिछले वर्ष और दूसरा चन्द दिन पहले जो बजट पेश किया वह उनमें उन्होंने रेल का किराया बढ़ाया था। इसलिये उन्होंने बड़ी खुशी ज़ाहिर की है कि इस बार किराया नहीं बढ़ाया गया। मुझे यह डर है कि जो उन्होंने यह खुशी ज़ाहिर की है उसका कहीं यह मतलब न हो कि हर बार जब वह बजट पेश करें, उसमें किराया बढ़ा दिया करें, क्योंकि उनकी यह आदत रही है। पहला बजट जो पेश किया उसमें साढ़े दस करोड़ रुपया साल का बढ़ा दिया और पिछले साल छत्तीस

[श्री मोहन लाल गौतम]

करोड़ के नज़दीक बढ़ा दिया। 'On this occasion' इसके मानी यह हैं इस बार नहीं बढ़ाया गया है अगली दफ़ा ज़रूर बढ़ाया जायगा। मैं आपसे अर्ज करूं कि यह ठीक है कि इस हाउस में औपोज़ीशन (opposition) नहीं है और यह भी ठीक है कि हम कांग्रेस के मेम्बरान जितने हैं, वह इस बात की ज़िम्मेदारी लिये हुए हैं कि यह गवर्मेन्ट हमको चलानी है। लेकिन इसके मानी यह नहीं है कि जो कुछ भी चीज़ हमारे सामने आयेगी, हम उसको मंज़ूर करते चले जायंगे मैं आपसे यह अर्ज करूं कि पेश्तर इसके कि मिनिस्टर साहब यह अल्फ़ाज़ कहते, हमें उनको बतलाना चाहिये था कि पिछले साल जो साढ़े दस करोड़ रुपया और पिछले तीन महीने में जो नौ करोड़ रुपया बढ़ाया गया उसका क्या इस्तेमाल उन्होंने किया है और कितना और क्या फ़ायदा उन्होंने जनता को ट्रैविलिंग पब्लिक (travelling public) को पहुंचाया है मैं यह कह सकता हूं हालांकि मैंने अब हायर क्लास (higher class) में सफ़र करना शुरू कर दिया है, लेकिन मुझे पहले का काफी तजुर्बा है जब मैं थर्ड (third) और इन्टरक्लास (Inter class) में चलता था कि मुझे मुसाफ़िरों की तकलीफों का पूरी तरह अहसास है, और उनकी दिक्कतों को मैं खूब अच्छी तरह समझता हूं। मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूं कि इतना किराया तो आपने बढ़ा दिया, लेकिन मुसाफ़िरों को उससे क्या फ़ायदा हुआ जो आपकी रेलवे का इस्तेमाल करते हैं। यह बात ग़लत है कि थर्ड क्लास का किराया नहीं बढ़ाया गया। मैंने अभी इलाहाबाद में बारह तारीख को जब मैं वहां गया था एक टिक्ट देखा जिस पर इलाहाबाद से बम्बई का तीसरे दर्जे का किराया चौदह रुपये दस आना लिखा हुआ था, लेकिन अब बढ़कर २२ रुपये दस आने हो गया। इससे साफ ज़ाहिर है कि करीब पचास फ़ीसदी किराया थर्ड क्लास में बढ़ाया गया। मुझे वह ज़माना याद है जब देहली से बम्बई का इन्टर क्लास का वापिसी किराया इक्कीस रुपया था, जबकि आज वहां का single fare चालीस रुपया छः आना है। यह कहना ग़लत है कि ग़रीबों पर इसका ज़्यादा असर नहीं पड़ता क्योंकि वह दूर का सफ़र नहीं करते। मैं तो अपने प्रान्त की बात कहता हूं कि वहां के लोग हर रोज़ बम्बई जाते आते रहते हैं। आपने अकमोडेशन (accommodation) को नहीं बढ़ाया। रोज़ आदमी गाड़ियों से गिरकर मरते हैं। न डिब्बों में light है और न पाखाने साफ़ हैं और थर्ड क्लास के वेटिंग रूम (waiting room) साफ़ नहीं रहते और सबसे मजे की चीज़ रेलवे टाईमिंग्स (railway timings) हैं जिसका कोई हिसाब नहीं। गाड़ियां चौबीस चौबीस घन्टे लेट चलती हैं और रेल का टाईम टेबल नहीं मिलता। जिससे मालूम नहीं हो सकता कि गाड़ी किस वक्त जायगी।

दूसरी बात यह है कि अब जब आप किराया बढ़ाने के लिये हमारे सामने आये, तो कृपया पहले यह बतलायें कि आपका जो अभी तक टौप हैवी एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन (top heavy administration) चला आता था, उसमें आपने क्या सुधार किया। मैं तो देखता हूं कि वह टौप हैवी एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन (top heavy administration) बढ़ता ही जाता है। इसलिये जब तक आप इसमें सुधार नहीं करते और यह नहीं बतलाते कि आपने उसमें कितना फ़र्क किया, तब तक मेहरबानी करके आप इस हाउस के सामने किराया बढ़ाने वाली बात नहीं कहेंगे।

दूसरी चीज यह है कि जो collieries सरकारी हैं उनमें पच्चीस लाख टन कोयला पैदा होता है। आप पहले नब्बे लाख टन इस्तेमाल करते थे और अब ७० से ७५ लाख इस्तेमाल करेंगे। आप इतनी खानों को और क्यों नहीं खरीद लेते ताकि आपको किफ़ायत हो जाय। आप केटरिंग (catering) की तरफ़ क्यों नहीं ध्यान देते ताकि उधार से भी कुछ रुपया मिल जाय। इसलिये मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि हमारे पास किराया बढ़ाने से पहले आप आमदनी का जो ज़रिया है उस पर ध्यान दें, तब पीछे हमारे पास किराया बढ़ाने के लिये आयें। करपशन (corruption) के बारे में मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि यह ग़लत है कि corruption नहीं है। करपशन (corruption) सिर्फ रेलवे में ही नहीं है सारे डिपार्टमेन्टस (departments) में है पुलिस और डिस्पोजल्स (disposals) में कौन नहीं जानता कि क्या अन्धेर गर्दी होती है सारा हमारा सौशल सिस्टम करप्ट (social system corrupt) हो रहा है और हम और आप सब इस कारपशन (corruption) के लिये ज़िम्मेदार हैं।

इसलिये सोशल सिस्टम (social system) में जो करपशन (corruption) है उसको जब तक root out नहीं करेंगे और उसको नहीं बदलेंगे, तब तक इस इविल (evil) से छुटकारा नहीं होगा॥

(English Translation of the above speech)

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam (U.P. : General): Mr. Speaker, there is not much left for me to say when already about nine or ten Honourable Members have spoken on the subject. I would, therefore, instead of repeating what has been said before, like to draw your attention and the attention of the Honourable Minister particularly towards only one or two points. Now we have attained Freedom, it is no more merely the presenting of the Budget before the House that the Honourable Minister has to do leaving aside the matter whether the House was able to follow the Budget or not, and whether the House had any time to consider it or not, but now the first and the most important task before the House for which it has a great responsibility, is that of building a tradition. We have to set a convention for our future generations.

We received a copy of the Honourable Minister's speech this morning, but we have not yet got the first part of the Administration Report. Similarly many other important papers in this connection have not reached us and yet we are prepared to discuss the Budget here today. For this reason I have to say that we should be very careful about these matters, so that we can build a very healthy tradition for the future. It is very essential now to understand a

[Shri Mohan Lal Gautam]

thing fully before it is placed before the House. It is quite necessary, therefore, that the post-war plans of the Railway are not left to officers only. They should be placed before this Assembly so that they can be discussed and amended if necessary.

As it is not the first Budget before us, I would say that a complete picture should be given of the facts making our policy and our programme quite clear, but that is not the case here. I am, therefore, at a loss to understand if this is a complete Budget. I would request the Honourable Minister not only to place his entire scheme before the House but also to give a chance to the House to discuss it. We have several schemes which the Britishers, our Masters had prepared for us; we will not be discharging our duty if we only adopt these schemes in their entirety without considering whether they are good for us. Our rulers were spending crores of rupees on the purchase of material, which they all bought from English firms, they were in this way helping their own industries. We should now prepare a Co-ordinate plan for journeys over land and rivers and place it before the House. The war is over now and the old system of road-traffic has almost ceased. The buses which were running on petrol during the war time are not serviceable now. It will be a folly on our part if we build our new scheme on that basis. We have seen with our own eyes before the war, and perhaps the Honourable Minister also knows it, that there existed a keen competition between the Railways and the road-traffic at that time, and the Railways were not able to attract sufficient number of passengers. Therefore, before preparing any such scheme we have to take account of the position of the Railways if such an unhealthy competition now takes place.

My second point is that the Railways are a nationalised body, and a state owned industry. I will not argue further whether it is a commercial concern or a utility concern for it has nothing to do with the present discussion; but I must say that its efficiency will be realized only if the old system is not allowed to continue. The irresponsible way in which the higher authorities have been conducting things up to this time cannot last. Some of the Honourable Members who are also members of the Standing Finance Committee or of the Standing Railway Committee have just now complained and have rightly complained, that they did not get sufficient time to consider and discuss the items properly, for the committee sat in all for only about 2 hours, and while there were about 25 items on the agenda, each item was discussed and disposed of in a minute or two after which the Committee adjourned. I must, therefore, say that it is useless to have such advisory or Standing Committees. I feel that unless you have a few representatives of the labour as well on these Committees you cannot understand and realize their difficulties and cannot make the Committee a success. I, therefore, appeal that the old system should now be changed, and everything should be done in a democratic way.

The Honourable Minister stated in his speech that "the only redeeming feature on this occasion is that there would be no increase in the rates and fares this time". This remark suggests that the Honourable Minister is feeling very happy over the fact that no increase in the rates has been suggested now. On the last two occasions, namely—last year, and later on only a few days ago when he presented the Budget, he had increased the rates and fares. I am afraid this may not mean that he is going to increase the fares every time he presents the budget as has been his habit. In his first Budget he had shown an increase of Rs. 10½ crores on this account. Previously it amounted to Rs. 36 crores. I say that the words—"on this occasion" may not mean—that they have not been increased this time but will be increased next time. While it is true that there is no opposition in this House and all the Congress Members have pledged themselves for the smooth running of the Government but I may say that it does not mean that whatever is placed before us will receive our

approval. I feel the Honourable Minister should have, before uttering these words, explained what amenities he provided for the travelling public out of the increase of ten crores of rupees for the last year, and of another nine crores for the last three months. I may add that recently I have started travelling in higher class but I have a good deal of previous experience of the difficulties of a III Class and Inter Class passenger. Would you, therefore, let us know what advantages and amenities for the travelling public you have increased by increasing the rates so much? It is quite wrong that the III Class fares have not been increased, for only recently, on the 12th February, 1948, when I was at Allahabad I saw that the fare printed on the III class ticket for Bombay which was Rs. 14/10/- only was increased to Rs. 22/10/-. This shows that the third class fares have been increased by 50 per cent. I remember the times when the Inter Class fare from Delhi to Bombay was only Rs. 21/- on a return ticket, while today it is Rs. 40/6/- single. It is wrong to say that the increase in the fares does not affect the poor for they do not travel long distances. In this respect I can say about the people of my own province, as I find them going to Bombay very often. Further I may submit that the accommodation in the trains has not been increased, and we see people are dying every day from fall from the trains. Similarly light has not been provided in III Class compartments and the latrines are not kept clean. The III Class Waiting Rooms also present very dirty appearance. Above all are the Railway timings—for the trains are running late by even 24 hours. The time tables are difficult to find and one cannot know when the train would leave. Therefore, before, you come to suggest an increase in the fares you should first let us know what reforms have been introduced by you in your top-heavy administration? I find that it is deteriorating further. If you cannot throw any light on this subject you had better refrained from suggesting any increases in the fares.

Next I have to say that the Government collieries yield about 25 lakh tons of coal. Formerly you were consuming about 90 lakh tons and now you will consume about seventy to seventy-five lakh tons. If that is so why don't you purchase enough collieries to supply all your requirements? This will be economical. I think you should also pay your attention to the catering so that you can make some saving there. I would request that before you suggest any increase in the fares you should pay your attention to your existing sources of income. About the corruption in Railways, I would add that it is there and it cannot be denied. Corruption exists in all Departments and the Railways therefore are no exception to it. The police and the Disposal Departments are too well known in this connection. In fact our entire social system has been corrupted, for which we are all responsible.

Therefore so long as corruption is not rooted out of the social system and it is not changed, this evil will persist.

Mr. Speaker: May I know how many minutes the Honourable Minister would take for replying.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: About 40 minutes at the utmost.

Mr. Speaker: I was first told that he would take about 30 minutes. Probably 40 minutes is the revised estimate.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, the discussion has been gradually extending over a wider and wider field and I think that probably I would need 30 to 40 minutes for replying.

Mr. Speaker: I put it as 40 minutes; on that assumption I would call upon him for reply at 4-20 p.m. So, looking to the number of members who would like to speak, I would request them to curtail their remarks as much as possible and take 10 minutes as the time fixed.

Shri C. Subramaniam (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after hearing the speeches of many Honourable Members I do not know whether to extend my sympathies to the Honourable Minister or to offer him my congratulations. So let me not do either. We have been presented with a surplus budget showing a total surplus of 9.85 crores. The surplus is based upon a figure of 190 crores of earnings. That figure, even according to the Honourable Minister, is purely speculative, because as he himself says, there are several elements of uncertainties which prevent him from making anything like an accurate forecast: and to add to the difficulties of the new-comers to this House, there are no figures available in the papers supplied to them to compare with to find out the real state of affairs of the railway finance. But, Sir, there are two important factors which go to make up this surplus budget. The first thing is the increase in fares which was effected from the 1st of January of this year. That, according to calculations given last November would amount up to 32·2 crores or roughly say 30 crores. There is another feature, namely the overcrowding of passengers. In my view it has got a financial aspect also. The Honourable Minister pointed out that there are more than double the number of passengers who are travelling now but the passenger train capacity is about 14·5 per cent less than what it was in 1938-39. Therefore each train is now carrying more than double the number of passengers which it was carrying originally in 1938-39. Each train is therefore earning double the income for a single journey. So when conditions ease and when you increase the number of trains, it would mean for the same number of passengers, you will have to run more trains and incur more expenses. Therefore ultimately that is going to result in a loss to the railways. What I want to say therefore is that this 9·85 crores surplus is shown partly because of the overcrowding and the financial benefit derived from such overcrowding by the railways. When normal conditions return, more expenses will have to be incurred. If these two elements are not present, I wonder what would be the state of the budget. Therefore it will be necessary to see in what fields economies can be effected, and I hope that when the Railway Enquiry Committee finishes its labours, it will present a formula to the government by which they will be able to effect economies, so that even during normal times the railways may be able to show some profit.

Sir, I wish to make a few remarks about the labour problems referred to by the Honourable Minister. He has said, Sir, that the working hours have increased and that is a happy feature; but there is another feature which is a little distressing, and that is, the amount of standard output has considerably lessened. That shows, Sir, that labour, even though they are receivng all the benefits to which they are entitled to under the Pay Commission's report and other reports, are not turning out the quantity of work which is expected of them. Appeals were made even by Mahatmaji that labour should cooperate in this crisis. Appeals have come out from our Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister that we are passing through a critical period and production should be stepped up. But so far to my knowledge, Sir, I have not seen one labour leader making a public appeal and calling upon labour to increase production; that these are critical times and labour should cooperate with the government in trying to step up production. But there was a pleasant surprise when my Honourable friend Mr. Hariharnath Shastri said that they would give their entire cooperation.....

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: For the information of my Honourable friend, Sir, here is an appeal issued by the President of the Railwaymen's Federation to the people, and if he wants, I can read out some passages.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Any how I have not seen it anywhere so far in the press and if anything, this exception proves the rule. In my opinion, Sir, there has been an unhealthy growth in the labour unions. The labour unions have concentrated their efforts only in putting forward the rights and privileges of labour. At the same time they should have taken care to see that there is discipline among them and the duties which they are expected to do are also impressed upon them. There should be discipline not only in striking work but also in turning out work. In my humble view there is also power politics in labour unions now a fight for leadership. Each party gets hold of a labour union and they go on, piling up the demands and the privileges of labour one upon another, so that one party might beat the rest in this sort of propaganda.

An Honourable Member: What about political parties?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, political parties and labour unions all of them are going in the same strain. But for the limited time available, I can give you a few facts as to what is happening in my own town of Coimbatore where there is a good amount of textile industry and where there are about 50,000 textile labourers. Therefore, Sir, I would appeal to the labour leaders at this critical juncture to appeal to their followers to see that production is stepped up, and especially in the case of a nationalized industry like the railway it is their duty to put forward their best efforts. They might say in the case of a private industry 'After all if we work, who gains? It is only an individual capitalist; a private capitalist'. But here is a state concern. Once you put forward your best effort, and increase your production, it is the state and the community at large which is benefited. Therefore, Sir, I would appeal to the labour leaders, especially as far as railway labour is concerned, and of course in respect of others also, that they should take up a constructive attitude not only in demanding the rights and privileges of labour, but also in impressing upon them the duties which they are expected to perform.

Then, Sir, there is another aspect which I wish to mention before I resume my seat, and that is about ticketless travel. My friend Dr. Deshmukh classified the offenders under three heads as occasionals, habituals, and incurables. For my purpose I would classify them under two heads: one is ticketless travellers who travel without tickets in spite of the authorities: the second category is persons who travel in collusion with the authorities. This second category, Sir, in my view is a war legacy. During war time there was limited transport available and therefore only a limited number of tickets were available at each station but people were anxious to travel and reach their destinations and therefore they adopted the method of getting into trains without tickets and informing the guard or the ticket examiner. They used to say when questioned 'Oh yes, I have informed the ticket examiner' or the railway guard.

An Honourable Member: That was with regard to upper class passengers.

Shri C. Subramaniam: That is not only in regard to passengers who were travelling in upper classes with lower class tickets, but also persons travelling without tickets, in any class, including the third class. I know, Sir, even now this practice continues. How to tackle it? As soon as we want to tackle this ticketless travel problem, the suggestion is made that we should increase the number of Checking Inspectors, that we should have more police and magistrates. But I should like the Honourable Minister to tackle this from a popular point of view. Sir, among the public the realization has not yet come that these Railways are after all a State concern, that it is their own; if there is any loss caused to the Railway, ultimately it goes to the State and ultimately it turns upon the public. If that realization comes, the realization that this Railway property is a national

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asset and their own, and that if there is any loss it will recur to them then, Sir, the public will have the responsibility to see that there is no cheating occurring in the Railways.

This is not a problem which is particularly existent in the Railways alone. In Madras the Provincial Government have taken over the bus transport in the Madras City. There also we are receiving any amount of complaints that there is a lot of ticketless travelling. Therefore unless public consciousness is roused, this cannot be tackled at all especially in an industry which is spread out throughout the country. That is my view. I request the Honourable Minister to consider my suggestion to do propaganda amongst the public to make them realise that this is their own concern.

I would request the Honourable Minister to consider one other thing also, instead of saying that we will increase the Ticket Examiners or the Police. As long as we increase the number of Officials, sooner or later the ring is made bigger; that is all. The number of persons who share the profits becomes bigger. Therefore it cannot be solved merely by increasing the officers. I would suggest authorising non-officials to check tickets when they travel in the trains—not that they should be given Railway passes so that they can go about checking. Take one area and there authorise at least 100 or 200 persons who would have occasion to travel in the train to make it a point, and impress upon them that it is a national duty, to check ticketless travel, and find out who are all travelling without ticket. That would make ticketless travelling a hazardous thing because they cannot depend upon the Railway officials who are well-known to them, who would be very easily identified. If it is possible for any non-official travelling in the train to do checking, it would be very helpful. So, if we want to tackle this problem, it could be done, in my view, by only associating the public and the non-officials in checking these things. With these few words I resume my seat.

گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر : صاحب صدر ! مسافر کی ریل سے کیا نسبت ہے یہ تو آپ جانتے ہی ہیں اسلئے دو چار منٹ زیادہ بھی لگ جائیں تو آپ معاف فرمائیں گے کہی جا چکی باتوں کو میں ہاؤس کے سامنے دہرانہ نہیں چاہتا لیکن کچھ ضروری باتیں ہیں جنکی طرف میں ہاؤس کا دھیان دلانا ضروری سمجھتا ہوں ہمارے منسٹر صاحب نے اِس دفعہ فائدہ کا اندازہ لگا کر اپنا بجٹ پیش کیا ہے جہاں تک اعداد شمار کا تعلق ہے آپ نے بڑی قابلیت کے ساتھ انہیں پیش کرنے کی کوشش کی ہے یعنی پچھلے بجٹ کے ۸ کروڑ ۱۵ لاکھ کے گھاٹے کو جن میں سے اُنہوں نے ۵ کروڑ ۵۸ لاکھ خرچ گھٹا کر پورا کیا ہے اور ۲ کروڑ ۴۵ لاکھ کی رقم ریزرو فنڈ میں سے لی گئی ہے تو یہ کمی جو پوری کیگئی ہے اس سے ہم خوش نہیں ہو سکتے کیونکہ وہ خرچ تو ملتوی کئے گئے ہیں جنکا بوجھ نئے سال پر باقی ہے ریزرو فنڈ اور بیٹر مینٹ فنڈ ریلوے کو ریزشن کو قائم رکھنے کیلئے ضروری ہیں - سنہ ۱۹۴۱ع سے پہلے ریلوے ان فنڈز کیلئے کوئی رقم نہیں بچا سکی جنگ کے دوران میں ریلوے کو کچھ نفع ہوا تو ان فنڈز میں کچھ رقم جمع کی گئی اب جبکہ مشکل وقت ابھی آنے والے ہیں - ان فنڈز کو ۲۴ نا نہیں چاہئے اور جنرل ریونیو کا بوجھ ان فنڈز پر نہیں ڈالنا چاہئے اس وقت

نہیں ہ ا سوا ، بھی ، ہیں ، جہانتک نئی ریلیں بنانیکا تعلق ہے ہمارے منسٹر صاحب نے جو رپورٹ پیش کی ہے اس میں ۳ کروڑ ۹۹ لاکھ روپیہ نئی ریلوں پر خرچ کیا جانا ہے اسمیں تھوڑا سا حصہ East Punjab کو بھی دیا گیا ہے یہ ایک تھوڑی سی تسلی کی بات ہے کہ نئی بٹالہ ، جانے والی روپڑ تالپور ریلوے کے ذرایع گورو گوبند سنگھ جی کے آنند پور صاحب کو بھی ریلوے سے ملا دیا گیا ہے یہ ایک چھوٹی سی لائن ہے جو یہاں کی ضرورت کو پورا کافی نہیں - ایسٹ پنجاب میں بہت دھیان دینے کی ضرورت ہے میں ملیٹری کے طریقہ کار سے زیادہ واقف نہیں ہوں مگر اس نقطہ خیال سے اگر ہم غور کریں گے تو پتہ لگے گا کہ اُس وقت کتنی ضرورت ہے پاکستان اور بٹوارہ کی وجہ سے جو اضلاع آپس میں بکھر گئے ہیں اُنکو بذریعہ ریل ملانا چاہئے - مثال کے طور پر لاہور قصور - مکلوڈ گنج تینوں بہت بھاری جنکشن تھے ان تینوں کے پاکستان میں چلے جانے کی وجہ سے ایک تو براستہ قصور امرتسر اور فیروزپور کا تعلق ٹوٹ گیا یہ بڑے ہی سوچنے کی بات ہے - موجودہ مشرقی پنجاب کی تمام لائنیں لاہور آنکر مل جاتی تھیں - مشرقی پنجاب میں کوئی اتنا بڑا مرکز نہیں رہا جو سب علاقوں کو ملا دے - مکلوڈ گنج کا پاکستان میں چلے جانے سے یہ اثر ہوا ہے کہ فیروزپور سے ایک لائن براستہ فاضلکا ابوہر بھٹنڈا سے براستہ ابوہر مکلوڈ گنج سے ہوکر سمہ سٹہ کے جنکشن پر لاہور - کراچی مین لائن سے جا ملتی تھیں یہ تعلق اب نہیں رہا - فاضلکا ابوہر چھوٹا سا کوئی ۲۰ یا ۲۵ میل کا ٹکڑا ہے اسے بذریعہ ریلوے ملانے کی وجہ سے ہمارے بہت سے تجارتی و حفاظتی کام ہو سکتے ہیں اسکے علاوہ اگر آپ غور کریں گے تو پتہ لگے گا کہ امرتسر سے پٹھان کوٹ تک ایک ہی لائن پاکستان بارڈر کے ساتھ ساتھ جاتی ہے اور ہمارے اندرونی علاقوں میں اسکے سوا اور کوئی parallel لائن نہیں ہے اگر خدانخواستہ امرتسر ہاتھ سے نکل جائے تو ہمارے پاس کوئی ذریعہ پٹھانکوٹ ، کانگڑہ ، کشمیر وغیرہ سے contact قائم رکھنے کا نہیں رہتا ، اُن جگہوں کو جالندھر سے ملانا ضروری ہے یہ کمی مکیریاں کو پٹھانکوٹ کے ساتھ بذریعہ ریل ملانے سے دور ہو سکتی ہے مثلاً سے قادیاں تک لائن جاتی ہے - قادیاں کو بھی مکیریاں سے ملایا جا سکتا ہے یہ کچھ مثالیں میں نے آپکے سامنے پیش کی ہیں - جیسا کہ میں نے پہلے بھی ذکر کر دیا تھا - کہ میں کوئی ملٹری کا ماہر نہیں ہوں ہاں ملٹری والوں سے تھوڑا بہت سنبندہ رہتا ہے جنرل موہن سنگھ جو آزاد ہند فوج کے بانی ہیں اور کرنل گوربخش سنگھ ڈھلون جنکی شہرت اُس مقدمہ I.N.A. کیوجہ سے ہوئی انکے دل میں اپنے دیش کی حفاظت کا بڑا خیال ہے وہ اگرچہ سرکاری طور پر ذمہ وار نہیں ہیں مگر

[گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر]

ہندوستان کے ڈیفنس کے متعلق وہ بہت کچھ سوچتے رہتے ہیں ویسے اگرچہ مارشل یا نان مارشل کا کوئی سوال اب نہیں رہا مگر پھر بھی مارشل قوم سے تعلق ہونے کی وجہ سے تھوڑا بہت میں بھی جانتا ہوں کہ اس جگہ ملٹری خیال سے ریلوے لائن بنانا کتنا ضروری ہے -

اسکے مقابلے میں اب عرض کرتا ہوں کہ پاکستان کے پاس کتنی parallel lines ہیں - راولپنڈی سے لیکر سکھر تک آپکو ایک سیدھی لائن ملیگی - اسکے علاوہ اور کتنی parallel lines ہیں مثال کے طور پر ایک لائن قصور سے پاکپتن کے راستہ بہاول پور اور پھر سکھر - دوسری مکلوڈ گنج روڈ سے بہاول پور اور پھر آگے سکھر - تیسری بہاول پور لودھراں خانیوال شور کوٹ روڈ سے ہوکر لاہور چوتھی شورکوٹ روڈ سے لائلپور ہوتی ہوئی وزیرآباد تک - پانچویں شورکوٹ روڈ سے سرگودھا ہوتی ہوئی لالہ موسیٰ تک اور اسی طرح ایک لائن نارووال چک امرو ہوتی ہوئی سیالکوٹ - میری رائے ہے کہ مشرقی پنجاب میں بھی جہاں جہاں alternative routes آسانی سے بن سکیں مختلف ریلوے لائنوں کو ملادر بنا دینے چاہیں اس طرح پہاڑ کے دامن میں جو آخری ریلوے اسٹیشن ہیں اُنکو ملا کر ایک حفاظتی لائن تیار کی جا سکتی ہے میرے یہ واضح کرنے سے مطلب یہ نہیں ہے کہ میں ہاؤس کے سامنے کوئی خطرہ پیش کر رہا ہوں مگر ایک بات بہت ضروری میں کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ لڑائی شروع کرنا جتنا گناہ ہے اُس سے بڑھکر لڑائی کے لئے تیار نہ رہنا گناہ ہے لہذا اس خیال سے آنریبل منسٹر صاحب کو اُن ضرورتوں کی طرف دھیان دینا چاہئے میرے دوست مسٹر ویاس نے ریاستوں کا ذکر آپکے سامنے کیا ہے اُنکے بارے میں یہ واضح کرنا چاہتا ہوں راجپوتانہ کی ریاستیں بیکانیر اور جودھپور اسطرف بھٹنڈا اور دہلی سے تو ملی ہوئی ہیں - لیکن اُنکے آخری اسٹیشن آپس میں ملانے ضروری ہیں تاکہ ہمارے سندھ والے بارڈر کے ساتھ ایک حفاظتی لائن تیار ہو سکے بیکانیر ریلوے کے کلیت اسٹیشن کو جودھپور کے پھلوڑی اسٹیشن سے ملا دیا جائے پھلوڑی سے جیسلمیر تک ریلوے لائن بناکر جیسلمیر کو سندھ بارڈر کے کسی بھی مناسب اسٹیشن سے جودھپور ریلوے سے ملا دیا جائے اور اسیطرح راجپوتانہ کے بارڈر کی ریلوے لائن کو کاٹھیاوار کے بارڈر کی ریلوے لائن سے ملا دیا جائے اس طرح سے ہمارا مغربی فرنٹ فوجی نقطہ نگاہ سے بہت مضبوط ہو جاویگا تجارت میں کافی ترقی ہوگی اور لوگوں کو آمدورفت کی سہولیت ہوجاویگی -

یہ ایک دوسری مثال ہے جو آپکے سامنے رکھی گئی ہے اور میں یہ سمجھتا ہوں کہ یہ ایک بہت ہی ضروری بات ہے جسکی طرف دھیان دینا از حد ضروری ہے اور خاص کر یہ ملک کے defence کے نقطہ خیال

سے ضروری ہے باقی جو دوسری باتیں ہیں وہ بہت حد تک میرے دوست مسٹر صاحبان نے آپ کے سامنے بیان کر دی ہیں - اب جو بات میں کہنا چاہتا ہوں وہ یہ ہے کہ یہ بالکل صاف ہے کہ ریلوے کو تھرڈ کلاس کے passengers سے کتنا فائدہ ہے - تھرڈ کلاس نے passengers سے ریلوے کو اُتنا فائدہ ہے جتنا کہ ہائی کلاس passengers سے نہیں ہے - سابقہ بجٹ میں ۶۲ کروڑ ۹۳ لاکھ تھرڈ کلاس کے passengers سے ریلوے فنڈ میں گئے ہیں اور صرف ۱۶ کروڑ ۶۰ لاکھ روپیہ ہائی کلاس passengers سے - اس لئے یہ ضروری ہو جاتا ہے کہ تھرڈ کلاس کے passengers کی سہولیت کا خاص خیال رکھا جائے -

ایک بات اور جو میں آنریبل منسٹر کے گوش گذار کرنا چاہتا ہوں وہ یہ ہے کہ چھوٹی عمر میں جب ہم سکول جاتے تھے تو ہمیں پڑھایا جاتا تھا - "انگریزی راج کی برکتیں" ان برکتوں میں ایک برکت ریل بھی کہی جاتی تھی - مگر آپ سب جانتے ہیں کہ یہ ہمارے لئے ایک برکت تھی یا انگریزوں کے لئے - مگر یہ بات ٹھیک ہے کہ اسوقت انگریزی حکومت نے اپنے نقطہ نگاہ سے کچھ قاعدے بنائے تھے جنکو جاری رکھنا اب ٹھیک نہیں مثلاً مال ٹرانسپورٹ کے متعلق یہ حال ہے کہ اگر ایک بندرگاہ سے مال اُٹھایا جاتا ہے اور اگر اُسکو کسی اندرونی سٹیشن پر بیچ دینا ہو تو کرایہ کم لگتا ہے لیکن اگر وہ بندرگاہ کے علاوہ کسی ساتھ والے دوسرے سٹیشن پر بھیجا جائے تو تقریباً تین گنا کرایہ لگتا ہے آپکو اسکی طرف اب فوری توجہ دینی چاہئے - یہ طریقہ برٹش گورنمنٹ نے برطانیہ کا مال سستا بیچنے کے لئے اختیار کیا تھا لیکن اب اس طریقہ کو اُٹھا دینا چاہیئے -

اسکے علاوہ ایک اور بہت ہی ضروری بات ہے جسکی طرف میں آنریبل منسٹر کی توجہ دلانا چاہتا ہوں - وہ یہ ہے کہ اسوقت ہمارے دیش میں جو ریفوجیز کی problem ہے وہ بہت acute ہو چکی ہے یعنی ہزار تسلی دینے سے بھی ہم ان کو پوری تسلی نہیں دے سکتے ہیں - ان کے لئے ریلوے ڈیپارٹمنٹ ایک چھوٹی سی بات کر سکتا ہے وہ یہ کہ ریلوے stations پر جو stall مسلمانوں کے پاس تھے وہ اب اُن کے چلے جانے سے خالی ہوگئے ہیں - لیکن مجھے پتہ چلا ہے کہ ان دوکانوں کو دوبارہ آباد کرنے کے لئے کوئی یتن نہیں کیا جا رہا ہے بلکہ جس سٹیشن پر دو stall تھے یعنی ایک ہندو کا اور ایک مسلمان کا وہاں پر مسلمانوں کے چلے جانے سے جو دوکان خالی ہو گئے ہیں اُس کے بارے میں یوں ہے کہ جو اب وہاں پر ہندو یا سکھ دوکاندار باقی رہ گئے ہیں اُنکی یہی کوشش ہے کہ جو دوسرا stall خالی ہو گیا ہے اُسکو وہ اپنے

[گیانی گرمکھ سنگھ مسافر]

قبضہ میں کرکے اپنے کسی آدمی کو بٹھائیں اور اس مقصد کو حاصل کرنے کے لئے وہ متعلقہ افسران کو کچھ دے دلا کر اپنا کام چلا رہے ہیں - اس بارے میں میں نہ چاہتا ہوں ایسی بات نہ ہونے دی جائے اور جتنے بھی stalls خالی ہو گئے ہیں وہ refugees کو دیئے جائیں تاکہ وہ ایک تو اپنا پیٹ بھرنے کے لئے کماتے رہیں اور دوسرے ہمارے ملک میں امن قائم رہے -

اس کے علاوہ ریلوے stations پر جو refreshment rooms ہیں اُنکی طرف بھی ضروری طور پر خاص دھیان دینے کی ضرورت ہے ان refreshment rooms کی حالت بہت ہی ناتسلی بخش ہے مثال کے طور پر میں عرض کرونگا کہ امرتسر کے ریلوے سٹیشن پر جو refreshment روم ہے وہاں پر پندرہ آنے میں روٹی ملتی ہے اور برعکس اس کے دوسرے stations پر صرف دس آنے میں ملتی ہے - چائے کی ایک پیالی امرتسر سٹیشن پر دو آنے کو ملتی ہے اور یہی چائے کی پیالی دوسرے سٹیشنوں پر ایک آنہ میں ملتی ہے اسلئے میری یہ گزارش ہے کہ اسبات کی طرف ضرور دھیان دینا چاہئے کہ اتنا فرق کیوں ہے امرتسر زیادہ قیمت ہونے کی کوئی خاص وجہ نہیں ہے لیکن پھر بھی آپ دیکھتے ہیں کہ دوسرے سٹیشنوں کے مقابلہ میں زیادہ قیمت وصول کی جاتی ہے -

یہ دو چار باتیں تھیں جنکی طرف میں نے آنریبل منسٹر کا دھیان دلانے کی کوشش کی ہے جو پہلی بات میں نے defence کے نقطہ خیال سے پیش کی ہے اُسکی طرف میں دوبارہ توجہ دلاتے ہوئے یہ گزارش کرونگا کہ ریلوے ڈیپارٹمنٹ کو اس طرف ضروری طور پر اپنی توجہ دینی چاہئے -

(English translation of the above speech)

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar (East Punjab: Sikh): Mr. Speaker, you know very well what connection a passenger has with the Railways. Therefore you will excuse me if I take a few minutes more. I do not want to repeat what has already been said. But there are some important matters to which I consider it necessary to draw the attention of the House. This time our Honourable Minister has presented a surplus Budget. So far as the figures are concerned he has tried to present them with great ability. He has met the total deficit of rupees eight crores and 15 lacs in our last Budget by reducing the expenditure to the extent of rupees five crores and fifty eight lacs and by drawing rupees two crores and forty five lacs from the reserve fund. The way in which this deficit has been made up cannot at all please us, because the burden of the postponed expenditure is to fall in the next (financial) year. The reserve and betterment funds are essential to maintain the position of Railways. Before 1941 Railways could not save anything for these funds. During the war the Railways had some profit and some amount was deposited in these funds. Now that the difficult times are ahead we should neither deplete these funds nor throw the burden of General Revenue on them. There are other questions also. So far as the construction of new railways lines is concerned.

the report presented by our Honourable Minister shows that rupees three crores and sixty nine lacs are to be spent on them. A small fraction out of it has been apportioned to East Punjab as well. It is somewhat gratifying that under the new Ropar-Talpore railway project, Anandpore Sahib (Sahib Guru Gobind Singh Ji's birth place) has been connected by railway. This is a small line insufficient to give complete satisfaction. The East Punjab should be paid a great attention. I am not very well versed in military affairs. But if we consider the matter from this angle we will come to know how essential it is to connect by means of railway those areas which are separated from one another as a result of partition and Pakistan. For instance it is a matter for serious consideration that Lahore, Kasur and Mcleodganj, the three big railway Junctions being now in Pakistan, the direct link between Amritsar and Ferozepur *via* Kasur has broken. All the railway lines of the present East Punjab used to meet at Lahore No such big Junction is left in the East Punjab which can join all areas. The effect of Mcleoadganj being now in Pakistan is that the connection of the lines, one of which from Ferozepur *via* Fazilka, and the other from Bhatinda *via* Abohar, passing through Mcleoadganj which met, Lahore-Karachi main line at Samasata Junction, no longer remains. Fazilka and Abohar are a tract of twenty to twenty five miles. We can accomplish many commercial and defence objects by joining them by rail. Besides this if you consider this matter you will realise that only one railway line runs between Amritsar and Pathankot along the Pakistan border and excepting this there is no other parallel line in our interior area. God forbid if we lose Amritsar, then no means of retaining contact between Pathankot, Kangra, Kashmir etc. remain with us. It is essential to connect these places with Jullundar. This defect can be removed by connecting Mukrian with Pathankot railway. A railway line goes from Batalla to Qadian which also can be connected with Mukrian. I have laid these few examples before you.

As said before I am no military expert. But I have some connection with military men General Mohan Singh the founder of Azad Hind Fauj and General Gurbuksh Singh Dhilon who acquired fame due to I.N.A. trials, are keenly alive to the defence problem of their country. Even though they are not officially responsible yet they think a lot about the defence of India. Although there is no distinction between martial and non martial races now, yet because of belonging to a martial race I know a little how imperative it is to construct railway lines from the military point of view. As a contrast to it I shall now submit as to how many parallel lines exist in Pakistan. From Rawalpindi to Sukkur you will find a through line. Beside this there are many other parallel lines. One runs from Kasur to Bahawalpore *via* Pakpatan and then on to Sukkur; other from Macleodganj to Bahawalpore and onwards to Sukkur, another *via* Bahawalpore, Lodhran, Khannewal. Shorekot road to Lahore fourth from Shorekot road to Wazirabad *via* Lyallpur; fifth from Shorekot road to Lalamusa *via* Sargodha and another *via* Narowal, Chak Amreo to Sialkot. In my opinion in the East Punjab wherever easily possible, alternative routes should be constructed by joining different railway lines. Likewise a defence line can be constructed by connecting the terminal railway stations along the mountain border By this explanation I do not mean to present any danger before the House. But there is one important thing which I want to say it is a greater sin to be unprepared for a war than to initiate a war. Therefore keeping this in view the Honourable Minister should pay his attention to these important facts. My friend Mr. Vyas has made a mention about the states before you. In that connection I want to make it clear that the States of Bikaner and Jodhpore are connected with Bhatinda and Delhi but their terminal stations should also be connected with each other so that a defence line is established along our Sindh border. Kaliat station on Bikaner railways should be connected with Philodi station on Jodhpore railways. By constructing a railway line from Pukaran to Jaisalmer, the latter should be connected with some suitable station on Jodhpore railways on the Sindh border. Similarly the

[Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar]

Rajputana border railway line should be linked up with the Kathiawar border railway line. In this way our Western Frontier will be strengthened from military point of view. There will be prosperity in trade and people will have transport facilities.

This is another instance which has been put before you. In my opinion it is a very important matter which should be considered very seriously. It is particularly important from the point of country's defence. Other matters have been stated before you to a great extent by my Honourable friends. Now what I want to say is that it is quite plain as to how much profit the railway derive from the III Class passengers. Railways earn greater profit from the third class passengers than from the higher class passengers. In our last Budget rupees sixty two crores and ninety three lacs were contributed to the railway fund from the income from third class passenger fares and only sixteen crores and sixty lacs from the high class passenger fares. Therefore it becomes imperative that particular attention should be paid to the comfort of third class passengers.

Another matter that I want to bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister is that in our childhood when we attended our schools there we were taught about the "Blessings of the British Rule." Railways was counted as one of blessings. All of you know whether it was a blessing for us or for the British. It is a fact that the British Government framed rules purely from a selfish point of view. It is no longer expedient to retain them. For instance such is the condition of goods transport that rates charged on commodities loaded and despatched from a port to an interior station are about three times lower than the rates from any other nearby station than a port. Immediate attention should be paid to it. This was a device adopted by the British Government to sell cheap their own goods. But this procedure should end now.

Besides this there is one more matter to which I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister. The refugee problem of our country has become very acute. The best of our efforts do not satisfy them. Railway Department can do something for them. The Railway Stalls occupied by Muslims have fallen vacant due to their migration. I am told that no effort is being made to run them. On the other hand if there were two stalls on a Railway station, one occupied by a Hindu, and the other by a Muslim, the remaining Hindu or Sikh stall holders are trying to occupy the stalls fallen vacant due to Muslim migration. They want to occupy them and run them through some one of their own. To accomplish this object they tip the officers concerned and manage to have their way. I want that this should not be allowed to happen. All the vacant stalls should be given to the refugees, so that on the one hand they may earn their livelihood and on the other there may be peace in our country.

It is also essential to pay attention to the refreshment rooms on railway stations. Their condition is most unsatisfactory. For example I submit that you get a meal for annas fifteen at Amritsar Railway Station Refreshment Room and for annas ten only at other stations. You get a cup of tea at Amritsar Railway Station for two annas and the same cup you get for an anna only at other railway stations. Therefore I submit that the fact of such a great disparity in prices should be seriously considered. There is no special cause for higher price at Amritsar, yet you find that higher prices are charged there than on other stations.

I have tried to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to these few facts. While drawing attention over again to the first matter which I stated from the defence point of view, I submit that the Railway Department must pay its attention to it.

[*At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen).*]

Shri Nandkishore Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I rise rather at the fag end of the day to make a few observations on the Railway Budget, but in doing so I suffer under a difficulty at the very outset as to whether the Railway Administration, over which our esteemed friend Dr. Matthai presides, should have my congratulation or condemnation. This House has already had the benefit of two Budgets from the Honourable Minister, the interim Budget on the 15th of November 1947 and again on the last Monday. On both these occasions, the Honourable Minister gave to the House a clear picture of the abnormal difficulties and disturbing circumstances through which the country was passing and is still passing. I must say that on both these occasions, I heard with interest and attention his speech and also read it with a good deal of care. But let me state it frankly that beyond appreciating the lucidity and the illuminating nature of his exposition, I found hardly anything therein to enthuse upon.

4 p.m.

Sir, the Railways have been in our country for almost a century or so and during the bulk of this long period, the railways have been run both as a commercial undertaking and a public utility concern. That business was however mainly, if not wholly, the business of the Britishers and the public utility was also mainly, if not exclusively, the utility of the public of Britain. The Railways not only paid fat dividends to their British directors and shareholders but also helped the British manufacturers and industrialists in having India as an easy market for their merchandise. There was no improvement in the situation even after the Railways were taken over by the State. The state itself being in the hands of our alien masters, the railways, though controlled, owned and managed by the State were not expected to be run in the interest of the children of the soil. With the attainment of our freedom on the 15th of August, we had all hoped that an entirely new chapter would be opened up in the administration of the Railways and that this biggest national industry of Free India would be a great contributing factor towards the economic well-being of our people. It was the general belief that the common man, the third-class passenger, who, though contributing the bulk of the railway earnings, was thrown into the background by the old regime, would be able to get a fair deal and that almost the first act of Free India's Railway administration would be the reduction of the third-class passenger fare and at least some immediate provision for amenities for railway travel. The two Budgets that the Honourable Minister has presented to Free India's National Parliament has given me a rude shock and disappointment in this respect. Instead of relief to the common man, things have gone the other way. In the general increase of passenger fares, the third-class passengers have not been spared. As for amenities for third-class passengers, the less said the better. The third class railway compartments can be described as 'air-tight godowns full of human materials.' Let me not, however, be unfair and uncharitable to our friend, the Railway Minister. The difficulties through which it has been his unfortunate lot to pilot the department entitles him to our utmost sympathy. The aftermath of the war and the unique and unprecedented civil disturbances that came in the wake of the partition of the country, the movement of the refugee population from one Dominion to another and above all, the implementation of the recommendations of the Pay Commission, undoubtedly made it inevitable on the part of the Railway Administration to look to the augmentation of the Railway revenue. But I beg to submit most humbly and respectfully that in the general scheme of increase of passenger fares, the unfortunate third-class passengers could have been easily spared with no very serious consequence to the finances of the Railway. The psychological reaction of this new taxation coming so soon after Independence in the minds of our masses has been too terrible to be contemplated with equanimity. As a matter of fact, the common man feels that he has been let down by those who so long professed to be their liberators and there are also elements in our social life who are out to make

[Shri Nandkishore Das]

capital of the situation. Some justification for the increase of third-class passenger fares could have been sought to be made out if along with that increase facilities for railway travel and more amenities had been provided, but the change, if any, appears to have been rather in the reverse direction. The Railway Administration have been more solicitous about amenities to their staff than to the public. In this connection, I beg respectfully to invite the attention of Honourable Members to the tables attached to the explanatory Memorandum on the Railway Budget. On pages 20 and 21 there in are figures given for amenities provided for the staff and on pages 22 and 23 there are figures of amenities for the public. The total figure for amenities for the staff comes to Rs. 5,81,68,000, whereas the total figure for amenities for the public comes to Rs. 2,82,69,000. We do not grudge the railway servants getting a substantial increment to their salary and we have been agitating all these years for a better and happier life for a class of our people who are in charge of such an essential branch of service to the public. In the context of the enormous profits made by the company-owned railways and in the face of the fat salaries enjoyed by the superior services, the demands of labour for better wages and better conditions of service had an irresistible appeal to the people. The situation has now however changed. The railways are now a property of the nation and the policy governing different aspects of Railway administration must be so integrated as to conduce to the all-round improvement of the country. By all means pay handsome and attractive wages to labour but why rob Paul to pay Peter? Why tax the poor third class passengers who do not travel by railways unless they are forced to do so? Let me not be misunderstood. I am for full implementation of the recommendations of the Pay Commission; but even at the risk of being dubbed an enemy of railway labour I am dead against the supply of food materials to railway labour at fabulously concessional rates. It is my personal experience, and it may be the experience of my friends who hail from the countryside, that these food materials find their way invariably into the black market.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, the discussion has ranged as usual over a very wide field of matters and as usual I find it a little difficult to pick out the points which are most important and which call for immediate reply. There is one distinguishing feature of the general discussion today and that is that a very large portion of the discussion was confined to matters of a general character raising questions—if I may say so—of fundamental importance. There was, for example, the very important question that was raised, whether the kind of parliamentary machinery that we have set up for the scrutiny of railway matters is adequate for the purpose that we have in mind. I am ready straightaway to confess that I am myself not by any means satisfied that the kind of machinery that we have set up meets the very important purpose that we have in view. When, for example, my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam spoke of the rather meagre way in which the Standing Finance Committee for Railways in the very nature of the circumstances is compelled to deal with the important matters that come before it, I found myself very much in sympathy with him. But then the House must remember that there are certain inherent difficulties in the situation. I should personally like that the financial matters relating to the working of railways should be subjected to a much closer and more thorough scrutiny by a representative committee of this House. The Standing Finance Committee for Railways has been set up precisely for that purpose; but the Committee cannot in the course of a two-hour sitting, at meetings which are not held more than about four or five times in the year, discharge its duties satisfactorily and to the real advantage of the country. Therefore to my mind the problem that the whole thing raises is a deep underlying fundamental problem, namely, if as an independent country and as a Parliament representing an independent country we here are to do our duty by the people of

the country in such important matters as railways administration, the legislature in the first instance must be prepared to devote a great deal more time than it has done in the past to the work of legislation. And therefore it necessarily follows that the Committees of the legislature should also be prepared to give a great deal more time to public work. I should personally like, for example, that in regard to the Railway Standing Finance Committee, particularly the meetings that are held in connection with budgetary matters, each sitting must last at least a fortnight; otherwise I do not think we should be able to carry the scrutiny of the Finance Committee to the limits really required in view of the importance of these matters.

That is one consideration that arises. The other consideration, as far as I can understand, is this. Suppose you have longer sittings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways as I think there should be. In that case the responsible officials of the Railway Ministry, such as the Chief Commissioner and the Financial Commissioner for Railways ought to be in a position to spare very much more time from their day to day normal administrative duties for the purpose of attending these meetings and help the members of the Standing Finance Committee with regard to detailed matters that come before them. It seems to me, therefore, that if we are going to widen and expand the machinery it would involve necessarily the question also of an expansion of the Secretariat part of our parliamentary machinery.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are you quite sure that they are sufficiently worked today?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Having had some experience I am in a position to answer that question, at any rate to my own satisfaction. In the course of a rather long and chequered life I have sampled life at many points and have had experience of working many different types of institutions; I have been an industrialist, a Government official, and also a Minister. And I am prepared to say this that as far as the top officials in the Railway Board are concerned they have got quite as much work as you could expect them reasonably to do.

There is another point which is also a point of fundamental importance. If you are going to submit matters relating to the working and administration of railways to a much more prolonged and much more thorough scrutiny by Parliament and the Committees of Parliament, it necessarily means that very much fuller material must be placed before them. That also is a suggestion which has my full sympathy. But then the problem is this, as I think Honourable Members who have a correct understanding of the statistical aspect of administrative problems in this country will realise. One of the weakest points about our administrative structure and set-up for many long years has been the poor statistical equipment with which our administrative machinery has been provided; at the best of times our statistical equipment has been very poor, entirely inadequate. On top of that we have had the partition and we have had also the disturbances arising from the partition. I was concerned with the railway administration all through the time when the arrangements consequent on the partition of the railways were being worked out and I know the strain that it imposed upon the administrative staff of the Railway Ministry,—a concern, mind you, with a capitalisation of 800 crores, a railway with the dimensions of the Indian railways, working for a long period of years over an undivided unified country. And it was being asked to make in the course of two months all the arrangements required for this partition. That was a problem which put an enormous amount of strain on the railway administration. Necessarily therefore, during that period it was impossible for them, and I accept full responsibility for the statement I am making, to have given attention to a preparation in sufficient detail of the materials required in connection with the budgetary

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statements which had to be put up almost within a couple of months after the completion of the partition arrangements. If you want really an acceptable and useful body of statistical materials, they must be of a kind which would give proper scope for effective and useful comparisons. Now the partition has simply cut the ground from under our whole set-up and structure of our statistics with the result that you are now in a position where all the statistical material of the past cannot automatically be completed with the statistical material that you apply now. The basis of comparison has been cut into in such a serious manner that unless you are prepared to set up a whole organization in order to work up a whole body of comparable materials, that is to say, work up the existing material to the post partition basis, you would not be able to get the kind of data necessary. I can give you control figures today of a kind but if you are going to set about this matter seriously you must be able to produce control figures which should have an intrinsic validity. I think it is very important that this matter should be examined against a wider background than railway administration. We cannot go on as an independent country: we cannot go on with the development of the various schemes of economic construction that we have in view, unless we are going to give a great deal more attention to the building up of a proper statistical establishment in the country. As far as the railways are concerned, I have been impressed right from the beginning of my connection with the Railway Ministry that the Railway Ministry has not the material on which a proper judgment of administrative matters can be formed, and it is my intention to have a senior officer of the Railway Ministry to go abroad and examine the way in which statistical material is compiled in other countries which have made more progress in this matter than we have. I think that is one of the essential lines on which reform is called for. I am prepared to assist members of the Standing Finance Committee to the best extent possible for me in the circumstances, but my point is that if you want all the statistical material to be of the most useful kind, on which really satisfactory judgment can be based then you must probe the problem much more deeply than Mr. Santhanam has done.

Now the other point of fundamental character and equally important is the question of the standard of economy and efficiency which has been attained by the railways. There also I am free to admit that the standard of efficiency that we have achieved is far from being the sort of standard that ought to prevail on our railways. My Honourable friend, Pandit Kunzru, put forward the test of operating ratios, that is to say, the working expenses that we incur in relation to our total earnings, that does provide a basis. But then if you go on to say that in order to judge the standard of efficiency which has been attained by Indian railways you take the operating ratio in this country and compare it with the operating ratio in other countries, then you are going on to some debatable and rather uncertain ground.

I will tell you why. Take for example the present position and you want to examine in comparison with other countries whether the position—the standard of efficiency which prevails at present on the railways as compared with the pre-war conditions represents the progress or deterioration. Well, we are up against various difficult factors there. The operating ratio is a compound of two factors. First of all you have this question of the increase in wages, in the price of material, the general rise in the cost of living index and so on. What you have in the way of increase in working expenses is the direct result of that. Now you take the increase of working expenses in this country and compare it with the increase of working expenses in a country like the United Kingdom. First of all, you are up against this: by a very stringent system of control, by a very liberal system of food subsidies they have been able to keep prices down. In this country we had a very lax system of control to start with. For some years we had no control and we have never tried the system

of relief in the way of food subsidies. Therefore, our prices have gone up to a much higher extent. Therefore, if you are going to institute a fair comparison between this country and the United Kingdom, this factor must be allowed for.

The operating ratio is really the establishment of a proper proportion between your working expenses and your total earnings. Your total earnings are based upon, to some extent, the price that you charge for your products: in other words, your fares and freights. Because of the increase in fares and freights which I proposed last November, I went in great detail into the question and the extent to which fares and freights have been increased over the railway systems in about a dozen of the leading countries of the world.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What about the conditions of travel there?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If you take the most important countries of the world today, the exent to which the post-war fares and freights represent an increase over pre-war fares and freights, India stands amongst the lowest. Now the question that my Honourable friend raised, whether we are offering services of a different quality, that is a different matter. I am really on the statistical question which Pandit Kunzru raised.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: May I correct my Honourable friend. I was not making a comparison between the operating ratio here and the operating ratio in other countries. In fact, if I were to make such a comparison, I would not be disturbed by the rise in the ratio during the last four years. But the question I raised was whether we were getting an adequate return for this increased expenditure.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If my Honourable friend is raising the question of the operating ratio as a test at all of efficiency in the railways, if you are going to ask whether we are getting corresponding service, it is another way of describing the question of efficiency, and you cannot determine the standard of efficiency which has been reached in this country unless you are prepared to relate it to standards of efficiency in other countries, you will reach nowhere otherwise.

In any case I am very glad to think that this whole question of the operating ratio and the standard of efficiency which that implies, is going to be examined by my Honourable friend, Pandit Kunzru, and I shall await his conclusions with the greatest interest.

Then, Sir, the usual question of the turn-round of wagons was raised. Well, I do not want to speak about this question at any length today because it is one of those matters of railway working which we have been discussing *ad nauseam*. But there is one general point I would like to make for the consideration of the House and it is this: that this question of wagon turn-round if you analyse it into all its component elements, ultimately you find that problem boils down to this. It is a question of the over-use to which railway equipment was put during the war, combined with the under-maintenance to which they were compelled to submit. It is a question on the one hand of the extraordinary degree of depreciation, wear and tear to which the whole of your fixed assets have been exposed. On the other hand, it is a question of the manner in which while this wear and tear were going on you were not in a position, for various reasons, to do even the minimum degree of maintenance. It is really as a result of this factor that there has been a poor turn-round.

I have been charged with being the primary cause of the low standard of production in the country today. "Transport is the bottleneck": that is what you find in every newspaper in the country. I have got so used to it that I sometimes regard myself as a living, walking, breathing kind of bottleneck. I should like for the benefit of the House to make a little suggestion which I think has a certain degree of force in it. I believe if you read any current textbook on the question of railway transport you will find that railway transport depends

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very largely upon production. In my budget speech I gave the House a few figures as regards the amount of rolling stock which is likely to be delivered during the course of next year. I said that there were about 4,000 general service wagons which are scheduled to be delivered by the end of 1948 and i went on to say that considering the position of labour, the position of materials in this country, it might not be possible for me to get not more than 50 per cent. of the deliveries which are scheduled to take place. What does that mean? If I were in a position to get from sources of production in the country all the materials that I want, then I should cease to be the bottle-neck that I am. In other words, the question that you are faced with is: is not production really the bottle-neck, so far as transport is concerned? If the production system in the country were in a position to function normally (mark you, I am not blaming for a moment those who are responsible for production, the industrialists of the country: I am not blaming them at all, because they are up against the same difficulties) but this business of putting the whole responsibility upon transport, as distinct from production is really a misleading way of stating the position. It is a vicious circle and if you want to cut into it you have got to handle both things at the same time.

I think my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru, asked what has happened with regard to the division of capital liabilities as between us and Pakistan. The principle that has now been agreed to is that as regards commercial lines our capital liabilities would be based on the principle of book value, not earning capacity. And as regards the strategic railways the House will remember that the representatives of Pakistan wanted that much the greater part of the liabilities in respect of strategic railways must be borne by us. The arrangement that has been arrived at is that we accept 50 per cent of the liability.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: How much does it come to?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: You have got the figures in the Explanatory Memorandum.

Then the question has been raised as to what is going to happen with regard to postwar development of railways, of which so much used to be said before the end of the war. I am afraid the position is that we are not able at present to proceed very far with the postwar development plans which were drawn up just before the close of the war. As the House is aware, all big plans of development involve three factors. They involve the factor of finance, they involve materials or real resources and thirdly they involve personnel. With regard to finance we are not by any means in the happy position in which we expected to be by Government in the closing years of the war. The estimates that were then made regarding the availability of surplus revenue have already been proved false. I am one of those who think (my ideas about finance have been for sometime rather unorthodox) that if there is really a satisfactory scheme of development to be undertaken in the country finance should not be a limiting factor. You can raise the finace if you want it. Finance is really the servant as far as the economic life of the country is concerned and not its master. But there is one limiting factor which you cannot get over and that is the factor of materials, real resources. That is what we are up against as far as the problem of railway development is concerned. Today in view of the tremendous scarcity in respect of essential materials like steel, cement, timber, etc., if railways go in for an extensive plan of development of the kind we had formulated during the war, you can depend upon it that the problem of inflation would become twice as acute as it is today. That is to say, against growing scarcity if you are going to introduce a growing demand, you are going to intensify the process. As the result of a very careful examination of this whole position in regard to development, we have come to the conclusion that for the immediate future at any rate our objective should be to consolidate our position. We have been subject to influences of such a seriously disturbing character that for the present I think we should aim at strengthening, stabilising and consolidating our position and what capital expenditure we are thinking of in the immediate future is expenditure which has that kind of consolidation as its objective.

I have been asked various questions as to the implementation of the Pay Commission's Recommendations. I do not want to go into that question, because there are outstanding questions arising from the Pay Commission's report which are still being discussed and considered and I would rather that the matter be left at that stage as far as this House is concerned.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): What about the officers and members of the Board?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is really a part of the Government's general decisions on the whole question. It does not concern the railway administration particularly. We are bound in this matter by the decisions of the Government of India as a whole.

I was asked a question about the problem of regrouping. We have an officer now on special duty who is actively concerned with formulating a scheme for the regrouping of the railways which are closely bound up with the partition arrangements. I have not yet received the report of that special officer. When that report is received, then I should certainly consider the suggestion which has been made that that report should be placed before the Railway Enquiry Committee and I should also consider whether other interests should not also be consulted.

I think my Honourable friend Mr. Shiva Rao asked me whether anything has been done with regard to contract labour in collieries. We have taken up that question and I am hopeful of making an immediate beginning on that question. The reform of that system, I agree with him, is something that cannot be put off.

A great deal has been said by various Honourable Members of the statement that I made with regard to the railway staff and the tribute I paid to it. I still stand by it. I claim in spite of many things that have been said in the course of the discussion that barring a small minority we have a very fine body of men. The House will remember in my budget speech I said that I personally felt hurt at the way in which allegations were being directed against railway men. One of my reasons for saying that is that in response to public demand, which has been expressed uninterruptedly for a long period of years, we have now been able almost entirely to Indianise the Railway Board and we are trying increasingly in key posts in the Railway administration to appoint Indian officers and I personally feel not merely hurt, I sometimes feel rather indignant that we should have so little faith in the men of our own country. Do give them a chance they are aware of these problems and are capable of meeting them. There are some of them who are so anxious to make good under the new conditions and these statements that are made have such a depressing effect on them. We are at the end of one kind of war and we are in the thick of another kind of war, a war which in some respects is really more serious than the war which closed in 1945. Suppose we were in the midst of a war what would be said of the representatives of the country who spoke of the Army in the terms in which the railway staff was being described. It goes further than that. I have been severely criticized in certain quarters for forcing the pace of Indianisation. There are critics of Government, both here and abroad, who are waiting to see that this process of Indianisation has failed. It seems to me a matter of the greatest importance that these Indian officers who have come to responsible positions should be helped to the largest possible extent by representa-

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tives of the country in this House. They need it. They deserve it. I am aware of the doings of a minority, of a few among the railway organisation who are black sheep. It is one of the problems to which we are going to give very close and very detailed attention. It is not such an easy matter as all that. I do not know if Honourable Members are in the habit of reading journals and newspapers in other countries which deal with similar problems there. Just the other day I came across articles in the "London Times" dealing with the question of corruption on the railways. They and we are passing through a period of scarcity, of high prices, and temptation of every kind is therefore offered to those who are conveying goods—essential consumer goods—which are scarce. We in this country are so much in the habit of looking at things entirely from our own isolated point of view that we do not see the comparative background of problems. These problems are not by any means problems which are confined to this country. And if we have to face this problem in a larger measure than elsewhere it is possibly because of the very hard days through which we have had to pass in previous years. It is a bad tradition. We have not been responsible for the government of this country and we have been simply watching others doing the job. The result is that the sense of responsibility that is called for in these matters has not been sufficiently awakened in us. It will take a little time before we reach that stage. But I think we ought to be patient.

Sir, I have been asked about tourist traffic. It is a matter which we have considered, but for the present I think in point of urgency it does not come anywhere near the other problems which call for our attention. In the first place as far as American tourist traffic is concerned, you are not going to attract it unless, along with railway facilities, you are able to provide first class hotel facilities which are lacking in our country today. Unless these things are also handled I do not think today you will make any great progress in that direction.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What happened to the third class tourist carriages which were built for marriages and other purposes?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They are far too few. Sir, I shall be very brief. I was asked about the question of manufacture of locomotives. Well, at present, as the House knows, the position is the Tata Locomotive Works have made some progress but for various reasons not the degree of progress that we had expected. They have been able to deliver boilers, but I think it will take a longer time before they reach the stage of manufacturing locomotives. So far as the government factory is concerned, we had intended to set it up at Kanchrapara but after the partition we decided to move it further up, to a place near Asansol. Practically all the arrangements regarding that are complete. The orders for the machinery have been placed. The site has been selected. We have made arrangements also for putting up the buildings. And we are sending very shortly an engineer to Continental countries in Europe in order to select technical personnel from the Continent. I believe it would be possible for us to get first-class technical personnel if we canvass the possibility of getting them from Europe.

A number of questions were raised of a purely local character. I am not in a position to give answers offhand to these local problems, but I have made a note of the more important of these. All that I can say at present is that I shall give the best possible consideration to them.

The last point which was raised, I think by the very last speaker, was the question of amenities for passengers. It is perfectly true and it is no use hiding the fact that we have done little in the way of providing amenities for

the lowest class of passengers. We have been giving promises all through the years, but we have not implemented our promises. I am hoping that it will be possible in the near future to make a little beginning with an honest implementation of these undertakings. It is a problem the importance of which I am quite as keenly aware of as the Honourable Member who spoke. As far as I am concerned I am going to see that the money we have in the Betterment Fund is devoted primarily to the question of relieving the extraordinarily uncomfortable conditions under which third class passengers now travel.

That I think, Sir, more or less covers the discussion raised today.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 20th February 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Friday, 20th February 1948.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS

ACHEIVEMENTS OF COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

354. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a comprehensive review of the achievements of the Council of Agricultural Research; and

(b) whether any steps are contemplated for its effective functioning, as the clearing house of information relating to agriculture and animal husbandry and expounding its publicity activities?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). The Governing Body of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at its meeting held in January, 1948 have approved of the appointment of a Research Reorganisation Committee to review the work so far done by the Council and suggest its future lines of work. The Committee will shortly be constituted.

The proposal for establishing an Information Bureau under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is under active consideration. This Bureau, when established, will be responsible for undertaking *inter alia* the collection and collation of technical information and knowledge, for answering enquiries pertaining to agricultural and animal husbandry matters and for disseminating results of researches which are capable of practical application in the farmers' fields. The proposed Bureau will also provide satisfactory facilities for training agricultural graduates and officers from the various Provinces and States, and also the centrally administered areas, in the art of propaganda and dissemination of practical knowledge with a view to help in narrowing down the existing gulf between research and its application in actual practice.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if the terms of reference to the proposed Committee are to be confined only to research work of this Council or it is also to include the financial side of its operations as whenever the Council finds it is not convenient, it seems to be in the habit of pushing away its responsibility for research to the Agricultural Department?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It will consider also the financial aspect of the problem.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: May I know what are the achievements of these researches within the past few years?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That exactly is a matter which will be reviewed.

Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: Will this Committee have any members of this House also or will it consist only of experts?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will consider that suggestion.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if he is aware that the last report of the Committee that was issued for the year 1944-45 which was recently received in the Library and no further report of the Committee's activities has been available to the public or this House in the intervening period between 1944-45 and now. Will the Honourable Minister ensure that the efficiency of the work of this Council of Agricultural Research will also form part of the terms of reference to the Committee?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That will be done.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: What is the method by which the results of these researches are brought to the actual cultivators?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is another question on that point. I will give a full reply when that question is reached.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if his attention has been drawn to the recommendations of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, especially in regard to the reorganisation of the Council of Agricultural Research? Will he take this report into consideration in framing the terms of reference to the Committee?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That also will be done.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST CONTRACTOR OF HINDU RESTAURANTS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

355. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that several complaints were lodged with the Traffic and General Managers of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway by members of the United Provinces Legislature and other important persons against the present contractor, who supplies Hindu cooked food at Lucknow Junction and its suburban stations on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway and that no reply has been given and no action taken on the said complaints by these authorities? If so, why?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am informed that no specific complaints have been made to the General and Traffic Managers of the Oudh Tirhut Railway by members of the United Provinces Legislature or other important persons against the present contractor who supplies Hindu cooked food at Lucknow Junction. Requests have, however, been made for his replacement and suggestions have been advanced as to who might replace him. The Central Advisory Council for Railways last year recommended and the Railway Board accepted their recommendation that contractors who have rendered satisfactory service should not be replaced unless their removal is justified by proved complaints against their service. Consequently the O.T. Railway have not been able to consider the requests made to them. If however specific complaints are made which admit of investigation, I will ask the Railway authorities to examine them.

PROGRESS IN CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF GANNAVARAM AERODROME

†**356. *Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made since the last session of the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) in preparing the Gannavaram aerodrome for servicing airliners;

(b) whether it is proposed to route any of the Airways Companies *via* Gannavaram in flights between Calcutta and Madras and Delhi-Hyderabad and Madras;

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

(c) whether any Airways Companies have asked for permission to use Gannavaram aerodrome as one of their stopping places during flights between Delhi and Madras, Calcutta and Madras and Delhi-Hyderabad and Madras and if so, which; and

(d) whether any of those Companies have been given permission to have a service from Delhi to Madras *via* Jubbalpore and Gannavaram and if so, when this service will be started?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Applications have been received by the Air Transport Licensing Board from Jupiter Airways Limited, Airways (India) Limited and Indian Overseas Airlines Limited for licences to operate air services between Calcutta and Madras with Gannavaram as one of the scheduled halts. Jupiter Airways Limited has also applied for a licence to operate on the route Delhi to Madras with Gannavaram as one of the scheduled halts.

(d) Airways (India) Limited have been granted a provisional licence to operate on the Calcutta-Madras route *via* Gannavaram. Regular halts at Gannavaram are however not being made as the aerodrome at Gannavaram is not yet properly equipped for the purpose.

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF PAPER IN INDIA

†**357. *Seth Govinddas:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of paper manufactured in this country in a normal year and its normal annual consumption; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to make arrangements for training people in pulp and paper manufacture and to provide the finances for starting such industries in this country with a view to make India self-sufficient in pulp and paper?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The estimated production of paper (excluding boards) during 1946 was 1,06,000 tons and during 1947, 80,000 tons. The estimated consumption now is 2,00,000 tons.

(b) Arrangements for imparting training in Pulp and Paper Industry already exist at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. In addition, scholarships are awarded periodically to suitable candidates to get technical training abroad.

Government do not consider it necessary to finance Paper and Pulp Industry, as there is no sign of dearth of private capital for schemes connected with the expansion of this industry.

AMALGAMATION OF RAILWAY ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT DEPARTMENTS AND AUDIT OF FOREIGN TRAFFIC EARNINGS

358. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the reason or reasons for not amalgamating Railway Accounts and Audit Departments; and

(b) the reasons for suspending the audit of foreign traffic earnings, by the Chief Auditor, Railway Clearing Accounts?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Railway Accounts and Audit were separated in 1929 for reasons which will be found stated at length in the reports of various expert committees, *e.g.*, the Acworth Committee, the Dickinson Committee and the Wedgwood Committee, and in the memorandum placed before the Railway Standing Finance Committee on 7th September 1928 all of which are available in the Library of the House. The scheme had the blessings of the Auditor-General and the subject was debated fully on the floor of the old Legislative Assembly. It was also dealt with in the report of the

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

Railway Retrenchment Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee appointed in 1931 who turned down the suggestion to revert to the old system in spite of economies expected from such a course, because in their view "a system under which the Accounts staff worked as part of the Railway organization with an independent Audit establishment under an outside agency was much the better system". Recently the re-amalgamation of Railway Audit and Accounts under the Auditor-General was again suggested by the Secretariat Reorganisation Committee presided over by Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai so as to economise in superior personnel. The matter was examined in detail by a committee including the Financial Commissioner of Railways and the Deputy Auditor-General, who came to the unanimous conclusion that such re-amalgamation was not desirable and no economies in superior man power could result therefrom. Government have accepted this conclusion.

(b) The audit of foreign traffic earnings by the Chief Auditor of Railway Clearing Accounts Office has been suspended by the Auditor-General with the exception of the apportionment of traffic between Indian Government Railways and the Railways which are not the property of the Government of India, because he considered such suspension justified, now that all the principal Railways are under State management.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know in view of the fact that there is a difference of views between the recommendations of the Reorganisation Secretariat Committee and the committee appointed by the Honourable Minister, whether he will consider the advisability of appointing an independent committee of this House to go into the recommendations of both and find out as to which should be accepted?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, the last Committee which went into this question was a committee which was appointed by the Cabinet, and it was the Cabinet also which appointed the Secretariat Reorganisation Committee.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know why the matter was not brought before the Standing Finance Committee?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There was no Standing Finance Committee then.

Shri K. Santhanam: Will he bring it up now?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, the matter has been decided for the time being.

POSTS AND GRADES OF SUPERIOR SERVICE OFFICERS IN RAILWAY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

359. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the posts of Superior Service Officers and the grades of each, sanctioned for the Railway Accounts Department, since the separation of Accounts from Audit on Indian Railways; and

(b) whether the posts of Financial Commissioner of Railways, Director of Accounts and Director of Finance in the Railway Board are also included in the posts referred to in part (a) above?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Superior Service posts sanctioned permanently for the Railway Accounts Department on the 1st April

1929 when the Accounts were separated from Audit were, excluding the Burma Railways, as follows:

Senior Administrative posts	5
Junior Administrative posts	7
Senior Accounts Officers	11
Junior Accounts Officers (including deputation reserve) ...	21
Total ...	44

After all company-owned and company-managed railways have been brought under State management, and after the partition, the permanent sanctioned strength at present is as follows:

Senior Administrative posts	8
Junior Administrative posts	14
Senior Accounts Officers	25
Junior Accounts Officers	26
Total ...	73

(b) Except the post of Director of Accounts, the other posts are not included in the cadre of the Railway Accounts Department.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the grade of the senior Superior Service officer and the junior service officer?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am afraid I cannot give the figures offhand, but I will give the Honourable Member the information he wants.

†360. *

IMPROVEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL METHODS AND FUNDS TO BIHAR PROVINCE FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES.

361. *Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what steps the Government of India are taking at present to improve agricultural methods;

(b) whether any allotment of funds has been made to the Province of Bihar for purposes of irrigation for the year 1947-48; and

(c) the names of all agricultural machinery (including all machinery for irrigation purposes) available for the development of agriculture?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Government of India are taking steps to improve agricultural methods in two ways; first by initiating several schemes of research on these methods through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and second by advising on and actually subsidizing various schemes for improved agricultural methods, such as better facilities for irrigation, introduction of new types of agricultural implements, distribution of improved seeds and manures to the cultivators.

(b) Irrigation schemes of the Bihar Government involving a total expenditure of about 34 lakhs during 1947-48 have been approved by the Government of India in principle so as to enable the work to be proceeded with. The actual share of subsidy to be paid by the Central Government will, however, be decided after the receipt of further details from the Provincial Government.

†Postponed to be answered on the 24th February, 1948.

(c) The Government of India have the following agricultural machinery available with them for the development of agriculture in India: (i) Heavy tractors for the reclamation of land, and (ii) Boring rigs for the construction of tube-wells.

Apart from these machines available with the Government of India, Provincial Governments and the public have gone in for a large number of lighter cultivation tractors, improved ploughs and pumps for irrigation purposes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it true that a large number of tractors and bulldozers have been purchased by the Government of India and that they are all going to be kept here in Delhi for purposes of demonstration, instead of being distributed between different Provinces for demonstration and other work there?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No. That is not a fact. Quite a large number of tractors are now at work in the U.P. and will be going also to C.P.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that a very large station with a number of these tractors and bulldozers is being built up here in Delhi and that there is not much scope for adequate demonstration work in this area alone?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think what the Honourable Member seems to be referring to is a large number of tractors which have recently been purchased and which are undergoing repairs and so are not yet in use.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Are there any terms on which the Central Government give contributions to the Provinces, I mean subsidies to the Provinces?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: With regard to subsidies, the position is that the Government of India undertakes to contribute 50 per cent. of the unremunerative portion of the expenditure.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government financing any animal nutrition experimental stations?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: How does it arise out of this question?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: For the feeding of cattle?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will require notice of that.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Is it one of the terms of the Central Government that contribution to cultivators will be given by the Provincial Governments on the condition that the cultivators would share half of the expenditure themselves?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will require notice of that.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Have the Government acquired any tractors and bulldozers from the Disposals Department?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Have all of them been acquired?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I could not say offhand.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: What are the achievements of the Agricultural Institute, Pusa?

Mr. Speaker: The question is vague; the Honourable Member may put a specific question for eliciting information.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am prepared to give the fullest information if a specific question is put next time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that Government do not have sufficient machinery needed for putting up these tube-wells, and if so what steps are Government taking to acquire the necessary machinery or import it?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is true that Government have not adequate machinery, looking to the task that has to be done. Every effort will be made to acquire the necessary machinery—much depends on the funds at the disposal of the Government of India for this purpose.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: Are the Government thinking of manufacturing agricultural machinery like tractors and bulldozers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Not at present.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: In the future?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Certianly, in the future.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Arising out of the answer to part (b) of the Question, were such allotments made even in previous years?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will require notice regarding previous year's figures.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Have any steps been taken for any machinery that is useful for agricultural purposes, which is with the Disposals Department, to be made available to the agriculturists?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say whether every effort has been made—every effort will be made.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Do the Government give any concession to the agriculturists for obtaining the agricultural machinery?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: If there is any definite proposal, Government will very sympathetically consider it.

STOCK OF SUGAR WITH DEALERS IN VARIOUS TOWNS OF AJMER-MERWARA

362. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state what was the stock of sugar with different wholesale and retail dealers in the city of Ajmer and the towns of Beawar, Nasirabad, Pushkar, Vijaynagar and Kekri in the province of Ajmer-Merwara on the 7th December 1947?

(b) Were these stocks imported by the wholesale dealers themselves on their own account, or for and on behalf of the Government?

(c) Who was responsible for the profit or loss in these transactions—Government or the dealer concerned?

(d) What orders, if any, were passed by the District Rationing Officer or the Provincial Government for the disposal of the stocks of sugar at the various places referred to in part (a) above and on what dates were such orders passed?

(e) Did the District Rationing Officer or the Provincial Government take possession of the stock of sugar in any of these places? If so, on what dates, in what manner and under what provision of law?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Total stocks with wholesalers and retailers on 7th December, 1947 as reported by the Ajmer-Merwara administration were as follows:

Ajmer	3,019 bags.
Beawar	1,000 bags.
Nasirabad	Nil.
Pushkar and Vijayanagar	Negligible.
Kekri	400 bags.

(b) Stocks were imported by wholesale dealers against quotas allotted to the administration by the Sugar Controller for India.

(c) They were to be sold at the price fixed by the local administration on the basis of cost and rates prescribed by the Sugar Controller for India. Under these arrangements the dealers were entitled to get the commission fixed by the Sugar Controller. The allowances to the dealers purported to cover their expenses and profit, but within the allowance the responsibility for profit or loss lay with the dealer.

(d) Stocks at all these places were requisitioned by the District Rationing Officer before decontrol of sugar under Chief Commissioner's Notification No. R/X, dated the 6th December, 1947 issued under the Sugar and Sugar Products Control Order, 1946. The requisitioned stocks except a small quantity of 50 bags which was kept in reserve for emergency purposes were distributed in the rationed towns of Ajmer, Beawar, Nasirabad, Pushkar and Vijayanagar on ration cards on a *per capita* basis as under:

	December	January
Ajmer	4 seers	2 seers
Beawar	6 ,,	..
Nasirabad	4 ,, 12 ch.	..
Pushkar, Vijayanagar	2 ,,	1 seer

In the case of rural areas, the distribution was made on a *per capita* basis on the recommendation of the local village Panchayat under the supervision of the Sub-Divisional Officer.

(e) Possession of stocks was taken by the District Rationing Officer under the above-mentioned Notification in Ajmer and Beawar on the 6th and 7th December respectively.

QUANTITY OF SUGAR RECEIVED IN VARIOUS TOWNS OF AJMER-MERWARA IN DECEMBER, 1947

363. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state what quantity of sugar was received in the city of Ajmer and the towns of Beawar, Nasirabad, Pushkar, Vijaynagar and Kekri in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara in respect of the quotas allotted to various dealers subsequent to 7th December, 1947 and who took delivery of such sugar and how it was disposed of?

(b) Were any orders for the distribution of sugar passed by the District Rationing Officer or the Provincial Government on 8th December, 1947 and on subsequent dates in respect of the stocks of sugar with the various dealers in the province? If so, to what effect and under what provision of law or legal authority were such orders passed?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Quantities of sugar received subsequent to 7th December, 1947, by Ajmer and Beawar dealers were 2,186 and 1,094 bags respectively. No sugar was received at the remaining places mentioned. Deliveries were taken by the District Rationing Officer at Beawar and by the Sugar Merchants Association under Government Orders at Ajmer.

These stocks along with other requisitioned stocks except a small quantity of 50 bags which was kept in reserve for emergency purposes, were distributed in the rationed towns of Ajmer, Beawar, Nasirabad, Pushkar and Vijayanagar on ration cards on a *per capita* basis as under:

	December	January
Ajmer	4 seers	2seers
Beawar	6 seers	...
Nasirabad	4 seers 12 ch.	...
Pushkar and Vijayanagar	2 seers	1 seer

In the case of rural areas, the distribution was made on a *per capita* basis on the recommendation of the local village Panchayat under the supervision of the Sub-Divisional Officer.

(b) Orders regarding distribution of sugar passed on or subsequent to 8th December 1947 by the District Rationing Officer were in respect of stocks the ownership of which had already passed on to the Local Administration under Chief Commissioner's Notification No. R/X,? dated the 6th December, 1947 issued under the Sugar and Sugar Products Control Order, 1946, and no provision of law or legal authority was necessary to dispose them of.

GOVERNMET'S PLANS FOR LARGE SCALE CULTIVATION WITH TRACTORS

364. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how far the plans of Government to start large scale cultivation using tractors have matured;

(b) how the plots selected for cultivation will be irrigated;

(c) on what basis these lands are given to the cultivators who have been or are to be settled on the land for the purpose of cultivation; and

(d) whether Government propose to give accommodation to these settlers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The progress made in various Provinces in mechanical cultivation is indicated below:

U.P.—The Government of the United Provinces have prepared a scheme for reclaiming 1,50,000 acres of waste land during the next five years. Operations have started for reclaiming 20,000 acres in Meerut Khaddar and 50,000 acres in Nainital Tarai. It is expected that about 10,000 acres will be reclaimed in each of these two areas by the end of May 1948. Arrangements are also being made for follow up cultivation in these areas after the lands have been reclaimed. Tractor operations are also expected to begin shortly in Jhansi for eradication of kans on about 10,000 acres.

C.P. and Berar.—The Government of the C.P. and Berar have a five-year plan for reclaiming 50,000 acres of kans infested lands. The Provincial Government have completed preliminary arrangements for ploughing ten thousand acres of this land in the Saugor district and a unit of 30 tractors has left Delhi for operations in that area. The Provincial Government are also considering the question of purchasing some tractors for ploughing fallow land of the cultivators on demand.

Bihar.—The Government of Bihar have a plan to reclaim about 40,000 acres in Saharsa District. Of this 6,600 acres have already been reclaimed by manual labour. The Provincial Government are also examining the possibilities of reclaiming large tracts of land in South Bihar and Chota Nagpur.

Orissa.—The Government of Orissa have a five year plan for reclaiming 50,000 acres. A unit of the Central Tractor Organisation is expected to reach the site near Sikonda by October 1948 for operations.

The Governments of the West Bengal and Bombay have a five-year plan for reclaiming 50,000 acres and 30,000 acres respectively.

(b) The colonisation areas in the Khadar and Tarai possess sufficient moisture. Artificial irrigation is, therefore, not an important pre-requisite to the successful fruition of development programme in these areas. It is, however, proposed to instal tube-wells to provide water whenever required as an insurance against draught.

(c) Reclaimed land in the Khadar and the Tarai will be allotted to colonists on a 10 acre unit basis on an annual rent of Rs. 6 or Rs. 7 per acre. The cultivators will possess hereditary rights but will not be allowed to sub-let or alienate

their holdings. They will have to conform to the rules and regulations of the Co-operative Societies in the matter of cultivation and management.

(d) Government contemplate building houses for settlers in Khaddar and Tarai areas and will recover the cost in 20 to 25 years. There is no question of giving accommodation in Jhansi as no new settlers are involved at present.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made to give preference to the landless agricultural workers to be settled on such lands?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That would be primarily a concern of the Provincial Governments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But what is the present position? Is there any information in the possession of the Government of India, or is the Government of India giving any advice to the Provincial Governments to see that preference is given to the landless agricultural workers to be settled on such lands?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: So far as I am aware, there is no specific proposal before the Government of India, but Government of India will consider the suggestion.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government propose to initiate any legislation to prevent the fragmentation of holdings?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, That would be a subject for the Provinces.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the position, Sir, in regard to these reclaimed lands? Are they going to be cultivated jointly and co-operatively or are they going to be distributed as between these various settlers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Except probably in U.P., there is no definite scheme so far as I am aware. It is probably being given to individuals for individual cultivation except in the U.P.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of suggesting to the Provincial Governments that co-operative undertakings should be developed instead of these individual holdings again?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government will consider that suggestion.

گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر : کیا گورنمنٹ ویسٹ پنجاب کے رفیوجیز کسانوں کو کوئی زمین کواوپریٹو لائنوں پر مشرقی پنجاب سے باہر دینے کو تیار ہے ؟

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Are the Government prepared to grant any piece of land on co-operative lines outside the East Punjab to the West Punjab Refugee peasants?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Does this arise, Sir, from the present question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. This will be a provincial matter, as the Honourable Minister has already said.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: May I know what is the contribution of the Central Government towards the cost of the reclamation of the land done by the Provinces?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The contribution is the use of the tractors!

FALLING PRICES OF *Gur* AND ITS EFFECT ON AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY OF INDIA

365. *Ch. Ranbir Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of *Gur* has gone down from Rs. 24 to Rs. 8 per maund; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take steps to check the fall in the price of *Gur*, so that the agricultural economy of the country may not be disturbed?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Honourable Member has not mentioned any particular area and the period to which the fall in price relates. Presumably he has the situation in U.P. in mind, where *gur* prices have fallen substantially since decontrol of sugar and *gur* In September 1947 the market price of *gur* in U.P. was about Rs. 20 per maund. On the eve of decontrol, *i.e.*, on 1st December, 1947, against the controlled price of Rs. 13-4-0 per maund the market price was Rs. 15-12-0 at Muzaffarnagar, while the price reported for the week ending 6th February, 1948 for the same market was Rs. 8-8-0 to Rs. 9-4-0 per maund. Prices of *gur* in other surplus areas, namely, Madras and Kolhapur, have also fallen, though not to such a large extent,—in Madras from Rs. 15 to Rs. 10 per maund and in Bombay from Rs. 20 to Rs. 15 per maund.

(b) The cause of the great fall in the price of *gur* in the U.P. is the lack of transport. Government are trying their best to find more transport. Government are anxious that the interests of the producers of *gur* should be safeguarded. Short of re-imposing control, government will consider the suitability of any other measures which may be suggested ot help the *gur* industry.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister state whether the Government will also bear in mind the trade union workers—I mean the industrial workers—while safeguarding the interests of the agricultural peasants, and see that the price does not go up?

Some Honourable Members: Oh! Industrial workers?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, if the Honourable Minister is aware of the fact that in U.P., particularly in the Meerut district, the present level of price does not permit the kisans to manufacture *gur;* that if due care is not taken to arrange for transport facilities; and that if the same prices continue, the sugar cane crop will dry up and it will not be useful for *gur* manufacturing and the result will be a terrible waste?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government will take every possible step to prevent that.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has there been any response from the Transport Ministry?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We are trying our best.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as the Transport Ministry is concerned, the position in regard to *gur* is that like all foodstuffs, movements on private account have been raised from Class IV to Class II and if there are any cases where on grounds of emergency it is necessary to provide special assistance, I am prepared to make arrangements for lifting specific quotas of *gur* to Class I.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact, Sir, that there are 20 lakhs of maunds of *gur* lying in Meerut district awaiting transport?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That may be a fact, but as has been stated just now, every effort is being made to speed up their transport.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has this particular fact been brought to the notice of the Transport Ministry?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The whole problem of U.P. is before the Transport Ministry.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Is it not a fact, Sir, that *gur* is being sold at Rs. 8 in Rohtak district in East Punjab?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That may be so.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Did not Government give an assurance, Sir, some time ago that the prices of agricultural commodities will not be allowed to fall?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question is vague. It need not be answered.

I might here invite the attention of Honourable Members to the rules within which questions are permitted. I find there is an attempt to argue certain matters; to give information; and to make suggestions for action. Now, all questions containing arguments or suggestions for action are not permissible under the Rules, but my difficulty in respect of supplementary questions is this. By the time the Honourable Member has put his question—and I do not know what he is going to ask unless he has put his question—and I find he has put a question which is not admissible, Honourable Minister answer them without waiting for my ruling as to whether the question is admissible or not.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: So much the better, Sir!

Mr. Speaker: No, it is not better. It is bad. Therefore, I am inviting the attention of Honourable Members to the fact that questions are really intended for the purpose of getting information and not for advancing arguments or making suggestions for action to Ministers.

The Honourable Members may, therefore, concentrate on getting information rather than making suggestions. Suggestions could be made individually afterwards. I would request Honourable Members to bear in mind this rule.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: But this is taking matters too seriously, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, we have to take matters seriously.

SCHEMES OF DEEP SEA-FISHING FROM TRAVANCORE, MADRAS AND ORISSA

366. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have received any schemes on the subject of deep sea-fishing from Travancore, Madras and Orissa?

(b) How many Government-owned factories for fish-curing for industrial purposes exist at present and where are they located?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

The Central Government have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 4,93,000 for deep sea-fishing schemes of the Madras Government.

A grant of Rs. 1,82,200 has been made to the Government of Travancore for development of the fisheries of that State. The fisheries development schemes include a scheme for purchase of a Purse Seiner boat of 65 tons and other auxiliary vessels.

The Government of Orissa have asked the Central Government to base one of their fishing vessels at Chandbali port. The question of carrying out fishing operations in the Bay of Bengal and around Orissa is being actively pursued. A fishing vessel will be based at a suitable port in Orissa as soon as it can be obtained from abroad.

(b) Apparently the Honourable Member's question refers to "Fish Curing" yards which are maintained by Provincial Governments for Salting and drying

surplus catches of fish in various centres. According to the available information there are 155 fish curing yards:

West Coast (Madras and Southern)—		
16 in Ratnagiri District.		
14 in North Canara District.		
22 in South Canara District.		
34 in Malabar District.		
2 Cochin.		
12 Travancore.		
102	102.	
East Coast; Madras ... Orissa	49.	53
TOTAL		155

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether Government have any plans at all to tap this source of wealth?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They have definite schemes before them. They are trying their best to get the requisite number of trawlers and train men to work these trawlers.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether anyone has been given powers for fishing in deep sea?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I require notice of that question.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORIES IN INDIA

367. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total number of Meteorological Observatories in India?

(b) What is the particular subject studied in these observatories?

(c) Are any of them fitted with Precision Chronometers?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, how is time correctly fixed for astronomical observations?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) and (b). There are different types of Observatories maintained by the India Meteorological Department. I lay on the table of the House a statement giving details of these Observatories and the work carried out by them.

(c) and (d). All these Observatories are provided with accurate Chronometers and precision clocks. The Meteorological Department makes accurate determination of time in the observatories by astronomical method, as well as, by reception of radio time-signals issued from Greenwich.

Statement

(1) Number of first class surface observatories which take continuous records of all meteorological elements such as pressure, temperature, humidity, wind velocity, wind direction, rainfall, etc.		14
(2) Number of second class observatories.	These take observations of ...	202
Number of third class observatories.	meteorological elements ...	10
Number of fourth class observatories.	three times or two times ...	8
Number of fifth class observatories.	or once daily. ...	16
Number of sixth class observatories.	...	5
(3) Pilot balloon observatories which take observations of the velocity and direction of wind in the upper air.		48
(4) Radio-sonde observatories which make daily sounding of the atmosphere to find out the pressure, temperature and humidity at different levels in the upper atmosphere.		12

In addition, there are about 2,500 raingauge stations maintained mainly by Provincial Governments and Indian States.

(5) There is one astronomical observatory at Kodaikanal, which makes continuous observations of the phenomena on the surface of the sun.

(6) There is one magnetic observatory at Bombay which maintains continuous records of the magnetic variations of the earth.

(7) There are four seismological observatories at Bombay, Kadaikanal, Delhi and Calcutta, which are equipped ot provide information regarding earthquakes wherever they may occur.

CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY LINES OF SMALLER GAUGE THAN NARROW GAUGE

368. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any scheme was under consideration of Government for the construction of railway lines with a smaller gauge than the narrow gauge?

(b) Is it a fact that such railway lines have been constructed in the State of Nawanagar?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No scheme was contemplated by the Government for the construction of Railways with gauge smaller than 2 feet.

(b) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the system of transport known as Skeleton's guideways. If this is so, I would refer him to my predecessor's reply to starred question No. 236, asked by Mr. P. B. Gole on 6th November, 1946 and also to my reply to starred question No. 1471, asked by Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer on 9th April, 1947, in this House. I have nothing further to add.

NON-ARRIVAL OF GOODS FROM WEST PUNJAB DISPATCHED BEFORE PARTITION

369. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourble Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that goods worth lakhs of rupees despatched by non-Muslims from West Punjab before the partition of Punjab, have not reached India?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take for the restoration of these goods to their rightful owners?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government understand that goods valued at a substantial amount of money despatched from West Punjab before partition have not yet reached destination stations in India.

(b) Specific instances of non-receipt of goods brought to the notice of the Railways concerned are enquired into and references made to the North Western Railway where necessary.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister try to collect definite information regarding consignments despatched from Pakistan and which have not been received here?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We have tried our best to collect the information, but the Honourable Member will appreciate, that, in the circumstances prevailing, no definite information can be collected.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, has the Honourable Minister not received complaints from consignees giving details about the consignments despatched?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have had details regarding various cases of this kind, and such enquiries as we have made lead me to think that most of these goods have been looted on the way by mobs.

DISCONNECTION BETWEEN VARIOUS TOWNS OF EAST PUNJAB DUE TO RADCLIFFE AWARD

370. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether certain important towns of East Punjab were disconnected from each other consequent on the Radcliffe Award?

(b) Have these towns been connected again by constructing new railway lines?

(c) If not, do Government propose to do so, in the near future?

(d) Have Government any plan to construct new railways in East Punjab, so as to strengthen the Western border of India, as well as to help the re-organization of trade in East Punjab?

(e) If the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, when will that plan be implemented?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The only important towns of East Punjab which have lost direct rail connection with each other, consequent on the Radcliffe Award, are Ferozepore and Amritsar. Before the partition, the shortest route between these towns was *via* Kasur which now falls in Pakistan but at present the route passing wholly through Indian territory is *via* Jullundur.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) There are no such concrete proposals under consideration at present.

(e) In view of reply to part (d), the question does not arise.

UNSTARRED QEUSTION AND ANSWER

DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS AND RAW MATERIALS

3. Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the quantity of: (i) domestic production and consumption; (ii) net imports; and

(iii) net exports during a normal year of the following:

1. Food.	9. Nitrates.	17. Chromite.
2. Iron.	10. Sulphur.	18. Tungsten.
3. Machinery.	11. Cotton.	19. Wool.
4. Chemicals.	12. Aluminium.	20. Potash.
5. Coal.	13. Zinc.	21. Phosphates.
6. Iron Ore.	14. Rubber.	22. Tin.
7. Copper.	15. Manganese.	23. Mercury, and
8. Lead.	16. Nickel.	24. Mica?

(b) What are the steps Government propose to take to build up adequate reserves of the industrial products and raw-materials mentioned in part (a) above, and to increase the production of any of the above items, in case India has to depend on import of that industrial product?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) A statement is attached.

(b) The Honourable Member must be aware of the efforts being made to increase industrial production in the country. Steps have also been taken to import essential requirements within the limitations imposed by availability in world markets and the country's foreign exchange resources.

Statement

Item	Year	Domestic		Net Imports	Net Exports	Remarks
		Production	Consumption	Quantity or Value	Quantity or Value	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. *Food:*						
(a) Fish excluding canned fish	1938-39	@	@	4,715, Tons	16,793 Tons	@Figures not available.
(b) Fruits and Vegetables	do	@	@	Rs. 13,443,000	Rs. 22,686,000	
(c) Grain, Pulse & Flour	do	@	@	1,602,570 Tons	742,227 Tons	
(d) Provisions and Oilman's Stores (including fruits and vegetables and fish, canned or bottled.	do	@	@	Rs. 24,841,000	Rs. 5,932,000	
(e) Spices	do	@	@	103,472 Tons	19,331 Tons	
(f) Sugar	do	791,000 Tons	1,073,000 Tons	35,679 Tons	59,304 Tons	
(g) Condensed Milk	1939-40	Nil.	2,715 Tons	2,715 Tons	..	
(h) Butter	do	29,025 Tons	29,131 Tons	457 Tons	351 Tons	
(i) Biscuits and Cakes	do	7,621 Tons	9,000 Tons	1,379 Tons	..	
(j) Rice	Average of 1936,37 1937-38 and 1938-39	26,508,000Tons	27,781,000 Tons	1,547,000 Tons	274,000 Tons	
(k) Wheat	do	10,160,000 Tons	9,825,000 Tons	69,000 Tons	404,000 Tons	@Figures not available.
(l) Jowar and Bajra	do	9,358,000 Tons	9,347,000 Tons	1,000 Tons	12,000 Tons	@Figures not available.
(m) Maize	do	1,979,000 Tons	1,979,000 Tons	@	@	
(n) Ragi	do	1,728,000 Tons	1,728,000 Tons	@	@	
(o) Barley	do	2,085,000 Tons	2,069,000 Tons	2,000 Tons	18,000 Tons	
(p) Grain	do	3,466,000 Tons	3,463,000 Tons	15,000 Tons	20,000 Tons	
2. *Iron*						
Pig Iron	1939	1,756,951 Tons	*1,200,000 Tons	..	556,602 Tons	*approximate
Steel	,,	842,905 Tons	*1,062,000 Tons	266,072 Tons	46,659 Tons	
3. Machinery	1938-39	Negigible	@	Rs. 140,418,000	Rs. 330,000	@Figures not available.
4. Chemicals and Chemical Preparations (excluding chemical manures and medicines)	do	28,000 Tons	153,385 Tons	Rs. 30,529,000	Rs. 1,621,000	Major chemicals only have been included.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. Coal	1939	27,769,112 Tons	26,130,450 Tons	49,517 Tons	1,688,179 Tons	...
6. Iron Ore	do	3,166,074 Tons	2,902,000 Tons	Nil	264,137 Tons	...
7. (*i*) Copper (excluding ore)	1938-39	6,000 Tons	@	208 Tons	148 Tons	@Figures not available.
(*ii*) Copper Ore	1939	360,216 Tons	@	...	...	...
8. Load	1938-39	Nil	@	7,473 Tons	341 Tons	@Figures not available.
9. Nitrates of Soda	do	Nil	*4,300 Tons	2,137 Tons	Nil	*Approximate.
10. Sulphur (brimstone)	do	Nil	*30,500 Tons	22,284 Tons	Nil	Approximate.
(black)	do	Nil	...	1,178 Tons	...	
11. Cotton (Raw)	1942-43	839,643 Tons	784,107 Tons	86,071 Tons	@	@Figures not available.
12. Aluminium	1938-39	Nil	@	2,893 Tons	Nil	@Figures not available.
13. Zinc or Spelter	do	Nil	@	26,133 Tons	327 Tons	@Figures not available.
14. Rubber Raw	1939	13,618 Tons	6,952 Tons	**2,340 Tons	**7,686 Tons	**Figures for 1938-39.
15. Manganese Ore	1939	844,663 Tons	...	...	*800,000 Tons	*Approximate.
16. Nickle	...	@	@	@	@	@Figures not available.
17. Chromite (Chrome Iron Ore)	1939	...	...	...	14,606 Tons	...
18. Tungston (Ore)	1939	11 Tons	...	...	11 Tons	...
19. Wool (Raw)	1939-40	*35,714 Tons	*15,536 Tons	3,393 Tons	23,571 Tons	*Approximate.
20. Potash	1939	@	1,900 Tons	@	@	@Figures not available.
21. Phosphates (*a*) Ammonium	1938-39	Nil.	@	2,569 Tons	Nil.	@Figures not available.
(*b*) Super	do	Nil.	@	6,788 Tons	Nil.	
22. Tin	1938-39			2,502 Tons	3,317 Tons	
23. Mercury			@	@	@	@Figures not available.
24. Mica	1938-39	9,918 Tons	@	140 Tons	8,092 Tons	@Figures not available.

CANCELLATION OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY FIXED FOR SATURDAYS DURING THE CURRENT SESSION

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform Honourable Members that in consonance with the desire expressed by Members that there should be no meetings of the Assembly on Saturdays, no business has been put down for Saturday, the 28th February, except the presentation of the General Budget at 5 P.M. Honourable Members will please note that we are meeting on the 28th February for the presentation of the General Budget. As regards the remaining Saturdays during the current Session, I have to inform Honourable Members that the meetings for those days have been cancelled. As Saturday, the 6th March, was fixed as one of the days for the voting on demands for grants in respect of the General Budget, I have allotted in lieu of that date, Monday, the 15th March, for the voting on demands for grants.

I may remind Honourable Members that from and after Monday, the 28rd, meetings of the Assembly will commence at 10-45 A.M. and not at 11 A.M. I am stating this just as a reminder.

RAILWAY BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS

SECOND STAGE

Mr. Speaker: The House will discuss the Demands for Grants in respect of Railways now. I understand that a list showing the agreed Cut Motions which will be moved has been circulated to Honourable Members.

As regards the time limit for speeches the usual practice has been to fix a limit of 15 minutes for all speakers including movers of the Cut Motions and 20 Minutes for the Honourable Ministers replying. I trust this suits Honourable Members.

DEMAND NO. 1.—RAILWAY BOARD

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding, Rs. 32,25,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of the 'Railway Board'."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding, Rs. 32,25,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of the 'Railway Board'."

I think it would be better if the Honourable Minister also moves Demands No. 3 and 5.

DEMAND NO. 3.— MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,00,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding, Rs. 41,94,44,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'."

DEMAND NO. 5.—WORKING EXPENSES—REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,00,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance'."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,94,44,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance'."

Mr. Ramnath Goenka will move his cut motion now.

Point of Order that the Cut Motions should pertain to one grievance only.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before Mr. Goenka moves his cut motion, may I raise a point of order? The cut motion that Mr. Goenka is going to move is for the purpose of discussing the inefficiency and corruption in the Railway Administration. It has been ruled in this House very often that these motions have to be definite and that they should pertain to one grievance only. I have a number of decisions here from the Chair and it has always been held that these motions should portain to a definite matter, so that the House may be able to vote upon that definite question; and the other is, that a cut motion should treat with only one grievance. The question that my Honourable friend wants to raise is really not definite. He refers to 'inefficiency'. Under 'inefficiency' the whole Railway Administration could be brought under discussion. On this score the whole of yesterday's debate can be repeated today. Then, Sir, 'corruption' is also tagged on to this, which alone could have been one subject. I am not merely raising an academic discussion. This is a matter which concerns the rights and privileges of the House to give expression to its opinion on a particular matter. This thing has been going on even in the last session and you were good enough to relax that rule at that time, as perhaps Members were all new. For future guidance we should have a ruling that these motions should relate only to one definite matter.

I have got a decision here, the latest one in 1942 and that says that the question to be raised under a cut motion should be definite and that it should raise one particular question and should not be a roving motion like the one which my Honourable friend proposes to move. Therefore, I should like to have a ruling from the Chair at least for future guidance.

Mr. Speaker: I entirely agree that any subject for discussion sought to be raised must be a definite one and that, on any motion there could be only one issue and not more than one issue. But even after having stated that general proposition, the difficulty comes in the application of that rule to any concrete case. So far as the present motion is concerned, I do feel that it does not contain one matter. There are two subjects, as the Honourable Member has rightly pointed out. I will, therefore, request the Honourable Member who wishes to move the cut motion to select either the ground of inefficiency or the ground of corruption. They are two different sets of things. There can be inefficiency without corruption and there can be corruption without inefficiency. They are two entirely different issues which may be discussed separately.

An Honourable Member: They are combined, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: They will be two matters.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Does not one lead to another, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: No. I do not think they could be conveniently tagged together. There could be both corruption, inefficiency and what not. That is another matter. Then they can be raised at the general discussion, but when a Member wants to move a cut motion, he must restrict himself to one specific subject or matter.

[Mr. Speaker]

As regards the other point about want of definiteness, I feel a real difficulty. Supposing we were discussing about the subject of inefficiency, I cannot see how it could be made more definite unless the Honourable Member means that specific instances of inefficiency have to be the subject of discussion. In that case, there will be individual cases. One understands what inefficiency means and I do not think that in order to make it definite, I should call upon members to cite individual cases or instances of inefficiency. The same observations will apply to 'corruption'. It is perfectly competent for the Honourable Member to table such a motion and to restrict the scope, for example, he can say, if he so likes, inefficiency in dealing with the passenger traffic. That will be specific as the Honourable Member thinks. Anyway, I think inefficiency and corruption when it is alleged on a very large scale in a particular administration is definite enough to be made a charge without referring to any specific branch of the administration or any specific individual instance. What does the Honourable Member choose?

Shri Ramnath Goenka (Madras: General): Inefficiency, Sir.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): While bowing to the ruling of the Chair, may I respectfully submit that so far as such a matter is concerned, when it is intended that the Honourable Member wants merely to raise a discussion, the motion need not be so definite or otherwise as is otherwise required? I would therefore like that whenever only eliciting of information or discussion is sought, the rule of definiteness of the subject-matter of the motion need not be so strongly insisted upon.

Mr. Speaker: Unfortunately, I am unable to agree with that view. That could be done, as I said, in a general discussion, but the object of a cut motion is to discuss a specific aspect of the question and therefore, one has to be definite about it. The other course would be that he may table as many cut motions as he likes. In the present case, the Honourable Member is performing 'inefficiency' to 'corruption'. So the word 'corruption' will be deleted from the motion as moved by him.

DEMAND NO. 1.—RAILWAY BOARD

Inefficiency in Railway Administration.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shri K. Santhanam (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

Sir, you asked me to choose between 'corruption' and 'inefficiency'. Of course 'inefficiency' is better than 'corruption'. So I have chosen the subject 'inefficiency'. Now, Sir, in spite of the high appreciation for the manner and spirit in which the Honourable the Railway Minister answered the criticisms and points raised by the Honourable Members in this House in the general debate, still I feel that I should move this motion because I find that this is the first real budget statement on behalf of the National Government in respect of Railways. But I regret to say that one misses any national touch in regard to the handling of the problems as indicated by the Railway Minister. I find that the whole budget speaks in the same language and has the same substance and the same apologies for *status quo ante*. I find that the figures also epitomise the usual mediocre accountancy. I am sorry to use this kind of language but I find nothing in the budget that I can appreciate, except the same old manner in which the budget had been introduced in this House from time immemorial. The Honourable Minister says in his budget speech that the best informed and most intelligent estimates that his advisers have been able to make give him these figures. But looking at these figures you will

find that they are nothing except the revised estimates divided by 7½, multiplied by 12, and 10 per cent. added thereto. The total revised figure for 7½ months comes to 1 crore and 8 lakhs; dividing that by 7½, multiplying the result by 12 and then adding 10 per cent. to it gives you 190 crores. Now, Sir, these figures for 7½ months relate to a period 4½ months before January and three months from January last. Owing to a rise in the fares and freights the anticipated revenue—I have no figures to go upon—was to be 9.15 crores more than the previous months. It is 3 crores a month more, *i.e.*, 20 per cent. more. The previous figures are 4½ months or 7½ months comprising 4½ months of the pre-1st January figure and 3 months for post-1st-January figure; namely, on an average the rise is 8 per cent. If you work 4½ months on the previous figure and you work 4 months on a 20 per cent. rise you come to a figure of 8 per cent. on the 7½ months. The advisers of the Honourable Minister gave him a ready-made formula,—add 10 per cent. more and that will be the estimated figure. If you add it comes to 18 per cent.; the rise is about 20 per cent.

Now, Sir, we have been given assurances by the Honourable Minister that a lot of spare parts, machine too's, wagons, improvements in locomotives, etc. are expected in the coming year. If they are expected in the coming year, a rise in revenue must be expected. This 18 per cent. rise on which the figures have been based by the Honourable Minister only gives you the basis of the present movements of traffic and movements of goods less 2 per cent. I expected it would be more.

That is one part of the story. Yesterday I found the Honourable Minister getting rather indignant over the use of the word 'bottleneck' in transport. I understand that, but the fact remains that there is a bottleneck in the transport system of the country today which is affecting the national life of the country and affecting practically every industry in the country. We are supposed to manufacture in this country about 25 lakh tons of cement. Cement is the greatest necessity of the day; but either for carrying raw material or fuel or for taking the finished material to the consuming places we find that actually, owing to the bottleneck in transport, the factories are moving or rather sending to the consuming places only about 16 or 17 lakh tons of cement. Then take the paper industry. We are paying dollars for importing paper but we cannot manufacture paper to the capacity of our factories in this country, simply because our raw materials cannot be transported to the factory side. During the war the military alone used to get priority number one, industries used to get the second and third priorities, and under priority number four you could move anything. Today you can move nothing unless you are enterprising number one.

During question hour this morning we heard of prices of *gur* being reduced to Rs. 8 per maund in certain centres, Rs. 10 per maund in other centres and the price being as much as Rs. 30 per maund in certain centres. This is purely due to bottleneck in transport. Sir, economist as the Honourable Minister is, statistician as he is, and having been in office for more than a year, he should have seen that all statistics and facts and figures are prepared, so that with these on his finger-tips he could face any situation, in which case only he would know what to do in particular circumstances. Today, as I said in regard to the figures, it is a stone which is thrown into a blind alley,—add 10 per cent. more,—and then you get these figures. We have no figures here and no facts from which we can judge whether the figures given by the Honourable Minister will be right or wrong. The facts as I have shown will show that there are reasons to doubt the accuracy of those figures. The Honourable the Railway Minister said that production is the bottleneck. May I ask him a straight question? What was the number of wagons in 1944? What is the number of wagons today? Have any figures

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[Shri Ramnath Goenka]

been given to the House in regard to the passenger miles run by the railways? In regard to the freight-ton miles covered by the railways? And what he expects to cover in the next year? Do those estimates show anything at all? What is the basis on which these estimates have been prepared? Then, Sir, unless you give me the freight-ton miles moved, and which you expect to move, the passenger miles moved and the passenger miles expected to move, it is impossible to say anything on the matter.

Another point, we have been asked to vote a grant of Rs. 25 crores on grain deficit. Sir, according to the figures which I have been able to gather, there are one million men employed in the railways. If you calculate, you will find that you pay for this deficit at the rate of Rs. 250 a year for every individual. You can really feed the one million people with this Rs 25 crores instead of grant it for this deficit. And what are we asked to do? We are asked to endorse that we agree to this deficit of Rs. 25 crores for grains. Are there not figures, facts and details of the commodities which are being supplied and at what rate they are purchased and at what rate they are being supplied? Nothing of the sort.

Again passenger amenities. Two crores and all have been asked to be budgeted for amenities to passengers. Are there any figures? Are there any details of how this Rs. 2 crores and odd is going to be spent? Have any details been given? Do they really propose to spend this amount, or is it only an eye-wash?

The other day it was brought to my notice that a machine tool plant was purchased from Germany at a cheap price and that machine tools were also purchased and these machine tools and the machine tool plant will be useful at the present juncture for the railways. What do we find? That plant and those machine tools are rotting in Bombay for a long time. No use is being made of them.

Then again, we found during the war that 1700 miles of pipe-line was established between Calcutta and China for transport of oil, petrol, kerosene, etc. That pipe-line was sold. If our railways were so over-worked, why did not the railways purchase that pipe-line and put it between Calcutta and Kalka and relieve things to a certain extent? But that has been purchased by a private firm and those pipes are now being sold in the open market. Even now, it is not too late. All over the world these oils are being carried by pipe-lines.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I rise to support this motion. In fact I had given notice of rather a similar motion with regard to deterioration in the railway administration. My Honourable friend who moved this cut motion has spoken from the point of view of a business man. I propose to speak on this motion as a person who has a great deal to do with employees on the railways and with railway labour generally.

Before I endeavour to indicate, in the few minutes at my disposal, what I regard as some of the cardinal reasons for this deterioration in the working of the railways, I want to say that I do appreciate the tribute which the Honourable Minister for Railways had paid to the railway worker. He said quite rightly that, essentially our railwaymen were among the best in the world. I know there are many persons in this House who will not agree with this tribute. But I do ask Members in this House, when they criticise what I also regard as the deterioration of efficiency in the railways, to separate the

sheep from the goats: to remember that there is a very large number of first-class workers on the railways. These workers have been responsible for maintaining the life-line of our national existence during periods of crises. During the recent great war and more recently since division, when our railways were denuded to the extent of 40 to 50 per cent. of their local staff, these railway employees kept the life-line of our national existence going under the most adverse and difficult conditions.

At the same time, as one who is in close touch with thousands of railway workers I have to say that there is, or has been, and continues to be very considerable deterioration in the working of the railways. Quite frankly, I cannot accept the statement of the Honourable Minister that this deterioration has definitely been checked. We have been giving figures purporting to show that the deterioration in the working of the administration has been checked. Figures have their value, but statistics can also be both deceptive and dangerous. I base my conclusion that the railway administration is continuing to deteriorate on firsthand information, and further on personal observation. Within the last two or three months I visited twenty-two main railway centres. And from this personal observation and firsthand information from railway workers, I am convinced that there is a continuing deterioration in the railway administration. I am prepared Sir, to make ample allowances. As a friend and champion of the railwaymen, I have always done so. I also appreciate the enormity of the problems confronting the Ministry of Railways—problems equalled in their magnitude and complexity. I realise that the railways faced an unprecedented and sudden strain during the last great war. As a result of that strain they had to employ large numbers of entirely inexperienced people—people with no previous association with the railways—people who brought to the railway administration no traditions of loyalty or service—and perhaps not even of loyalty to the administration. I also appreciate that division has imposed a severe and unprecedented strain on the railways. But in spite of these allowances, I feel that there continues to be much avoidable deterioration in the running of the railways.

To my mind the crux of the whole matter is to be found in the lack of discipline among the inferior staff. All our pious hopes, all our plans and schemes and roseate pictures for building the railways and making them the asset that they should be—all these will amount to nothing unless we can restore discipline among the railway workers, restore a spirit of service, restore the traditions of loyalty and service of which the railways had reason to be proud in the past.

I feel that this is essentially the crux of the whole matter. There is no point in talking about bottlenecks or about industry and trade not being able to meet all the needs and the requirements of the country. Unless you can re-establish discipline, a sense of service among the railway workers generally your railway administration will find itself shaky and infirm. You must reinvigorate and revitalise your railway administration. But what is the railway administration doing to reinfuse that spirit of discipline? This, to my mind, is the crux of the whole problem and from my personal observation I am very sorry to say that nothing is being done. This matter must be faced up to squarely.

What do I find wherever I go. Non-descript mushroom unions, non-descript alleged leaders, persons of straw, toadied to by officialdom, toadied to even by the Central Administration. I was at one of the centres the other day and I was told by officials, Hindu officials, that these persons of straw setting themselves up are railway union leaders, if the senior officials displease them, they stand in front of the doors of the officials and use the foulest and filthiest abuse, thus spreading indiscipline and resentment against the officials. And the Railway officials dare not do anything, because they feel there is no policy, there is no purpose and no direction in the railway administration. If they take firm action they feel that they will not be supported from the Centre or by senior officials. That is the position today.

[Mr. Frank R. Anthony]

In contrast to the spirit of toadying to these unions, to people who make it their business to undermine the railways, there is an unresponsive high-handed attitude towards the individual railwayman who refuses to join a non-descript union. If a railway-man is not a member of a particular union, however legitimate his grievance might be, he gets no redress. What is the railwayman to do? Hundreds, thousands of railwaymen are approaching me and they ask me how can we join these non-descript unions, this union or that union, when their avowed purpose is to paralyse the railway administration. Yet unless we join a non-descript union and unless we subscribe to their virulent policies which we know will ultimately lead to the destruction of the railway administration, we cannot get any real justice from the railway administration. That is the crux of the whole problem. Today therefore there is toadying on the one hand to non-descript unions and non-descript leaders, and on the other hand, denying essential justice to your best workers, men who refuse to join these non-descript unions, because they realise that these unions are not serving either the workers or the men. Surely my Honourable friend realises that the majority of the railway unions in this country are merely using the organisation he treats with as a stalking horse. Surely he realises that the majority of these unions in the country are only biding their time, waiting for the railway administration to pile up their mistakes and grievances till the Administration has antagonised all their workers. Then the majority of them will call a strike and nobody and nothing will be able to stop the complete paralysis of the railway administration. Surely my Honourable friend does realise that position.

Now, what is happening? I was talking recently to senior Hindu officials. They told me "The railway administration is bending and quite frankly we do not care whether it cracks or not." When I told them "But you are serving your country", they said "We would like to serve our country but we are serving an administration which has not changed. There has been a change of colour but no change of heart. We are senior officials on the railway but the same dictatorial unresponsive high-handed policy of Sir Edward Benthall's time (when he was the Honourable Minister's predecessor) is coming down unchanged and unchecked." They say that we are asked not to keep our eye on the system of selection and that we are asked to do our job of work. They say 'we cannot do it'. We do not know what the policy of the railway administration is". In saying all this I am not making a personal attack on my Honourable friend. I have the highest regard and respect for his capacity and calibre. I also have the very highest regard for his advisers in the Railway Board but I do appeal to them. I have cried myself hoarse for six years in this House, endeavouring to get a change of heart in the railway administration and there is no sign yet, there is no change of heart. The railway worker is essentially good. But today he feels that he is not working with you, but that he is working against you.

Members of the Railway Board, your senior officials at the railway headquarters do not understand them: they do not want to understand them and one of the main reasons is this. You must have one thing or the other. Either you have a highly centralised railway administration or you completely decentralise it. But this anaemic principle of dual functioning must be done away with. What is happening? Quite often when as members of the Railway Standing Committee, we ask about a particular item or items which have been budgeted for, invariably the reply has been "We do not know. It has been given to us by the General Manager." My own opinion is that we must centralise. If we are going to make the railways more efficient, a huge concern of this kind must be increasingly centralised. We must stop this passing of the baby from the Railway Board to the General Manager. When we ask the members of the Railway Board how a particular item was arrived at, or budgeted they say "ask the General Manager". And when I go to the General Manager and ask how this particular item arose, he says "The order has come down from the Railway Board". The system of dual functioning is largely responsible for this. I think my Honourable friend and his colleagues have not only the capacity but I hope they have the intention also really to make the railways what they should be made into. They have a golden opportunity. They have got a legacy and many traditions which have to be eradicated. The vestiges of autocracy must be eradicated. The men are waiting for a response from the Railway Minister and the Railway Board. Humanise your administration. Give the men, the men in the lower ranks, the assurance that you intend not only to do justice but to give them real justice—the assurance and the confidence that you intend to do justice. I would ask you once again to stop this toadying to non-descript unions and their non-descript leaders. If you do this, if you humanise your administration, democratise it and give the men in the lower cadres the sense and the feeling that you intend to do justice and, at the same time, you do not continue to toady or pander to the non-descript unions, I feel you will find largely the answer, which will act as an antidote to this question which has been agitating us, this question of the inefficiency of the railway administration.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, on a dull and gloomy day such as this, when many of us are perhaps feeling not a little inefficient it is perhaps in the fitness of things that we should proceed to discuss the inefficiency of the railway administration. It is not a pleasant task for me to resort to fault finding, especially today, when we have got our own men to man our free National Government. Time was when we used to delight in fault-finding, cavilling and often abusing the then Government, because it was a foreign government. But when we see faults and defects handed down from the old Government to the new, almost unadulterated, it is time for us to sit up and take notice.

My Honourable friend the Railway Minister yesterday said that one war was over but we are in the midst of another war. I perfectly agree that that is our present plight. I can even say that we are standing between two worlds, one dead and the other struggling to be born or perhaps powerless to be born. And at this time when we are discussing the question of nationalisation and socialisation of our industries, it is of paramount importance that we take stock of what has happened to our premier nationalised industry, the railway industry, which is entirely state-owned, state-controlled and state-managed.

This is important, Sir, because today there are attempts in certain quarters to show that state management, or rather nationalisation, is a pernicious principle. There is a pamphlet before me which seeks to show that nationalisation had better be done away with.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member may as well confine himself to the subject under discussion.

Shri H. V. Kamath: We have state railways and we want that they should run efficiently and not give scope for people to say that they are running inefficiently. Here there is one Mr. Jalan saying in the course of a brochure on "Effect of Nationalization" that "a cursory glance at the figures indicates that the company-managed railways during the past had done better than the present state-managed ones." This is perhaps only the beginning of a sustained campaign to show that state-managed railways will not be as efficient as private managed ones were. Therefore we should take stock of the situation and find out why this inefficiency is there and how to remedy and counteract it. Since the war came to a close there have been conferences galore and there have been committee meetings of various types and kinds, but the result seems to have been almost nil. This has prompted some people to say that these conferences are like most other conferences. You might have come across, Sir, the definition

[Shri H. V. Kamath.]

of a 'confertnce' which is apt to the present purpose. It is said that a 'conference' is a group of men who individually can do nothing but as a group can meet and decide that nothing can be done. That, I feel has been the outcome of most conferences that have taken place upto this day and we find that inefficiency is as bad or as rampant as it was in former days. I shall not dilate on this or refer to concrete instances, because I find that my Honourable friend Mr. Goenka has given numerous facts and figures to support the motion. There are the familiar instances of no water, no light and such other things in railway compartments and no time-tables at the railway stations—at big junctions too—at any rate the latest time-tables. At one station when I asked for a time-table they said they had no time-table at all, neither old nor new. I then asked "When can I expect to get the new time-table?" It was a big junction. They said 'We do not know.' I do not know whether the railway printing press is at fault or the distributing agency is at fault or who is inefficient.

On the late running of the trains, yesterday one of my friends said that the Grand Trunk Express has become a notorious train for late running. It is proverbially late. Formerly there was the B. N. R. which used to be referred to as 'Be Never Regular'. But today I think its place has been taken by the Grand Trunk Express which was referred to some days ago as being neither Grand nor Express. I once asked a friend of mine on the railways 'Why do you have a time-table at all if you do not run trains in time?' He said 'How can you justify the late running of trains if you don't have time-tables to show the scheduled time of the trains?' That perhaps was more in jest than in earnest. The position is that even today the trains do not run in time; and the inconveniences to passengers inside the trains have not been attended to.

Then there is the question of goods traffic. There was prominently the question of coal which has been agitating our minds for a long time past, and the transport bottleneck has stood in the way. There is to take another instance, the question of *supari*—the arecanut. Huge dumps of this *supari* are lying in Bombay and for want of adequate transport the *supari* distribution has been very unsatisfactory and the *supari* merchants are facing a terrible time of their life. The crux of the matter, seems to be due to the old system of bureaucratic administration still continuing. In spite of the fact that we have got a democratic Government, a free Government, we have still got the old bureaucratic system in the machinery of administration.

What I would therefore first of all request the Honourable the Railway Minister to do is to see that all this is democratized—not merely nationalised but democratized, if not socialised. The first step is democratization of the whole machinery of administration. I will suggest to my Honourable friend the Minister how this can be done. At the Centre we have got the Standing Committee of this Legislature to assist, and to work in close co-ordination with the Government. But in the Provinces and other zones of the various Railways, even if there are such Committees, I wonder if they are functioning efficiently or effectively. The first step therefore is to set up what are called People's Committees in every big railway centre or zone or Province—I would say even d'strict. I suppose my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhva was, or is, the President of the All India Railway Passengers' Federation. I do not know whether this has got Committees in every Province, zone or district. The first thing is to set up such Committees to work in co-operation and co-ordination with the administration of the locality.

As regards the internal working of the railway administration I would suggest that in every workshop, in every station, in every yard, there must be Labourers or Workers' Committees such as, I think, obtain in Russia at the present day, who can fearlessly and straightforwardly bring to the notice of the management complaints that they may have against the locol officials. There

must be facilities and opportunities provided to these labourers and workers to ventilate their grievances on the spot and at stated hours inside the office premises.

The task of speaking about inefficiency has been simplified by my Honourable friend the Railway Minister himself in his address. He has himself referred to inefficiency in one or two places. He has stated on page 7 of his (printed) speech: "I have come across a number of cases recently where goods are despatched by traders to a particular destination and immediately on arrival there the goods are rebooked and sent on to another destination which is much nearer the original point of consignment—which means (he admits) that there is a great wastage of transport."

I would request the Railway Minister to tell us how these things are going to be faced and remedied.

At the end of the speech he has also told us: "There are blacksheep in every organisation." This statement has also facilitated our task of criticizing the efficiency of the railway administration.

In his reply to the debate yesterday the Honourable Minister told as that a great need today for the administration is a well organised statistical department. I perfectly realize that because of this there is some inefficiency in the railway administration. It was said of old time that there are three kinds of lies or three degrees of lies, that is, lies, damned lies and statistics.

I wonder whether the statistics that we have at the present day conforms to this definition of statistics and if so whether the Railway Minister will take early steps to have a full-fledged, very efficient statistical department, and not merely third degree of lies to assist him in his stupendous task.

Then, Sir, there is the question of wages to railway labour. Here in this Explanatory Memorandum which we have got, it is stated:

"As a result of the negotiations with the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, the recommendations of the Pay Commission have been liberalized in several directions. The classification of certain categories of artisans under skilled and semi-skilled remains to be settled with the Federation."

I hope this will be settled Sir, and it will also be done soon. It will be remembered that more often than not low wages are dear wages. I need not remind the Minister—he is a noted economist—that low wages are dear wages. Moreover, I have been told that there are many categories of workers who though really skilled, are classed as unskilled and draw a lower rate of pay than other artisans. And then there is the case of gangmen working on the lines. Theirs is a responsible job because if there is any defect in their work, any inefficiency, the whole running of trains may be imperilled. But I understand that the gangmen as well as their chief are paid fabulously low wages which does not conduce to efficiency. Then there is the case of train examiners whose job too is a responsible one, and I am told that when many wagons went to Pakistan, the train examiners there certified them 'sick' so that they could not come back: and, I understand, the discontent among the railway staff has been such that some train examiners have deliberately tried to sabotage the running of trains by certifying wagons sick. I do not agree with the sweeping generalization made by Mr. Anthony to the effect that most union leaders are men of straw, and I hope he does not mean what he said. The inefficiency to my mind could be cured firstly by democratizing the administration and secondly by seeing to it that all the railway workers are adequately paid and are properly classified under correct categories, skilled and unskilled, and the day, I hope, will not be far distant when the Railway Minister will come to this House with a really efficient working of the railway administration so that we can all be proud of this first state-owned, state-controlled and state-managed industry.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Some 10 lakhs of our countrymen are engaged in the running of our railways. Now the question is whether the railways are being run efficiently or inefficiently. Sir, first of all we have to see what is the motive behind the people who are working there. Of these 10 lakhs of people, how many are there who have gone there to serve the country? If you analyse the situation, if anybody knows the psychological working of their minds, it will be found that the people are there to serve themselves and not the country. Now the country is free. We have to create an atmosphere in which the people will come forward for national service. Unless this is done, I do not think there is any hope of success or progress. I see the first sign of inefficiency in this very House. The Honourable Minister for Transport comes forward and makes a statement that everything is all right in the Railway Department. Is it a sign of efficiency, Sir? Is that causing efficiency or inefficiency? I think such people are responsible for inefficiency and the inefficient working of the railway administration. Sir, he says that when he hears charges of corruption or allegations against his railwaymen, he is hurt. He made this statement the day before yesterday, and yesterday he reaffirmed this statement, with the addition that he rather feels indignant. I tell him that his statement has pained many of us. I am pained. It has hurt me to hear that the Minister of Transport of my national government comes forward and makes a speech in this House which has no foundation on truth. Sir, this is not desirable. I am not an enemy of my countrymen working in the Railway Department. I am their well-wisher. I stand for their prosperity and happiness; but I must say what is wrong, and in this lies efficiency in the running of the department. Sir, the thing is this—the Honourable Minister has gone high in the realm of wisdom when all distinctions disappear and there is only one thing. Events in the world are going on but there is nothing good, there is nothing bad and there is nothing efficient. There is no distinction. Either he has reached that stage in wisdom or, Sir, he knows nothing. I ask him, Sir, to move about among the people. I ask him to go and stay for some time in disguise among railway people, and he will learn what the people say of the Railway Department and how the railway people behave. In ancient times the Kings and ministers used to go in disguise to know how the people feel about their administration. I ask my Honourable friend Dr. John Mathai, to do this, or he may appoint a number of honest people to give him the real information. At the same time he comes forward and gives us sermon how to distinguish the many from the few and he says 'Well, there are black sheep in every organization'. Sir, John Matthai, I tell you to go and know things for yourself.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member will please address the Chair.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Yes, Sir, I am addressing you. If he goes there, he will find no question of a few black sheep. Everywhere he will find black sheep, all black sheep.

Very few honourable exceptions of white sheep or yellow sheep will there be. This is the situation. Sir, I am not talking with pride and pleasure; I am ashamed to talk of this, that my countrymen behave like this. And he feels indignant while such charges are brought against railwaymen, and I say that I feel ashamed that the Minister of my Government, my National Government, speaks like this. He wants, by a magic wand, to wash away all the sins of the Railway people. Sir, that is not the way. The things have to be said; what is there? We must have the courage to call a spade a spade. If there is a sick man and you tell him, "No, you are all right, you have got no disease; you enjoy yourself in the manner you like, you behave in the manner you like, it will be all right." If you behave in that way the thing might go worse and the man might die. I tell the Honourable Minister that I do not hold the Railway people individually responsible; I do not hold them individually responsible for this. This is the thing prevailing in all Departments of the Government; everything has to be corrected in a different way and we, all of

us, have to work very hard to improve the society, to purify the Departments and to bring reform everywhere. Nobody is singly responsible for the present situation; but it is a great sin to wash away things so easily.

The Honourable Minister cited an example that people showed great devotion while arranging the special to carry Mahatma Gandhi's ashes. Well, Sir, that is no evidence that everything is all right. That is no evidence because for Mahatma Gandhi not only the Railway people but, with the exception of an unfortunate few, everybody was mad to show devotion. That is no evidence that everything is all right there.

The Honourable Minister said that people showed great enterprise and energy and devotion in moving the refugees during the troubled times. Well, Sir, I have a great regard for such a thing and praise them. But at the same time it is very difficult to say that they are not the people who indulge in corruption and who do not work inefficiently.

Sir, first of all we have to see everything in its true colour, we have to know things. And when we talk of things we must know them definitely. Sir, on the bank of a river once a bird called *bagula* was sitting in a very calm and quiet manner. A passer-by was going along and said, "Oh, this bird is a great devotee of God. He is sitting in this way."— "भजन कर रहा है" , as my friend Mr. Kamath says. This was heard by the fish in the water. One of them said, "Well, my friend, you cannot say what this bird is about—whether he is calmly and quietly sitting in devotion to God, or in search of us." In the same way it is very difficult to say how people behave unless you work and move among them. Sir, we are national workers; we work among the people, we move among even Railway people and we know how things are going on. I ask my Honourable friend to do this, to move about among them. Here he is sitting in the Imperial Secretariat at Delhi; How will he know everything of what is going on there! As I said before, either he has reached all wisdom where all distinctions disapper, or he knows nothing of the Department.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): Sir, three months back, when the Honourable the Railway Minister had presented his last Budget to this Assembly, I had occasion to bring to his notice the corruption—or call it inefficiency—which was particularly visible in respect of the wagons traffic. I had hoped then that my Honourable friend and his Department would look into the matter and at least so far as this Capital City is concerned, where it is possible for the Honourable Minister to see things for himself, to lay his finger on the point where the trouble lay and check it. I had hoped that some good result will come out. But these three months, I am sorry to confess, Sir, have made no or absolutely no difference so far as the wagons situation or the methods of the Railway staff in dealing with the public concerned.

I had occasion to bring to the notice of my Honourable friend a specific complaint about three months back. There is a general complaint in Delhi that wagons are, in the first instance, not available from Bombay to this place. People have to use all sorts of means to secure priorities and then if they succeed they cannot be sure of getting their wagons in time at Delhi. I have got instances, not one, not two, but many, and I think scores of instances can be quoted where wagons which left Bombay in the month of September have not touched Delhi so far. Not only that, there are wagons which touched Delhi but are not traceable till today. I brought a specific instance to the notice of my friend and that instance particularly related to my own concern. I wanted other people to come forward and volunteer information. They did volunteer information, but they were not willing to take the risk of exposing themselves. I thought that some specific instance has to be brought to the notice of the Ministry so that they could know how things were bungled or how things were tackled. So I decided and brought a particular instance to the otice of the Honourable Minister. I am thankful to him, Sir, that he did take prompt action. He passed the letter on to the Chief Commissioner of Railways or to

[Shri Deshbandhu Gupta.]

the Divisional Superintendent and it did bring about a result, although it took more than two months again to bring about that result.

What was that instance, Sir? It was a typical instance and therefore I want to bring it to the notice of the House and to the notice of my Honourable friend so that he may realise that such instances are being repeated. The instance was that three wagons of newsprint were booked from Bombay in the month of October. Two of them we took delivery in the month of November and the third wagon which had touched Delhi—and probably it was in the same carriage—absconded. It happened like this. The members of the Goods staff came to my office—two of them—and demanded some money to be paid on account of the delivery of the two wagons, and this was taken exception to by my Manager. They went away grumbling, saying "All right. You will see. You cannot but pay the price." The result was, Sir, that next day when my representative went to the Railway Station to take delivery of the third wagon, the third wagon was not traceable. He had noted the number; he had seen it on the Station only the previous day. It took me four months to trace that wagon and that also with the help of the Honourable the Transport Minister. I wrote to him a letter pointing out that the wagon which had touched Delhi Railway station was not traceable and that probably it was shunted to some yard or to some other station. Ultimately, now it has been traced and only two days ago delivery has been taken and the Divisional Superintendent, in his letter to me, dated the 16th has expressed his sympathy with me in these words:—

"I am writing this to you as I strongly feel that the Railway has given a very poor account of itself in this case. You have no doubt been put to considerable inconvenience and probably loss, which I so much regret, but I can assure you that the bungling brought to light is going to do a lot of good to us."

Sir, I am thankful to the Honourable Minister and to the Department for having helped me, but it is not as if this is the only instance of its kind. I hold in my hand a list of fourteen wagons which were booked in the first week of September from Bombay and they have not yet been delivered. They contained textile machinery and my information is that some of these wagons were shunted to Bahadurgarh, a station about 20 miles from this place. They probably lay in that yard and the clerk concerned had to be tipped to give information as to where those wagons were. Where the rest of these wagons are, I do not know, and I will pass this chit on to my Honourable friend so that he can make use of it, provided the parties concerned do not become a victim to the vendetta of those who behaved in that manner. So many other instances have come to my notice. If my Honourable friend is prepared to put confidence in the public and give an assurance on the floor of the House that all instances brought to his notice of this kind will be looked into and that the parties concerned would not be put to trouble in future and that speedy action would be taken against these complaints, in that case, I volunteer my services to bring to his notice, not one, not two, but dozens of instances.

And this, Sir, is what is happening in Delhi. If it can happen in Delhi, where the Government of India is sitting and where my Honourable friend can even give personal attenton, then you can imagine what must be happeing in other places. Today, Sir, there is virtual newsprint famine in Delhi. You will be surprised to learn that newsprint which was sold at six annas per lb. is now selling at Rs. 1/2/0 or Rs. 1/4/0 and most of the newspapers are on the verge of closing. Some of the smaller ones may have closed or are closing tomorrow or day after. Why? Not that newsprint was not booked to Delhi. So many wagons are on the way from Bombay and they are not yet transported. Some wagons which had left Bombay five or six weeks ago have not reached Delhi. This is the position, and it is not in a spirit of criticism, but it is really in a spirit of being helpful that I want to bring these instances to the notice of my Honourable friend. If this state of affairs continues, certainly whatever

prise we may have for the good work done by the railwaymen, the public is not going to be satisfied with that. The Congress Government is going to get a bad name; it is getting a bad name: and it cannot be denied that transport continues to be the bottleneck. I have all praise for the way in which my Honourable friend and the Chief Commissioner for Railways organised the Asthi Special. It was a fine job of work they did and I complimented the Chief Commissioner of Railways on that. You were yourself, Mr. Chairman, on that train and there is no doubt they did well. But that only shows that we can put up a high standard of work if only we have the will to do it and if only there is strong supervision.

I have one definite suggestion to make to the Railway Minister, and it is this. Sir. The Railway Deparment should haye an Intelligence Department of its own. Businessmen would not volunteer information as long as they are not satisfied that they will not have to pay a high price for that. If the Railways have an Intelligence Department of their own and if an assurance is given by my Honourable friend that any information passed on to him will be looked into and suitable action taken, then I am sure things will improve, and I would request, through you, Sir, the Honourable Railway Minister to root out corruption and inefficiency from the Delhi Railways. Delhi being the seat of the Government, it is a place where people judge the standard of efficiency and see whether there is corruption or not. Probably corruption and inefficiency are difficult to distinguish one from the other, and it may be that inefficiency is caused becaues of the corruption which is rampant. In any case, Sir, I would like my Honourable friend to see that at least in Delhi we are able to give a better account of ourselves. (*An Honourable Member*: Why at least Delhi?) Because here I feel that my Honourable friend is in a position to see things for himself, and I am sure if he attends to it, Delhi will set a good example and the figures that have been supplied to him about the wagons remaining in the marshalling yards—those averages—I think if he will only take the figures for the last three months of wagons which were booked from Bombay for Delhi or for Shadara or Bahadurgarh because these stations do not get through bookings to Delhi, he will find how many of them are still undelivered. He will, I am sure, be disillusioned and will know what sort of efficiency we have set for ourselves. I again wish to assure my Honourable friend, Sir, that it is not in a spirit of criticism—we are all responsible for the better running of the Government—nor is it in any spirit of apportioning blame but certainly from the point of view of our getting a bad name unless these things are set right that I am saying all this. On the efficient working of the Railways, Mr. Chairman, hinges the prosperity of the trade, commerce and everything else. Therefore, this is a thing which must be attended to without loss of time. I do not impute any motives to my Honourable friend—I have the highest regard for him—I know that whatever information is given to him, he does attend to it, but all the same these three months have made absolutely no difference so far delay is concerned; if it has made any difference at all, it is that things are worse today than they were three months ago.

With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion moved by my Honourable friend.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): It is now 1 o'clock, Sir, and time for us to adjourn.

Mr. Chairman: I know, but if the House is willing to sit for a few minutes more, we can finish this Cut Motion.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Being Friday, the practice is that we adjourn at 1 o'clock.

Mr. Chairman: But it is in the hands of the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): I suggest, Sir, that the cut motion may be finished now.

Mr. Chairman: What is the opinion of the House?

Some Honourable Members: Let us proceed.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Let us not press the matter.

Mr. Chairman: I think then we shall follow the usual practice.

The House stands adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Click, Mr. Chairman (Shri K. Santhanam) in the Chair.

Shri Jaipal Singh (Bihar: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, strange as it may seem, I want to oppose this cut motion. I want to express my feelings how I have been disgusted, completely disgusted by the venom that has been poured forth, not for the first time, but, in fact, *ad nauseam* against the Railway administration. Only a few months ago, I thought we had enough of it, but, again, I find the same things being repeated. Sir, if the people outside this House were to conduct a debate on whether we were conducting ourselves efficiently or inefficiently, I wonder which way the verdict will go. I feel and I felt last time also that we severely lack in a sense of responsibility and reality in appreciating the immense difficulties our country had to contend with, that the new Order had put problems not exactly beyond our control, but, certainly beyond our immediate control, and, if I may quote my Honourable friend, Sardar Patel, he put it very sensibly only a couple of days ago. He said: You cannot change things overnight. When my Honourable friend, Dr. Matthai, presented his last Budget, he promised that he would make serious endeavours to implement some of the thoughts that had been expressed on the floor of this Assembly. I have no doubt whatever in my own mind that he has ever since been making serious endeavours, and, in fact, wherever instances have been brought to his notice, he has taken action. My Honourable friend, Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta, himself admits that. I cannot understand why, on the one hand, he wants certain abuses to be righted and, on the other hand, he wants the Honourable Minister for Transport to give an assurance on the floor of this Assembly that, should people come forward, they will not be victimised. There is an unhealthy undertone in such a demand, that the man has not got the courage to weed out the evil and that, all the time, indirectly he is condoning these evil habits. Sir, surely we are responsible men. It is our duty to improve the morale and not ask for such an assurance. It is our duty to see that every evil, every abuse, every corrupt practice that is brought to our notice is put before the Honourable Minister for Transport or any other Minister for the matter of that. Are we going to improve the morale of the administration if, day in and day out, we abuse the administration without realising that they are up against very heavy odds? My Honourable friend, Mr. Anthony, talked of non-descript trade union leaders. I would very much like to know what he exactly means by that. The country has new masters. Now there is a smaller handful of Europeans than there was before. Now everybody is a master. Is it not the experience of most of us, Sir, that wherever you go in the provinces we see a humble Congressman dictating terms to the District Officer? How do you expect to improve the morale, if, day in and day out, we are to tell the administration the Railway administration in this particular instance—that they are inefficient and that they are corrupt? Let us be psychologists just for a change. We have our school boy experience in a school. What happens? There is always some boy or other whom the rest of the school call 'pagla'. What happens? He does become and behave like a 'pagla'. Here exactly the same thing is happening. I admit that we are not as efficient as we could be. I do not say for one moment that there is no efficiency in the Railway or any other administration. I think there is plenty of room for improvement. But, surely, the only way to improve things is for us to be behind the administration and to see that we are not condoning inefficiency, that we are doing our own little bit by encouraging this and every other administration, by making them realize that they can do better. They need a word of cheer. I feel this very strongly indeed. Now, when I think of inefficiency, I cannot but feel the Railway administration has perhaps been too efficient and I will try to indicate why I say that.

Take the question of the Railway schools. Mr. Chairman, I do not quite know whether under this cut motion, I can talk about them, but you will put me wise if I am going astray. Sir, I have been associated with various boards of education in my own province and it has been my duty to visit some of these Railway schools. By far, they are the most efficient schools we have in our province. Now I do say that the Railway administration is too efficient. I say that they are spending far more money, much too much money as compared with the schools that are run either by the Government or by privately managed schools. Take the Dinapore High School. I think it is one of the very few schools in the country where school boys get very good refreshments and, in the middle of the day, they get a glass of milk every day. Sir, I am not saying that they should not get their glass of milk or their *jelabis* or *laddus*. That is all to the good, but, if you take the total amount that that particular school spends and compare the figure with the very best school that is run by the Government of Bihar, in this particular instance, you will find that the total figure of the Railway school is nearly three times. I cannot help feeling that I think that there is room for less 'efficiency', if I may put it.

Now, somebody has mentioned the question of accountancy. Sir, I think the Railway Administration is much too efficient about accounts and about preserving its money. There are schools which have attained a certain level whereby they qualify to get certain sums efficiency grants, from the Board of Secondary Education.

My Honourable friend, the Minister for Transport, has presented us with a surplus. I would suggest to him that the Government of Bihar is badly in need of funds, particularly in regard to expenditure on education and it would be a generous move on the part of the Railway Board to give it the amount that is due on account of efficiency to the Railway High schools.

Now, take the so called Anglo-Indian Hill schools. Well, of course, they are strictly no longer confined to Anglo-Indians only. Most of these Hill Schools, something like 50 per cent. of them are manned by other Indians also—non-Anglo-Indians. 50 per cent. of the student population of most of these European schools in the Hills is manned by children of Railway employees. My Honourable friend, Mr. Anthony, in another House, only last year, made a very strong point and that was not to diminish the grants that were paid out to these European schools. He said: "Give us ten years time." I think that is one way of assisting him and the incidence of the education of the Railway employee's children should fall on the surplus that my Honourable friend, the Minister of Transport, has produced, that is another suggestion I would like to make.

To end up with, Mr. Chairman, I do think the Railway workers do look to us for a word of cheer. Are we so blind as not to see the good work that is being done, may not be by most of them, but at least by some of them? But let us not make the whole body of them hostile; let us not make them realise that we are insensible to the genuine efforts that are being made by the Honourable Minister for Transport and his colleagues for improvement; and I repeat again that there is plenty of room for improvement in this administration and in every other administration.

Sir, I strongly oppose this cut motion.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I find it a bit difficult to reply to the various speeches made because they have covered ground with which we are fairly familiar. I take it that the question of efficiency of the railways in these speeches has been examined during this discussion from two points of view. The first is the operational or the mechanical side,—the question of turn-round of wagons and other matters of the kind. I do not want to deal with that today because it is a subject which has been discussed very often in the past here. But as I listened to the discussion I felt that the most important point that Honourable Members were anxious to bring out is the condition and the quality of the personnel operating our railways. A great deal of exception in fairly strong terms has been taken to the statement that I placed before the House in my budget speech, a statement to the effect that I had faith in the great bulk of the men who are working for us on the railways. As I have said more than once, it is something which I honestly believe and I have no desire whatsoever to withdraw what I said in spite of everything that has been pointed out this morning. If I did not have faith in the men who are working the railways I should not be in a position to hope for any improvement at all.

There were two points particularly, I think, with regard to personnel which were made. One is that there is a lack of discipline and the other is that there is an increasing amount of corruption. I do not deny that there is indiscipline on the railways; I do not deny that there is corruption on the railways. But what I do deny is that indiscipline and corruption mark the great bulk of our railwaymen; I most indignantly deny that. As far as my own policy towards the staff is concerned, it is briefly this. I am anxious, and as long as I am in office I propose, to give the man on the railways what I consider a fair deal every time. I propose every time to put the completest trust in him, unless I find evidence to the contrary. Where I find evidence to the contrary I propose to punish him; but only where I find evidence to the contrary. Otherwise my policy is one of giving the man a fair deal and trusting them to the utmost.

Now there has been a great deal of talk about corruption. What we are trying to do in the matter of corruption is that there is a special police establishment working under the Home Ministry who are giving a great deal of attention to cases of corruption that arise on the railways. I have been looking at the figures of cases handled by that special police establishment in respect of railway matters; and of the total number of cases handled I find that not more than a fourth or fifth which were taken to a court of law resulted in conviction. And the reason why in the great majority of cases no conviction was secured is that it was impossible to get evidence from the people who are concerned on the other side. There can be no corruption unless there are two parties to the act of corruption; and if the other party—leaving the poor railwayman out—in the first place is an accomplice, and in the second place having been an accomplice refuses to do his duty as a citizen, who is to blame? It is all very well for Honourable Members in this House to make all these allegations against our men. We are anxious to take every possible step in order to bring people who are guilty of corruption to book. But we must have co-operation, and if that cooperation is denied it is not possible for us to go very far. Now even where cases have resulted in acquittal—and the great majority of cases which have been taken to court have resulted in acquittal—the railway administration have been prepared to take administrative disciplinary measures; there is quite a large number of cases where that has been done. We go further; we issue press notes every time whenever a conviction has been secured or whenever suitable administrative action has been taken. It does not seem to me possible to do anything more than this. Surely Honourable Members are not expecting me as Minister in charge of railways to launch a huge mass campaign of prosecution and persecution against the men who are running the railways. Give me evidence; unless you give me evidence it is impossible for me to act. Whatever evidence we can collect through our police and through our investigation agencies we are prepared to use and to have the most severe deterrent punishment imposed on the men concerned. But without the cooperation of the public it is not possible to go very far. Let me take the point a little further. We are passing in this country at present through a very difficult stage. There has been a very considerable weakening of the sense of law resulting from the war and from the big changes that have taken place recently. You cannot expect the vast number of men employed on our railways to be exempt from the general tendencies that are working among the population. The only way in which we can meet it is by starting a campaign of propaganda. All that I can say, therefore, is that as far as the operational and the mechanical side of transport is concerned, we know what the problems are; we know in which direction a solution lies. I have indicated it both in my November speech and in my speech last week. We are determined to go along those lines in order that that side of things is improved. As far as the personnel side is concerned, whatever cases of corruption come to our notice, whatever cases of indiscipline based on real evidence are brought to our notice, we are prepared to take action. But I do appeal for more cooperation; without it nothing can be done.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Sir, in view of the explanation given by the Honourable the Transport Minister, I beg leave to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Passenger Fares based on Uneconomic Rates Structure

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I move:

"that the demand under the head RAILWAY BOARD' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I have given notice of this motion to raise the issue of passenger fares being based on uneconomic rates structure. I listened to the speeches delivered by the Honourable Transport Minister just now and last evening, and I feel that as his original budget speech was characterised by sympathy towards the Railway employees and officials his last two speeches denote sympathy towards the general public. My cut motion is intended to draw attention to the fact that grave injustice has been done to the 800 or 900 million passengers who travel every year on our railways. During the November Session my Honourable friend asked the House to raise the passenger fares and whatever he asked for was conceded. He changed the telescopic rate in passenger fares to a flat rate and that flat rate was something like 80 per cent. rise in the first class, 44 per cent. in second class and 33 per cent. in the third class. All told there is a 33 per cent. appreciation in the receipts from passenger fares. I wantd to satisfy myself on this. From Calcutta to Delhi the first class fare before was Rs. 108 and recently it was Rs. 132-6-0. It is now Rs. 180-12-0. In 1925-26 the second class fare was Rs. 54. Last year it was Rs. 62-1-0. Today it is Rs. 90-6-0. In 1930-31 the third class fare by mail was Rs. 17/10: last year it was Rs. 19/6: now it is Rs. 30/3. So between the first class and second class there is a rise of 65 per cent. In the third class, there is a rise of 72 per cent.

Was all this necessary? And if the rate structure is correct, is there no one to plead for the hardpressed and oppressed railway passengers, that in spite of his being packed like animals as my friend Sjt. Nanda Kishore Das said yesterday, he will have to pay an all-round 33 per cent. more in fares and yet he will get no comforts?

Though I criticised last November, I thought it was time to give sufficient funds at the disposal of our Railway Minister so that he may adjust himself and create normal conditions out of the abnormal situation in which he found himself owing to the folly of the foreigners that ruled over this country. His predecessor, Sir Edward Benthall, the mighty representative of British trade and

[Shri B. Das]

industry in this country, wanted large orders to be placed in England. In 1944-45 he wanted to raise the passenger fares by 25 per cent. We opposed it in this House and Sir, with your help and co-ordination we threw out that proposal. He argued that he would leave behind a fund for the betterment in travelling for passengers.

I was examining the receipts from passenger fares. I find in 1924-25 it was Rs. 36 crores: in 1939-40 it was Rs. 28 crores: In 1942-43, before the war, it was Rs. 44 crores: in 1943-44 it was Rs. 58 crores: in 1944-45 it was Rs. 71·5 crores: in 1946-47 it was Rs. 86 crores: and in 1947-48 according to the adjustment made by my friend over separation of Pakistan, it would be Rs. 79·5 crores.

I know Pakistan is separate. But with a 33 per cent. rise in passenger fares and the flat rate throughout India, I think he has underestimated his receipts. I concede that he has mooted this in his budget speech and sympathise with him over the manifold problems that make his budget estimates so very uncertain, but why did he not take into account the facts and had a proper picture over the receipts from passenger traffic. I believe passenger traffic, if it is true that 800 million passengers travel throughout the year, would come up to the level of Rs. 95 crores. So I say that he has underestimated his receipts.

I have been looking into the income the Government has derived per passenger mile:

in 1938-39 it was 3·11 pies

in 1942-43 it was 3·84 pies.

in 1945-56 it was 4:02 pies.

I think with his 33 per cent. appreciation, he will get per passenger mile in 1948-49 about 6.1 or 6.2 pies per passenger mile. So if there is a 33 per cent. increase in the earnings, certain benefits ought to have accrued to the passengers in this budget. But the Honourable Minister never thought of the passengers. He told us that the railways are not a public utility concern and that it should function as a business concern. The railways are there, it seems, to extort the last drop of blood from the poor harassed passengers—the public.

Formerly we had season tickets and monthly return tickets, by which we were given concession rates of one and a half fares. Today there is no such concession. That means the Honourable the Railway Minister is earning more money because there is no concession. As a matter of fact similar concessions extended to the third class fares also.

What happens if the cost of living rises? According to the papers the economic adviser of the Government of India has said that it has gone up from 308 to 320. I do not know if he took into account the cost of travel in railways or in buses. I think my Honourable friend, as the great economist he is, will find that the cost of travel in the domestic budget has gone up by ten points. Therefore, I say, that such a public utility concern should look into domestic and individual economics. But how am I to think that my Honourable friend is thinking of reconstruction and a stabilized policy in our railways in India, when the passenger is going to be mulcted and charged anything. I am helpless and you are helpless. Whatever this House decides, we must pay because we have to travel: besides our propensity for travel has been growing more and more and since the last war that propensity has still further increased. Yet we have to settle down to normal life. We have to evolve a rate structure that will satisfy us and at the same time the railway administration. The railways may be an indigenous business concern but it is a public utility concern and in the past we have paid some hundreds of crores to railways from general revenues so that the railways might survive and be a public career. Painfully

I read in the memorandum about the provision of railway reserves. This was a fantastic proposal of the British Managers of our Railways who wanted money not to go to general revenues but that the money should be kept in railway reserves apart from the depreciation fund, which stands now at Rs. 90 crores. But this railway reserve fund we have many times starred and many times wiped it off. I do not think it is an essential thing to be maintained and it is not correct to deprive the general revenues of its due quota which it must get. Whether general finance should get its revenues through incometax and super-tax or by the contribution that we agreed to by the Convention of 1925, is a point which may be raised at a later stage in the House and not today, because a Committee is looking into this year's surplus to see how much will devolve to general revenues. I think the railways should work in spite of the heavy subsidy from general finance and the taxpayer, as a commercial concern. At the same time, because it is a monopolist concern, the Railway Minister should not think of enhancing of rates and fares without giving the due *quid pro quo* to the passengers that travel.

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The Honourable Minister of Railways spoke about what is happening in other countries and as to what should be the passenger rate that is equitable to the Indian travelling public. It is no use telling us about the U.S.A. and the U.K. While our *per capita* income is less than Rs. 100, in the U.K. it is Rs. 1,200 and in the U.S.A. it is Rs. 2,500. It is no use comparing blindly the passenger fares in the U.S.A. with those in India. A public utility concern like the railways should see that they do not make profits and squander it, and they do not overpay their staff. I do not mind that their staff should get an economic standard of wages.

I was reading another document produced by another Ministry the Industrial Committee report, where it was said that labour all over India has adopted a "go slow" policy. I was surprised to hear my Honourable friend saying that all is well in the Indian railways. When the labour representatives spoke on this side I felt that they had given a certain definite undertaking to the Railway Minister that the railway employees are going to earn the money they will be paid, and not, because they are members of the socialistic and communistic fraternity. I wish it were true and production goes up!

I do hope if necessary the Railway Minister would appoint a Rates Structure Committee. Let somebody examine the passenger traffic rates structure, which should have some harmonious relation to the past practice and not the present flat rate which is telling so hard on us.

I need not go into the other points which I have noted. I have not made this speech in any spirit of carping criticism. My Honourable friend the Railway Minister came here from the Tatas which is the biggest industrial concern in India and I hope if he will descend to the humble field where we commoners tread he will find the hardship that this flat rate is causing and if he mixes with the crowd he will find the common mass thinking that the railway rates are today a heavy burden on the public. The common man is not interested in the policy of labour or wages, nor the staff to be dispensed with. They are very anxious that the Government should settle down and that particularly our national government should give them a cheap mode of transport. I do hope in spite of its not being included in the budget he will try to introduce *puja* and Christmas concessions and other concessions, so that he will start making an experiment which his predecessors practised for 25 years.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri O. V. Alagesan (Madras: General): Sir, I would confine my remarks to only one subject, namely the increase in season ticket fares. In my opinion a grievous wrong has been done to this poor, most useful and deserving class of passengers. The House is aware that at the time of the last budget the

[Shri O. V. Alagesan]

Honourable Minister for Transport announced increase in season ticket fares. There was an increase in the ordinary fare also. Generally the season ticket fares are calculated on a certain basis in relation to the ordinary fare. So when the ordinary fare is increased the season ticket fare is automatically increased. In this case not being satisfied with the proportionate increase, maximum percentages were fixed and were announced in the House. The increases were 12½ per cent., 18¾ per cent., 25 per cent., and 50 per cent. for the third, inter, second and first classes respectively. Along with that a sly distinction was introduced between the suburban and non-suburban travellers. In my opinion that made matters worse for the latter. The following statement occurs in the Explanatory Memorandum on the last Railway Budget. "There will be consequential adjustments in non-suburban season tickets and for them the monthly charge will be fixed at a uniform rate of 24 single fares." I am sure even the Honourable Minister would not have been fully aware of the significance of the change of basis of calculation which he was introducing in terms of rupees, annas and pies, when he announced the same in his Budget speech. Surely the House did not read between the lines and catch the significance of this. I shall illustrate this through a concrete example.

On the South Indian Railway formerly no distinction was made between suburban and non-suburban travel in respect of season tickets. The entire distance of 50 miles on which season ticket travel is permissible was treated alike. The figures that I shall be quoting will give the true picture as it is after the increases announced at the time of the last budget. The distance between Chingleput and Madras (a distance of 38 miles) has been treated as non-suburban. The increase in the third class season ticket is 62 per cent, both for monthly and quarterly tickets, whereas it is only 12½ or 13 per cent. for suburban season tickets. As regards second class, the monthly season ticket used to be only Rs. 28/15 and it has been increased to Rs. 76/8 which works out at 264 per cent. increase. The quarterly season ticket which was Rs. 57/13 has been increased to Rs. 191/4, which is an increase of 335 per cent. I need not say that this wide disparity between one class of travellers and another is not at all justifiable and should be ended.

Even in the case of suburban season tickets (quarterly) the increase in second class is to the tune of 57 per cent. *i.e.* from Rs. 28/10 to 46/7. This was done in accordance with instructions given as follows:

"That railways who formerly issued these season tickets at a discount might continue to do so, but that in no case should the discount exceed one-sixth of the aggregate value of 3 monthly season tickets."

So even for the suburban area the increase is more than what was contemplated. It is 57 per cent. whereas the contemplated increase was only 25 per cent. The instance is not an isolated one affecting only one railway. It is a common thing. It is an all-India grievance. I therefore think the Honourable Minister will make haste to remedy this state of affairs which I hope he did not even contemplate at the time of introducing the changes. If there should be any discrimination at all I venture to say that it should be made in favour of the non-suburban season ticket holders rather than the suburban travellers; because after all who are these non-suburban season ticket holders? They came from the poor and middle classes. They are largely composed of students, petty officials, labourers, artisans and others who eke out their livelihood in a city and live in villages. They do so for two reasons. Firstly, they cannot live in the cities because it is much beyond their earning capacity. Another reason,

as everybody knows, is the housing shortage in these cities. Nobody can get houses in cities or towns. These people while performing a service to the city do not remain as a burden on the city administrations or utility services. In fact these people should be encouraged more. Instead of that they have been penalised. In my opinion it is not fair. Nobody has any objection to the increase in fares as contemplated by the percentages announced. The objection comes when an invidious distinction is introduced between one section of travellers and another. And there is such a wide disparity. I shall earnestly appeal to the Honourable Minister to remove this disparity. Representations have been made to him and he is already seized of the matter. I hope he would find it possible to make an announcement on the floor of the House today. By doing so he will be more or less righting the wrong that was inadvertently done at the time of the last Budget and will be treating all passengers alike—I mean season ticket travellers who are not a handful but who are quite a large number—and will be according them the same treatment. He will thereby be leaving them with the increases that were actually contemplated and understood by the House as such when he introduced the rates at the time of the last Budget.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, the problems that have been raised are fairly simple and straightforward problems. I think the question that My Honourable friend Mr. B. Das raised was briefly this I think he was concerned primarily with the abolition of the system of telescopic rates in regard to passenger fares. That, I am afraid, was something which we did with our eyes open and I should like to explain what really was the consideration involved in it. When we decided to place proposals for increase in fares and freights we wanted to see to it that the burden involved in this increase was as low as possible as far as third class passengers were concerned in respect of their essential journeys. Therefore the basis on which we proceeded was that third class fares by ordinary trains should be kept at a rate which very nearly approximated to the average rate which prevailed on most of the principal railways in India. That is how we got this rate of four pies for the third class by ordinary trains—we took ordinary trains because people who travel relatively short distances would be travelling by ordinary trains rather than mail trains. In order to have travel by third class trains in respect of essential journeys at the lowest possible rates it became necessary, in order to meet the increase in expenses that we were up against, to find a corresponding amount of money to make up the deficiency on the third class side. We felt that the only way of doing it—and probably in the circumstances the least unsatisfactory way of doing it—was to abolish the telescopic principle for the time being. That is how the situation resulted. I am quite aware of the importance of the consideration which my Honourable friend Mr. B. Das raised, that in a country like ours with a standard of living which is very low it is of the utmost importance that we should make the cost of transport as low as possible in respect of third class passengers. I am well aware of the importance of that consideration. But unfortunately for circumstances over which we have no control it has been necessary to raise the estimate of working expenses The cost of materials and the cost of labour have gone up owing to circumstances over which the railways have so little control. Once you are up against the fact that there is a very big increase in working expenses that increase has got to be met, and in order to make the increase as equitable as possible, for the first time last year we decided to introduce the principle of gradation in our schedule of fares. That is to say, when we proposed an increase, what used to be done before was that you introduced a flat rate of increase: we did not do that last time. For the first time we decided to introduce the principle of gradation, that is to say, we applied a higher ratio of increase to upper class passengers and a lower ratio increase to the lowest

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class passengers. I believe it is the first time that we introduced that principle into our railway rates structure, and I would with very great respect suggest to Mr. B. Das that a certain amount of credit might be given to the administration for having introduced that.

The other question which my friend Mr. Alagesan raised has been present to my mind. I quite understand the problem that worries him. That is to say, if you take the proportion of increase in respect of suburban season tickets and of non-suburban season tickets the proportion of increase has been considerably greater in respect of non-suburban season tickets. But after all when you reduce it to the actual quantum of money involved, the non-suburban season ticket holder today, under the present increases, is only charged twelve return tickets for a month's season ticket. To my mind it appears that if our expenses are lower, or if we are up against competition from other forms of transport, it might be necessary for us later on to reconsider it. But that is a different problem. For the time being, if you simply but it at that, what we are charging the non-suburban season ticket holder is twelve return tickets for a whole month's journey which might mean not merely one return journey everyday but sometimes more than that. On merits it cannot be considered excessive. But I know what is troubling my friend Mr. Alagesan. The problem on the South Indian Railway is a somewhat different problem. On that Railway I believe the suburban season ticket rates had been in force before 1st January 1948. The whole question there, I think, is bound up with their scheme for increasing the area served by the electrified railways, and their contention is that if the electrification system is going to be extended beyond the present point, the cost would be such that the suburban season ticket fares that we charge now would not cover their expenses. Now that question has been present to my mind, and all that I can say at this stage, and I hope my Honourable friend will be satisfied with that, is that I have decided to take up that question with the South Indian Railway and see whether it would not be possible to provide some kind of relief for people who are getting their concession rate now and who are denied that rate under the present system. That I think is as far as I can carry the matter. I am not in a position at present to make any announcement regarding variations of the non-suburban season ticket rates that we have just now introduced.

Mr. Chairman: Does Mr. Das want to press his motion?

Shri B. Das: No.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Grievances of Third Class Passengers

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, on this vital subject, if I have to criticize the railway administration, I hope the Honourable Minister will forgive me and take my criticism in the best spirit and as made with the best of intentions. Sir, it is not today that the grievances of the third class passengers are being presented to the Honourable Minister by this Honourable House, but during the British regime the third class travelling was intentionally made by that administration intolerable. I would go further and state that third class travelling is a vulnerable hell. That is the legacy that the British Government has left to our own Indian Ministers. I am anxious to see these grievances removed, and I am also desirous to say that the time has come when the Government must show that

they are alive to the situation and that the Government intends seriously to remove the grievances of these third class passengers. An impression has to be created in the public mind of the third class passengers. The Honourable Minister said that for the removal of overcrowding and many other things, production is the greatest factor. I agree with him: and he has in his speech mentioned certain targets, and those targets related to long-term policy. I appreciate that. But what about the short term immediate policy? Where is this target? I want to know what target has been fixed for the existing coaching staff to be put into perfect running order? Has the Honourable Minister told his administration 'I want to see the existing coaches put in proper position within three months'? He must issue such an order, and loyal as his officers are, I am perfectly sure they will put them in order. We have been hearing a lot about the coaches which are lying with the military authorities. For the last two years I have been hearing from the visitors' gallery the Honourable Minister saying that by June 1947, all these coaches will be returned to the administration. Then in this session we asked him as to when these are going to be brought back and handed over to us. Sir, from June 1947, up to the present moment, all these coaches have not come back to us. Cannot he tell his officers 'I want one of you to go to Assam or any other front and find out where these coaches are, and bring them back within three months'? Again with the present coaches, there are no window catches, there are no lavatory fittings, there are no doors in some coaches; the panes of the windows are broken. Can these not be attended to immediately? Cannot he fix a target in regard to these things? Cannot he tell his Commissioner 'Mr. Railway Commissioner, I want these things done within three months', and I am sure the Railway Commissioner will obey his order. This is the kind of thing people today want and that will really be a peoples government. We want to create an impression in the people's mind I am not expected to see "Silver Arrow" train which was recently exhibited all over the country—to be put on the lines immediately. Heaven knows when we shall see such improvements. I am not talking of amenities. I am talking of the bare necessities of the toiling persons who are travelling today. Their lot is worse than that of the cattle. Cattle are provided with wagons, a certain amount of space, and are numbered. But these third class passengers, leaving aside their overcrowding, are seen sitting on windows, standing on foot-boards, and sitting on the roofs of carriages. Their lot is much worse than that of cattle, and nothing has been done from that point of view with the existing staff. By all means have the long term policy. We all know that the Honourable Minister has not got a magic lantern or a magic rod or a magic wand by which he can immediately do it. What has his administration done during the last one year they have been in existence,—certainly six months as free India and for six months the Honourable Minister was there as a Minister in the Interim Cabinet. I want to know what the Government has done. There are so many necessary things which are not there in the third class carriages, and in some of the higher class carriages also. Bulbs even are not being fitted in the third class compartments. No satisfactory answer was ever given. It was often stated that the passengers were stealing. That was the answer the bureaucrats were giving to me and this very answer our officers are repeating to the Honourable Minister. I am sorry to say that he is repeating this very answer on the floor of this House. Those bulbs are of no use to the public. They are of special quality which can be used only in railway compartments, and it is their own people who steal. I am making one other suggestion. Let there be one compartment attached with about a couple of dozen fitters and workmen, and let them travel in the trains and see that these minor repairs are attended to immediately. They should carry a few bulbs with them, to fit into compartments where there are none if the catches are not there, they shou'd be put up in their places; if the doors are not locking

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva]

they should be repaired, otherwise people are exposed to danger. In the women's compartments specially, all these things should be attended to and they are not secure as things stand at present. Let these workmen work on the travelling trains. Give them more salaries, I do not mind it. But this solution must be put into operation, and I am sure if there is a will, there are many ways of doing a thing. After all in this huge railway administration, do you mean to say they cannot find a way Sir, for the short-term policy? If we are going to wait really for the long-term policy, then you will not create an impression upon the travelling public.

The Honourable Minister for Railways wished that there should be co-operation from our side. Let me assure him we are out to co-operate with him. I can tell him that just as he today is responsible, we are also responsible. But the co-operation should be reciprocal. Let me give two instances to him. I was travelling last month only from Bombay (Victoria Terminus) to Nagpur to attend the Railway Advisory Committee meeting in a first class compartment through the kindness of the railway who gave me a pass free. A member is entitled to that privilege for attending meetings. Sir, just five minutes before the departure of the train I saw a passenger at my door loitering and as I know such ticketless passengers, just at the time of starting, jump into compartment. I asked him, "Friend, where are you going?", he said, "I am going to Nasik, will you kindly allow me?". I said, "Kindly show me your ticket, whether you are travelling first class", he said, "But I will get down at Kalyan, it is only next station". I said, "Let me see the ticket; by all means you can come in, but I would like to see the ticket". Sir, the man quietly went away. On the station platform there was a Ticket Inspector in a black uniform. I went and told him, "Will you kindly see this man? I presume he is travelling without a ticket". Sir, he gave no countenance. I went in search of the Stationmaster—there was nobody. I brought this to the notice of the Advisory Committee at Nagpur, and the Chairman told me. "I am very glad that you have brought it to my notice. But what can I investigate? What can I do? There are many black-coated Inspectors. Whom should I ask?" Sir, the time at my disposal before the train started was two minutes and I had no person, not even the Stationmaster, available that I could get his name down and report it. This is the position.

Sir, the Honourable Minister was talking about traffic guides. I am very glad in his speech he said he wanted the social-service type of men. I saw one in Nagpur Station with the badge "Traffic Guide". He was quietly walking on the platform from one end to the other. When I saw third-class passengers running from one end to the other, searching for accommodation I saw this man was not helpful. That is the point I am driving at. The outlook of the staff has not changed. If he has given the certificate that the Indians are able to do the job, I am in entire agreement with him. He is telling us today, but we have been advocating the same from the public platforms during the British regime while advocating for the Indianization of the services. I was one who must have preached from hundreds of platforms that the British administration was an impediment, that our Indians have talent, they have enthusiasm, that they are persevering and that they are a match for them if given chance to take charge. I am glad today that in every department, right down from the Commissioner to the General Manager, barring some exceptions they are all Indians and they are very able to do the work. To that extent I am joining with my Honourable friend in his certificate or his congratulations, but if he says that his administration has changed its outlook, I am sorry I cannot agree; that is exactly what I want the Administration to do. I do feel, Sir, that just as you have got training schools for training the linesmen, the signalsmen, the drivers and the conductors, in order that the type of service may be changed there must be a school where three months' training should be given to these people.

I was also stating about the bare necessities of third-class passengers. Take the case of booking offices. For third-class passengers their booking offices are sometimes half a furlong or one furlong from the main platform and the main offices. They have to come a number of hours before time and fall in queue, wait there for tickets. I know when a passenger runs for a ticket, the staff at the booking office is intentionally not prompt in issuing the ticket because when the passenger gives a note of Rs. 10 and the fare is Rs. 9-1, the man has to pocket about twelve annas. The passenger is in a hurry to get the ticket, he does not see what is written on the ticket—particularly so with our unfortunate illiterate third-class passengers—he has to run from the booking office to catch the train. And for these third-class passengers only five minutes before the departure of the train is the gate opened. For the first and second class passengers the whole day the gate is open. Are the third-class passengers not men? But this mentality is strange.

In the British regime they have erected stations wherever there are Cantonments with luxurious conveniences. I will not take the Honourable House to far-off stations; take the East Punjab. There is the Jullundur Cantt. Station and the Jullundur City Station; the Meerut Cantt. Station and the Meerut City Station; the Ambala Cantt. Station and the Ambala City Station; Ferozepore Cantt. and Ferozepore City Stations. See the marked difference between the Cantonment Station and the City Station. The Cantt. Station is provided with shelters for passengers. In the City Station there is no shelter, there is no proper waiting room, whereas the number of passengers travelling from the City Station is ten times more than that from the Cantonment Station. This was done only with the object of giving facilities to the European community, the upper class community. If you take the population of these Cantonment Stations, you will find it is very small. And at these stations generally the trains are stopped for ten or fifteen minutes and at the City Station only for five minutes.

An Honourable Member: What about Delhi?

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Again, you see the third-class booking offices there in Delhi also, and see the booking offices of the upper classes, and see the number of platforms. One booking office is at one end and the other at the other end.

Sir, the whole machinery has to be changed. The Honourable Minister should make out a plan and put in an immediate proposal to galvanize the spirit of your men—that dynamic spirit force I want among the men and until it comes nothing can be done. Sir, Railway servants are my friends; I have worked in their unions—both of the clerical staff and of the working staff—and I know they are my friends. I have worked with them for a number of years and they were always listening to me whenever their interests were concerned. Now for the interest of the public the time has come when they must change their viewpoint and see that they must help their Government. My Honourable friend has been good enough to give them a full-fledged certificate. I do not mind it, Sir, but I am not going to give them the full-fledged certificate to the extent of the absence of the changed outlook, which I want infused in them. That is the main point I am driving at.

I am not speaking simply for the purpose of speaking. I can mention a number of grievances here, but my difficulty is that I have a limited time at my disposal and I cannot do justice to all the points. But if you give me only one minute, Sir, I shall mention one point and complete. I appeal to the Honourable Minister that from one of the replies to the questions that I asked, which question is being asked in every Session here, and when it is repeated, he must realise that there is something very wrong. We are not

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva]

here merely for the purpose of speaking and bringing matters to the notice of the Honourable Minister. He must realise that yesterday fifty per cent. of the members, while discussing the general administration, spoke on the grievances of the travelling public. My Honourable friend gave two minutes to this matter, took 18 minutes on the question of statistics and operating ratio—I am very glad he is a master of that, he is an economist and he ably put it,—he took 5 minutes for wagons, and only half a minute for the public grievances. That is the only thing I want to impress on him. Just as he is an enthusiastic economist he must be equally enthusiastic about the third-class passengers' grievances.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board', be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay: General): Sir, I would like to place before the House some observations regarding the difficulties under which the third class passengers are suffering. Of course, my Honourable friend, Mr. Sidhva, has placed before the House certain grievances with the sentiments and emotions that he is capable of. There is no question of denying the fact that the third-class passengers, who are as a matter of fact the best paymasters of the Railways, are treated with scant courtesy by the officials. But I must also admit that during the last five or six months, after independence has come, a certain change in the attitude of the railway officials is noticeable. Only that the change, according to me, is not very rapid, and if the Honourable Railway Minister and our sympathetic Railway Commissioner would take it into their heads to make efforts to change this attitude and outlook on the part of these officials, I do not think there will be any difficulty whatsoever. As a matter of fact, from my observations on the railway stations, the railway officials who had been accustomed to treat the lower class passengers indifferently during the last generation or two are now anxious to change their attitude and if a little push is given, there is bound to be vast improvement.

I have one constructive suggestion, Sir, to make to my Honourable friend, the Railway Minister. That suggestion is this. The time has now come when the Railway Department must straightaway, without any loss of time, alter their policy and abolish at least the first-class accommodation on the Railways. If the first-class accommodation is removed, the attention and the time that the railway officials had given or are accustomed to give to the first-class passengers would be directed towards the convenience of the third-class passengers. Along with the removal of first-class accommodation, there will be lot of space also available on the railway station platforms which could be made use of for the third class passengers. We find, Sir, that there are First-Class Railway Waiting Rooms, First-Class Railway Refreshment Rooms, and for ought I know most of these rooms are utilised by railway officials for gossiping. We know as a matter of fact, particularly during the last three months, most of these First-Class Waiting Rooms have been empty and in this respect if I place before the Railway Minister certain facts he may find them useful.

Sir, the change which I have suggested of abolishing the first-class accommodation is one which should be done in a couple of weeks' time on all the Railways. I tell you the reason, Sir. There is one train which is daily running between Ahmedabad and Bombay Central, called Gujarat Mail. Now the Gujarat Mail has accommodation for 450 third-class passengers, 84 second-class passengers and 16 first-class passengers. The 450 third-class passengers bring in today a revenue of about Rs. 3,400; the 84 second-class passengers bring in a revenue of, say, about Rs. 2,100; and the 16 first-class passengers bring in a revenue of about Rs. 750 to 800. Of course, I assume that both

the first-class and the second-class coaches are all occupied. But from my observations during the last two months, I find that on an average only 3 to 4 passengers travel by first-class while the remaining 12 berths are empty and the result is that the Railway is losing revenue to that extent. On the other side, we see the spectacle of the third-class passengers dying to get accommodation. Now, Sir, where is the need for running these first-class coaches, which in my opinion had been provided in this country by our railways in order to satisfy the snobbery of foreigners who did not want to travel with Indians? There is certainly no need of this snobbery now and there should, in my opinion, be only two types of accommodation to begin with, namely, a Lower Class and an Upper Class, the Lower Class approximating to the present Inter-Class and the Upper Class approximating to the present Second-Class. If the first-class is abolished on the abovementioned train, these 16 berths will be able to accommodate 150 third-class passengers by making slight conversions, taking into consideration the present load, and yield an income of about Rs. 1,250 as against the problematic revenue of Rs. 750. If this is true of a particular train which I have observed, I am sure it may be more or less true of other trains also that are working on the B. B. & C. I. Railway and I think it will also be true of such trains on all Railways. This is a question, Sir, which I think requires the close and immediate attention of the Railway Authorities.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhva in his characteristic style . . .

Shri H. V. Kamath: 'Inimitable style'!

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: . . . in his characteristic style said that as far as booking offices are concerned.....(*Interruption*) it is bound to be inevitable, as my Honourable friend Mr. Kamath says, but its inevitability under the present circumstances arises from the fact. . .

Shri H. V. Kamath: On a point of correction, Sir. I said 'inimitable' and not 'inevitable'.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: I thought he said that the present state of affairs was inevitable and was going to say that, that was probably due to the energy and time of the railway personnel, being wasted in looking to first-class passengers who alone enjoy their indulgence.

Sir, if the personnel employed now on first-class passengers is requisitioned to serve the third-class passengers and if the Railway Board make the higher officials realise that the first-class passengers, or, for that matter, even the second-class passengers are not their masters but their real masters are the third-class passengers who run into crores, especially with the coming into being shortly of adult franchise under the democracy that we are evolving, then, Sir, everything will be well. It is the common people who are going to vote all of them on the adult franchise and they are the real masters, and the duty of the railway officials, as it is the duty of the servant, is to serve very satisfactorily their real masters.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a fiction of democracy that a motion of this nature should be construed as a censure motion. Sir, far from being a censure motion, need I appeal to the Minister and tell him that this is a motion to lay before him our experiences of the Railway Administration so that he might utilise them to the best advantage of the Government. Sir, let it be clearly understood and realised that from the day that he entered office, our National Cabinet, his honour and respect are ours and our grievances are his. It would, therefore, be unfortunate for anyone to construe this as a motion of censure.

Sir, I do realise the difficulties of the Honourable Minister; his difficulties are enormous because of the legacies left for the National Government by its predecessor. But at the same time I want him to feel that all that glitters is not gold. Sir, while we appreciate the compliment that he has paid to the

[Shri Biswanath Das]

officials in charge of the Railway Administration, we want the officials in their turn to realise and feel that their responsibility is to see that the popular grievances are redressed, and the greatest public utility service that we have in this country is being utilised in such a way as to make out an attractive case for the nationalisation of the other public utility concerns in this country. It is with this object in view that we are tempted to offer our observations and I hope that they will be taken in the spirit in which they are offered.

Sir, my friends have stated all about the difficulties of the third class passengers. Their difficulties are numerous. My Honourable friend the Minister in charge of the Department—fortunately for him he had a brilliant career—does not travel in third class. It is therefore impossible for him to realise the difficulties and grievances of third class passengers. So far as I am concerned,—except on occasions when I travel to attend the meetings of the Constituent Assembly, or come on official work —I generally travel by the third class. So, when I enumerate the grievances of the third class passengers, I only speak from my own personal experience. The Honourable Minister's predecessor in office Mr. Asaf Ali in presenting his budget for 1946-47, gave certain promises—seatings which make room for greater privacy; provision of knee-room which will give greater standard of comfort, provision of adequate water supply in the compartments and lavatories; improvement of lighting arrangements; more accommodation for third class passengers, etc. I would ask him, and through him, his officials, to see which of these items have been realised in practice? Need I say, Sir, that the latrines—I would not call them lavatories, because they are not worth that name, I do not even know what expression to use—are unusable. The compartments are stinky; the latrines are stinky; lights you don't have at all, and even if it is there, it is dim. Imagine the difficulties of a family travelling a long distance in such a third class compartment. These grievances need consideration.

The Honourable Minister's Department had instituted a betterment fund in 1946-47. The purpose of the fund had been described in the budget speech as to make "travel faster, safer and more comfortable." I would ask the Minister in Charge of the Department or any of his officials who today running the machinery of the Railway Administration to see for themselves privately (because if they go in their official capacity they will be received with garlands) any of these third class compartments; they will see that they are not places for any decent person to sit and much less to travel long distances. I know sweepers have been provided. But what is the use? Unless you pay no sweeper comes to sweep your compartment. The result boil down to this. (*An Honourable Member*: "Sweepers are meant for First and Second class passengers") I know that the first and Second Class passengers get it done, but the poor third class passengers cannot afford to pay. Under these circumstances I would appeal to my Honourable friend to see that something is done to redeem the promises made by his predecessor.

Sir, I am very much pained to see from an analysis how the betterment fund has been utilised for the last two years. Let me give the Honourable Members of this House an idea of the betterment fund. In 1946, the Betterment Fund appropriated 2/3rd for the amenities of the staff and 1/3rd for the amenities of the passengers. In the Betterment Fund allocations later, a higher proportion was allocated for the amenities of the passengers. Again allocation for the staff includes such items as hospital accommodation, water-supply and the like and that for passengers provides for such items as construction of over-bridges, covered platforms, water-supply, etc. I would appeal to my Honourable friend to plead with his officials; I do not want to be hard with them, because they are of us and we are of them; I want

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them to realize that their responsibility and ours is one. Sir, National Government is meaningless, our independence is meaningless unless our friends run the administration on the basis that their interests and ours are one. In this view of the question, I want to plead with him and through him to his higher officials to run the Department with changed mentality and outlook. I wish that the Betterment Fund really becomes a betterment fund for the betterment of the passengers. Why on earth should you have so many funds and give scope for mis-spending monies and utilising in the way the officials liked.

Sir, you go to moffussil stations. You do not have even a waiting room in very many moffussil small stations. It is my unfortunate experience to see throughout Orissa in small stations you do not have a waiting room; you do not have water conveniences; you do not have latrine conveniences; and you do not have anything to call a convenience. Is the administration worth the name if things go on in the way that has been going on? I appeal and plead with my Honourable friend and through him the officials to see that all is not well if you make Delhi glitter like gold or if you make Calcutta glitter like gold. We want the benefits to be extended to moffussil places and to far off places, so that the people who really need help can get it.

Sir, having stated so far about the Betterment Fund, let me come to another question which is more painful, namely the fares. Let me state in this House that people in moffussil do not like to travel unnecessarily unless they are compelled to do so. Generally, they have to travel long distances because of migration of labour from district to district and from province to province. But, the fares that have been increased are very high.

Mr. Chairman: This point has already been debated. I think the Honourable Member need not refer to that point.

Shri Biswanath Das: Quite right, but while speaking of the third class passenger that is one of the main and important grievance which has to be brought to the notice of the Assembly and the Honourable Minister. Sir, originally one anna was increased and now 5-1/3 annas and this means at one stretch they get an increase of 6-1/3 annas. Having stated so far about it, let me state that vested interests have unfortunately been created in the Railways. Why? It is because that certain things have gone on unheeded for a long time. Let me illustrate my point. While travelling long distances or while coming from a long distant moffussil to a railway station in these days especially when trains do not keep to time, people have to depend on railway refreshment stalls and hotels. These hotels have been leased out not with the idea and outlook of providing conveniences and good staff to people for whom they are intended, but as a source of income to the Railways. This offers a lot of scope for the intermediaries to exploit the passengers besides the heavy fares that have been imposed on railway passengers. It has been my ill luck or good luck to travel in these railways very often and to undergo these hardships. In the Railways standard prices have been fixed, but you do not get good price or good stuff. Not only do you not get proper things, they are also not properly weighed. The prices are far heavier at the railway stations than what you would get otherwise in ordinary stalls. It is time when you should have a number of contractors instead of giving all the contracts in a railway to one contractor, and thus make it convenient for him and for the officials in charge to exploit the passengers. It has been experienced in the B. N. and E. I. Railways that this is so. Sir, you go to any station in moffussil areas. You find at least in B. N. Railway things are awfully rotten, things are prepared in the worst if possible. I feel, Sir, vested interests have been created even in refreshment stalls and stalls for other eatables. I strongly feel that the present system of giving contract should be done away with and a proper outlook be created in this regard so that the Railway stalls will really be useful and serviceable to the country folk.

श्री राम सहाय : सभापति महोदय, अभी आपके सामने तीसरे दर्जे के मुसाफिरों की तकलीफ के बारे में बताया गया है। मैं आपसे एक ऐसे हिस्से के बारे मे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं जहां पर कि ग्रामीण जनता के उपयोग में आने वाली सिर्फ दो रेलें एक आने व एक जाने को चलती है और वहां पर कोई सड़कें बगैरा भी नहीं हैं। जी० आई० पी० लाइन में ऐसी हालत है कि वहां लोगों को ट्रेन में जगह न मिलने पर २५ मील और ३० मील तक पैदल चलना पड़ता है। लड़ाई के पहले वहां जो गाड़ी चलती थी वह बन्द हो गई जिससे लोगों को काफी कष्ट उठाना पड़ता है। अब वहां एक पैसेंजर गाड़ी और एक पारसल एक्सप्रेस चलती है। पारसल एक्सप्रेस में तो तीसरे दर्जे के मुसाफिर को सफर करना बन्द कर दिया है और पैसेंजर ट्रेन में इतना रश रहता है कि लोगों को बैठने की जगह नहीं मिलती है। यह हिन्दुस्तानियों का दुर्भाग्य है कि उनको तकलीफ उठाने की आदत हो गई है, लेकिन उनका कार्य पूरा न हो तो यह सबसे बड़ी मुसीबत है। इसलिये मैं हाउस के सामने यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि तीसरे दर्जे के मुसाफिरों के लिये बैठने के लिये ट्रेन में जगह मिलने का तो कम से कम इन्तजाम हो।

अभी खन्डू भाई ने आपके सामने यह सुझाव रक्खा कि चार क्लासेज की जगह हमें दो क्लासेज रखनें चाहिये। मैं हाउस से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि यहां जितने लोग भी बैठे हैं उनमें से बहूत से आमतौर पर तीसरे दर्जे में सफर करने पर गर्व करते रहे हैं। फिर कोई वजह नहीं है कि हम इन चारों दर्जों को रक्खें। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि एक ही दर्जा रक्खा जाय और उन लोगों के लिये जिनको रातों दिन का लम्बा सफर करना हो उनको रात को सोने की व्यवस्था की जाये ताकि वे आराम कर सकें। बजाय इसके कि फर्स्ट क्लास, सेकन्ड क्लास, थर्ड क्लास, रक्खा जाय यह मुनासिब नहीं हैं। जब तक हम इस तरह की चीज़ नहीं सोचेंगे तब तक हम तीसरे दर्जे के मुसाफिरों को आराम नहीं पहुंचा सकते हैं। हमको यह सोचना चाहिये कि हर मुसाफर को आराम से बैठने के लिये ट्रेन में जगह मिल जाय। इसी तरह से जी० आई० पी० में जो पारसल एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी चलती है अगर उसमें दो तीन डिब्बे तीसरे दर्जे के लगा दिये जायं तो इससे काफी तकलीफ दूर हो सकती है ओर जो पैसेंजर गाड़ी बन्द है अगर उनको भी चला दिया जाय तो जनता को काफी सहूलियत हो जायगी जब तक हम पूरी व्यवस्था नहीं कर सकते तब तक के लिये तो कम से कम एक ही क्लास रक्खी जाय।

इसमें शुबा नहीं है कि तीसरे दर्जे के मुसाफिरों से ही आमदनी होती है और जैसा कि खन्डू भाई ने अभी कहा है कि उनके ही वोट से हम यहां आये हैं और उनकी ही राय से हमारी डेमोक्रेटिक गवर्नमेंट को चलना है तो मैं नहीं समझता कि उनकी तकलीफों को हम क्यों नज़रअन्दाज़ नहीं करते हैं। तीसरे दर्जे के बुकिंग आफिस आमतौर पर शहरों के अन्दर नहीं हैं हमको इस बात की भी कोशिश

करनी चाहिये कि तीसरे दर्जे के मुसाफिरों को आसानी से टिकट मिल जाय इसलिये बड़े बड़े शहरों में सिटी में ही बुकिंग आफिस खोले जायं मैं समझता हूं कि हमारा रेल का सरपलस बजट है तो हमको जरूर तीसरे दर्जे के मुसाफिरों को सुविधा देनी चाहिये और बड़ी २ जगह बुकिंग आफिस सिटी में खोल दिये जांय जिससे आसानी से टिकट मिल जांय।

क्योंकि बहुत सारी बातें हाउस के सामने कही जा चुकी हैं इसलिये मैं इतनी ही बात कहकर खत्म करता हूं।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Ram Sahai (Gwalior State): Sir, the difficulties of third class passengers have just been detailed before the House. I want to say something about a place where only two train services are available to the villagers, one for outward journey and the other for inward journey. There are no roads in this territory. The state of affairs on the G.I.P. Railway is such that failing to get accommodation on the trains, people have to traverse twenty to thirty miles of distances on foot. The pre-war train service was suspended. This has put people to great difficulty. A passenger train and a parcel Express run there now. The Parcel Express does not carry third class passengers and the passenger train is too overcrowded to let people entrain. It is a misfortune of the Indians that they have become accustomed to difficulties; but it is worst of all that their work remains undone. I would, therefore, appeal to the House to see that arrangements should be made to provide third class passengers with at least seating accommodation in trains.

Just now Shri Khandubhai proposed that we should have two classes instead of four. I would state before the House that many of us present here have been usually taking pride in travelling in third class; there is then no reason why we should continue these four classes. I would submit that there should be only one class; and rules may be framed for passengers who have to travel day and night so that they may be able to take rest and sleep at night. It is not proper to have first class, second class and third class in its place. So long as we do not think along this line we will not be able to provide amenities to third class passengers. We should devise means to provide every passenger with a comfortable seat in the train. Similarly, if a few third class bogies are attached to the G.I.P. Railway Parcel Express running over this section, a great deal of trouble can be avoided and if the train service which is still suspended is resumed the public will get sufficient relief. So long as we do not frame such rules we shou'd have only one class.

There is no doubt that third class passengers are the main source of our income. Shri Khandubhai has stated that we have come here on the votes of these people and that our democratic Government has to be guided by their views. I cannot understand why should we ignore their difficulties. Generally there are no third class booking offices in cities. We should also try to see that third class passengers are enabled to purchase tickets easily, for this we should open city booking offices in big places. I think, when we have a surplus railway budget, we must provide amenities to third class passengers and at big places we should open city booking offices so that passengers can purchase tickets conveniently.

Enough has already been said here. I would, therefore, content myself with saying this much.

Shri Kishori Mohan Tripathi (Eastern States Group-II): Sir, in view of the fact that a number of speakers have preceded me and brought to notice many grievances of third class passengers I need not say very much. The

[Shri Kishori Mohan Tripathi.]

only thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Railway Minister and the management is that if they believe that the railways are institutions of social service the first point that should engage attention is about service to third class passengers. Any amount of service rendered by the railways to First and Second class passengers does not in fact constitute any real social service so long as the railways do not look to their real paymasters, as has been rightly stressed by Mr. Desai. When the railways earn—and for the matter of that the State earns—a huge revenue from the third class passengers it is only our duty to see that the railways offer their best social service to the third class passengers. We have in past years held out promises to improve the lot of these passengers in many ways but it is regrettable that nothing has yet been done in fact and in practice. Promises made here do not bring anything to these people; they wait to see how in fact and in reality their condition improves. I would therefore urge on the Honourable Minister to bring in this changed outlook in the railway management, outlook of service to the common man. That is the only point and the vital point towards which this House would like to draw his attention.

I will then draw the Honourable Member's attention to the behaviour of railway officials towards these third class passengers. I have marked, having myself travelled in third class compartments, how officials, particularly ticket collectors and ticket checkers, treat them as nothing better than chattels or beasts and in an inhuman fashion. Although after the 15th August last a change is visible the change is too slow to be appreciated, and it must move rapidly. We must believe in the fact that our paymasters are the third class passengers. Every member of the railway management has to bear that in mind and accordingly do his duty towards them. I happened once to travel from Kharagpur to Cuttack and I particularly selected a third class compartment; and to my surprise and awe I found that it had no light at all throughout the journey. I got down at Balasore and spoke to a railway official on the platform about this want of light in that compartment. But to my surprise—because I happened to be travelling in the third class—no notice was taken of what I said. In fact we have been neglecting, and the bureaucracy which is still attached to us is still neglecting, in a great measure the vital fact that these third class passengers are our masters. Not only are they our masters in the matter of railways but they are the real masters of the State and as such the entire State should give them every possible attention.

Then I would urge upon the Honourable Minister that out of the surplus that he hopes to make in the current budget he should see that very little is contributed to the general revenues of the State and that most of it is utilised to bring relief to the much oppressed third class passengers. I do not know what the real difficulties are in achieving this; but I hope that other Ministries like the Honourable Finance Minister etc., will appreciate such an approach from the Honourable Railway Minister, and the entire surplus will be used to redress the grievances of these third class passengers.

Sir, I think I have nothing more to add and I once again want to bring home to the Honourable Minister and through him to his entire machinery that if the railways have to function as an instrument of service to society it is not the First and Second class passengers who should engage their attention but the third class passengers who are the real masters of the land.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I will be brief in replying to this. It is not, as Mr. Sidhwa apparently suspects, that the length of time that I devote to the discussion of a subject indicates my appreciation of its importance. I am going to be brief on this occasion because I find myself almost entirely in agreement with everything that has been said; and as far as amenities for third class passengers are concerned, I have said more than once

in this House that I will see to it that the suggestions which have been made in the course of today's debate are not merely taken up for consideration but are implemented. The three points that need attention in regard to this question of amenities of third-class passengers is the question of over-crowding; then the question of cleanliness of third-class compartments and thirdly the question of proper lighting. Of course the House will appreciate that we have our difficulties in regard to these matters. But consistently with these difficulties, there will be no lack of attention on the part of railway administrations to see that the suggestions are carried out.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Would Government consider the advisability of submitting a sort of report upon the action they take in regard to these various suggestions about the improvement of the travel conditions of third class passengers at every budget session? Nothing has so far been done.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I do not know in what form my Honourable friend wants the report, because I will tell the House what is the point that worries me. The obvious way in which a statement will be made to the House is the amount of expenditure that has been incurred from time to time and the particular headings under which the expenditure has been incurred. I am prepared to do that. But whether the Honourable Member has something more than in view. I do not know. If my view is correct, we should be prepared to do that.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Khandubhai Desai raised the question of abolishing the first class. We have already accepted that in principle and there also I find myself almost entirely in sympathy with him. I put it not merely on the ground of its sentimental value. It also has certain definite economic advantages from the railway point of view.

Mr. B. Das in addition to emphasizing all these points, had something to say about the betterment fund. I agree with him that the purpose for which the betterment funds has been used are purposes which are somewhat at variance with the real intention for which it was started. As far as I am concerned, I agree with him that we must now get back to the position that the primary claim on the betterment fund is the improvement in the position of third class passengers. That I think covers all the points.

Shri Biswanath Das: I have also stated something about the second class and third class railway stations on the B. N. R. Would he compare them with the E.I.R.?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is a question of remodelling of stations? As far as that is concerned, it is not a matter in regard to which one could produce any immediate results because it depends upon a number of factors. But the question of the general remodelling of stations, whenever it is taken up, the particular point the mover raised will receive my sympathetic consideration.

Shri Biswanath Das: Cannot you add amenities?

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member must not proceed any further.

Does Mr. Sidhva wish to pursue this motion?

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I have heard the Honourable Minister's reply and I am glad.....

Mr. Chairman: No speeches please!

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I think the Mover has a right to reply?

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I ask one question for information?

Some Honourable Members: No.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member will indicate whether he wishes to withdraw the motion or not.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Yes, I will withdraw.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Reorganisation of Railways

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava (Ajmer Merwara): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The object of my motion is not in the least to censure the Government but only to concentrate the attention of the Government on a very important and vital question regarding our railway system.

Now, Sir, so far as the railway system is concerned, it is the only industry which had been completely nationalised. It is State-owned, it is State-controlled and it is State-managed. Consequently, upon the future of this industry depends to a great extent the question of the benefit or otherwise of nationalization.

So far as the history of railway administration in India is concerned, it has had a very checkered history. The first railway lines that came into existence was in the year 1849. They were the East Indian and the Great Indian Peninsula Railways. After that a number of companies sprung up in India. They were all incorporated—most of them—outside India in England. But gradually the State has taken over all these companies and the question is whether these different lines, the G.I.P., the E.I.R., the B.B. and C.I. and a number of other lines should be continued to run as they have been running or there should be a change, and a change of a fundamental character in the running of this nationalized industry. My respectful submission is that this very important question has not at all been considered in its right perspective. The reason has been that so far it was the foreigners who had been at the helm of affairs of this unfortunate country. But fortunately now we have a national Government. Soon after its advent it had to confront a number of unsurmountable difficulties. Therefore, there was reason why the matter could not receive the proper attention. But it is high time that when we from year to year discuss the railway budget, we should divert our attention and bring this nationalized industry on a sound financial basis. If you compare, Sir, the railway system here with railway systems in some of the most advanced countries of the world, we find that there is a vital difference between our system and the systems of the great advanced countries in other parts of the world. Compare for instance our railway system with the railway lines in England or in the United States of America? But these are the two countries where the railways are owned by private companies and they are not State-owned as it is in India. But there are other countries like Germany and Italy where the railways are State-owned as they are in India. But if we look at the financial aspect of the question of railways in India, we find that they stand in great contrast to countries like England and America on the one hand where the railways are owned by private companies but are controlled to a very great extent by the State: or with the railway systems in Italy and Germany where they are completely State-owned. Every company or railway, whether it be in the U.S.A. or England and even the State-owned railways in Italy and Germany are liable to pay to the State the same taxes that an ordinary company does. This system has not been adopted at all in India. In the past there were reasons for it, because the railway companies were all owned by foreigners and a foreign government was running the administration of the country in the interest of the foreigners. But even when the State assumed control of railways in India no attention was paid to this aspect of the case.

There is absolutely no reason why our railway system should not be organised on a sound financial basis and even if the State is the owner the railways should be run on sound commercial lines. Even in the Constitution Act, Section 154 of the Government of India contemplated that the federal authority will run the system on sound business lines. One of the most important questions concerning the running of an industry by the State on sound business lines is that it should not be placed on a higher footing than other private companies and if other companies are liable to pay central taxes, there is absolutely no reason why the railway system in India should not be liable to pay the same taxes as other private concerns. If we take the analogy of Germany or Italy, where the railways belong to the State and are controlled and managed by the State the taxes that are payable form part of the operational working expenses of any railway system. Here it is not so. Here only if there is a surplus in the railway budget a portion of it goes to the general revenue.

Mr. Chairman: I think the subject is reorganisation. The Honourable Member will please resume his seat. I think he should confine himself to the subject of reorganisation. I do not think the subject he is talking about comes under the scope of this cut motion.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: While I have to bow to your ruling, Sir, I must point out that economising and bringing the railways on to a sound system does fall within the purview of reorganisation. Leaving that aside, the other point I want to make out is that there is absolutely no justification that there should be a number of lines and a multiplicity of administrations managing a number of lines. When there is one central authority there is absolutely no justification that there should be a separate administration for the G.I.P., B.B. and C.I., E.I.R., and a number of other railway lines. My submission is that steps should be taken by the railway administration to fuse all these different lines into one centralised administration just as it is in Germany. This is all the more necessary because of the partition, where our strategic position required the reorganisation of the entire railway system. After all in times of war or emergency we must have a very efficient and well administered railway system to maintain the communication lines between the different parts of the country. Therefore these lines should be centralised under one administration: it means both efficiency and also economy. There are necessarily in the higher cadre services a number of superior officers who are very highly paid and their number will be reduced, if the multiplicity of administrations goes. My submission therefore is that early steps should be taken in the interest of efficiency, as also in the interest of economy to centralise the entire railway administration and to bring all the lines under one centralised administration. This will not be difficult.

We have also to see, in view of the changed circumstances and the partition of the country, what strategic lines from different railway lines should be selected and brought under a centralised administration for purposes of defence. This can also be done, only if the separate railway administrations are abolished and a centralised administration is instituted.

Similarly we have also to see how the workshops are to be located so as to satisfy the demand for repairs of engines, wagons and other rolling stock of all lines. This can also be done if there is one centralised administration. At present workshops are not located in such a way as to satisfy the demand from every part of the country on an equal footing. Some are at a great distance and that necessarily tells upon the efficiency.

Similarly we have to see that in the reorganisation scheme our railways become self-sufficent in every possible way, in the way of producing every necessary material from locomotives down to spare parts in our own workshops. These workshops should not be located at one place but in different parts of the country in order that the necessary materials may be supplied expeditiously

[Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava]

The locomotive-manufacturing industry in India is still in its infancy. At present it is the Ajmer workshop that is producing engines in a very small number. It is proposed that the locomotive manufacturing workshop which was to be located at Kanchrapara is to be located at a different place. I would submit that in view of the changed circumstances in the country and in view of the fact that the scheme for the manufacture of locomotives has not proceeded beyond a very initial stage, would the Honourable Minister for Railways reconsider the position and taking into consideration the changed circumstances in the country not concentrate this key industry at one particular spot but create a number of workshops in different parts of the country, so that they may be able to feed all railway lines in time. Particularly in times of emergency it is essential that these workshops should remain located in various parts of the country. The Ajmer workshop has got the experience and it is the only workshop that has been producing locomotives in India. There is absolutely no reason why it should not be improved and expanded so as to produce a very large number of locomotives especially because skilled and experienced labour is available there in sufficient number. Because another big locomotive manufacturing industry is started by Government in another place, that is no reason why this workshop should be neglected. Therefore in the reorganisation of the railways my submission is that all these lines should be merged and the administration should be centralised and the workshop, both for repairs and manufacture of spare parts and locomotives, should be distributed at suitable places in all parts of the country. My submission is therefore that the cut motion should be accepted.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not a new subject. For some years we have been discussing this and sometime ago there was a committee which was appointed, I think, by Government themselves to suggest ways and means for the reorganisation of various railways and I remember that the previous Railway Member gave us an assurance that steps would be taken to bring about amalgamation, at least as a starting point between the M. and S.M. and the S.I. Railways. I do not know why no action has so far been taken in that direction. It has been contended in favour of this amalgamation of some of these railways that such a step would lead to greater efficiency, economy in administration and also better service to the general travelling public as well as the commercial interests. But somehow or other this amalgamation has been put off not only between those two railways but also between the B.B. and C.I. and G.I.P. and various other railways similarly situated.

Secondly, if only one were to look at it from a layman's point of view one is likely to come to the conclusion or draw the inference that there would be no need for two special high commands for two railways whose head offices are situated in the same city, say, Calcutta or Madras or Bombay. Of course the Honourable Minister might know more about it than we could. Only this morning the point of clearing offices was raised at question time and my Honourable friend the Minister in charge of this was, I think, rather very particular that the decision that had already been reached should not be upset.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That question was not with reference to clearing offices. It was a question of the amalgamation of audit and accounts.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am coming to that also. In regard to clearing offices also we want the question to be re-examined.

Coming to audit and accounts, there also an amalgamation has been suggested, but the Government does not seem to be very much in favour of it. We would like to know why. We were not given any explanation this morning beyond being told that the Government had already come to the conclusion, after having considered the report of some committee with which they were not in agreement. Beyond that we did not get any more information.

Then, Sir, there is the question of the workshops. Each railway seems to have been developing its own workshops. There has been an impression that an economy could be effected in the number as well as in the size and working of these workshops if there were amalgamation between a number of these railways.

Similar hopes have been entertained by people who have pleaded for reorganisation in regard to loco sheds. We are also assured that we can have a better administration if there were to be zonalisation of the high command and regionalisation of the local control of these railways. I am not quite so sure whether these suggestions are really tenable. I would like the Honourable Minister to examine these things because we are all laymen and it is very easy for us to entertain any suggestion that may be made by anybody or that we come across, but at the same time we might not know whether that particular suggestion is really feasible or not.

Then there is the question of the gauges and railway rates. In regard to the gauges it strikes one that if there were to be one particular gauge all over the country, it would certainly conduce to economy, better working, quicker service and cheaper rates. In view of the fact that almost all the important railways have already come under the control of the State, I would like to know the practical difficulty that Government finds in bringing about uniformity in the matter of this railway gauge also.

Similarly, in regard to the railway rates, if we are to work out the telescopic rates I am sure it will be easier for the Government to have the same gauges and also this amalgamation.

Lastly, if Government were to implement their own policy of charging lower rates for raw materials, both agricultural and industrial, and higher rates for consumer goods and manufactured goods, amalgamation of these railways and their reorganisation would certainly be helpful.

These are some of the points that have been suggested to us as being conducive to economy. I think it is high time that Government should either appoint an expert committee or should depute one of their own members of the Railway Board to study this problem in the light of the present circumstances and then come back with their suggestions not so much to the House as to the Railway Finance Committee of which you yourself, Sir, are a distinguished member—and then explain to them the various steps they have proposed to take and the reasons therefor. I hope the House realizes that this is not a topic on which one could afford to be dogmatic or sure of the utility of one's own suggestion. It applies also to the Honourable Minister as well as his Department. But it is well worth the while of the Department itself and the Honourable Minister to consider these suggestions and to make the necessary enquiries at an early date.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, three main lines on which the reorganisation should be made have been suggested. The first is that Railways should be run on more commercial lines. What apparently the mover meant by it, as far as I could gather from his remarks, is that the railways should be run by a semi-independent public corporation like the statutory Federal authority contemplated in the Government of India Act of 1935. That raises a question of policy, Sir, on which you will appreciate it is quite impossible for me to make any sort of announcement today.

The next respect in which reorganisation has been suggested is that the existing railways should be regrouped. That in principle is something which

[Dr. John Matthai]

we have accepted. As I have, I think, already told the House, there is an officer now on special duty examining the basis on which the railways concerned with the partition could be regrouped—the E.I., O.T. and E.P. Railways. I am expecting this Report very shortly, and I hope to be able, after due consultation, to come to some conclusions on that.

As regards the advantages of amalgamation which Prof. Ranga mentioned, I am in agreement with him. It does result in a reduction of the overhead expenses and would also lead to various administrative and operational conveniences.

As regards the question of regrouping the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and the South Indian Railway, although we have come to no decision on that point, my intention at present—I am speaking quite provisionally—is that when we have come to a decision about regrouping of the railways which is now being investigated, is to take up the question with regard to the M. and S.M. Railway and the S.I. Railway, and I hope to do that at a fairly early date.

Then Prof. Ranga raised the question of gauges, which is the third main point raised in the course of the debate. There are undoubtedly advantages if we can get a uniform gauge started in the country, but that advantage has got to be balanced against the very serious disadvantage of incurring the heavy financial expenditure involved in the changing of the gauges over a very large part of the Indian railway system. The question that we are faced with is, considering the very urgent demands in respect of capital expenditure which we have got to meet, do we want to incur the huge initial expenditure involved in the readjustment of our gauges, or would you reserve the funds available for railways for other and more urgent purposes? That really is the issue with which we are faced. Personally I am inclined to take the view that for the present it is better that we reserve such funds as are available to us for much more urgent purposes.

Prof. Ranga asked me why Government decided against the amalgamation of audit and accounts. We decided against it because all the expert committees which have gone into this question have been unanimously against amalgamation. The obvious reason is this. In an ordinary industrial concern you have a Chief Accountant who is part of the organisation of the concern, but when you want an Audit of the accounts you go to an outside agency. That is the principle which has been followed in regard to railways and I think in principle it must be accepted as sound. Since Government in taking this decision have simply followed the decisions arrived at by a long string of authorities—very highly competent authorities—I think the House will appreciate that Government have by no means taken any rash or precipitate decision.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: I beg leave of the House to withdraw the cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Assembly then adjourned to a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Monday the 23rd February 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Monday, 23rd February, 1948

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

†[371* to 386*]

VACANT SEATS IN DELHI MUNICIPALITY DUE TO MIGRATION OF MUSLIM MEMBERS

387. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the President of the Delhi Municipality and several other Muslim members have left for Pakistan and have not been attending meetings of the Committee for a long time; and

(b) whether Government are aware that there is a strong feeling amongst the members of the Committee that all seats occupied by such members should be declared vacant and that the Committee should be given an opportunity to fill them up and elect a new president and if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Government are aware that the President and several other Muslim members of the Delhi Municipal Committee have not been attending meetings of the Committee for a long time.

(b) Yes. On receipt of a report from the Delhi Municipal Committee to this effect, the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has already issued notice to the absentee members, including the President, under the provisions of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, asking them to show cause why their names should not be removed. The question whether the seats which may be declared vacant should be filled up will be considered.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether Government have considered the process by which these seats would be filled up?—whether there would be any election or will they be filled up by nomination?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The matter is under consideration in view of the fact that there is probably going to be a general election in any case in August.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that since the Corporation Committee's Report is under the consideration of the Government, general elections are not considered to be held very soon?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government have taken no decision in that matter.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has it been finally decided that the general elections will take place in August next?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I cannot give an answer to that question now.

†For answers to these questions see pages 1079-85 of these Debates.

PRODUCTION IN CORDITE FACTORY IN NILGIRIS

383. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the total value of the plant, machinery and buildings in the Cordite Factory located in the Nilgiris (Madras Presidency)?

(b) What is the annual maximum production capacity of this factory if it works at an average 8-hour shift per day?

(c) What is the present annual output and what is the percentage of plant and machinery actually made use of? What percentage of plant capacity is lying idle?

(d) Is it a fact that heavy chemicals such as, Sulphuric Acid, Nitric Acid, Nitro Cellulose, etc., can be produced in this factory on a large scale?

(e) If so, do Government intend to utilise this factory for the purpose of manufacturing chemicals?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The value of the installation is approximately Rs. 131 lakhs.

(b) The production capacity of this factory cannot be divulged for reasons of security.

(c) Approximately five to ten per cent. of the capacity is utilised at present for military requirements.

(d) Yes, the chemicals mentioned can be and are produced in this factory.

(e) Yes, Sir. The matter is being urgently investigated.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Arising out of answer to part (d), may I know what is the percentage of these acids being produced for commercial purposes, as the Honourable Minister states that it is being done?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not give the exact percentage but acids are being manufactured as given in my reply.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that out of the total production this Factory is capable of, only two per cent. capacity is being utilised and ninty-eight per cent. is idle at present?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I will make enquiries, but at present the Factory is not working to the full capacity.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are there any other cordite factories elsewhere in India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: This Question refers to Ordnance Factories, and as far as Ordnance Factories are concerned, it is the only Factory.

Shri K. Santhanam: Are arrangements such that expansion in this Factory can be made at any moment when there is a necessity?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: If the Honourable Member means by "expansion" increase in the production of the Factory, the answer is 'Yes'.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the production of acids at present?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I will get that information—I have not got it with me.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact, Sir, that if it is worked it could produce about 9,000 tons per annum?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As I have already stated, I cannot disclose this information on the floor of the House, but if the Honourable Member is anxious to know what the capacity of the Factory is and what we are producing at present, I can give him this information.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister will give or consider the question of giving it?

(No reply.)

SALARIES AND GRADES OF STAFF OF CORDITE FACTORY IN NILGIRIS

389. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of officers, foremen, assistant foremen and chargemen employed in the Cordite factory in the Nilgiris and their salaries and grades?

(b) How many of them are Indians and how many are foreigners and is there any difference in their respective grades of salary?

(c) Do Government propose to have only Indians employed in this factory?

(d) If so, do Government propose to get them trained within the shortest possible period?

(e) Do Government intend to equalise the salaries of foreigners and Indian nationals?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). I lay two statements on the table of the House.

(c) Yes. In accordance with the announced policy of Government, when the services of non-Indians are terminated on retirement, expiry of contract or for any other reason, vacancies thus created will be filled by Indians only, subject to qualified candidates being available.

(d) Yes. Detailed proposals are being worked out.

(e) Government have assured non-Indian officers that they could continue on the same terms and conditions of service as they were enjoying before transfer of power to India.

Statement I

CORDITE FACTORY, ARUVANKADU

Name of post	Number	Grade	Salary Scale A	Scale B
Superintendent	1	Gazetted	Rs. 1,450—100—1,750+O.S.P. £30 or Rs. 250.	Rs. 1,300—60—1,600.
Works Manager	2	Gazetted	Rs. 850—100—1,250+O.S.P. £30 or Rs. 250.	Rs. 600—40—1,000—1,000—1,100—1,050—1,100—1,150.
Assistant Works Manager	5	Gazetted	Rs. 600—50—800+O.S.P. £25 or Rs. 250	Rs. 350—350—380—380—30—590—E. B.—30—770—40—850.
Principal Foreman	1	Non-gazetted	Rs. 600—20—700+Rs. 75 if of non-Asiatic domicile.	Post being abolished.
Foreman and Storeholder	1	Non-gazetted	Rs. 500—20—600. A Foreman after 10 years service gets a pay of Rs. 650 and if of non-Asiatic domicile gets an additional pay of Rs. 75 per mensem.	Rs. 300—20—460 (Foreman). Rs. 300—20—460 (Storeholder).
Assistant Foreman and Assistant Storeholder.	16	Non-gazetted	Rs. 375—15—435 (then 6th, 8th and 10th years Rs. 450, Rs. 470, and Rs. 490 plus Rs. 75 if of non-Asiatic domicile for Assistant Foreman).	Rs. 260—15—350 (Assistant Foreman). Rs. 260—15—335 (Assistant Storeholder).
Chargeman	22	Non-gazetted	Rs. 200—10—300, after 5 years Rs. 350	Rs. 200—10—300.

NOTE.—All Indians appointed after 27th September 1931 draw pay in Scale B. Others draw pay in Scale A.

Statement II

Name of post	Indians	Non-Indians
Superintendent	...	1
Works Manager	...	2
Assistant Works Manger	2	3
Principal Foreman	...	1
Foreman and Storeholder	4	4
Assistant Foreman and Assistant Storeholder	15	1
Chargeman	22	...

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know from the statement at least how many are Indians and how many foreigners, in the officers grade?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, it is a long statement and according to the information I have with me, about 131 officers roughly are non-Indians.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Officers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, everybody included.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that there are eight officers and that out of them seven are foreign and one Indian?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: May be true.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether qualified Indians are available or not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Up till now there are no known qualified Indians available. But as I have already stated, as soon as qualified Indians are available these jobs will be filled up by Indians only.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the qualification required for an Indian?

Mr. Speaker: I think the Honourable Member is going into too many details of administration.

ACCEPTANCE OF ORDERS FROM PRIVATE FIRMS BY AMBERNATH AMMUNITION FACTORY

390. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Ambernath Ammunition Factory accepts orders from private firms for the manufacture of various kinds of articles?

(b) Is it a fact that before acceptance of such orders, a reference is made to Calcutta for quotations, etc.?

(c) If so, do Government propose to consider the advisability of stopping references to Calcutta and accepting the orders on the spot?

(d) Do Government propose to accept deposits from dealers against the manufacture of articles to avoid dealy?

(e) If not, do Government intend to adopt some other expeditious method?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, except in the case of small orders.

(c) No, as there are various reasons why the local officers cannot be allowed final powers. If the Honourable Member will let me know of any instance of serious delay I shall have it investigated.

(d) and (e). Government ordinarily require advance payment in full or a substantial deposit or an irrevocable letter of credit before work for a private firm is commenced. This practice does not involve any delay in the execution of the work by Government.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: In answer to part (c), the Honourable Member said there are various reasons for not introducing the system mentioned in the Question. May I know what are the serious difficulties, may I know any one of them if it could be mentioned?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There are several difficulties but during my recent visit to the Ordnance Factories, I have discussed this matter and it is being investigated at present.

IMPORT OF NITRO CELLULOSE, SULPHURIC AND NITRIC ACIDS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

391. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the total quantity of Sulphuric Acid, Nitric Acid and Nitro Cellulose (Acetone) imported from foreign countries?

(b) Is it a fact that a firm in Calcutta sent an order to the Cordite Factory in the Nilgiris for 200 tons of Sulphuric Acid?

(c) If so, was the order executed? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Nil for Defence requirements.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

'FARM FORUM RADIO' FOR EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE OF RURAL INDIA

†**392. *Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in Canada a "Farm Forum Radio" has been organised by the Broadcasting Department in co-operation with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and that the Forum discussions have become a general source of adult education among the Canadian farming public;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Federation of Rural Peoples Organisation has brought this fact to the notice of the All-India Radio authorities twice during the last year;

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken either to study the working of this Forum in greater details or to obtain Canadian Literature published on this subject or to institute a similar Forum in our country;

(d) why no action has so far been taken by Government either to ask for more information or for the co-operation of the Federation of Rural Peoples Organisation in this matter; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of instituting a similar Forum in India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Literature regarding the Canadian Farm Radio Forum was obtained and has been studied by All-India Radio.

(d) The necessary information has already been obtained. The rural programme of All-India Radio is settled in consultation with Provincial Governments and the Advisory Committees and suggestions from non-official organisations are examined and where possible, acted upon.

(e) Government do not consider that a forum would be suitable for Indian conditions just at present.

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

STATE FACULTIES IN CENTRE AND PROVINCES FOR RECOGNITION OF HOMOEOPATHIC INSTITUTIONS AND PRACTITIONERS.

393. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government of Bengal created a Homœopathic State Faculty in 1943 for recognition of Homœopathic institutions and practitioners;

(b) whether such Faculties or other authorities have been created in other provinces and if so, in which provinces; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of creating a Central Council or Board, with a view to bringing under uniform and adequate control and direction, the teaching and practice of Homœopathy?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes.

(b) Homœopathic Faculties have not been created in other Provinces.

(c) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the Resolution passed in this House on the 17th February, 1948, regarding Homœopathy. Government will consider further action to be taken in the light of the Resolution.

SUPPLY AND IMPORT OF HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINES IN INDIA

394. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Homœopathic medicines are largely used in India because of their cheapness and efficacy;

(b) whether Government are aware that the mother tinctures of almost all the Homœopathic medicines and alcohol and the milk of sugar necessary for the preparation of different dilutions and triturations are almost wholly imported from foreign countries;

(c) whether Government are aware that the 95 per cent reduction ordered by Government in the importation of medicine from abroad will adversely affect the availability of Homœopathic medicines in adequate quantities for use in this country; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of examining the position referred to in part (c) above and taking steps to ensure an adequate supply of Homœopathic Medicines?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Government have no exact information as to the extent to which Homœopathic medicines are used in the country.

(b) Yes.

(c) The import of Homœopathic medicines like that of other drugs and medicines has to be restricted owing to the shortage of foreign currency resources. It is, however, incorrect to say that a reduction of 95 per cent. has been made in the import of medicines.

(d) The import quota for Homœopathic medicines for the current shipping period is being increased.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if it is a fact that the Homœopathic Charitable Dispensaries in Delhi which had been importing medicines worth several thousands every year, were granted a dollar quota of only Rs. 75 worth?

Mr. Speaker: It will be an individual question, which the Honourable Member cannot put on this particular question.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have no information on the subject, Sir.

TREATMENT OF PAKISTAN SUBJECTS AS NON-INDIANS FOR CIVIL AND MILITARY APPOINTMENTS IN INDIA

395. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the advisability of treating the subjects of Pakistan as non-Indians for purposes of Civil and Military appointments in the Indian Union?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: A citizen of Pakistan is already treated as non-Indian for purposes of Civil and Military appointments in the Dominion of India.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact, Sir, that non-Muslims living in Pakistan are being treated as non-Pakistanis?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not follow the question.

Seth Govinddas: I mean, Sir, not only Hindus, but non-Muslims living in Pakistan are being treated by the Pakistan Government as not the subjects of Pakistan, and under those circumstances what steps Government are going to take as far as the nationals of Pakistan are concerned?

Mr. Speaker: I take it what the Honourable Member means is this, that Hindus and other non-Muslims living in Pakistan are being treated as aliens, and he wants to know what will be the policy of the Government of India as regards people in Pakistan coming here. That is the question, I believe. Of course, I am not repeating the words, but am merely giving the substance.

Seth Govinddas: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is rather a difficult matter, because the present position is not quite settled, but the non-Muslims coming from Pakistan here are treated as our nationals, as they have left Pakistan with the intention of settling down here.

Seth Govinddas: Have Government received any complaints from the non-Muslims of Pakistan about the behaviour of the Pakistan Government with them in this respect?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot say. We have received no complaints about non-Muslims proposing to stay there. The only complaint is that they want to come out.

Seth Govinddas: What I mean is this: Have the Government received any complaints from non-Muslims of Pakistan who wish to live in Pakistan—particularly in Bengal—that they are not being treated as Pakistani subjects?

Mr. Speaker: That concerns the Pakistan Government.

Seth Govinddas: I am asking whether the Government have received any complaints from non-Muslims living in Pakistan.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Does the Honourable Member expect that complaints from Pakistan should be received by the Government of India?

Seth Govinddas: No, Sir. What I say is this. I am only asking for information as to whether the Government have received any complaints in this respect?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I don't think, Sir. The Honourable Member refers to non-Muslims living in Bengal, not in the other part of Pakistan and in regard to that I can only say that non-Muslims there all know that they have nothing to complain here about matters affecting them in Pakistan. If they have any complaint to make, they have to make it to the Pakistan Government.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact, Sir, that the wives of some Pakistan Government servants are in the employ of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I am not able to follow the question, Sir. We do not employ the wives of other people. What is the meaning of this, Sir?

Shri H. V. Kamath: What I asked was this, Sir: Are any wives of Pakistan Government servants in the employ of the Government of India here as Government servants?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no knowledge.

MUSLIM EMPLOYEES OPTING FOR PAKISTAN IN GUN CARRIAGE FACTORY, JUBBULPORE

396. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether some of the Muslim employees of the Gun Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore, who had opted out for Pakistan, still continue in employment there?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to send them to Pakistan or to terminate their services in the Gun Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Orders have been issued for the release of all personnel who have expressed a wish to serve in Pakistan before the end of this month.

Seth Govinddas: Is it a fact that in those factories there are some servants who had applied to go to Pakistan and who have now written to the Government of India that they want to be retained there?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have no information about that, but as regards those who had expressed a wish to go to Pakistan, orders have been issued that they should all leave before the end of this month.

Seth Govinddas: No, Sir. My question is this: Is it a fact that some people originally wanted to go to Pakistan but now they have changed their mind and have recently written to the Government of India saying that they want to stick to their places and that they do not want to go to Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I think, Sir, there is some misunderstanding about it. No option was given to the employees of Ordnance Factories to go to Pakistan or remain here. Some of the employees themselves expressed a desire to go to Pakistan and all such officers and men who expressed such a desire have been asked to leave before the end of this month.

Seth Govinddas: No, Sir. My question was.....

Mr. Speaker: The question is understood by the Minister. He says there is a misunderstanding on the part of the Honourable Member.

Seth Govinddas: I am asking a specific question and it is this, whether it is not a fact that some people who had previously applied to the Government of India that they want to go to Pakistan have now changed their mind and have applied that they do not want to go and what steps Government are going to take so that they may go now and they will not remain here?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have no information with me at present, but I will make enquiries.

PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPOSED INSTITUTE OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

397. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the progress made in establishing the proposed Institute of Applied Psychology and to train professional psychologists and social workers on an all-India basis?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے اصولی طور پر ایک سکیم
سنٹرل Institute of psychology کو منظور کرلیا ہے - اور جونہی ذریعہ خوچ
کو نکالنے کا موقعہ ملا وہ عمل میں لائی جایگی -

ایک دوسری سکیم کو بھی گورنمنٹ منظور کرچکی ھے - اس سکیم کے مطابق یہ ھے کہ سوشل سروس کے لئے آل اِنڈیا کونسل بنایا جائے - اور اسکے ساتھ ھی ایک institute کھولا جائے جو ان تمام باتوں کے لئے ھوگا - اور جس میں سوشل سروس کے Research کا کام بھی ھوگا - اور اس کے ساتھ ھی ایک ٹریننگ سکول بھی کھولا جائے - جو سروس کرنے والے آدمیوں کو تیار کریگا - اس کے لئے سنہ ۱۹۴۸-۴۹ کے بجٹ میں روپیہ رکھا گیا ھے - اور اُسی سال میں اُنکو چلانے کی اُمید ھے - ان دو باتوں کے علاوہ تیسری تجویز جو گورنمنٹ کے سامنے ھے وہ یہ ھے کہ Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay کو گرانٹ دینے کی تجویز پر بھی غور کیا جارھا ھے - تاکہ وہ ورکرز کے زیادہ تعداد کو ٹریننگ دے سکیں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: A scheme for a Central Institute of Psychology has been accepted by the Government of India in principle and will be implemented as soon as finances permit.

A scheme for an All-India Council of Social Services with an Institute for research on connected problems and a training school attached to it has also been accepted by Government. Funds have been provided in the budget estimates for 1948-49, and a beginning is expected to be made in that year. Meanwhile it is also proposed to make substantial recurring and non-recurring grants to the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, to enable it to train an increased number of social workers.

सेठ गोविन्ददास : क्या माननीय सदस्य को यह बात मालूम है कि जबलपुर में जो ट्रेनिंग कालेज है वहां भी साइकोलाजी (psychology) की क्लासेज नई खोली गयी हैं और क्या गवर्नमेण्ट इस पर विचार करेगी कि उसे सेन्टर से भी कुछ मदद दी जाय ।

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Member aware that new classes in psychology have been opened in the Jubbulpore training college also? And will the Government consider granting some aid from the centre to this institution?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : سی - پی گورنمنٹ سے اس طرح کی کوئی درخواست نہیں آئی ھے - اگر آیئگی تو گورنمنٹ اسپر غور کریگی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No such proposal has been received from the C. P. Government. It will be considered when received.

AGREEMENT *re* EXCHANGE OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS BETWEEN U. S. A. AND INDIA

398. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether any agreement in regard to exchange of official publications has been made between the Governments of the United States of America and India?

(b) If not, do Government propose to take steps to make such an agreement with a view to securing enough number of copies of the official publications of the United States of America, so that every Indian University and other important institution may be supplied one copy of each?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ سوال آنریبل منسٹر ورکس - مائنز اینڈ پاورس کو بھیجا جانا چاھیئے تھا - چنانچہ اب یہ اُنکو بھیجدیا گیا ھے - اور ۱۱ مارچ کی لسٹ میں اِسکو جگہ مل گئی ھے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for 11th March, 1948 when the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power will answer it.

MISSIONS TO COUNTERACT ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA AND MAINTENANCE OF CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

399. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the desirability of sending two permanent cultural missions, one to the Asiatic countries and the other to the European and American countries, to counteract the anti-Indian propaganda carried on by interested parties in these countries?

(b) If so, do Government propose to establish a Central Cultural Relation Body for the purpose of maintaining contact with the cultural associations of the world?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) ھندوستان کے جو ڈپلومیٹک Representatives باھر کے مقاموں پر ھیں دراصل ابتدائی طور پر یہ انکا کام ھے - کہ وہ اینٹی انڈین Propaganda کا جواب دیں - اور ھندوستان کے سچے حالات دنیا کے سامنے رکھیں - لیکن پھر بھی گورنمنٹ انکار نہیں کرتی کہ کلچرل مشن باھر نہ بھیجے جائیں- اور جب بھی اس بارے میں مناسب موقعہ معلوم ھوتا ھے اور ضرورت کے معیار کے آدمی ملتے ھیں اسکا انتظام کیا جاتا ھے - لیکن یہ بات گورنمنٹ ضروری خیال نہیں کرتی ھے کہ باھر کے ملکوں میں مستقل طور پر کلچرل مشن قایم کئے جائیں -

(b) ایک نیشنل کلچرل ٹرسٹ کو قایم کرنے کا معاملہ گورنمنٹ کے سامنے ھے - اور اسے جلد عمل میں لانے کی کوشش کی جارھی ھے - میں اُمید کرتا ھوں کہ آنریبل ممبر کے سامنے جو مقصد ھے وہ اس ٹرسٹ کے قائیم کرنے سے پورا ھوجائیگا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) It is primarily for Indian diplomatic representatives abroad to counteract anti-Indian propaganda. Government are, however, alive to the desirability of sending out Cultural Missions whenever the occasion arises and persons of the requisite qualifications are available. It would not be feasible to establish permanent Cultural Missions abroad.

(b) It is proposed to set up a National Cultural Trust which will, I hope, adequately serve the purpose which the Honourable Member appears to have in view.

सेठ गोविन्ददास : क्या सरकार को यह बात मालूम है कि अभी हर एक देश ऐसा नहीं है जहां पर भारतीय प्रतिनिधि नियुक्त किये जायें, और ऐसी हालत में जबकि कल्चरल मिशन (cultural mission) भेजे जावेंगे तो पहिले उन देशों में भेजे जावेंगे जहां पर अभी कोई हमारा प्रतिनिधि मकर्रर नहीं हुआ है ।

Seth Govinddas: Are Government aware that all the countries are not fit for the appointment of India's representatives. As such cultural missions will be sent in the first instance, only to those countries where we have no representatives?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ بھی ایک ایسی چیز ھے - جس پر خیال کیا جایگا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This also is a matter which will be considered.

TERMS OF SETTLEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS OF INDIA AND NIZAM

400. *Shri Lal Mohan Pati: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether any settlement has been arrived at between the Government of India and the Government of the Nizam?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the terms and conditions of the settlement?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, why has the negotiation for settlement failed?

(d) Do Government propose to take any steps for safeguarding the interests of the Indian Dominion in this connection?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) A standstill agreement for a period of one year was concluded with His Exalted Highness the Nizam on November 29, 1947.

(b) I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my statement in the Assembly and the documents laid by me on the table of the House on November 29, 1947.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government of India are fully alive to the situation.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact, Sir, that after that agreement with the Nizam's Government, certain items of that agreement have been broken by the Nizam's Government?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That is the view of the Government of India and the attention of His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government has been drawn to these breaches.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Are any negotiations going on between the Nizam's Government and the Government of India in regard to the points of dispute at the moment, and has any settlement been reached?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: A deputation has come to meet the Government of India.

Shri Lal Mohan Pati: In the settlement that was arrived at was there any condition laid down about the security of the border area?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No condition about the security of the border areas, but the security of the whole State and also the surrounding areas.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the newspaper reports that widespread unrest is prevailing on the borders between Hyderabad State and Madras Presidency. May I know from the Honourable Minister if the information supplied by the Press is correct?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is bound to be widespread unrest so long as there is no responsible Government in the State.

GRADES OF PAY OF OFFICERS AND STAFF APPOINTED UNDER 'SMALL SAVINGS SCHEME'

401. *Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the answer given by Government to part (b) of starred question No. 1361 asked by Shri Mohan Lal Saksena on 2nd April 1947, and

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

to state whether Government have since sanctioned regular grades of pay for officers and staff appointed under the 'Small Savings Scheme'? If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The matter is still under consideration. The question of fixing suitable grades of pay for officers and staff is linked with the re-organisation of the 'Small Savings Scheme' which is under consideration. A decision in the matter will be taken shortly.

HONORARY OFFICERS IN DEFENCE FORCES AND RELATIONS WITH PUBLIC

402. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what steps are being taken for bringing about better relations and understanding between the Defence Forces and the public?

(b) Is the system of appointing Honorary Officers from among public men now in force?

(c) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a list of such public men apart from the Princes—who are Honorary Officers?

(d) Are Government aware of the relationship between the Members of the Parliament in Great Britain and the forces located in their constituencies?

(e) If so, do Government propose to consider the question of instituting such a system in India also?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) It is my constant endeavour to maintain the most cordial relations between the Defence Forces and the public. I suggest, Sir, that the relations between the Defence Forces and the public have at no time in the past been more cordial than they are at the present moment. If the Honourable Member has any specific suggestion to make, I shall welcome it.

(b) Yes.

(c) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(d) I am not aware that in the United Kingdom there is any special relationship between the forces located in a particular constituency and the Member or Members representing that constituency in Parliament.

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

Statement

Serial No.	Name	Address	Rank	Year in which Honorary Commission granted and Notification Number
1	2	3	4	5
1	Sir Buta Singh, Kt. C.B.E.	Amritsar	Lt.-Col.	No. 2523 of 1946.
2	Raj Kumar Ripjit Singh, C.I.E.	Kapurthala State	Major	No. 1504 of 1946.
3	Sardar Bahadur Sir Sobha Singh, O.B.E.	New Delhi	2/Lieut.	No. 75 of 1946.
4	S.S. S. Sawarn Singh	Ambala District	Do.	No. 1914 of 1946.
5	Pensioner Risldr. Sardar Sahib Ajit Singh.	Jandiala Guru Amritsar District.	Do.	No. 1461 of 1943.
6	Pensioner Risldr. Ajit Singh, I.D.S.M.	Majherna Tehsil Palampur, Kangra.	Do.	No. 1844, of 1944.
7	Ex-Sub. Maj. Amar Singh	HARO Kot Maria Jammu.	Do.	No. 75 of 1946.
8	Bhawan Singh Gusain	HARO Kunraghat	Do.	No. 1699 of 1943.
9	Sardar Brij Mohan Singh, M.A.	HARO Kalsia State	Do.	No. 75 of 1946.

1	2	3	4	5
10	Rai Bahadur Chaudhri Badan Singh, M.B.E.	HARO Etawah Dist.	2/Lieut .	No. 1914 of 1946.
11	Ex-Sub-Maj. Chandrabir Khatri.	HARO Almora .	Do. .	No. 75 of 1946.
12	Kunwar Chitraket Singh .	HARO Gorakhpur .	Do. .	No. 1914 of 1946.
13	Pensioner Risldr. Sardar Bahadur Dilbargh Singh.	U. P. . . .	Do. .	No. 1699 of 1943.
14	Sardar Gulzar Singh, B. sc. LL.B.	HARO Jubbulpore	Do. .	No. 801 of 1944.
15	Rai Sahib Ch. Hukam Singh.	Hony. Magistrate Montgomery.	Do. .	No. 75 of 1946.
16	Rao Jagmal Singh . .	HARO Gurgaon .	Do. .	No. 801 of 1944.
17	Jagannath Shivajirao Sawant B.A., LL.B.	HARO Bombay .	Do. .	No. 1944 of 1944.
18	Rai Bahadur Krishan Lal Gupta.	U. P. . . .	Do. .	No. 1699 of 1943.
19	Bakshi Krishan Lal . .	HATRO Mirpur District.	Do. .	No. 801 of 1944.
20	Mr. Krishnachandra *alias* Khalid Bannerjee.	HARO Secunderabad	Do. .	No. 801 of 1944.
21	Mr. P. V. Krishniah Choudary	Bengal . . .	Do. .	No. 801 of 1944.
22	Sardar Karvar Singh Dewana	Sheikhupura Distt.	Do. .	No. 1302 of 1944.
23	Rai Bahadur Madhusudan Dass.	HATRO Gorakhpur	Do. .	No. 1461 of 1943.
24	Kanwar Mankitinlar Singh Sahib Bahadur.	Military Minister, Faridkot.	Do. .	No. 1642 of 1943.
25	Rao Sahib Mohanlal Chimanlal Maniar.	HARO Poona .	Do. .	No. 1461 of 1943.
26	Pensr. Sub-Maj. Manohar Singh.	HARO Hoshiarpur District.	Do. .	No. 75 of 1946.
27	Raja Narain Partap Singh, M.B.E.	HARO Etawah Distt.	Do. .	No. 1461 of 1943.
28	Pensioner Sub-Maj. Netar Singh Bisht, Bahadur, O.B.I.	...	Do. .	No. 1699 of 1943.
29	Mr. Partap Chandra Nehra, M.A., LL.B.	HATRO Banda .	Do. .	No. 75 of 1946.
30	Sardar Puran Singh Mandla .	HATRO Delhi .	Do. .	No. 75 of 1946.
31	Rai Bahadur Puran Lal Shah	HARO Almora Distt.	Do. .	No. 1914 of 1946.
32	Pensioner Sub-Major, Rao Sahib Ram Lal Singh.	HARO Gurgaon District.	Do. .	No. 801 of 1944.
33	Rai Bahadur Ch. Raghu Raj Singh.	Bulandshahr Distt. .	Do. .	No. 1914 of 1946.
34	Rai Sahib Shyam Behari Lal Agarwal, B.A., LL.B.	HATRO Fyzabad .	Do. .	No. 75 of 1946.
35	Rai Bahadur Pandit Shyam Sunder Nath Kaul.	HARO Oudh .	Do. .	No. 1914 of 1946
36	Rai Sahib B. Shyam Lal .	HARO, i/charge Gorakhpur District.	Do. .	No. 1914 of 1946.
37	Pensr. Risldr. Maj. Gokal Singh	Rohtak District .	Do. .	No. 405 of 1946.
38	Pensr. Risldr. Udham Singh .	Lahore District .	Do. .	No. 405 of 1946.
39	Pensr. Jemdr. Rai Sahib Chowdhri Ram Rikh.	Karnal District .	Do. .	No. 405 of 1946.
40	Pensr. Risldr. Bhagwan Singh	Hissar District .	Do. .	No. 405 of 1946.
41	Ex-Subadr. Birbal Ram .	Bikaner State .	Do. .	No. 405 of 1946.
42	Pensr. Sub-Maj. Shoo Chand	Rohtak District .	Do. .	No. 681 of 1946.
43	Ex-Jemdr. Alfred Bhan .	Lahore . . .	Do. .	No. 681 of 1946.
44	Pensr. Risldr. Guranditta Mall.	Rawalpindi District	Do. .	No. 681 of 1946.
45	Pensr. Risldr. Maj. Kure Singh	Rohtak District .	Do. .	No. 681 of 1946
46	Pensr. Jemadr. Harnam Singh	Amritsar District .	Do. .	No. 681 of 1946.
47	Pensr. Jemadr. Hukman Ram	Hissar District .	Do. .	No. 681 of 1946.
48	Pensr. Subdr. Fateh Singh .	Jaipur State . .	Do. .	No. 681 of 1946.
49	Jemadr. Bankerrao Garud .	Ahmednagar . .	Do. .	No. 2315 of 1946.
50	Rai Sahib Sub-Maj. Chiranji Singh.	Bharatpur .	Do. .	No. 2315 of 1946.

1	2	3	4	5
51	Sub-Maj. Parshadi Singh .	Gurgaon . .	2/Lieut. .	No. 2315 of 1946.
52	Risldr. Sarain Singh . .	Amritsar . .	Do. .	No. 2315 of 1946.
53	Sub-Maj. Punjab Singh .	Hoshiarpur . .	Do. .	No. 2315 of 1946.
54	Sub. Gordhan Singh . .	Delhi . . .	Do. .	No. 2315 of 1946.
55	Hony. Sub-Maj. Basant Singh	Jullundur . .	Do. .	No. 2315 of 1946.
57	Sub-Harphul Singh . .	Delhi . . .	Do. .	No. 2315 of 1946.
57	Sub-Tek Chand . . .	Delhi . . .	Do. .	No. 2315 of 1946.
58	Ris. Maj. Lachi Ram . .	Rohtak . .	Do. .	No. 2315 of 1946.
59	Risldr. Puran Singh . .	Hissar . . .	Do. .	No. 2315 of 1946.
60	Sir Dinshaw Petit . .	Bombay . .	Lieut.Comdr. RINVR.	
61	Rao Bahadur G. T. J. Thaddaeus.	General Secretary, Boys' Scouts Association, India, Delhi.	Lieut. RINVR.	

NOTE.—(1) The addresses shown are those known at the time these Honorary Commissions were granted.

(2) The list is not exhaustive and excludes those who had been serving in the Armed Forces before and were granted honorary ranks on retirement or release.

H.A.R.O. — Honorary Asstt. Recruiting Officer.

H.A.T.R.O. — Honorary Asstt. Technical Recruiting Officer.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Government be pleased to reconsider the list under (c) in view of the Independence we have attained in this country?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not understood the question, Sir, but if the desire of the Honourable Member is that the honorary ranks already given should be withdrawn, that is not the intention at the present moment.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Do the Government find those persons who have been given honorary ranks, still desirable persons, all of them?

Mr. Speaker: That will be a matter of opinion.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the feeling of the public regarding the forces is still there?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: What feeling?

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: The feeling that the British have created these forces only to suppress them is still in the minds of the public.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I do not think that question can be put to the Minister. The Honourable Member has to ask information within the special cognizance of the Minister.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: What steps are the Government taking to remove the feeling that was created in the public mind that these forces are created only to oppress the public?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS UNDER MINISTRIES OTHER THAN HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE

403. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether any Ministries other than those of Health and Agriculture are in charge of Educational Institutions engaged in higher training of technical personnel?

(b) What are the reasons for dividing the responsibility in the matter of higher technical education among different Ministries?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد (a) ایسی دوسری Ministry جو کہ Higher Technical Education سے لگاؤ رکھتی ھے - وہ صرف ورکس مائنز اینڈ پاورس کی منسٹری ھے-اور وہ دھنباد کے Indian School of Mines کے چلانے سے تعلق رکھتی ھے - دیگر تین منسٹریاں جوکہ اپنے خاص کاموں کے لئے Practical ٹریننگ کا انتظام کرتی ھیں - یہ ھیں

(۱) منسٹری آف ورکس مائنز اینڈ پاورس

(۲) منسٹری آف کمیونکیشن - اور

(۳) منسٹری آف ٹرانسپورٹ

(b) یہ پرانا انتظام ھے جو چل رھا ھے - اگر گورنمنٹ نے دیکھا کہ Higher Technical Education کے فائدہ کے لئے اِسمیں کوئی تبدیلی ضروری ھے - تو مناسب وقت پر گورنمنٹ اس بارے میں جانچ پڑتال کریگی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The only other Ministry concerned with Higher Technical Education is the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power who have the responsibility for administering the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad.

Various other Ministries of the Government of India *e.g.*, (i) Ministry of Works, Mines and Power, (ii) Ministry of Communication, and (iii) Ministry of Transport, arrange for the practical training of personnel to meet their special requirements.

(b) This is the old arrangement and for the present it is being continued. If Government feels that any change is necessary in the interest of higher education, Government will examine it in due course.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: I want a translation.

Mr. Speaker: It is rather difficult. Well, he may have it later on.

Shri H. V. Kamath: He is asking for a translation for putting supplementaries.

Mr. Speaker: It is unfortunate.

DAILY ALLOWANCES OF NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES

404. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the present daily allowance of non-official members of Central Government Committees other than the members of the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative)?

(b) Has there been a reduction in the daily allowance granted to them?

(c) What is the amount spent annually under travelling and daily allowances for non-official members of committees constituted under the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Rs. 15 for halts at Bombay and Calcutta and Rs. 12-8-0 for halts at other places. In exceptional cases higher rates not exceeding Rs. 20 are allowed.

(b) The present rates are in some cases lower than what was allowed during the war years but do not represent any lowering of the pre-war level.

(c) 1945-46	...	Rs. 4,43,110
1946-47	...	Rs. 7,02,340

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of part (b) of the answer, may I ask how the deficiency is met?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already said that the Defence Ministry proposes to set up an artificial limb centre at Poona.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know how has the deficiency so far been met?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It has not been met.

Mr. Speaker: Steps are being taken.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, what is the normal consumption of artificial limbs in this country?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I should like to have notice of that question.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have Government considered the desirability of giving some special facilities for the establishment of this industry in Delhi?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have any imports been made from foreign countries in past years?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not know. I cannot answer that question.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know the value of such of the goods that were imported last year?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I should like to have notice of that question.

FACTORIES IN INDIA MANUFACTURING ARTIFICIAL LIMBS

405. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the total number of factories in the Indian Union engaged in the manufacture of artificial limbs?

(b) Is India self-sufficient in this class of goods?

(c) Is it a fact that Sialkot had well-organised factories for manufacturing artificial limbs?

(d) What assistance do Government propose to give to those people who were engaged in the manufacture of such goods to set up business again?

(e) In the post-war programme, do Government propose to set up factories for this type of goods and if so, where?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The latest figures are not available but in 1946, the number of firms engaged in the manufacture of artificial limbs within the territory now included in the Indian Union was 13.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) Provision for financial assistance to refugees wishing to set up industry is made in the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Bill which is already before the House. For other assistance the firms concerned will have to apply to the Government of the Province or the State in which they wish to start the work. Provincial Governments and States have already been requested to give to refugees, facilities for setting up Industries, *e.g.*, site, power and material.

(e) The Defence Ministry proposes to set up an artificial limb centre at Poona for the manufacture of artificial limbs.

INSTITUTIONS AFFILIATED TO ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND VARIOUS SYLLABUSES

406. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state how many institutions have so far been affiliated to

the All-India Council for Technical Education?

(b) Have the All-India Board of Studies prepared the syllabuses for differe All-India Diploma course? If not, why not?

(c) Are Government aware of the hardship which students experience in t absence of proper syllabuses?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) اب تک سات انسٹیٹیوشنز (Institutions)
آل انڈیا بورڈ آف ٹیکنیکل سٹڈیز اِن کامرس اینڈ بزنیس ایڈمنسٹریشن
(All-India Board of Technical Studies in Commerce and
Business Administration) میں شامل کئے گئے ہیں اور دھلی پولٹیکنک
(Delhi Polytechnic) بھی اِن مضامین میں آل انڈیا بورڈز آف ٹیکنیکل سٹڈیز
(All India Boards of Technical Studies) کے ساتھ شامل کیا گیا ہے -
(1) آرکیٹیکچر اور ریجنل پلاننگ (Architecture and Regional Planning)
(2) کیمیکل انجینیرینگ اور کیمیکل ٹیکنولوجی (Chemical Engineering
and Chemical Technology)
(3) انجینیرینگ اور میٹیریولوجی (Engineering and Meteorology)

(b) اب تک آل انڈیا ڈپلوما کورسیز (All India Diploma Courses)
کے ذیل کے سلیبس (Syllabus) تیار کئے گئے ہیں
(i) کامرس (Commerce)
(ii) کیمیکل انجینیرینگ (Chemical Engineering)
(iii) انجینیرینگ (Engineering) سول -الیکٹریکل اور مکنیکل (Civil Electrical and Mechanical)
(iv) آرکیٹیکچر (Architecture)

آل انڈیا ڈپلوماکورسیز (AllIndia Diploma Courses) کے سلیس
(Syllabus) یعنی ٹیکسٹائل ٹیکنولوجی (Textile Technology)
اور اپلائیڈآرٹ (Applied Art) کے سلیبس ابھی مسودہ کی شکل میں
ہیں اور حسب معمول آل انڈیا بورڈز (All-India Boards) سے منظور
کرائے جائینگے - تاہم میں یہ بیان کرتا ہوں کہ انجینیرینگ
(Engineering) اور کیمیکل انجنیرنگ (Chemical Engineering)
کے سلیبس پر پھر سوچ بچار کیا جارہا ہے -

(c) یہ بات سنجھ میں نہیں آتی کہ آنریبل ممبر کونسی وقت کا ذکر کررہے
ہیں - کیونکہ کوئی امتحان اُن مضمونوں کے نہیں ہوئے جنکے سلیبس
تیار نہیں ہوئے ہیں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) So far 7 institutions have been affiliated to the All-India Board of Technical Studies in Commerce and Business Administration. The Delhi Polytechnic, is in addition affiliated to the All-India Boards of Technical Studies in: (i) Architecture and Regional Planning, (ii) Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology, and (iii) Engineering and Metallurgy.

(b) So far the syllabuses for the following All-India Diploma courses have been prepared: (i) Commerce, (ii) Chemical Engineering, (iii) Engineering (Civil, Electrical and Mechanical), and (iv) Architecture.

Syllabi for the other All-India Diploma courses, *viz.*, Textile Technology and Applied Art are still in draft form and will be approved by the appropriate All-India Boards in due course.

I should, however, mention that the syllabuses in Engineering and in Chemical Engineering are being revised.

(c) It is difficult to see what hardship the Honourable Member is referring to as no examinations are conducted for the courses for which no syllabi have been prepared.

شری موھن لال سکسینہ - کیا آنریبل منسٹر صاحب کو یہ معلوم نہیں کہ
پولیٹکنک اسکول میں بہت ایسے کلاسز ہیں جنکے لئے سلیبس تیار
نہیں ہیں - کچھہ تیار ہیں اور کچھہ بدلے جا چکے ہیں -

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the Syllabi for most of the classes in Polytechnic School are not ready. Some are ready and some have been altered.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں نے ابھی توجہ دلائی ہے کہ کن کن اسکولوں کے
لئے تیار ہو چکے ہیں - اور کن کن اسکولوں کے لئے تیار ہو رہے ہیں
ممکن ہے کہ اس سے پہلے کوئی تبدیلی ہو رہی ہو اور اس کی وجہ سے
جتنی میری معلومات ہے کوئی نہیں پیش آئی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I have just now referred to those schools for which syllabi have been prepared, and to those also for which they are being prepared. It is quite possible that some changes were being made, but so far I have no information.

شری موھن لال سکسینہ : کیا میں منسٹر صاحب سے درخواست کر سکتا ہوں
کہ وہ دوبارہ اس معاملہ پر جانچ کریں مجھکو کافی واقفیت ہے اور لڑکوں سے پتہ چلا
ہے کہ وہاں دو تین ایسے اسکول ہیں جہاں دو دفعہ سلیبس بدلا گیا اور اب بھی
انکو نہیں معلوم کہ کس سلیبس میں انکا امتحان لیا جائیگا -

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I request the Honourable Minister to make further enquiries in this matter. I have some information and have come to know from students that there are two or three such schools whose syllabus has been changed twice and still the students do not know under which syllabus they will be examined?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : جہاں تک میری معلومات ہے ایسا نہیں ہوا - لیکن بہر حال انکوائری کی جائیگی -

The Honourable Maulaan Abul Kalam Azad: So far as I know, no such thing has happened, but all the same an enquiry will be made.

AFFILIATION OF DELHI POLYTECHNIC TO DELHI UNIVERSITY

407. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the assurance given by Government to the Legislative Assembly in 1946 that the Delhi Polytechnic will be affiliated to the Delhi University? If so, why has it not been so far affiliated?

(b) Have any steps taken in that direction and when is it likely to be affiliated to the Delhi University?

(c) Are Government aware that the delay in affiliation has been causing inconvenience and financial loss to the students?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : (a) میرے خیال میں ممبر صاحب کا یہ کہنا بالکل صحیح نہیں ہے کہ سنہ ۱۹۴۶ع میں لیجسلیٹو اسمبلی نے دھلی پولیٹکنک (Delhi Polytechnic) دھلی یونیورسٹی (Delhi University) میں شامل کرنے کا کوئی وعدہ کیا تھا -

البتہ ایک بیان جاری کیا گیا تھا جس میں یہ کہا گیا تھا کہ جب دھلی پولیٹکنیک (Delhi Polytechnic) کی ارادہ کی ہوئی ترقی پوری ہو جائیگی تو دھلی پولیٹکنیک (Delhi Polytechnic) دھلی یونیورسٹی (Delhi University) کا ٹیکنولوجیکل ڈپارٹمنٹ (Technological Department) سمجھا جائیگا -

(b) گورنمنٹ نے کچھ ترقی کی اسکیمیں بنائی ہیں جن میں سے کچھ اِس وقت زیر عمل ہیں- اکتوبر سنہ ۱۹۴۶ع میں دھلی یونیورسٹی (Delhi University) میں شامل کرنے کے لئے ایک درخواست دی گئی تھی - پولیٹکنیک (Polytechnic) کی مجلس انتظامیہ جو سنہ ۱۹۴۷ع کے شروع میں ہی بنائی گئی تھی - نے ترقی کے پروگرام کا معائنہ کیا - اور اب تک جو ترقی کی گئی ہے اسکو مدنظر رکھتے ہوئے اس مجلس نے ۲۲ اکتوبر سنہ ۱۹۴۷ع کو یہ سفارش کی ہے کہ دھلی پولیٹکنیک (Delhi Polytechnic) کا انجینیرینگ (Engineering) کا محکمہ فوراً ہی دھلی یونیورسٹی (Delhi University) میں شامل کر دیا جائے اور دوسرے محکمہ اس کے بعد — دھلی یونیورسٹی (Delhi University) نے ایگزیکیوٹیو کونسل (Executive Council) کی ایک سب کمیٹی (Sub-Committee) پہلے ہی مقرر کر دی ہے - کہا جاتا ہے کہ اس سب کمیٹی

نے کچھ سفارشات ایکزیکٹو کونسل کے سامنے رکھی ہیں-

(c) گورنمنٹ یہ ماننے کے لئے تیار نہیں ہے کہ پولیٹکنک (Polytechnic) کو دھلی یونیورسٹی میں شامل کرنے میں جو دیر لگ رہی ہے اس کی وجہ سے طالب علموں کو مشکلات اور مالی نقصان ہورہا ہے - چونکہ وہ طالب علم اسوقت تعلیم حاصل کررہے ہیں وہ ڈپلوما کورس (Diploma Course) کے واسطے ہی اس انسٹی ٹیوشن (Institution) میں داخل ہوئے تھے-

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) I am afraid that the Honourable Member is not quite correct in stating that an assurance was given to the Legislative Assembly in 1946 that the Delhi Polytechnic would be affiliated to the Delhi University.

A statement was however made to the effect that when the contemplated development of the Delhi Polytechnic has been completed, it was anticipated, that the Polytechnic would be recognised as the Technological Department of the Delhi University.

(b) The Government have formulated certain development plans some of which are now well on the way. An application for affiliation to the Delhi University was made in October, 1946. The Governing Body of the Polytechnic which was constituted early in 1947, have, after examining the development programme and reviewing the progress made so far recommended on the 22nd October, 1947, the affiliation of the Engineering Department of the Delhi Polytechnic immediately and of certain other departments thereafter. The University has already appointed a Sub-Committee of the Executive Council. This Sub-Committee is understood to have made certain recommendations to the Executive Council.

(c) The Government do not agree that the delay in affiliation is causing inconvenience and financial loss to the students since the students now undergoing to the courses of instruction were admitted to the Diploma courses offered at the Institution.

شری موہن لال سکسینہ : کیا آنریبل منسٹر صاحب کو یہ نہیں معلوم کہ نوکری دیتے وقت اس بات کا خیال کرتے ہیں کہ جنکے پاس یونیورسٹی کی ڈگری ہوتی ہے اُنکو نوکری دی جاتی ہے اور وہاں کے ڈپلوما کو تو جیح نہیں دی جاتی-

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is not the Honourable Minister aware that at the time of making appointments this fact is kept in view that only people with University Degrees are appointed and no heed is paid to the Diploma of that Institution?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ اسٹیٹیوشن ڈپلوما کلاس کے لئے کھولا گیا تھا - اسکا ایک خاص ڈھنگ ہے - اور یہی ڈھنگ اب تک چلا آرہا ہے - اور اُمید کی جاتی ہے اُسمیں افیلیٹ کودیا جائیگا-

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This Institution was opened for diploma classes. It has a special procedure and the same procedure is being followed uptil now. It is expected that it shall be affiliated to that.

सेठ गोविन्ददास : क्या गवर्नमेण्ट इस बात पर विचार करती है कि जहां तक गवर्नमेण्ट की नौकरियों का ताल्लुक है वहां ऐसी डिग्रियों में और युनिवर्सिटी की डिग्री में कोई फर्क नहीं रक्खा जायेगा ।

Seth Govinddas: Do Government consider that so far as Government services are concerned no distinction shall be made between such degrees and University degrees?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ اس چیز پر غور کررھی ھے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government are considering this matter.

شری دیش بندھو گپتا : کیا گورنمنٹ اسبات پر غور کررھی ھے کہ طلبا کے تعلیمی معیار کو بھی اُونچا کیا جائے - محض یونیورسٹیز سے اسکا تعلق نہ رکھا جائے

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Do Government consider that the educational standard also of students should be raised? It should not be merely a concern of Universities.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : بہر حال یہ معاملہ ایسا گہرا ھے اور آیندہ چلکر اسپر غور کیا جاسکتا ھے لیکن اسوقت اس بارے میں کوئی وعدہ نہیں کیا جاتا -

The Honourable Maualna Abul Kalam Azad: However it is so itnricate matter that it shall be considered in future. No promise can be made in this connection at present.

شری دیش بندھو گپتا : کیا حکومت کے پیش نظر یہ خیال ھے کہ فیکلٹیوں میں لڑکوں کو انجنیرنگ کی (Practical) تعلیم دینے کا بندوبست کرنا ضروری ھے- جسکا موقع انہیں ابھی تک نہیں ملا -

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Do Government keep in view that it is very essential to make arrangements for imparting practical engineering training in factories to students, to whom no opportunity has been provided so far?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : معاملہ کا یہ پہلو واقعی بہت غور و فکر کا محتاج ھے - اور اسپر غور کیا جائیگا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Certainly this aspect of the matter requires serious consideration, and it will be considered.

PUBLICATION OF SOUTH INDIAN INSCRIPTIONS COLLECTED BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

408. *Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the approximate number of South Indian inscriptions so far collected by the Archæological Department?

(b) How many of these have been published *in extenso?*

(c) When are the rest likely to be published?

(d) When was the last report on South Indian Epigraphy published and why have further reports not been issued?

(e) What are the reasons for the delay?

(f) How far is this delay due to the Government Press not being able to print in time?

(g) Is the Department allowed to print their publications in non-Government presses?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) ۲۹۵۰۰

(b) ۸۳۰۰

(c) باقی کو چھاپنے میں تقریباً دس سال لگینگے -

(d) ساؤتھ انڈین اپیگرافی (South Indian Epigraphy) کی آخری رپورٹ سال سنہ ۳۸-۱۹۳۷ کی بابت شایع کی گئی تھی- اور ساؤتھ انڈین انسکرپشنز (South Indian Inscriptions) کی آخری جلد سنہ ۱۹۴۱ع میں چھاپی گئی تھی - اسکے بعد رپورٹیں اور جلدیں شایع نہیں ھوسکتی کیونکہ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے ایسی چیزیں لڑائی کے زمانے میں چھاپنے پر پابندی لگائی تھی- اب جبکہ پابندی ھٹالی گئی ھے (۲) رپورٹیں ساؤتھ انڈین اپیگرافی (Epigraphy) پر اور ایک جلد ساؤتھ انڈین انسکرپشنز (South Indian Inscriptions) پرچھپ رھی ھیں -

(e) اور (f) رپورٹ کے بارے میں جو دیر ھوئی ھے اُس کے لئے گورنمنٹ پریس (Government Press) ذمہوار نہیں ھے - اُسکی وجوھات وہ حالات تھے جنکا ابھی ذکر کیا گیا ھے - ساؤتھ انڈین انسکرپشنز (South Indian Inscriptions) کی جلد مدراس گورنمنٹ پریس میں سنہ ۱۹۴۰ع میں چھاپنے کیلئے بھیجی گئی تھی اسکو لڈی تیار کرنیکے لئے زور ڈالا گیا ھے

(g) صرف اُسی وقت جبکہ ایسا کرنا بہت ضروری ھو- مگر اپیگرافی (Epigraphy) کے متعلق مشکل یہ ھے کہ بہت سے غیرسرکاری چھاپے خانے اس قسم کے ٹائپ مہیا نہیں کرسکتے جنکی کہ ضرورت ھے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) 29,500.

(b) 8,300.

(c) The rest are likely to take about 10 years for publication.

(d) The last Report on South Indian Epigraphy was issued for the years 1937-38, and the last volume of South Indian Inscriptions was published in 1941. Further reports and volumes could not be issued due to the fact that the Government of India placed restrictions on the printing of such publications for the duration of war. Now that the restrictions have been removed, two Reports on South Indian Epigraphy and one volume of South Indian Inscriptions are in the press.

(e) and (f). In the case of the Report, the Government Press is not responsible for the delay. This is due to the circumstances explained above. In the case of the volume of South Indian Inscriptions which was sent to the Madras Government Press in 1940, pressure has already been brought to bear with a view to expediting the volume.

(g) Only when it is absolutely essential to do so. In the case of Epigraphy, however, the difficulty is that a majority of the non-Government presses are unable to supply the necessary fonts.

Shri T. Channiah: Sir, may I know the reason why the Honourable Minister of Education is determined not to give his replies in English?

Mr. Speaker: That does not arise out of this question.

Shri K. Santhanam: Even those of us who have picked up a little Hindi are unable to follow him.

Mr. Speaker: I will give Honourable Members a translation of the reply.

(English translation of the reply was then read out.)

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if the reply to part (c) is due to the fact that Government want to emphasise the antiquarian value of these relics and therefore they are allowing ten years to elapse before they are published?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : آنریبل ممبر معلوم کر چکے ھیں کہ اتنی بڑی تعداد انکی ھے اور ۲۹ ھزار میں سے صرف ۸ ھزار اس وقت تک چھاپے گئے ھیں - یہ کام ایسا ھے کہ آسانی سے نہیں ھو سکتا اس لئے یہ اندازہ لگایا گیا ھے کہ سب کو چھاپنے میں دس برس لگیں گے یا اس سے کم وقت صرف ھو -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Honourable Members are aware that they are a large number of them and only eight thousands out of twenty-nine thousands have been published so far. This work is of such a nature that it cannot be easily accomplished. It has been estimated that it will take about ten years or less to publish all of them.

श्री एच० वी० कामथ : क्या माननीय बजीर साहब यह बतला सकेंगे कि २९,५०० इन्स क्रिपशन्ज में से सबसे पुराना किस जमाने का है ?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the honourable minister in a position to state to which age the oldest of the twenty-nine thousand five hundred and ten inscriptions belongs?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; that will be going into the contents of these things.

شری دیش بندھو گپتا : کیا یہ امر واقع ھے کہ آرچیالاجیکل ڈیپارٹمنٹ کی تمام پروسیڈنگ انگریزی میں چھپی ھے - اور کیا گورنمنٹ اس پروسیڈنگ کو ھندی میں چھاپنے پر غور کریگی -

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that all the proceedings of the Archaeological Department are published in English, and will Government consider publishing them in Hindi?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ھاں ! اس چیز پر غور کیا جائیگا - اور اس وقت تک گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کی تمام کارروائی انگریزی میں ھو رھی ھے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes. This matter will be considered. So far all the proceedings of Government of India have been carried on in English.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: In view of the importance of these inscriptions, will the Government consider the publication of a summary of the epigraphic records that have been collected?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ھاں یہ ایسی چیز ھے جسپر غور کیا جائے اور اور کم از کم آئندہ الگ چھاپ دیا جائیگا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes, it will be considered and at least printed separately in future.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Should any of the private presses come forward to print these reports to the satisfaction of Government, will the Government re-consider the position to entrust some of this work to the private presses?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ضرور گورنمنٹ اس پر غور کریگی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government will certainly consider it.

TERMS OF SERVICE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

409. *Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state who is the present Director-General of Archæology and when his term is expiring? Did he opt to go to Pakistan and if so, why could he not go?

(b) Is his term being extended and if so, why?

(c) Is it the policy of the present Government not to entertain non-Indians in key positions?

(d) If so, is that policy being followed in the case of this appointment?

(e) If not, why not?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) موجودہ ڈائرکٹر جنرل آف آرکیولوجی (Director General of Archaeology) کا نام ڈاکٹر آر - ای - مورٹیمر ویلر (Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler) ھے - ان کی نوکری کی معیاد ۲۳ اپریل سنہ ۱۹۴۸ ع کو ختم ھوتی ھے - اُنہوں نے ھندوستان یا پاکستان میں نوکری کرنے کے بارے میں کوئی خاص خواھش ظاھر نہیں کی - مگر پارٹیشن کاؤنسل (Partition Council) نے یہ فیصلہ کیا تھا کہ چونکہ پاکستان کو اُن کی خدمات کی ضرورت نہیں اس لئے ان کی خدمات جب تک ان کی نوکری کی معیاد ختم نہیں ھوتی ھندوستان میں رکھی جائیں -

(b) نہیں -

(c) غیر ھندوستانیوں کو گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کی سیول (Civil) نوکریاں بہت خاص حالات میں دی جاتی ھیں - اور وہ بھی ٹھیکہ (Contract) پر - اور تھوڑی مدت کے لئے -

(d) ھاں - ڈاکٹر ویلر کے بعد ھندوستانی کو نوکری دینے کا سوال زیر غور ھے -

(e) سوال پیدا نہیں ھوتا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler is the present Director General of Archæology. The term of his appointment is due to expire on the 23rd April, 1948. He did not express any preference for service either in India or Pakistan. The Partition Council, however, decided that as the Pakistan Government did not need his services, he should be retained in India till the expiry of his term of contract.

(b) No.

(c) The appointment of non-Indians to civil posts under the Government of India is made in very exceptional circumstances and on a contract basis for short periods.

(d) Yes. The question of appointing an Indian to succeed Dr. Wheeler is under consideration.

(e) Does not arise.

مسٹر آر - کے - سدھوا : کیا ڈائرکٹر جنرل نے خود کوئی درخواست پاکستان جانے کے لئے دی یا نہیں -

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Has the Director General personally applied or not for going to Pakistan?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں نے ابھی یہ کہا کہ جس وقت پارٹیشن کونسل قایم ہوئی تھی - اسکے سامنے ڈاکٹر ویلر کی کوئی درخواست نہیں آئی کہ وہ پاکستان جانا چاہتے ہیں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I have said just now that at the time of establishment of the partition council no application from Dr. Wheeler here?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if it is a fact that the Pakistan Government probably finds it beneficial for them to keep Dr. Wheeler here?

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of opinion.

NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR INDIA AND PROVINCIAL MUSEUM

410. *Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government propose to have a National Museum for India? If so, what is its general plan?

(b) Is it going to be located in some central place in India? If not, why not?

(c) Are there Provincial Museums in different Provinces? If so, in how many provinces?

(d) Do Government propose to encourage Provincial Museums by lending expert hands and by giving adequate grants?

(e) What special steps do Government propose to take in order that those museums may be of the maximum educative value?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) گورنمنٹ نے ہندوستان میں ایک سنٹرل نیشنل (Central National) میوزیم آف آرٹ آرکیولوجی اینڈ ایتھرو پولوجی Museum of Art Archaeology and Anthropology) قائم کرنے کی سکیم اصولاً مان لی ہے - میوزیم (Museum) کا عام خاکہ کمیٹی کی رپورٹ میں

شامل ہے - اور اُسکی ایک کاپی ہاوس (House) کی میز پر رکھی گئی ہے -

(b) اس میوزیم (Museum) کو نئی دہلی میں قائم کرنے کی تجویز پیش کی ہے -

(c) صوبائی عجائب گھر یا اسی قسم کے دوسرے میوزیم (Museum) تمام صوبوں میں ہیں - صرف ایسٹ پنجاب (East Punjab) کے نئے صوبے میں نہیں ہے - جو کہ حال ہی میں بنا ہے -

(d) ارادہ یہ ہے کہ نمائش انسٹی ٹیوشن (Institution) کے علاوہ نئے نیشنل میوزیم (National Museum) سے لوگ تمام ہندوستان میں میوزیم سروس (Museum Service) کیلئے ماہری امداد صلاح - اور ٹریننگ حاصل کرسکیں - جہاں تک صوبائی میوزیمز (Museums) کو گرانٹ (Grant) دینے کا تعلق ہے سنٹرل ایڈوائزری بورڈ آف آرکیولوجی (Central Advisory Board of Archaeology) اپنی ستمبر سنہ ۱۹۴۷ع کی بروڈہ والی میٹنگ میں ایک میوزیم کمیٹی (Museum Committee) مقرر کی تھی - تاکہ صوبائی عجائب گھروں کی سرکاری امداد دینے کے سوال پر غور کیا جاوے - اس کمیٹی کی سفارشات ابھی تک گورنمنٹ کے پاس نہیں پہنچی ہیں - لیکن گورنمنٹ ان سفارشات کا خیال رکھتے ہوئے ضروری فیصلہ دیگی -

(e) لوکل میوزیم (Local Museum) کی ترقی کا کام صوبائی گورنمنٹ کا ہے - لیکن نیشنل میوزیم (National Museum) قائم ہونے پر گورنمنٹ میوزیم سروس، ٹریننگ، ماہری مشورہ، اور عارضی طور پر ماہروں کی خدمات وغیرہ دینے کے لئے تیار ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The Government have accepted in principle the Scheme for the establishment of a Central National Museum of Art, Archaeology and Anthropology in India. The general plan of the Museum is embodied in the report† of the Committee, a copy of which is placed on the table.

(b) It is proposed to locate the Museum in New Delhi.

(c) There are provincial museums, or museums of similar status, in all provinces except in the newly created province of the East Punjab.

(d) It is intended that apart from being an exhibiting institution, the new National Museum will provide expert assistance, advice and training for the museum-service for India as a whole. As for grants to provincial Museums, the Central Advisory Board of Archæology at their meeting held at Baroda in September 1947, appointed a Museum Committee to go into the whole question of the principles of State-aid to provincial museums. Gov-

†Not printed in these Debates. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed of D.*

ernment will take necessary decision in the light of the recommendations of this Committee, which are still awaited.

(e) The development of local museums is primarily the concern of the Provincial Governments but on the establishment of the National Museum, Government will be prepared to render such help as training for museum service, expert advice and temporary loan of experts, etc.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: May I have the reply in English?

Mr. Speaker: It will not be possible in every case to give a translation. The Honourable Member should make an effort to understand Hindustani. That is the best course.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Before the Honourable Members are able to follow this, the Government should make some arrangements. They have their Assistant Whips and their Whip. I certainly resent your being asked to read the answers every time.

Shri H. R. Guruv Reddy: In cases like this would it not be possible for the Minister concerned to answer in English the particular member who has put the question?

Mr. Speaker: That will lead to supplying the answers to the members beforehand. I am afraid that practice will not be a very desirable or proper one. Sometimes this difficulty will arise and when I find that a question is important, I will read the translation; not otherwise. This should not be taken as a practice necessarily to be followed by the Chair.

Shri H. R. Guruv Reddy: Would you permit us to put questions in our own mother tongue?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. The Honourable Member may put such a question but if it is not understood by the Honourable Minister, the Honourable Member will not have a chance of having it translated. He will be at liberty, of course, to put his questions.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: When every other Minister answers in English, this Honourable Minister may also do so.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Members are not aware as to what passed in this honourable minister may also do so.
this House before the 15th August. Even then it was considered essential for national self-respect that our proceedings should be conducted in Hindustani and as far as possible. The situation has much changed since 15th August and it is up to Honourable Members to see that they try to pick up the language.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am perfectly prepared to answer questions in Hindustani in future.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: That does not solve the difficulty. It is all easy for one whose mother tongue is Hindustani to impose on others his mother tongue. But it is a real difficulty which must be faced by the House and I wish the Speaker would give this his attention and also the Government of the day, instead of forcing people to remain silent in their ignorance. Some arrangement must be made simultaneously to present these answers. I do not feel the grievance so much because I understand something of the language. But even I do not feel equal to the highly Arabised and Persianised Hindustani of the Maulana. Even ten years hence, I guarantee that South Indians who learn Hindustani will not be able to follow such Hindustani.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I do not think it would be derogatory to our national dignity and uniformity if we were to make it convenient for speakers speaking in Hindi to have their speeches translated into English and for people speaking in English to have their speeches translated into Hindi. In most of the Assemblies in other parts of the world wherever there are these bi-lingual or tri-lingual and multi-lingual needs such facilities are made and especially in international gatherings..... ...

Mr. Speaker: I do not think any further argument is necessary. While I have indicated that it is not quite proper to insist that answers be given in English, I have already tried to help members by giving translations when the question is an important one. At the same time I made a request to those people who do not understand Hindustani to make an effort: because in the new set up of things, we are going in the direction of having the proceedings in the common language. Whether what is spoken it is in Persianised Urdu or Sanskritised Hindi, it is a different matter. I do not wish to have any further discussion. I shall give the translation as the question seems to be of some importance. But I will leave it to myself to decide as to whether a question is so important as to deserve to be translated.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What about the supplementaries to be raised on that?

Mr. Speaker: I cannot translate each and every answer.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Therefore, at least so far as this particular portfolio of this particular Honourable Minister is concerned, he may be kindly allowed to permit some of his Secretaries to read out the replies, for it is not a matter of joke.

Mr. Speaker: That point has been solved. No Secretary can come into the House. No further argument is necessary. Order, order. I may state that whenever an Honourable Minister uses a special expression, he tries to give the English equivalent.

Order, order. The reply to the question is as follows:

(English translation of the reply was then read out)

सेठ गोविन्ददास: क्या गवर्नमेण्ट को यह मालूम है कि कलकत्ते मे अजायबघर है वह प्रान्तीय अजायबघर है। वह उस वक्त बनाया गया था जब राजधानी कलकत्ते में थी। क्या गवर्नमेण्ट इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि जब दिल्ली में अखिल भारतीय अजायबघर बनने वाला है तो कलकत्ते के अजायबघर में जो मुख्य चीजें हैं क्या वह हटायी जायेंगी। और दिल्ली लायी जायेंगी।

Seth Govinddas: Are Government aware that the Calcutta Museum is a Provincial Museum? It was build at the time when Calcutta was Capital. Do Government consider, now that the All India Museum is to be established in Delhi all the selected articles from the Calcutta Museum will be removed from that place and brought to Delhi.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : کلکتہ کا جو میوزیم ہے وہ اب تک انڈین میوزیم ہے - جب نیشنل میوزیم کی اسکیم عمل میں لائی جائیگی - تب اس پر غور ہوگا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: So far Calcutta Museum is the Indian Museum. The proposal will be considered at the time of execution of National Museum Scheme.

श्री एच० वी कामथ: इस कमेटी के मेम्बर कौन थे जो सन् १९४५ में स्थापित की गयी थी और जिसकी रिपोर्ट हाउस के मेज पर रक्खी गयी है।

Shri H. V. Kamath: Who were the members of the Committee which was formed in 1945 and whose report was laid on the table of the House?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ان کے نام یہ ہیں –

سر – جان سارجیدٹ، مسٹر ایچ – اے – – میڈ،

مسٹر – وی – نرہری راؤ، مسٹر ایچ – وی – آر – آئینگر، مسٹر جی – ایس – بوزمین، ڈاکٹر – آر – آئی – مورٹیمر ویلر، ڈاکٹر ایچ- این – سین، ڈاکٹر بی – ایس – گوہا، ڈاکٹر ڈی – ایم – سین اور ڈاکٹر – این – پی – چکرورتی –

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Their names are: Sir John Sargent, Mr. H. A. N. Medd, Mr. V. Narhari Rao, Mr. H. V. R. Iyengar, Mr. G. S. Bozman, Dr. R. I. Mortimer Wheeler, Dr. H. N. Sen, Dr. B. S. Guha, Dr. D. M. Sen and Dr. N. P. Chakravarti.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if the Honourable Minister will consider the desirability of coverting the present Government House into a museum?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion for action.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ہاں اسکے لئے ایک بلڈنگ (Building) ہونا چاہئے جب یہ اسکیم عمل میں لائی جائے گی تو بلڈنگ بنےگی –

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes. It needs a building. At the time of the execution of this scheme a building will be constructed.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: The Honourable Minister told us that the Museum will be located in Delhi. May I know, Sir, why a more central place for the whole of India cannot be chosen?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ایک معنی میں دہلی سنٹرل جگہ ہے اور کیپیٹل بھی ہے –

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: In a way Delhi is a central place and is Capital also.

گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر : نیشنل میوزیم بنانے کی کوئی اسکیم ایسٹ پنجاب کے لئے بھی ہے –

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Is there any scheme for the construction of a National Museum for the East Punjab also?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ معاملہ پراونشل گورنمنٹ کے غور کرنے کا ہے–

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It is a matter for the consideration of the Provincial Government.

POLICY re RECRUITMENT, PROMOTIONS ETC., OF OFFICERS AND MEN OF INDIAN AIR FORCE

411. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what is Government's policy with regard to the recruitment of officers and men in the Indian Air Force?

(b) What is Government's policy with regard to the grant of permanent commissions to officers who served during the war, especially to those in the Ground Branches?

(c) Is any definite policy being followed in the matter of granting promotions?

(d) Are the terms and conditions of service and the present pay and allowances regulations being revised?

(e) What is the basis for equalizing the pay of the Defence Services personnel with that of those in corresponding civil occupations?

(f) Is it a fact that there is a great disparity in the emoluments of an Air Force Officer and a Civil Pilot?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my answer to part (a) of Starred Question No. 189 asked by Dr. Deshmukh on the 9th February 1948.

(b) Government's policy is to grant permanent commissions to as many of the officers who served during the war as possible. Some permanent commissions have already been granted and more will be granted shortly in all Branches of the R.I.A.F. including the Ground Duty Branches.

(c) Yes. Promotions are regulated by well-defined rules, the most important of which are that the individual must be fit for promotion and that there must be a vacancy in which he can be promoted.

(d) No further general revision of pay and allowances and other conditions of service beyond those published last year as a result of the Pay Committee's recommendations is at present contemplated.

(e) In fixing the pay of any service, Government have borne in mind the pay admissible for similar employment in other Departments to the extent that a general comparison is possible or appropriate. Conditions of service in the Armed Forces differ to some extent from those obtaining in civil employment, *e.g.*, subordinate service personnel receive free rations, accommodation and clothing, and promotions are on a different basis. In the new Defence Services Pay Code these differences have been carefully taken into account and after making due allowance for them a broad equality with the civilian scales of pay for appropriate categories has been established.

(f) Yes, I understand, there is some disparity. It is however misleading to compare the pay of service officer with that of civilian pilot working in a commercial concern as the conditions of service, security of tenure, prospects of advancement, etc., so widely vary between the two.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that the new pay rules have given rise to great dissatisfaction among the officers and men of the Royal Indian Air Force?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, I have already said in my reply to the question that the pay of the R.I.A.F. pilots is lower than the pay of pilots working in the civilian services.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: My question was different, Sir. Is the Honourable Minister aware that the changes made in the rules regulating the pay of the officers and men in the Royal Indian Air Force has given rise to great dissatisfaction in the Force?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There has been some criticism of the new pay rules. But the scales that have been fixed are I think reasonable and have been fixed after due consideration.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How long, Sir, will the word "Royal" continue to be prefixed to the "Indian Air Force"?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As long as we remain in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Army Authorities have done away with the psycheatrists' tests in recruiting officers.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It does not arise out of this question.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: It does arise out of part (a) of the question which refers to Government's policy with regard to the recruitment of officers and men in the Indian Air Force.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: At any rate, no changes are contemplated at present.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is it not a fact that owing to the desparity in the emoluments of officers of the R.I.A.F. and those employed by the civilian air lines a large number of R.I.A.F. officers are desirous of leaving the Force?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Not to my knowledge. As far as my information goes, only three officers have expressed a desire to leave the service.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is it not a fact that in order to get volunteers for the Kashmir operations, civilian volunteers are being given a daily allowance plus free rations and other allowances and this has created considerable resentment among the regular personnel of the Indian Air Force?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There has of course been certain criticism, but that I think is a question which should be addressed to my Honourable Colleague, the Minister for Communications.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: What steps have Government taken to remove the dissatisfaction that is now prevalent in the R.I.A.F.?

(No reply.)

PSIONERY RIGHT OF MILITARY PERSONNEL PARTICIPATED IN CIVIL -DIS OBEDIENCE MOVEMENTS OF ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE

412. *Ch. Ranbir Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the pensionary rights of military personnel, who took part in the Civil Disobedience movement launched by the All India Congress Committee in the year 1930, 1932 and 1942 and were sentenced to imprisonment were forfeited and that since then no payment has been made to the pensioners?

(b) If so, do Government propose to re-consider their cases under the changed circumstances?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Seth Govinddas: Sir, now that this matter has been under consideration for a long time, will Government see that something is done in this respect immediately?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As far as I know, the attention of the Department has never been drawn to this question. I took up this question about two months ago, and the matter has nearly reached a stage at which Government will come to a decision shortly.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is the number of officers so affected?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have no information.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

FORMATION OF NATIONAL MILITIA FOR INDIA

413. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether, in view of the present situation and the general feeling of the people of India, particularly of the young men and women, Government have considered the question of forming the National Militia?

(b) If not, do Government propose to consider it afresh in the light of the latest developments?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Starred Question No. 73 asked by Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava on the 2nd February, 1948.

RETRENCHMENT IN INDIAN FORCES SINCE END OF WAR

414. *Shri Ram Sahai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what is the number of persons retrenched from each of the three arms of service since the end of the War?

(b) Is it a fact that retrenchment is still going on in the Army?

(c) Have Government taken any steps to see that the personnel retrenched from the Army are given employment in other departments?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a)

Navy	...	19,200
Army	...	14,79,000
Air Force	...	27,677

(b) No.

(c) Yes. Ex-service personnel in need of employment assistance have been registered at Employment Exchanges and their names submitted for vacancies notified by Government and private employers. An appreciable number of ex-servicemen have been placed in employment in this manner.

INDIAN STATES FORMED AND TO BE FORMED INTO FEDERATIONS OR GROUPS

415. *Shri Ram Sahai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state how many states have merged themselves into India?

(b) What is the number of Federations or Groups of States that have been formed so far and what are the names of the States which have formed themselves into such Federations or Groups?

(c) What are the names of the States which have still to form themselves into Federations or Groups?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The administration of 40 States have so far been integrated with that of adjoining Provinces of India.

(b) Two groups of States have so far been formed. One is the Kathiawar group and the other is the Khasi States Federation. A statement giving the names of the States forming these groups is placed on the table of the House.

(c) The Honourable Member had better addressed his enquiry to the remaining States.

Statement showing States which have formed the Federation or Group.

Kathiawar group.—Nawanagar, Bhavnagar, Porbandar, Dhrangadhra, Morvi, Gondal, Jafrabad, Wankaner, Palitana, Dhrol, Limbdi, Rajkot, Wadhwan, Lakhtar, Sayla, Chuda, Vala, Jasdan, Amarnagar (Thana-Vevli), Vadia, Lathi, Muli, Bajana, Virpur, Maliya, Kotda-Sangani, Jetpur, Bilkha, Patdi and Khirasra.

Khasi States Federation.—Cherra, Khyrim, Nongstoin, Bhowal, Langrain, Maharam, Mariaw, Mawiang, Malaisohmat, Mawsynram, Mylliem, Nobosohphoh, Nongkhlow, Hongspung, Rambrai, Langiong, Mawphlang, Sohiong, Dwara, Nongtyrmen, Jirang, Mawdon, Mawlong, Nonglwai, Domsanngut and Shella.

FIXATION OF PRICES BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST FOR LANDS TO BE ACQUIRED DURING 1948

416. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Delhi Improvement Trust propose to acquire lands during the year 1948 at the average of the prices which were prevalent during the past five years?

(b) Are Government aware that in some cases even the actual cost of their properties have not been paid to the owners?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of paying the peasants or the owners of the lands the prices prevailing in the year in which these are purchased? If not, why not?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The Delhi Improvement Trust will be acquiring land in 1948 in execution of their schemes. The compensation to be paid for the land will be fixed by the Land Acquisition Collector in accordance with the provisions of law.

(b) Government are not aware of any such cases.

(c) Under the law, for purposes of compensation the market value of the land to be acquired is the market value prevailing at the date of first notification of an Improvement scheme. Without such a provision, on a scheme being notified, there is the likelihood of land values being inflated to take advantage of the acquisition that will follow. However, if the interval between the final approval of a scheme and actual award by the Land Acquisition Collector is more than two years, the law provides for necessary compensation for the delay. The existing provisions of law appear to be equitable.

APPOINTMENT OF UNDER SECRETARIES FROM ADMINISTRATIVE RESERVE MADE BY FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

417. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs please refer to his reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 502 asked on 13th November 1946 by Sardar Mangal Singh regarding the appointment of Under Secretaries from the Administrative Reserve made by the F.P.S.C., and state whether the reorganization of the Government of India Secretariat has taken place and the Central Secretariat Service been formed? If not, when will Government come to a decision?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the reply given to part (d) of the Starred Question No. 185 on the 9th February 1948.

SHOOTING OF A SIKH BY A SOLDIER AS REPORTED BY *Khalsa* DATED 28TH DECEMBER, 1947

418. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an article which appeared in the *Khalsa* dated the 28th December, 1947 under the caption "Sikh shot dead by Soldier"?

(b) What are the details of this incident and what steps have been taken against the soldier concerned?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) I regret I am unable to furnish any details as a case has been registered under Section 302 I.P.C. and is under investigation.

APPLICATION OF BRITISH ARMY ACT TO INDIAN ARMY AND POSITION AFTER 15TH AUGUST, 1947

419. *Shri Ramnarayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that before the 15th August, 1947, the Indian Army was partly governed by the British Army Act and if so, what is the position now?

(b) Is it a fact that for certain matters relating to the administration of the Indian Army, the Secretary of State for India was the final authority before the 15th August, 1947 and if so, who is the final authority after the 15th of August 1947?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) All British personnel of the Indian Army and King's Commissioned Indian Officers were subject to the British Army Act before the 15th August 1947. After that date only British Service personnel attached to the Indian Army remain subject to the British Army Act.

(b) The final authority in all matters relating to the administration of the Indian Army is now the Government of India.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS AJMER-MERWARA

420. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government hospitals and dispensaries separately in the rural and urban areas of the province of Ajmer-Merwara and the amount spent thereon in the year 1947;

(b) the number of in-patients and out-patients treated by these institutions during the year 1947;

(c) the average number of villages each dispensary in the rural area is expected to serve and the average number of inhabitants these hospitals and dispensaries are expected to serve in the rural and urban areas of the Province;

(d) the average amount spent per head by Government on medical aid on the rural and urban population;

(e) the number of Government dispensaries for women and maternity homes in the Province and the number of non-Government institutions of this character existing in the Province;

(f) whether Government give aid to any such institutions and if so, what and what is the extent of such aid; and

(g) whether it is a fact that all such institutions are not in a position to render effective public service due to paucity of funds and if so, whether Government propose to extend help to deserving institutions and make provision for the same in the next budget?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a), (b), (e) and (f). A statement is placed on the table furnishing the information asked for.

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

(g) No information is available regarding the first part of the question. Government will consider carefully any request for financial help received from these institutions.

STATEMENT

(a) Number of Government hospitals in Ajmer-Merwara . 1
Number of Government dispensaries 2
Anticipated expenditure on them in 1947-48 . . 2,56,000

(b) Number of patients treated in these hospitals in 1947—

Name of hospital	Indoor patients	Outdoor patients
1. Victoria Hospital, Ajmer	2,524	56,275
2. Todgarh Dispensary	37	12,450
3. Pushkar Dispensary	70	7,626

(c) Number of Government medical institutions for women in Ajmer-Merwara . . . . . *Nil*
Non-Government medical institution for women in the Province . . . .
1. Women's Mission Hospital, Ajmer.
2. Women's Mission Hospital, Nasirabad.
3. Mrs. Gidney Zenana Hospital and Maternity Home, Ajmer.
4. King George V Memorial Maternity Home, Ajmer.
5. Shrimati Sethani Gangabai Maternity Home, Beawar.
6. St. Francis Nursing Home, Ajmer.

(d) The Government gives a regular grant of Rs.4,180 to the King George V Memorial Maternity Home, Ajmer, to meet the pay of the Lady Superintendent. In 1947-48 they have also made a provision of Rs. 3,000 on account of additional grant in aid to this institution or its general improvement.

INADEQUACY OF STAFF, APPLIANCES AND MEDICINE IN HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES OF AJMER-MERWARA

421. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the number of doctors and compounders in the hospital at Beawar and the rural dispensaries in Ajmer-Merwara remains the same from the inception of these institutions up to the present day, notwithstanding the rise in population during the last thirty years?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take steps to increase the number of doctors and compounders in these institutions?

(c) Are Government aware that the surgical instruments and other medical appliances in the above dispensaries and hospitals are old and out-of-date and that the quantity of medicine and injection tubes supplied to them are insufficient to cope with the requirements of the patients?

(d) If so, do Government propose to take steps to equip them on modern lines with all the necessary surgical instruments and medical appliances and to arrange for the supply of medicine and injection tubes in adequate quantities to cope with the need of the day?

(e) Are Government aware that a number of Ayurvedic Aushadhalayas existing in the urban and rural areas of the Province entirely dependent on voluntary contributions are giving free medicines and medical aid to a large number of poor patients?

(f) Are Government giving any aid to such institutions?

(g) If so, what and if not, do Government propose to make suitable provision in the Budget to give aid to such philanthropic institutions?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (c). Government are aware that the hospitals and dispensaries in Ajmer-Merwara are not adequately staffed and equipped.

(b) and (d). Yes. Proposals for the improvement of the health services in Ajmer-Merwara Province are under consideration and steps will be taken to improve conditions as early as possible.

(e) Yes.

(f) No.

(g) The question will be considered after the report of the Committee on Indigenous Systems of Medicine is received.

PROGRESS IN PROPOSED POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION SCHEMES, ETC., FOR AJMER-MERWARA

422. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have accepted the post-war development and expansion schemes for the medical and public health activities for the next five years in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara prepared by the Chief Commissioner and his Advisory Council? If so, what progress, if any, has been made in implementing the same?

(b) If not, do Government propose to implement these schemes from the next financial year?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes. No appreciable progress has been made so far, as the schemes were put in a final form only in the current financial year.

(b) Yes. Necessary budget provision has been made for the year 1948-49. It is Government's intention that the execution of these schemes should be proceeded with without avoidable delay.

PUBLIC HELTH DEPARTMENT IN AJMER-MERWARA

423. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any Public Health Department has been started in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara? If so, since when and what expenditure is being incurred annually on that account?

(b) What is the strength of the staff of that Department and what services has it been rendering to the public?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of extending the Public Health Regulations of Coorg with necessary modifications, to the Province of Ajmer-Merwara and other centrally administered areas at an early date?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). There is no Public Health Department as such in Ajmer-Merwara. There is a staff of vaccinators under the control of the Civil Surgeon and the Municipalities in the Province have their own Public Health Staffs. Provision is being made in the budget for 1948-49 for starting a headquarters health organisation. Plans have been prepared for the development of medical relief and public health organisation in Ajmer-Merwara and a provision of Rs. 13,30,000 is being made in the budget for 1948-49.

(c) The question of extending to Ajmer-Merwara and other centrally administered areas, the Madras Public Health Act, 1939, with necessary modifications, is under consideration.

FINANCIAL HELP TO MUNICIPALITIES OF BEAWAR AND AJMER

424. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government have received any applications from the Ajmer and Beawar Municipalities for financial assistance to cope with the strain put upon their financial resources by the recurring and non-recurring liability arising out of the implementation of the interim relief proposals and Pay Commission's recommendations in respect of the Municipal employees?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider these claims and if not, why not?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The question of financial assistance to these Municipalities is under consideration.

ARRANGEMENT FOR RECORDING COMPLAINT FROM PATIENTS IN IRWIN AND SAFDARJANG HOSPITALS

425. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether there is any arrangement in Irwin and Safdarjang hospitals in Delhi for recording complaints from patients? If not, why not?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how many complaints have been received and attended to by the authorities since September 1947?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(b) 26 written and 200 verbal complaints during the period from the 12th September, 1947, to the 13th February, 1948.

DESERTION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS FROM IRWIN AND SAFDARJANG HOSPITALS AND POSITION OF MEDICAL STORES

426. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any officers had left the Irwin and Safdarjang hospitals in Delhi, without handing over charge to the appropriate authorities after the 15th August, 1947?

(b) If so, are Government aware of any stores missing with their departures and if so, have Government taken any steps to trace them out?

(c) If so, do Government of India propose to persue the case?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are awaiting a report from the Chief Commissioner regarding the matter.

(c) The question of further action to be taken will be considered after the Chief Commissioner's report is received.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

[Postponed from 16th February, 1948]

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON KASHMIR OPERATIONS

299. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what is the total expenditure so far incurred by the Government of India in the Kashmir operations?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It will not be in the public interest to disclose this information on the floor of the House. I am, however, prepared to give it confidentially to any Honourable Member who may care to ask for it.

TRAINING OF INDIANS FOR APPOINTMENTS IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES

297. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the Ordnance Factories are fully staffed by Indians now?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what steps are Government taking to recruit suitable men for training either in India or abroad?

(c) What are the minimum qualifications required for the Gazetted and Non-gazetted posts in these factories?

(d) Where Indians are not available for highly specialised jobs like armaments manufacture, do Government propose to take immediate steps to have them trained?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No.

(b) and (d). The question of training suitable Indians either in India or abroad to take the place of non-Indians in Ordinance Factories, is under examination.

(c) The categories of personnel involved are far too many and the qualifications laid down vary considerably. Roughly speaking, however, the qualifications at present prescribed are of a general nature, namely, a sound general education and in some cases a degree in electrical or mechanical engineering or in metallurgy, physics or chemistry followed by extensive training and practical experience over a period of 5 to 10 years in an industrial concern.

COMPLETE INDIANISING OF NAVAL DOCKYARDS AT BOMBAY, VIZAGAPATAM AND COCHIN

298. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the possibility of completely Indianising the Naval Dockyards at Bombay, Vizagapatam and Cochin has been considered?

(b) If so, have steps been taken to find Indians with the necessary qualifications, who are at present in India or are employed with shipping firms abroad?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the avdisability of advertising for all posts at present filled by non-Indians?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The repair bases at Vizagapatam and Cochin are already entirely manned by Indians, while the Dockyard at Bombay is in the process of being nationalised rapidly.

(b) and (c). It is intended to advertise (in India and the U.K.) for qualified Indians to understudy the present Admirality loaned staff with a view to the replacement of the latter at the earliest date.

RANK OF SENIOR-MOST INDIA OFFICER OF ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

299. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the rank of the msot senior Indian Officer of the Royal Indian Navy?

(b) Has a target date been fixed by which the post of Admiral will be filled by an Indian?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Captain.

(b) No.

TRANSFERRED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†

RECRUITMENT IN PAKISTAN FOR FIGHTING IN KASHMIR

371. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the officers of the so called "Azad Kashmir Government" are occupying bungalows next to the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow in Rawalpindi, and that regular recruitment centres have been opened in many districts of Pakistan to recruit men for fighting in Kashmir;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the writings in the Urdu Press of Pakistan openly raising the slogan of "Conquer India" and in-

†The meeting of the Assembly fixed for 21st february, 1948, having been cancelled, the answers to Starred Questions for that day were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House—Ed. of D.

citing tribesmen and others to recruit themselves in the "army of Crusaders"; and

(c) whether Government are aware that such papers are freely circulated in India, and if so, whether Government propose to stop the circulation of these papers in India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Several reports to this effect have reached Government.

(b) Yes.

(c) Urdu papers of Pakistan, so far as is known, are not placed on sale in India through regular agencies, but copies are received by individual subscribers by post. The Provincial Governments have full powers under the law to take whatever action they may consider necessary against the offending papers. The Government of India do not propose to issue any order themselves.

PUBLICATION OF PERIODICAL LABOUR AWARDS GIVEN BY LABOUR TRIBUNALS

372. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort is being made by the Government of India to publish in a consolidated form either a quarterly, or a half-yearly, or an annual report of all the labour awards being given by the Labour Tribunals that are being appointed, from time to time, in different Provinces, with a view to enable Trade Unionists, workers and general public to know the trend of these settlements and awards;

(b) whether the Government of Bombay are publishing a Labour Gazette and if so, since when;

(c) whether any Indian Labour Gazette is being published and if so, since when, and if not, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of publishing it at an early date; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of publishing a half-yearly or annual report containing all the Labour Laws that are being passed by different Provincial Governments and the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The question of codifying the awards of Industrial Tribunals is engaging the attention of Government. I may add that summaries of important awards regularly appear at present in the *Indian Labour Gazette* published by the Labour Bureau of the Ministry of Labour, Government of India.

(b) The Government of Bombay are publishing a *Labour Gazette* from September 1921.

(c) Yes, since July 1943.

(d) During the period March 1945 to June 1946 all Central and Provincial Labour Laws used to be published in the Legislative Supplement to the Indian *Labour Gazette*. The issue of this Supplement was afterwards discontinued but important provisions of various Labour Laws enacted from time to time are published in that Gazette. A review of the existing labour laws enacted by the Central and Provincial Governments as well as by the Indian States will appear in the Labour Year Book which is expected to be published shortly.

NEGOTIATIONS OF AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

373. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether Government have drawn any programme for negotiating agricultural and trade agreements with other countries in view of the country's changed political status since 15th August, 1947? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Agricultural and trade agreements are generally entered into when it is to the mutual advantage of two countries to do so, and no special programme in this regard can be laid down by Government. Nor is any such programme necessary in view of the country's changed political status as this country has for a considerable number of years enjoyed the freedom to enter into such agreements with other countries.

RECIPROCAL TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

374. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether Government propose to take steps for making reciprocal trade agreements with foreign countries?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Certain tariff negotiations with some countries have already been conducted at Geneva recently and Government are examining the results. The question of entering into trade agreements with these or other countries will be considered further in the light of the decisions that may be arrived at in the Conference on International Trade and Employment now being held in Havana.

FINANCIAL AIDS TO SMALL BUSINESS

375. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether Government have any programme for giving financial aid to small business? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Finance. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for 26th February 1948, when the Honourable Minister of Finance will answer it.

AGREEMENTS *re* MILITARY SERVICE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF U.S.A. AND INDIA

376. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the agreements regarding Military Service entered into between the Governments of the U.S.A. and India, signed on 30th March, 25th May, 3rd July and 30th September, 1942 and effective from 27th May, 1942, are in operation even now?

(b) If so, do Government propose to re-negotiate these agreements in the light of the British withdrawal from India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). The agreements referred to were entered into in order to reciprocate the provisions of the United States of America Selective Training and Service Act of 1940. As that Act is no longer in operation the agreements have automatically lapsed and no question of re-negotiation arises.

TONNAGE OF MERCHANT SHIPS PURCHASED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

377. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the total tonnage of merchant ships purchased from foreign countries during the period from 1st April, 1944 to 31st March, 1947?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: According to the information available with Government the total tonnage of merchant ships purchased from foreign countries during the period from 1st April 1944 to 31st March 1947 is 1,38,520 gross.

REHABILITATION OF TEACHERS, DOCTORS AND LAWYERS FROM EAST BENGAL

378. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan for rehabilitating displaced teachers, doctors and lawyers includes the rehabilitation of such persons displaced from East Bengal also;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government have got an estimate of the number of such persons and if so, what it is: and

(c) how many of them, belonging to each of these professions have been rehabilitated and in what manner?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No.

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

ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA IN IRAN AND PLIGHTS OF INDIAN NATIONALS

379. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the grave danger which Hindus and Sikhs living in Iran are facing on account of the anti-Indian propaganda carried on by the Irani Newspapers?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken by the Government of India to ensure the safety of life and property of the Indian Nationals in Iran?

(c) Are Government aware that Indians living in Iran are mostly businessmen having interests in that country?

(d) How do Government propose to help Indians in Iran in withdrawing their investments from Iran, if they do not desire to live in Iran?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to question No. 279 by Shri Damodar Swarup Seth on February 14, 1948.

(c) Government are aware of the fact that most Indians living in Iran have business interests.

(d) Since there are no indications that Indians in Iran are unwilling to continue to live in that country, the question does not arise.

AGREEMENTS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN *re.* EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS IN EAST AND WEST PUNJAB JAIL

380. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an agreement was arrived at between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan, regarding exchange of all categories of prisoners in the jails of East Punjab and West Punjab?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of Pakistan have not honoured the agreement?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, on what grounds have the Government of Pakistan done so?

(d) Have reports reached Government that lives of Hindu and Sikh prisoners in Rawalpindi and certain other jails in the West Punjab are in danger?

(e) If so, what steps have been taken by the Government of India to ensure the safety of these prisoners, among whom are some well-known public workers?

(f) Are Government aware that the delay in the exchange of prisoners has been causing great anxiety to the relatives and friends of the prisoners?

(g) Do Government propose to take up the matter with the Government of Pakistan?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes;

(b) and (c). The Government of Pakistan informed the Government of India that the agreement should be extended to the East Punjab States, to Alwar and Bharatpur as well as to Delhi Province and till such an extension was made the exchange of prisoners should be held up. After some further correspondence the agreement was extended in Pakistan to Sind, Baluchistan, North West Frontier Province and to Bahawalpur and in India to the East Punjab States and now also to Alwar and Bharatpur. In regard to Delhi, the Government of India informed the Pakistan Government that the position was different as there were many prisoners in Delhi Province who were totally unconnected with the disturbances and many difficulties would arise more especially in regard

to cases under appeal. Nevertheless, they were prepared to go as possible in regard to Delhi also and asked for a list of cases in which special consideration was desired. No final answer has yet been received from the Pakistan Government to the last communication sent by the Government of India.

Certain legal difficulties have also been pointed out. These may involve the promulgation of ordinances. This will be done if necessary as soon as a final agreement is reached.

(d) and (e). No such reports have been received. But there is no doubt that the prisoners are undergoing both physical and mental suffering. Further enquiries are being made.

(f) and (g). Government are perfectly aware of the anxiety in the minds of the relatives and friends of prisoners and they are anxious to expedite this transfer. They have sent an urgent reminder to the Pakistan Government and they hope that the transfer will be effected before long.

ALLOTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION TO REFUGEE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

381. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a large number of refugee Government servants are still homeless in Delhi although some of them had joined service as far back as October 1947?

(b) Are Government aware that the Estate Office has stopped allotment of Government quarters to refugee Government servants?

(c) Are Government aware that the Custodian of Evacuee Property is not entertaining any applications from refugee Government servants, which were received by him after the specified date?

(d) Is it not a fact that a number of refugee Government servants have been employed, after the expiry of the date for submission of applications for allotment of houses to the Custodian?

(e) Are Government aware that it is not possible for any one coming from outside Delhi, to obtain residential accommodation in Delhi by private negotiations with the landlords?

(f) Are Government aware that this is causing hardship to the refugee Government servants?

(g) What arrangements do Government now propose to make to house this class of Government servants and why could not these arrangements be made earlier?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Applications received even after the due date have been entertained by the Custodian of Evacuee Property where the cause of delay was satisfactorily explained and the applications were received through the Departments in which the applicants were employed.

(d) Yes.

(e) and (f). I am prepared to accept the suggestions of the Honourable Member.

(g) Does not arise.

INDIANS IN PALESTINE AND ARAB JEW CLASHES

382. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the total number of Indians in Palestine and their occupations?

(b) Have arrangements been made to protect them in view of the grave situation likely to develop on the withdrawal of the British Power from Palestine?

(c) Is it contemplated to evacuate them if conditions require it?

(d) Was any Indian injured or was the property of any Indian damaged during the recent clashes between Arabs and Jews?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Exact information is not available but has been called for. The Government of India however understand that there were some 60 Indians residing in Palestine before the war.

(b) and (c). The duty of affording protection to Indians and others in Palestine after the withdrawal of the British administration will devolve on the successor authorities. The Government of India have up to the present received no reports to indicate that Indians are in particular danger in Palestine but if any Indian national expresses a desire to be evacuated they will naturally assist him as far as lies in their power.

(d) No report of any injury to the person or property of any Indian in Palestine has been received by the Government of India.

STUDENTS FROM MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES FOR HIGHER STUDIES IN INDIAN EDUCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS

383. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether any applications were received from students in Iraq and Iran for admission to Indian Medical, Engineering and other Colleges?

(b) What is the number of students from the Middle East who are being trained in India?

(c) What are the rules at present governing the admission of such students in our educational institutions?

(d) To establish better relations with the Middle East and Far Eastern countries, do Government propose to relax the rules and regulations which are, at present, preventing their entry into India and to provide the necessary facilities for the admission of a specific number of students in our higher technical institutions?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Education. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 26th February 1948 when the Honourable Minister of Education will answer it.

LABOUR OFFICER TRAINED IN UNITED KINGDOM AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTION IN INDIA

384. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state the total number of Labour Officers who have undergone training in the United Kingdom and the number still under training?

(b) Do Government propose to institute a training centre in India for such personnel or arrange for one of the major universities to take up the training of such officers?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) So far 63 officers belonging to the various Ministries of the Central Government, the Provincial Governments and Indian States have received training in the U. K. No one is undergoing training at present but a batch consisting of 12 officers is expected to leave for U. K. in March 1948.

(b) Facilities for training exist in the Calcutta University and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay. The question of expanding these facilities so as to meet normal requirements is under the consideration of the Government of India.

ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIAN INSURANCE BOARD AND INDIAN ACTUARIAL BOARD

385. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether Government are aware that officials of insurance companies are handicapped for want of a central body in India, to conduct examinations on the lines of the Institute of Insurance, London and the Institute of Actuaries, London?

(b) Is it the intention of Government to set up an Indian Insurance Board and an Indian Actuarial Board on the lines of the Indian Accountancy Board?

(c) What steps are proposed to be taken to institute courses of study in Actuarial Science in the centrally administered Universities?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Government have no such plans under contemplation. If, however, there is an adequate public demand for such steps being taken, Government will give their best consideration to any proposals in this behalf that may be forthcoming.

MANUFACTURE OF BOILERS IN INDIA AND IMPORT DURING 1947

386. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the number of boilers imported into India in the year 1947?

(b) Is there any plan to manufacture boilers in India in the immediate future?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The question has been transferred to the Ministry of Industry and Supply. The Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply will give a reply to it on the date allotted to him.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BILL.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR THE PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the rationalisation of the production and supply of electricity, and generally for taking measures conducive to the electrical development of the Provinces of India, be further extended up to Monday the 8th March, 1948."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the rationalisation of the production and supply of electricity, and generally for taking measures conducive to the electrical development of the Provinces of India, be further extended up to Monday, the 8th Mardh, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

THE RAILWAY BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

DEMAND NO. 1—RAILWAY BOARD—*contd.*

Late running of Trains

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, this is a subject on which I need not speak at great length, because every one in the House knows about it and has at one time or another suffered from the late running of trains. Before I start on the subject I want to make it clear to the Honourable Minister that under the new setup after the 15th August, when we move cut motions in the House what the House actually wishes is to focus public opinion and draw the attention of the Honourable Minister and the attention of the officers who work under him to the particular grievance that is being discussed.

I was taken aback the other day when my Honourable friend showed so much resentment when allegations of incompetence and corruption were levelled against his staff. He knows the ways of this House: he is not a raw recruit to our ranks. He has been in this House for a sufficiently long time. He knows what our duties are and in what manner we perform them. That being the case, it is certainly strange to me to listen to his speech which, I may tell him, some of the members here did not relish and that was why an old friend and a very old member of this House had to protest against it. It certainly is not our case that it is only in India that so much inefficiency or corruption prevails. It certainly is not our case that it is only in his department that this happens. But the fact remains that there are these grievances and they have to be discussed. Of course my Honourable friend can take up the attitude and say "Granting that these grievances are there, as I have said in my budget speech, what is the use of repeating them?" The use is obvious. The more we speak about it we hope that there will be more people in his department whom we may be able to win over and get on to the right path. Whatever might be the result of the discussion in this House I do not think that this House can sit quiet or take up a complascent attitude and allow ministers of the Government to resent the ventilation of grievances on the floor of this House.

Coming to the subject proper, as I have said, this is a subject on which I need not speak at length. There is no doubt that almost every train that is running today is generally running late. The reasons are many. The exigencies of war started this evil. Almost every train every day used to get very late, so late that the schedules had to be changed. I am sure my Honourable friend knows about it. All the important trains which we can think of—the Frontier Mail on the B. B. & C. I., the Punjab Mail of the G. I. P. Ry., the ill-fated Grand Trunk Express, and many other trains—used to run late with the result that generally about three hours were added to the old schedules and the timings were redrawn. We accepted that as being a necessary evil. Years after the war was over, we find that even these revised schedules are not adhered to. Therefore we have a reason for ventilating our grievance on the floor of the House. I do not want my Honourable friend to get up and say that there is no use speaking about it, because he knows all about it and that he has already acknowledged this grievance of the passengers. I want him to take up the matter seriously and if necessary to institute some departmental enquiry to find out how far this evil can be remedied. This is all the more necessary because in answering a question in this House put by my Honourable friend Lala Raj Kanwar on the 30th January with regard to the late running of the Grant Trunk Express, the attitude adopted by the Minister was something that I for one cannot allow to pass without notice. He had so many

explanations for the habitual delay in the running of that unfortunate train. When we came to the end of the discussion Seth Govind Das suggested whether in the circumstances explained by the Minister the Government would be prepared to increase the schedule time, so that more time may be taken for the running of the train, my Honourable friend jumped at the suggestion and said that if locomotive position does not improve, if the department is compelled to use inferior coal, it looked to him that it would be necessary for Government to consider a very considerable revising of the scheduled timings. What does that mean? The remedy that he can think of is to increase the schedule time and not to try to run the train according to the revised timings that are obtaining now. That is to say the later the train runs we accept the position and provide for such late running.

I will confine my remarks generally to the Grand Trunk Express because I know more about it than about any other. I suppose other members who follow me may speak about other trains. This train is generally running about 12 hours late. There is a report in the *Hindu* which appeared about a week ago. It is reported that the train was 9 hours late. My Honourable friend Mr. Shiva Rao spoke on this question. I am sorry to say that whenever the Grand Trunk Express comes up in this House it becomes a matter for jokes or irresponsible talk. This was started by my Honourable friend Sir Frederick James, when he moved a famous cut on the Railway Budget some years ago. At that time he delivered a very humourous speech but the seriousness of the subject was lost in the humour. The same thing happened when Mr. Shiva Rao made his first speech in the House. It appeared that he was anxious to change the name of the train from Grand Trunk Express to the Madras Daily Slow Passenger. My Honourable friend the Minister was anxious the other day to name the train the Withered Bald Dame. I am not concerned with what name it is called: I am concerned in seeing that the train runs to time. Therefore I want him to take up this question. I would suggest to my Honourable friend that he should have an enquiry from the time the train starts from Delhi to the time it reaches Madras and find out where the bottleneck is, in what particular section the train is delayed and what is the reason for it.

There was a funny statement in the *Hindu* news item about the late running of this train by nine hours. The M. & S. M. Railway said "The late running is not in our section." The M. & S. M. Railway generally say like that. Even if the train is twelve hours late, they say "The train is late by 12 hours, but the late running is not in our section". Which particular section is then responsible for this late running? For some time it was the habit to say that the train was held up in the Nizam's section. But by whom was it held up and for what reason? Nothing was said about that. Later on we understood the Nizam's Government was not responsible for it. That lends support to my appeal that some senior officer should examine the running of this train for a number of days and find out why it is late. I have travelled by this train very often and I think the bottleneck is somewhere between Itarsi and Nagpur. My friends who travel by this train must have observed a number of goods trains and passenger trains remaining on the sidings at almost every station between Itarsi and Nagpur, especially between Dhodhramohar and the hill section. You have trains going up and down, both of them waiting at stations. Sometimes our train is made to wait for the goods trains. Altogether my impression is that this train is the most neglected train in India. Nobody seems to care for it. I had expected that when we have a Minister from Madras in charge of the Railways who will be compelled to travel by this train probably matters would improve. But unfortunately for me the Ministers are not now compelled to travel by trains, they have all got aeroplanes to travel with the result that we, poor mortals walking on two feet, are left completely neglected

[Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth]

I should therefore like my Honourable friend to look up these two questions: first, following the train from the time it starts to its destination; secondly this particular bottleneck portion I have mentioned, because the Honourable Minister in reply to that question to which I have been referring all the time said that the bottleneck was in his opinion between Itarsi and Bhopal. I do not think that doubling of the track between these two stations will alone help to remedy the evil. However it is for him to consider. He has his experts and they know better than what we know.

One of the other trains that are affected in the same way is the Punjab Mail which runs between Bombay and Delhi. The B. B. & C. I. train which is called the Frontier Mail generally runs to time. I have noticed that and it has been noticed by others also very often that that train generally runs to time. But when we come to the G. I. P. train that is habitually very late in spite of three more hours being added to the pre-war schedule.

I would like the Honourable Minister to examine all these and see what he can do, short of the remedy that he was very willing to accept, namely
12 NOON that the schedules should be changed. I strongly protest against the suggestion to change the schedules. I for one will not accept it. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. R. K. Sidhva (C. P .and Berar: General): Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Ishaq Seth. Sir, the question of the late running of trains and their late arrivals is so common and is really so habitual, just like a habitual offender, that it has become a practice with the Railway Department that nobody takes any notice when any of the trains runs late. But apart from the late arrival of the trains there is a late departure from the terminus stations. I want to know why trains from the main terminus station start at a later hour—in many cases from 20 minutes to 1½ hours. Formerly there was a rule that the trains should be marshalled on the platform one hour before the departure time. That has been the practice and that is the rule of the railway. Now the trains are not marshalled before fifteen minutes, and sometimes half an hour, before the departure time. Why is this? What has that to do with the question of additional coaches even if they have not got the additional coaches? These coaches are brought from the yards. I would like to know from the Honourable Minister why this delay is caused.

Sometimes when the coaches are brought in time the engine does not arrive. The engine is not available from the loco shed. On an explanation being asked from the station master it transpires something is wrong. Now the engine has got to be kept ready, in full steam, some hours in advance and the driver and the fireman are supposed to see to it that they bring the engine at a proper time so that the train should start in time. Why is it not being done? I would respectfully submit to the Honourable Minister to tell the railway officials in all seriousness that this explanation of there being no additional coaches would not do. Let us know why with the existing coaches and with the existing staff things are not maintained properly. If the Honourable Minister examines this and finds out that the departure time is not strictly adhered I am sure he would find something more serious in this matter.

The late arrival of trains is sometimes described as being due to the inferior quality of coal. Well, Sir, it may be. I do not know what type of coal is required and how many qualities of coal are manufactured in our collieries. Whatever it may be, all of a sudden the quality is not changed. If there is a specific quality required for the engines of railways, then surely the Government have their own collieries and they must set aside those collieries for producing the required quality of coal which will enable the engines to run smoothly. Even if the quality is inferior it may be once in a way. Why has this excuse been made regularly that because of the inferiority of the quality of coal engines do not take up the steam? I refuse to believe that because I have actually seen many a time that the drivers themselves are very negligent. The whole problem is, there is no control over this staff. The staff right down from the fireman to the guard or anybody who is in charge of the train feel that they are today the masters and that there is nobody to ask them as to why the train is late either at the time of arrival or departure. I have seen in junction stations, where the train is supposed to stop for ten or fifteen minutes for taking water, intentionally the drivers keep themselves busy with talking to their friends on the platforms or go to the refreshment rooms and take lot of time to return. Although everything is complete and the guard has given the signal for the train to start it happens that the driver is not available. I can quote you instances and I have quoted instances to the authorities. Why is it? When the driver is available it sometimes happens that the guard is not there to give the signal and the engine goes on whistling to remind the guard—not the passengers to whom the whistle is ordinarily meant, to sit in their compartments. But the driver has to go on whistling the engine to ask the guard "Where are you? Why don't you give the signal?" That is the condition of the railway administration today. I am telling you these things without the slightest exaggeration. If anything, I am minimising them. I am telling you the actual position. These are the conditions and the people who travel know about them. Is there nobody in the railway administration who can call upon the drivers and guards to say as to what is the cause of these delays? Formerly, I remember, if a driver brought a train five minutes late to the arrival station he had to give an explanation and a fine was imposed on him. Sometimes the railway administration has said that those drivers who bring trains to time would be given some kind of reward. I do not want that you should introduce that system of reward. But if your administration has gone so bad I won't mind your telling the drivers that if they bring the trains in time they would be given some allowance.

Although the engine is bad, they are supposed to bring the trains in time. The matter has become, as I was stating the other day, so rotten that the old regular excuses are given to us that parts are not available, the engines are not working and these are the causes of the delay. I am not prepared to accept it. Although I am prepared to accept that the engines are worn out, that parts are not available, I may tell you that the engines could be made to run to time if there is a will to do it. There is no will to do it.

An Honourable Member: How?

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Let me have the administration. I will show it to you how. Now take the Grand Trunk Express. In all sessions questions regarding this train are put. In this very session they have been also put. On it I put to the Honourable Minister a supplementary question: 'Is it a fact that your predecessor in this very House in reply to a question stated that Government will consider the running of three trains in a week so as to reduce the arrival time by 12 hours?'. The Honourable Minister gave me the answer, '1948 is not 1947'. Now imagine Sir what it means. We know of course 1948 is not 1947. But his reply went to show that he does not want to go ahead. He does not want to push through 1947. He should have stated I shall see there is an improvement. I know what he said was in a lighter vein, but it is creating a bad impression upon his staff. They will imagine 'my master thinks so it

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva]

does not matter if his predecessor had said so. We need not worry'. That is not proper. I would have expected him to say 'I shall see if my predecessor has stated so. I shall take this matter up, and I shall see why this Grand Trunk Express should not run to time'. His predecessor should surely have consulted his officers. Why has that not been fulfilled, I want to know. After all it is a responsible Minister who makes the statement. Then there is a general complaint of the travelling public who are awfully disgusted with the late arrival at transhipment stations. I will give you two important stations, Delhi and Ahmedabad. At Delhi there are nearly 10 platforms and no arrangement has been made to marshall the trains for transhipment of passengers, particularly third class passengers who have to tranship to trains within 10 or 15 minutes. The connecting trains would have to wait for more than one hour but the trains are generally late. What happens when the trains are late? Passengers are supposed to remain on the platform until they can get another connecting train, which if it is a mail train, they have to wait for 24 hours. This is the position. Almost all connecting trains are lost by passengers on account of their late arrival. Not only that. Late arrival causes passengers, who have to tranship, immense trouble. There are no connecting trains for 24 hours: and this arrangement for marshalling of these trains is so made that they have to walk a great distance. In Ahmedabad there are a metre gauge and broad gauge platforms. Both are B. B. & C. I. In Delhi also there is a B.B. & C.I. metre gauge track, and there is broad gauge. In Ahmedabad I understand the whole station is going to be remodelled for which Rs. 35 lakhs have been provided, but this year only 1 lakh will be spent. I would have wished the Honourable Minister to have pushed through with this. If he is going to spend only 1 lakh odd, I do not know how many years it will take to complete. When the Sind mail passengers come over to Ahmedabad, there is only half an hour left for the Gujarat mail and Delhi mail for connection: and let me tell you from experience that by the time the third class passengers reach the B.B. & C.I. broad gauge platform for the Gujarat mail, the train has left. Nobody has paid attention to this matter. You might ask 'Why half an hour is not sufficient?' It is not sufficient. First of all there are not a sufficient number of coolies, and distance is great. No thought has been given to the point that for the convenience of these third class passengers in regard to transhipment, proper arrangement should be made, and that the staff has to be so arranged that all the passengers can come in time for the departure of the train. This indifference towards passengers of the Railway Department officials must go. Everything points to that. Nothing else. If the railway officials felt they had some responsibility, if the driver feels it is his responsibility to drive the engine rightly, if the guard feels that he guards the train properly and performs his functions correctly, then everything will be all right. The railway rule is that the guard must whistle one minute before the departure time. But he does not whistle. Whistling days are gone. The point is, everything is left to the choice of the guard or the driver. This is the position. I would humbly submit to the Honourable Minister that the public is tired of it, the travelling public is disgusted; and I would therefore earnestly appeal to him to collect his responsible officers and tell them in all seriousness what I stated last Friday. I am making the suggestion seriously that he must issue a definite order, fix a target which is so familiarly used by him in all matters and tell the officers that within a month he wants such and such things to be done. He should not ask them for explanations. They are not going to give correct explanations. He should insist on trains running to time. My friend has rightly stated that minister might say that he will increase the time of schedule, that is instead of bringing a train in 24 hours, he brings it in 36 hours. We do not want that. This would mean humbuging and fooling the public. Efforts must be made to bring the trains as rapidly as possible and to the schedule time. In the past they have done that. Therefore I conclude my speech by requesting most humbly the Honourable Minister that he may take steps in the directions I have mentioned, and that officers right down from the biggest to the lowest should be made to feel that in the interests of the public they must carry out their instructions faithfully.

श्री गोकुल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट : माननीय सभापति जी, जो सवाल अभी हमारे सामने है वह जो गाड़ियां बहुत देर से आती जाती हैं उसके मुताल्लिक है। इसके कई वजूहात हैं कि गाड़ियां क्यों देर से चलती हैं। मैं, हमारे पूर्व दोनों वक्ताओं ने जो कुछ कहा उसको दोहराना नहीं चाहता हूं। लेकिन मैंने जो कुछ देखा है, सोचा है उसकी तरफ़ अपने माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं।

यहां के रेलवे स्टाफ़ (staff) में जो बड़ी कमी हमें मौलूम होती है वह यह है कि गैर जिम्मेदारी हमारे स्टाफ़ (Staff) में आ गई है। वैसे तो हम जिम्मेदारी लेकर बैठ गए हैं १५ अगस्त ही से लेकिन हमारे रेलवे स्टाफ़ में यह एक वृत्ति पैदा हो गई है कि 'क्या हवा चलती है, चलती रहेगी, और हमारा बचाव करने वाले जो मंत्री बैठे हैं वह जवाब देंगे और यह कहेंगे कि यह लोग बड़ी कोशिश कर रहे हैं और इन्तज़ाम अच्छा करने में हमें मदद दे रहे हैं। इस प्रकार से हम उनको सर्टिफ़िकेट (certificate) दे देते हैं तब उनके मन में यह होता है कि कोई हर्ज नहीं है अगर मुसाफ़िर लोग कुछ कहें चिल्लाएं और ऐसेम्बली में मेंम्बर लोग भी कुछ कहते रहें लेकिन जब तक हमारे मंत्री बचाव करते रहें तब तक हमें कोई हर्ज नहीं है और हमें घबराने की कोई ज़रूरत नहीं है। यह एक प्रकार की मनोवृत्ति उनकी बन गई है और बनती जा रही है इसकी तरफ़ मैं ख़ास तौर से अपने मंत्री और अपने लोगों का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं।

मैं पूरे रेलवे बजट पर नहीं बोल रहा हूं लेकिन मैं आम तौर से इस चीज़ की तरफ़ ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं कि पहले यह था कि जब एक गाड़ी से माल दूसरी गाड़ी में बदलने के लिये आध घंटा लगता था तब आज दिन के दिन वहीं लग जाते हैं। क्या वजह है कि १५ अगस्त के पहले जो चीज़ हो सकती थी उतने ही आदमी हैं, उतना ही काम हो रहा है। और १५ अगस्त के बाद जब हमने जिम्मेदाराना हुकूमत ले ली है अपने हाथों में, तब हम बिल्कुल गैर जिम्मेदार हो गए हैं और जिस पारसल को निकालने के लिये आधे घंटे में काम हो जाता था वह दो घंटे में होता है। इसी की वजह से हमारी गाड़ियां रुकती हैं और देर हो जाती है। इस तरफ़ भी ख़ास ध्यान दिलाना चाहिए और ऐसा ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि वह जिम्मेदार हो जावें।

[श्री गोकुल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट]

एक बात तो यह। दूसरी बात जो है वह, जैसा सिधवा साहब ने कहा, वह कई विषयों के जानकार हैं और कई विषयों के बारे में अगर उनके हाथ में सत्ता सौंपी जाय तो बहुत जल्द यह गड़बड़ी सुधर जाय। मैं समझता हूं कि हमारी सरकार इस तरफ़ ध्यान देगी और जो ऐसे लायक आदमी हैं उनके हाथ में अख्त्यार सौंप देगी। तो उन्होंने यह ध्यान दिलाया है कि इंजीनियरिंग (Engneering) का जो स्टाफ़ (Staff) है अभी में सोजन वगैरह से हो कर आया हूं और मुझ से यह कहा गया है कि कभी कभी इंजीनिअरिंग (Engineering) का स्टाफ़ (staff) वह मदद नहीं देता है तथा ट्रैफ़िक (traffic) और लोगों में अनबन हो रही है। और वह एक दूसरे को मदद नहीं दे रहे हैं, तथा जो सहयोग कोआपरेशन (Cooperation) होना चाहिये वह नहीं है। एक दूसरे में कोआपरेशन (Cooperation) की कमी के कारण हम लोग मुसाफ़िर जो हैं, उन्हें दुःख होता है, डाक की गड़बड़ी हो जाती है और हमारे दूसरे काम गड़बड़ी में पड़ जाते हैं और इस तरह से चलता है। लेकिन हमें कहा जाता है कि अभी नारमल पोजिशन (normal position) आने में देर लगेगी, धीरे धीरे होगा। लेकिन हमें इस तरह की कार्रवाइयों से सन्तोष नहीं हो सकता। हमारे दूसरे जो भाई हैं जनता है सारे देश की तह भी संतोष नहीं मान सकती। जबकि हम देखते हैं कि हमारे आदमी बैठे हैं तो उन आदमियों को चाहिये कि वह अपने दिमाग़ लड़ायें, कोशिश करें और ऐसी कोशिश करें जैसी कि अभी हमारे भाई ने कहा बी० बी० एण्ड सी० आई० (B., B. & C. I.) में अहमदाबाद की लाइन या अहमदाबाद से बम्बई जाने वाली लाइन वह ठीक-ठीक तरह से ठीक ठीक समय से चल रही है, और उसके बारे में मुझे सन्तोष है और हम देख रहे हैं व कोशिश कर रहे हैं और इतना संतोष होता है लेकिन दूसरी लाइनें ऐसी हैं जहां पर हमें शिकायत करने का मौका है और हम शिकायत करते रहे हैं। मैं बहुत लम्बी चर्चा को इस वक्त नहीं करना चाहता हूं लेकिन जिस तरह उन्होंने इस लाइन पर कुछ सुधार किया है उसी तरह दूसरी लाइनें सुधारी जाय। हमारे सिधवा साहब ने कहा कि गुजरात मेल का जो समय है उसमें आधा घंटा रहता है लेकिन उनकी जानकारी में यह न होगा कि सिन्ध दिल्ली मेल का कनेकशन (connection) राजपूताना मेल से लगाया है। गुजरात मेल में जाने का प्रश्न ही नही है इस में आपको जाने का हक ही नहीं है। जो राजपूताना मेल है वही आप के लिये है। तो मैं ऐसी ऐसी बातें नहीं करना चाहता हूं और मैं इसकी चर्चा भी नहीं करना चाहता हूं।

लेकिन जो मैं ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं वह यह है कि हमारे स्टाफ (staff) में जैसी चाहिए वैसी फुर्ती नहीं है। वह लोग आलसी बन गए हैं। लापरवाह बन गए हैं। और एक दूसरे डिपार्टमेन्ट में आज सहयोग की भावना नहीं है। वह भावना न होने

से हमारी गाड़ियों में देर होती है। इस कमी को दूर करने के लिये हमारे मंत्री कोशिश करेंगे। 'कोशिश करेंगे' इतना कहने से ही काम नहीं चलेंगे। लेकिन खास तौर पर इस चीज़ के ऊपर ध्यान देंगे और अपने स्टाफ़ (staff) को कहेंगे कि किसी भी हालत में उन्हें यह करना चाहिए। कट्रोल डिपार्टमेन्ट (Control department) की गल्ती हो या इन्जीनिअरिंग डिपार्टमेन्ट (Engineering department) की गलती हो, हमारी लोडिंग (Loading) या अनलोडिंग (unloading) की गलती हो लेकिन हमारी गाड़ियां बराबर ठीक होनी चाहिएं। यहां आएं और ठीक टाइम से पहुंचें, तो हमारा जो व्यवहार है वह ठीक रहेगा।

इतना कहते हुए मैंने इस चीज़ की तरफ़ उनका (मंत्री जी का) ध्यान दिलाने की कोशिश की है।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt (Eastern Rajputana States Group): Sir, the question which confronts us is in connection with the trains which run very late. Many causes can be assigned to the late running of trains. I do not want to repeat what has been said by the two previous speakers. But I do solicit the attention of the Honourable Minister to the things I have seen and to the reflections I have made.

The greatest defect that we find in our railway staff is that they have become irresponsible. Though we have shouldered responsibility since the 15th of August, yet our staff has developed a no care mentality. "What does it matter?" They say, "the work goes on and will go on; our Minister in charge is there to protect us he will reply by saying that the railwaymen labour hard and help him in making better arrangements." In this way we give to these men certificates which make them feel: "let passengers grumble and cry; let members say anything in the Assembly; but so long as our Minister is there to defend us we lose nothing and we need have no worry". This is the sort of mentality which they have developed and which they are still developing. To this particularly I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister and of the House.

I am not speaking on the Railway Budget as a whole, but to this thing in general I do invite your attention that whereas in the past it took just half an hour to tranship goods from one wagon into another, it takes several days now. What is the reason for this that whereas before the 15th August a work could be done in a certain period, today, after 15th of August, with the same staff and the same amount of work, it takes longer? Why is it that a parcel delivery covers two hours now whereas only half an hour was sufficient in the past? Evidently we have become irresponsible. This is the cause of the detention of trains and of their late running. Special attention should be paid to it and care should be taken to see that the staff realises its responsibility.

Secondly Mr. Sidhva has said—he knows a good many things—that if he is entrusted with power, this state of affairs will soon improve. I think our Government will look to it and entrust work to able men like him. He has stated that he has just returned from a visit to Sojan where it was pointed out to him that the Engineering Department does not cooperate with others; that the traffic Department and others do not cooperate and that the required amount of cooperation is lacking. On account of the absence of cooperation among the staff we the passengers are put to trouble; the postal working is upset and our other works are thrown out of gear. We are told that it will take

[Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt]

time for the normal position to return and that by and by it will be all right. But this will not satisfy us; mere statements of this kind will not be sufficient for our countrymen. We find our men drowsing over their jobs. They should beat their brains; they should use their endeavours and use it in such a way as has been suggested by my friend. I am pleased to know that the Ahmedabad-Bombay Section of the B., B. & C. I. Railway is functioning properly. We find that the staff of this section is making efforts. This gives us satisfaction. But other railway lines are such that we have to complain about them and we have been complaining about them in the past. I do not want to discuss this point at length. But just as this particular section of the B., B. & C. I. Railway has been set right to some extent, other railways should also be improved.

Mr. Sidhva stated that the timings of the Gujerat Mail and the Sind Delhi Mail do not coincide. There is a difference of half an hour. But he should know that the Sind Delhi Mail has been connected with the Rajputana Mail. There is no point in calling the Gujerat Mail into question. He need not discuss it. The Rajputana Mail is meant for him. I will, therefore, not discuss such like things. I do not refer to them either.

But what I desire to point out is that our staff lacks speed which it should have. It has become lazy. The Railwaymen have become careless and the feeling of cooperation amongst different departments is missing. The absence of this feeling is the cause of the late running of trains. I hope the Honourable Minister will try to remove this defect. Mere saying this that he will try will not help us. He should make it a point to impress upon his staff that this work should be done at all costs; whether it is the fault of the Control Department or of the Engineering Department, or whether it is due to our fault in loading or unloading wagons, our trains should not be detained. They should run punctually. Our conduct will be justified only if this can be achieved.

With these words I have endeavoured to bring home to the Honourable Minister this defect.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, this question is one which the House has discussed very often in the past, and in the course of question and answer during interpellation hour I have dealt with this question more than once in the past few weeks as the Honourable the Mover himself has pointed out. When I said that it might become necessary to consider a revision of scheduled times, what I had in mind was that one of the factors which, particularly since Partition, has led to further delay in the running of trains has been the locomotive position, and in addition to that the enormous increase in traffic along certain lines which do not have the capacity to deal with it. We are trying our best to improve the position as far as these two matters are concerned. We are doing everything that we can in order to get engines—as many of them as possible—back into a state of fairly working repair. We are also trying, as far as materials and personnel are available, to increase the capacity at points of congestion. But these are things that are going to take a little time.

My Honourable friend Mr. Sidhva said that I am in the habit of fixing targets. Apparently he implied that I did that with no serious intention of observing them. As far as the loco position and the increase of capacity at points of heavy congestion are concerned, I fixed fairly early targets and I am going to do whatever I can to see that those targets are observed. Since this is going to take a little time—and that is my view of the position—it would be dishonest on my part to say, as Mr. Sidhva wants me to, that within a month from now I am going to set the position right. I am unable to do that—these things take a little time, all that I can promise is that I will see that that time is as short as possible.

My Honourable friend the Mover was particularly worried about the Grand Trunk Express and he expressed a certain amount of dissatisfaction because the Minister happens to be a man from the Province of Madras and he has taken so little interest in improving the running of the Grand Trunk Express. As a matter of fact, the running of the Grand Trunk Express has been a continual source of anxiety to me. The real position with regard to the Grand Trunk Express is that unlike other long distance trains in the country it is not really a single train running continuously all the way; it is tacked on at different points to other trains, and one train delayed would mean more than corresponding delay at successive stages.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): But the delay has been there for the last twenty years!

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am prepared to accept the Honourable Member's suggestion—as a matter of fact, I had been thinking of it myself. I want to have the question, which is to my mind somewhat typical of the general question in regard to punctuality of trains, made the matter of a special investigation immediately.

An Honourable Member: That is good.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I do not think the Honourable Member was right in saying that we were not familiar with or we were not aware of the particular points where delay is occurring. In fact, I have got in the office a progress sheet with regard to the Grand Trunk Express covering a period of over four months containing every day's movement and the delay at the various points. It is very difficult from that progress sheet to draw any generalisation. Therefore I have come to the conclusion that it is a matter which ought to be taken up for special investigation. Well, if it is found—and it is likely to be found—as the result of circumstances which we cannot remedy immediately that an alternative solution which might make for a little improvement is to change the route of this train, then we want to consider that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But that will only worsen the position.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is quite likely that an alternative route, although it may cover a longer distance, may actually result in an improvement in point of time. This is one of the possibilities we are considering. At any rate, as far as the Honourable Member's suggestion is concerned, I am prepared to accept it and I want to have this question enquired into in that special manner because it is likely to have a bearing on the general question with regard to the punctuality of trains. I am sure my Honourable friend would have been interested to know that we are keeping a very detailed account of the progress in point of punctuality of the principal trains in India. Since the 15th of August, there has been deterioration in practically all the trains running through Upper India. The only three Railways on which I am able to note an improvement during the past three months are the M.S.M.R. and the S.I.R. which are free from the various problems that we have in Upper India, and, the House will be startled to know, the O.T. R. That makes me rather hopeful because if it is possible to effect progress on the O.T.R., then probably there is room for progress in other Railways.

Sir, the Honourable Member began his remarks this morning with a reference to my reaction to the criticism made by Honourable Members regarding the staff working under me. It is, to my mind, still somewhat ununderstandable why the House should resent the fact that if the railway staff are not working in the manner in which the House thinks it should, I should accept the proposition that the great bulk of the men working under me are misbehaving. As far as I understand parliamentary tradition in a matter of this kind, Minister who says that the troubles in his Department are due to the men working under him, I think, is not worthy of his place.

An Honourable Member: That is true.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the allegation in this House were made against me personally, I should not mind it, because the House has every right to condemn the Minister, but the whole trend of the speeches delivered in this House has been this, that "We do not want to be hard on the Minister; the Minister has his difficulties; probably the Minister has not been long enough in the office." The man who in a crisis complains of his tools is not a man; and is not fit for a man's job. I am aware of the problem in regard to the staff and I want to assure the House that there is nothing that I would leave undone. But that is a different matter from saying that "I consider the majority of the railwaymen are not worthy of the position they hold."

Sir, I think I have covered most of the discussion which took place this morning. I think the most important and practical suggestion which has been made today is the suggestion by my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhva that he should take charge of the Railway Administration, which suggestion, Sir, has my fullest approval and I hope it will be carried out at a very early date.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What about the late departure of the trains, Sir? That is a point on which I think I am entitled to have the Minister's reply. He has not dealt with that specific point which has been raised.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as the Grand Trunk Express is concerned, that is a question which has been answered by me several times during question-hour When this big refugee movement began, the Honourable Member will remember, we had to start a large number of extra passenger train services for moving refugees. We were able to do that because we called in the spare coaches from all over the Indian railway system and we had to economise the coaching accommodation that we had and therefore as far as the Grand Trunk Express is concerned, what we did was that the same rake that came from Madras to Delhi went back again. So if the incoming train arrives late, naturally the departure of the next outgoing train would also be late. Then there was the question of the armed guards. I myself travelled by that train once and what happened was that it took one and a half hours before the guards would arrive—not a matter under my control. Therefore, Sir, these are questions which require, if I may say so very respectfully, a little more sympathetic consideration than Mr. Sidhva in his impatience is prepared to give.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Sir, may I have leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion?

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion? The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

System of Selection obtaining on the Railways.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, I gave notice of this cut motion in the hope that I would be able, at least partially, to get the Honourable Minister for Railways to understand the widespread, bitter and increasing discontentment in all the Railways among the railway staff with the prevailing system of selection on our Railways. As I have said before, I am in touch with thousands of railwaymen on every Railway. I do not know whether the Minister for Railways appreciates this discontent. As I see it, it is a canker eating into the vitals of the whole

Administration. My Honourable friend Mr. Sidhva made quite a righteously indignant attack—and I am inclined to agree with him—on what he regards as the lapse of our railway staff. But I feel that that lapse will continue. As a matter of fact, our railway staff will continue to give to the Railway Administration less and less work. This is not due to any deliberate attempt on their part. I personally feel that the railwaymen are not giving anything like their best to the Railway Administration because they feel they have legitimate grievances which the Railway Administration, for one reason or another, insists on perpetuating. There is this system of selection. It is a canker. My Honourable friend the Railway Minister will say that this system of selection is the best possible system. It is in principle an unexceptionable system but what I object to, what the railwaymen throughout the country object to, is the way in which the system of selection is being put into practice. And I am not overstating the position when I say from personal knowledge, that these Boards are little more than a farce. The average Selection Board consists of an officer who is the immediate superior of the persons who are to go before that Board. The selections are in fact before the Board sits by the superior officer. His collegues are fellow-officers who blindly accept his recommendations. Every candidate should normally appear before the Selection Boards. Yet I know of scores of cases where the candidates are not even called before the Selection Board. The fact whether they are suitable or unsuitable is decided in their absence. I know of scores of other cases where the junior men have been pitch-forked to the next higher cadre and over the head of senior officials, men who have worked for years in the next higher cadre. The junior man skips a cadre.

The selected man has never worked alongside of those men whom he has superseded; he has been junior to them for many years and for no ostensible reason except that he has commended himself to his immediate superiors on the Selection Board, he is pitch-forked over the heads of men who have been senior to him for years. It has in fact thrown open the flood-gates to nepotism, to jobbery, to favouritism on the Railways to-day. What has happened? The Railway Board issues an *ad hoc* order that with regard to a particular person he must pass an examination before he is selected to the next higher post. The Selection Board comes in. It consists of a man who wants to favour a particular candidate. The *ad hoc* order of the Railway Board is ignored on the score of age and that man is promoted to the next higher cadre. The travesty of it is this: that he is promoted to the next higher cadre inspite of the fact that he has not passed the departmental examination; he is pitch-forked over the heads of men who have passed the departmental examination, years before him and who have officiated in the next higher cadre for many years. That is what is happening today, Sir. And, unfortunately, I know it and I do not think I am over-stating the position when I say that four-fifths of your supervisory staff, four-fifth of your officials today are superseded men, men who are working under a legitimate sense of grievance, men who are working under a legitimate sense of resentment, men who are working under a legitimate sense of frustration.

As I mentioned the other day I was at one of the Railway Headquarters in India and I was asked to meet the Hindu officials, the senior Hindu officials. They told me: "You can mention our names to the Railway Minister" and I said: "I won't do that". They repeated however: "You can mention our names to the Railway Board. We are asked to keep both our eyes on our work, we are told not to keep one eye on our work and the other eye on the selection list. But we are human beings. We are not only keeping one eye on the selection list, but we are keeping both eyes on the selection list. If we do not do this we go down in the selection. What happens? Some junior who specialises in lick-spittling and toadying to the seniors will be

[Mr. Frank R. Anthony]

selected; he will be pitch-forked over our head." That is what is happening today, Sir. When I make a criticism, I usually make a corresponding suggestion. I know to what extent the feeling of bitterness is growing. I have just received a representation from the most powerful Union on the B. N. Railway which says: "Either you get the Railway Administration to modify its nefarious system of selection; or we will be compelled to go on strike. We will be compelled to call a strike in order to draw the attention of the country to this continuing nefarious practice which is being practised to our detriment".

I have got a suggestion to make in this respect. I believe that this sort of comprehensive system of selection prevails only in the Railway Administration that there are not only a few selection posts but most of the posts are selection posts. My suggestion is one which I believe obtains in other Departments. If there are 5 vacancies as selection posts, I would ask the Minister for Railways to allow one of those vacancies to be filled purely by selection: the other posts will be filled on the basis of seniority *cum* selection. I am not asking the Minister to promote unsuitable men not at all. Four out of the five vacancies will be filled by men according to their seniority-*cum*-suitability and one vacancy will be filled purely by selection. This is what the men are hoping for and if this is done it will very largely preclude the present system which is rampant on the Railways. The tragedy of the whole thing is that there is no redress. I have been through scores of cases and as a lawyer I have sifted and have found them to be cases where there has been real injustice. The usual reply from the administration is: "We cannot interfere. This appointment was made by a Selection Board. The Selection Board consists of men on the spot; they know their job." Between this system of nepotism prevailing on the spot and the attitude taken by the Railway Board the man who has a real grievance has absolutely no hope of redress.

I would ask the Railway Minister seriously to consider my suggestion with regard to making appointments to selection posts. If there are five selection posts then four should be filled on the basis of seniority-*cum*-suitability and the other one will be on the basis purely of selection. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, my Honourable friend, who has just sat down, discussed the question from the point of view of those who were already in service. While speaking about the method of selection and promotion, he criticised the present methods and gave as his individual and considered view that the selection that was being done at the present moment was very unsatisfactory, that the Selection Board did not function properly and there were legitimate grounds to charge it with nepotism, jobbery and the rest of it. I want to speak from the point of view of those who are unable to get any employment in the railways because of the Selection Board suffering from the various maladies which have already been enumerated. It is because of this, Sir, that whenever I meet a young man who wishes to join the Railways I often hear the complaint that it is only the highest bidder who can get a job on the railways and those who have no relations who are highly placed in the railways, or something substantial to offer have absolutely no chance of getting in. I would therefore appeal to the Honourable Minister to look into these complaints against the functioning of the Selection Board and to see that fit candidates from all sections of society are given an adequate opportunity and chance. I particularly appeal to him, Sir, for those unfortunate human beings, who are the teeming millions of India, who struggle very hard to get any education, and who come from the rural areas, to make it a particular point to see that as large a proportion out of them is encouraged to go into the railways as possible. For this, Sir, all that I ask him to consider is to see how the Selection

Boards are working and also to see if it is not possible to fill in some of the higher posts by direct recruitment. This is a point, Sir, which I would like the whole Government to consider because of the partition of the country, because of so many officers having gone to Pakistan—and it was a patent fact that in most of the minority provinces, that is to say, provinces where Muslims were in a minority, they had a disproportionate share of Government services—a very large number of vacancies have been created. The result is that in very many departments vacuums have arisen and consequently, since the Government must go on and departments must function, there have been unheard of and unimaginable promotions in almost every department of Government, provincial and Central. These promotions, are not always deserved. Many persons who had to be promoted had in many cases no experience of any kind for the posts to which they were promoted. They were actually removed from the lowest wrungs to very high posts which they are now being asked to occupy and function in. The result is that the efficiency of our Government departments is failing very rapidly, and I would not be surprised if the Central Government as well as many Provincial Governments are faced with disaster. For this I would suggest both to my Honourable friend the Minister for Railways as well as other Ministers that they should take into acount and put into practice a system of recruitment of young men of ages varying between 25 and 35. There are many young people in India who are educated and competent but who are rotting in callings for which they are not fitted. On the one hand we have this frustration of our young men and of a whole generation in India and on the other hand we have the complaint of lack of talent, lack of competent and efficient men. I think with a proper perspective and with a desire to help young men in their careers it should be quite easy to put the demand and the supply together and to improve the lot of many young men in India. In the railways also the Honourable Minister has told us that as a result of hundreds—if not thousands—of people having opted for Pakistan the railway administration was hard put to it to maintain the services and carry on the work efficiently. Of course I confess I have not the expert knowledge that my Honourable friend who preceded me has; but speaking as a layman who knows that there is a demand for efficient people and that there is also a demand and a hankering on behalf of people in general who are not getting proper jobs, I think there is much for the consideration of the Honourable Minister. I would therefore suggest to him not only to improve the present method of selection but to see also that some of the higher positions are filled by direct recruitment as well as by a system of having training courses so as to make these new recruits function poperly. It is probably a novel suggestion but it is a suggestion which is justifiable in the circumstances in which we are living.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, this discussion raises a rather important point which is this. We are all agreed that the Government railways should be run on business lines, and we want the methods of the railways to approximate to the methods of business houses. Now I have had a good deal of experience of business houses and, as far as I know, appointments there are made on precisely the lines on which railways are making them now. That is to say, it is the Administration concerned who are responsible for the efficiency and responsible for the particular works, and therefore the selection of the men for holding key positions within the administration is the responsibility of the administration. If it is found that a particular administration in making appointments to higher positions is not following canons of efficiency but is practising what my Honourable friend calls nepotism, the only solution is to remove the men at the top of the administration straightaway. The only way to work it on commercial lines is this. Take a particular railway in India. You appoint the very best man that you can find as General Manager and ask that General Manager to consti-

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tute a good selection board of senior officers, and that selection board recommends people to be put in selection posts. The General Manager reviews the recommendations—he accepts or rejects them. If it is found after a time that this particular General Manager's appointments are bad appointments in the sense indicated by Mr. Anthony, the only solution to my mind, if you are thinking of the methods of a business house, is to remove that General Manager and tell him that you have no confidence in him and that you are going to replace him by another.

But the particular and concrete suggestion that Mr. Anthony made in regard to selection posts, which by their very nature imply efficiency and not merely seniority of service, is this. He says that if there are three selection posts you should give two to efficient people and give the third to a man merely on the ground of seniority.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Sir, on a word of personal explanation, that was not my point. I said that before these appointments are made the men must all be deemed suitable.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Each man in the relatively higher posts likely to be an eligible candidate for selection posts has a special record of service. It is of course open to you to say that that record of service is not properly compiled. Now if you are going to make appointments to these selection posts by varying the principle that the post should go to the man whom you consider to be the fittest man for that job. I do not know where you will land yourself. But there is one assurance that I can give and it is this. Very often these records come up to me here. The House will appreciate that it is not possible for me in every case to give detailed attention. Actually on an average I get somewhere about 50 telegrams every morning protesting against one appointment or another. The House will appreciate that it is not possible for me to go into details of each case. But I do try my best to see that the papers that come up to me as regards selection of people for higher posts are examined with as much scrutiny as I am able to make consistently with the time at my disposal. Beyond that I am not in a position to go. I do not think I can accept the kind of compromise that Mr. Anthony suggests. What I do think I ought to do is that hereafter whenever in a particular administration it is found that these selections are made more on the basis of favouritism than of efficiency, the matter has, I think, to be taken at a higher level and disciplinary measures should be imposed upon the top people in the administration, which is the only way in which the thing can be rectified.

My Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh raised various matters; mainly I thought he was dealing with the question of initial recruitment. The question of initial recruitment is not in the hands of the administration: as far as the superior services are concerned, 80 p.c. of the vacancies are filled by the Federal Public Service Commission. As regards the 20 p.c. which are appointments made by promotion from the lower services, they are also made in consultation with and with the approval of the Federal Public Service Commission. As regards initial recruitment in the subordinate services, these appointments are made by the Joint Service Commissions that we have on the various railways. So that the question of initial recruitment does not really arise in regard to the particular issues that have been raised.

There is one suggestion that I think Dr. Desmukh raised which is that we should now try direct recruitment to higher positions on the railways. It is possible for you to make direct appointments to higher positions in the general administrative service of Government. For example, if there is a man of outstanding ability and outstanding experience in a business house, you can bring him into the Government of India establishment to run an economic establishment. But the railways are so specialised, and in the main so technical,

that I personally doubt very much whether it will be possible to provide scope for direct recruitment except in very special cases. There is, for example, the question of publicity appointments on railways. There it is certainly possible—and in fact very desirable—to go in for direct appointment because people who have had journalistic experience and knowledge of publicity work generally would be the sort of people who can do their job properly. But apart from that I am unable to think of any large department of railways where direct recruitment would be possible in the present circumstances.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am sorry that the Honourable Minister cannot accept it. But I withdraw it because there is no point in claiming a division and I ask permission of the House to withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member the permission of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 5.—WORKING EXPENSES—REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Manufacture of Locomotives and Machine Tools

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance', be reduced by Re. 1."

پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو : جناب والا! سب سے اول سوال یہ پیدا ہوتا ہے کہ ایک روپیہ کم کیوں کیا جائے اور سو روپیہ کم کیوں نہ کیا جائے میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ سو روپیہ کم کرنے سے جو مقصد پورا ہوتا ہے وہ ایک سو روپیہ کم کرنے سے بھی پورا ہوسکتا ہے اسلئے . .

(*English translation of the above speech*)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, the question arises why Re. 1 be reduced and why not Rs. 100? I think that reduction by Re. 1 serves the same purpose as the reduction by Rs. 100. Therefore . . . .

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: May I make a suggestion? I am afraid I am not able to follow the Honourable Member's speech. I have heard the Honourable Member speak before on various occasions in English, and I think he has made some of the most effective speeches in English I have heard in the House. If the Honourable Member will be so kind as to speak in English I would be grateful.

Mr. Speaker: It is entirely a question of the volition of the Honourable Member. If he chooses to speak in Hindustani he may.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why not change this unworkable procedure? Have two languages but let the substance of either be translated.

Mr. Speaker: What is it the Honourable Member is suggesting? Is it that a Member should be given a chance twice?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: A summary may be given by an official interpreter as is the procedure in Geneva.

Mr. Speaker: We have yet to develop that kind of procedure. We have no ready translators here, who can give the translation immediately. But the point is that we do wish to evolve a common language other than English.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Not by imposition!

Mr. Speaker: Nor can that be abandoned even by the resistance of some members!

[Mr. Speaker]

Let there be no more argument. This point was discussed during the last Assembly before the 15th August and ever since the Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad first came into the Ministry, we have been having speeches in Hindustani.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We have been tolerating it.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): It cannot be tolerated much longer.

Mr. Speaker: I would not say that. But I would request that since Members have been tolerating it, they may continue to do that for a longer time during which time they themselves could pick up the language.

Anyway, there is no need of introducing any heat at all. We have carried on for over a year and I see no reason why we may not be able to carry on with greater and greater facility. Anyway, it is getting time for the recess.

The Honourable Member may resume his speech at Half-Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half-Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half-Past two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو : مانئیہ سپیکر صاحب ! میں آپ کا کرتیگہ ہوں کہ آپ نے فیصلہ اس حق میں دیا کہ مجھے اس زبان میں بولنے کا حق ہے جس کو کہ میں پسند کروں - میں یہ قطعی نہیں چاہتا ہوں کہ میں آنریبل منسٹر کی خواہشات کا پورا احترام نہ کروں - میں ان کی خواہشات کا احترام کروں گا لیکن میں نہایت ادب کے ساتھ ان کی خدمت میں عرض کروں گا کہ یہ لوکوموٹیو (Locomotive) کا سوال جس کے متعلق میں یہ کٹ موشن موو(move) کرتا ہوں اور جس کے متعلق گذارش ہےکہ یہ ہماری خواہش کا جزو ہے- کہ ہندوستان کی ریلوےٹرین کے ساتھ ساتھ ہندوستانی لوکوموٹیو (Locomotive) ہی چلیں - اسی طرح سے میری یہ خواہش ہے کہ آنریبل منسٹر جو ہندوستان گورنمنٹ کے لوکوموٹیوز (Locomotives) میں سے ایک ہیں ہندی سمجھنے کی کوشش کریں - حالانکہ میں اپنی تقریر انگریزی میں کروں گا - لیکن میں ان سے یہ درخواست کرونگا کہ میری یہ خواہش ہے کہ آنریبل منسٹر ہماری قومی زبان کو سمجھنے کی بھی کوشش کریں -

(English translation of the above speech.)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for your decision that I have the right of speaking in the language I choose. I do not at all like that I should not fully respect the Honourable Minister's desire. I will respect his wishes, but with due respects to him I submit that this question of locomotives about which I move this cut motion, is also, I think a part of our

desire that only Indian manufactured locomotives should pull the Indian trains. Likewise, I wish that the Honourable Minister, who is one of the locomotives of the Government of India should try to understand Hindi. Though I will speak in English yet I would request the Honourable Minister to try to understand our National language also.

(The Honourable Member then continued his speech in English)

Sir, I beg to submit for the consideration of the House the position in regard to the locomotives in this country. Last time when the Honourable Minister spoke he called himself a walking bottleneck and that is really so. If we find that enough grain is not taken to Madras we complain about the transport system If steel or cement is wanting in any part of the country or if any necessities of life are wanting anywhere, we always say that it is the fault of the railways.

As regards the defence of the country I need not be eloquent on this point. There will be no defence of this country if the railways do not work properly. If today the armies have to be carried to our frontiers, it is only the railways that can take them there. So in regard to the defence of the country, in regard to industries, carriage of grain and sometimes even water as it happens in my district, it is the railways which cater to the needs of the civil population in manifold ways. When railways are such a great necessity, it is but natural that if there is any difficulty about anything pertaining to transport it is the Honourable Minister for Transport to whom complaints are directed. If that is so, is it too much to hope from the Honourable Minister that he would give his undivided and full attention to the question of locomotives?

I am not complaning. I know that there are so many demands on the Honourable Minister's precious time and some of them are very pressing, preemptory so that even if he could not pay the attention which according to me ought to have been paid to this question, it is not a matter of complaint. So many questions have cropped up in this country in regard to many matters of paramount importance that we cannot complain against any other minister also and say that they have not given their attention to this or that matter. I am not saying all this in any carping spirit of criticism but I want to place before the Honourable Minister this question of locomotives in all its seriousness.

I can understand the previous Government making delays in this matter of manufacture of locomotives. I do not want to go into past history. I went into that history two years ago when in 1946 I moved a cut relating to locomotives and that cut was carried. Last year again a cut was moved in regard to locomotives and then it was withdrawn. Today the position has not improved. I must say that the manner in which this question of locomotives has been considered so far and the stepmotherly treatment which this question has received is one in which even a humble and patient man like me has a right to complain.

What is the position? In 1940 the Railway Board appointed two officers and they came to the conclusion that the cost of manufacture of locomotives in India would be 20 per cent. cheaper than the cost of imported ones. They even selected the site and estimated the cost. The report known as Humphreys Srinivasan report was the product of the contemplations of those two officers who conclusively proved that so far as economy is concerned as also the interests of national safety, the manufacture of locomotives in India was a question of paramount importance. They further came to the conclusion that there was no mechanical or technical difficulty which stood in the way of the manufacture of locomotives. They further opined that the shop at

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

Kanchrapara should be utilised for manufacturing locomotives and within a period of 15 to 18 months locomotives could be manufactured there. This was the position in January 1940. Since then the Government has been expressing its anxiety to have this shop as soon as possible. I remember when in 1946 a cut was moved the then Railway Member almost flew into a rage and said that he knew the problem in all its aspects, that he was the father of the present scheme and that the child *i.e.* locomotives would be produced in no time. Let this past history go away. When the present Government assumed the reins of office, we expected that grass would not be allowed to grow under their feet and steps would be taken at once to see that this scheme was implemented. In 1942 after the decision was made that at Kanchrapara the shop was to be located, proceedings began afresh. That shop was taken by the Supply Department for the manufacture of munitions and in 1942 another body of engineers was appointed to go into the question afresh.

The despatches from the consulting engineer were received in 1944 and 1945. By that time the Government had appointed some other persons to go into the question. I am making all these remarks on the basis of a statement which the Honourable the Minister for Transport made in this House on the 11th December 1947. It is unfortunate that in his speech this year he did not even refer to this matter which is of paramount importance. Since he has made a statement on this issue on the 11th December 1947 I believe he did not deem it necessary to refer to it. But his statement of 11th December 1947 gives us enough cause for reflection and complaint. According to that statement, in May 1946 it was re-decided that a manufacturing shop will be started at Kanchrapara. Then the Honourable Mr. Asaf Ali was the Railway Member. After that the question arose in the Budget session of 1947. Some Members of the House then sent in a motion for cut and they submitted for the consideration of the Government that Kanchrapara being situated on the border was not a fit place for manufacture of locomotives. But the Honourable Minister for Transport, then was of the view that Kanchrapara was the proper place and he agreed with the Honourable Mr. Asaf Ali and gave good grounds, according to himself, why Kanchrapara was a better place than others. Then again, when the Boundary Award was going to be given, in June 1947, orders were passed that the site of Kanchrapara be given up. And so far the site has not been selected. As regards Ajmer where, according to the above-mentioned Report, 435 locomotives were manufactured from 1896 to 1940, and the shop there was to be improved still further, the decision was taken that Ajmer was to be given up for purposes of manufacture of locomotives.

The above-mentioned report recommended as a matter of fact that Ajmer should be made a better workshop and that better facilities should be provided there. My first complaint is that up to the present moment the site for the workshop has not been selected. And then I understand from the Honourable Minister's statement of 11th December that the E. I. Ry. have been entrusted with the task of selecting the site. I very humbly submit for the consideration of the House that this is not a proper way of doing things. After all the location of the shop is very material from the standpoint of national safety. We all remember how when South Western Russia was outrun by Germany the Russians took their factories to Siberia, how the factories worked from those parts of that country and how they recovered their country. In a vast country like ours I want that there should be more than one shop. There should be at least two shops. We have got the shop at Ajmer. There is no reason why the Ajmer shop should be made to discontinue the work which it has already been doing for a large number of years. If this question is important from the national safety point of view, if it is important from the point of view of national industries and if it is also important from the standpoint of the railways, it stands to reason that all the three Departments should form a Committee and go into the question once again since the site has not so far been selected. Why should the E. I. Ry. be deputed to make the selection of the site? The selection should be made by a representative Committee and they should decide this question from the point of view of national safety. Can we pardon the initial mistake of the decision in respect of Kanchrapara? It was debated in this House. Member after Member said it was not a proper place. Still some of the Government Members stuck to the view that it was a proper place. It was in February 1947. In June 1947 they gave it up—and rightly. My humble submission is that a representative Committee should now be formed for going into this question.

Secondly, it appears from the Honourable Minister's statement of 11th December that some attempts were made to give orders in U. K. or U. S. They have not been given so far. The matter has only been explored. I understand that after the machines come it will take two to three years before the locomotive engines will be manufactured, so that the promise of the Honourable Mr. Asaf Ali will stand unredeemed. He said that in 1949 the first engine will be out. But I do not think this is going to happen because so far no orders have been given and only exploratory efforts to give orders in America have been made. No site selected and no orders given. The question of Ajmer has been given up. I understand from the Honourable Minister's statement that it has been decided that inspite of orders for manufacture of 58 locomotives being given to Ajmer as soon as arrangements are made for the new workshop steps will be taken to discontinue the loco building workshop at Ajmer. My humble submission is Ajmer is a very safe place. The B. B. & C. I. Ry. Co. though it was an English concern—also thought it wise to manufacture locomotives at Ajmer though it was to the interests of their country to import locomotives. It has been proved from such a long time past that Ajmer is a proper place from the point of view of safety. I am a layman and I do not insist upon this matter. I wish at the same time that the question is examined again carefully. The position in regard to this matter is not satisfactory.

In conclusion I would beg of the Honourable the Transport Minister to kindly enlighten this House on two specific points. Firstly, whether a site has been selected finally or whether he considers it advisable to appoint a representative Committee of all the three Departments—Defence, Industries and Railways—to go into the question afresh and explore the question whether it is not better to have two workshops in the whole of India, one of which somewhere in the northern or Central part of India where it is more safe, and the other where steel and other raw material can be procured easily. Secondly—if any orders have been given—orders for how much machinery have been given and by what date, according to him, we will be able to see the first locomotive manufactured in India. As regards the date I would respectfully tell him that fifteen to eighteen months are required to work a workshop and so there is yet time. Even if orders are placed in right time and we get the machinery there is even now time to redeem the promise made by the Honourable Mr Asaf Ali. I would beg of the Honourable the Transport Minister to enlighten us on these points.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance' be reduced by Re. 1."

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, about the importance of the question of locomotives no one will have any difference. From 1937 when I joined the Assembly there was not a single year in which this

[Shri K. Santhanam]

question was not sought to be brought to the forefront. I am glad to say that so far as the principle is concerned it has been decided that India should manufacture all her locomotives, and the first steps have been taken. I do not quite agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Thakur Das Bhargava that the present site should be changed. If you are to appoint a new Committee and if a new site is to be chosen it will mean the postponement of the beginning of production for another twelve months.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: But no site has yet been chosen.

Shri K. Santhanam: I think it has been chosen. Land has been acquired and many arrangements have been made. It is near Asansol, 200 miles from Kanchrapara. Today speed is much more important than that we should go on pulling out the roots one after another and have the matter re-examined by different committees. I would therefore beg of the Railway Minister to speed up the production and give us the good news that the first locomotive has been produced in Indian workshops and that hereafter the Indian railway system will not depend upon imports of foreign locomotives.

During the war there were two bottlenecks: one was locomotives, the second was machine tools. The Indian people have already come to realize the importance of locomotives and steps have been taken. But they have not come to realize the importance of the manufacture of machine tools in this country.

If Honourable Members will look up the Demands for Grants, they will find that under the head 'Machinery', for new additions 99.72 lakhs have been budgeted for 1948-49 and for replacements it is 375 lakhs. Therefore it is of the order of 5 crores. Railways are buying machinery of the order of 5 crores a year and I shall not be surprised if the major part of this machinery is obtained from outside. We manufacture very little of this machinery. Not only is it economically necessary for us that we should manufacture this machinery, but if there is any international complication, we shall not be able to get this machinery and if we are not able to get this machinery, all the workshops and other works of railways will come to a dead stop. Therefore it is necessary that we should make up this leeway as early as possible. Machine tools form the basic plant needed for the manufacture of machinery. Annually the railways by themselves consume nearly 1 crore worth of machine tools and these machine tools, I understand, can be manufactured by a factory with a capital of 1 to 2 crores. Of all industries, the machine tool industry is the one industry which consumes very little capital. Its annual outturn is nearly as much as the capital itself. Probably owing to the present high prices, we may require 2 crores for manufacturing machine tools worth 1 crore. Therefore I suggest that just as the railways have started their locomotives factory, they should start a machine tool factory as early as possible. During the war a lot of machine tools were manufactured in India. If you look at the Grady Mission's reports—I have no time to read them here—they have recommended that the country should take up this machine tool manufacture as early as possible. As a matter of fact lots of machine tools, rather second grade or inferior tools, were manufactured and there are plants today which are capable of manufacturing second grade tools: but the first grade tools have to be obtained from abroad. It is only when we begin to manufacture first grade machine tools that second grade machine tools can fit in with them. Therefore even for the purpose of preservation of the machine tool plants which have been functioning during the war time, it is necessary that our country should manufacture first grade machine tools, and for this only the railways have the necessary finances and the necessary equipment. It is the railway workshops who are the principal

consumers of machine tools in this country and it is therefore but fitting that the railways should start this machine tool factory. I want this machine tool factory not merely because the railways are in need of it but once the railways started it, it will form a very valuable equipment for training all kinds of skilled persons. Machine tool manufacture requires from the highest to the lowest skilled worker. In the high grade machine tools we want all kinds of inventors, designers, machine drawing experts, and the best machine industry experts in the world. I understand that in a small country like Switzerland they make the best and the most precise and most complicated machine tools. Therefore it is no use saying that India is not sufficiently industrialized or sufficiently advanced to manufacture machine tools. If Switzerland and Czechoslovakia can manufacture high grade tools, there is no reason why we should not. We have to make a beginning some time. When we make a beginning, surely enough Indian engineers could be trained for the purpose. They may have to be sent outside, some of them may have to learn for two or three years outside, and we may have to import some engineers and machine experts from abroad: but in a few years' time, our railways as well as our general industry can be made free from the menace that now faces them. If there is any international complication tomorrow, our entire machinery will come to a dead stop. What has happened to our textile machinery and our sugar machinery because they could not import new plants from outside? They have become scraps of iron. There was published yesterday the opinion of a United States expert about our textile industry. He said our textile industry is 20 years behind time. That is because they could not import new plants during the war and the old plants have been exhausted to death, and therefore if we want to renew our machinery and build up new types of machinery, this is the foundation, and without this foundation, no progress can be achieved. Therefore I strongly urge upon the Railway Minister that he should lose no time in starting this industry. He has seen what a great handicap it has been to this country that the locomotive industry was delayed at the very beginning of the war. He should not delay the beginning of the manufacture of machine-tools. I suggest this is a matter of fundamental importance and I hope he will be agreeable to start immediate enquiries. He must appoint an expert committee for this purpose and that expert committee should go into this matter.

There is one more point I would like to urge upon him. Luckily we have got a good machine tool plant from Germany. The Machine Tool Controller of the Government of India went to Germany. He has managed to secure a good plant and many parts have already arrived in Bombay. As many of them as possible must be secured to start this machine tool factory. I do not know how far they will be useful for a machine tool factory or how many of them may be used as machine tools for other industries. It requires investigation. I think the railways should claim and obtain priority for obtaining all the machine tools which have come from Germany. Sometimes it is argued that private industry is as much in need as a public industry of these tools. I do not object to a private industry getting machine tools or any other equipment, but it is far more important that a public industry and a public enterprise should be given preference because when the machine tools are there in railway workshops, they may be available for any industry, while if they go into the hands of a private capitalist, they will not be available for general public purposes. Therefore I hope the Railway Minister will see to it that his own experts will go to Bombay, inspect these machine tools and obtain as many of them as possible for the railways. I understand that a former so called expert was sent and he simply put forward an *obiter dictum* that the German tools will not be useful for Indian railways and that we have to get everything from Great Britain. That was the old regime. I do not say that the present set up of the Railway Board has anything to do with it. I do not

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want to name the particular official concerned, but his opinion should not be allowed to weigh with the present authorities. They should explore and re-examine the situation quite anew and see that no chance is lost to start this machine tool factory as early as possible. I commend this proposal to the Railway Minister concerned.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): Sir, with your permission I would like to say a few words on this cut motion. You will remember last year there was a full dress debate on this cut motion regarding the location of this locomotive factory. It was Pandit Balkrishna Sharma who had moved the cut motion and urged that it should be located at Jamalpur, and it was my friend Mr. Mukat Behari Lal who voiced the claims of Ajmer, and the Honourable Minister in a forceful speech said that he had given full consideration to the location of a site and had come to the conclusion that the location of the workshop at Kanchrapara was justified and must stand. In that debate arguments were also advanced that it was near to the sea and there were other strategic considerations which were also urged against the site at Kanchrapara but the Honourable Minister stuck to his view. I do not want to discuss the question whether it should be located on the present site—the Government has examined that point. But what I want to urge upon the Honourable Minister is that in December last he made a statement in this House in which he stated that so far as the Ajmer workshops were concerned, they will not be manufacturing locomotives any more. I want that unless a new Workshop comes into being and we make sure that it is capable of supplying our needs, no such decision should be taken in respect of the Ajmer Workshops. Sir, during the War these Workshops produced not only metre-gauge locomotives but they also produced ten broad-gauge locomotives and they had ten others in hand. I am one of those who believe that one bird in hand is better than two in the bush. From past experience we know there are many slips between the cup and the lip. What our friend had thought last year was an accomplished fact, he had said that the location of the Workshop at Kanchrapara must stand—these were his words—is now no where, it is all in the air.

The next thing I would like to know is: what are the estimates? We know that in regard to this Kanchrapara scheme the estimates have been revised three or four times and they have varied from Rs. 86 lakhs to now Rs 11½ crores. I would like to know as to how, by the change of site these estimates are going to be affected.

3 P.M.

In any case I would like that the other arrangement with Tatas at Singbhum should also stand and he should take into consideration whether we should not place more orders with that firm. From the information that I have had from a friend who is working there, I understand that if the order is not repeated or the number of locomotives and boilers ordered is not increased the problem before the Tatas will be as to what to do with that labour. So, in view of the fact that our scheme, has been thrown back in point of time, by one year, we must take into consideration whether more orders should not be placed with the Workshop at Ajmer as well as with the other Workshop with which we have placed orders for 50 boilers which are going to be delivered or have already been delivered. These are the points which I want to press for the consideration of the Honourable Minister.

Well, my friend wants me to read out an extract from the Report of the American Technical Mission, that is the Grady's Mission. It says:—

"The Government gave consideration to the recommendation for the establishment of a new factory for the exclusive production of machine tools, but was reluctantly compelled to abandon the idea as being unpracticable owing to the great difficulties involved at that time in respect of the transport of the necessary plant and staff."

This is in regard to the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of machine tool plants as has been urged by my friend Mr. Santhanam. We know that during the War other countries like Australia made great strides in the matter of industrial development but unfortunately in India we had another Government which was not interested in the industrial development of this country. But now things have changed and those difficulties which might have existed then have also disappeared; but even if there were difficulties, we are here to fight them and to remove them, and we must see that our country becomes self-sufficient in a few years' time in the matter of locomotives and machine tool plants.

There is one thing more. In the matter of location of all these factories, I do not know whether the "Government of India" means only the Railway Ministry or whether it means also the other Ministries concerned, for instance the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Defence. So I think that in a matter like that at least, all these three Ministries should take joint counsel and come to a decision in regard to the establishment and the time within which these factories are to be established as also the time by which they will be in working order.

Sir, with these words I support the motion.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, I only wanted to put a few questions to the Honourable Minister. He has been connected with one of the greatest steel works in our country. For fifty years we have been crying with the Government which has been in power, for the manufacture of locomotives, and they were averse for the manufacture of locomotives here. May I ask the Honourable Minister this, that when we are in power we should be able to produce locomotives at least in the next year, and that we may have enough of them so that we may not have to import them from outside? In his speech he said that there are a very large number of locomotives on order. May we not be able to produce within a very short time all the locomotives we require? I only wanted to ask this question.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Mr. Speaker, first of all with regard to the question of locomotives. My Honourable friend Pandit Bhargava raised three specific questions. First, whether a site has now definitely been selected for the Factory which was originally intended to be located at Kanchrapara. A site has definitely been selected; it is a few miles off Asansol, and this selection is final having reference to all the considerations which bear upon the location of a factory of that kind. Then he asked me whether orders have been placed for plant and machinery. Orders have definitely been placed for the greater part of plant and machinery. Then he asked me when this workshop was expected to be completed. I should not like, Sir, to make any prophecies in a matter of this kind because we are living in times when the circumstances bearing upon the construction of factories are still of a very uncertain kind. But as far as I am in a position to make any statement about it at all, I think the workshop which is going to be built near Asansol at Mihijam would be completed early in 1950. I hope so, at any rate we should do our best to see that it is completed in 1950.

With regard to the question of Ajmer in which my Honourable friend has always taken a very great interest, I can give a definite assurance on the point

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which was raised by my Honourable friend Mr. M. L. Saksena. We have no intention of closing down Ajmer until we are definitely within sight of the production of locomotives in India. Ajmer has been proving a very useful made that before we come to a decision as regards the future of Ajmer we must factory indeed, and I should certainly agree with the suggestion that has been be certain as to when locomotives would definitely be produced in the country.

That, I think, covers all the substantive points raised by my Honourable friend Pandit Bhargava. I must make a reference also to the Tata Locomotive Factory which is part of our scheme. The Tata Locomotive Factory has so far been able to deliver, as I said the other day, a few boilers. I expected they would have been able by this time to deliver more boilers than they have done—they have had their difficulties like other factories in the country—but from the latest reports that I have had I believe that better progress would be made in the near future. If the Asansol factory and the Singbhum factory both begin to function, then I think between them they would be able to give us all the locomotives that we want over a period of ten to fifteen years for replacement purposes. But if we are going in for new railway constructions and we want more locomotives than for replacement purposes, then it would be necessary for us to consider expanding the scope of these factories or having other factories to be restored.

Consideration put forward by my Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam that no

On the question of machine tools, I am entirely in agreement with the main country in these days can be a great industrial country unless it has within its borders a first-class factory for the manufacture of machine tools. It goes to the whole root of the problem of industrialization. The difficulty with regard to Railways setting up a factory for machine tools is this: Since the war various important machine tool factories have been projected or have been started in India, I mean various important factories in this sense factories under the auspices of influential and powerful business concerns in the country. Before the war the total requirements of machine tools in the country were not sufficiently large for a factory of economical size in the country. But today since we are on the eve of a big programme of industrialization, it is quite likely that our requirements would be much greater and there would be no difficulty about having a factory or two of really economic size, but the problem that we are faced with is this: railways happen to be the most important consumer of machine tools. Suppose the Railway start their own factory then would these private factories which have been started already, get enough scope for marketing their products?

The problem that the Railways and the other Ministries have to consider is that in view of the fact that a certain number of powerfully supported and well equipped machine tool factories have already been started and the question of providing them with a sufficient market for their products is somewhat doubtful, are Government justified in putting up a factory of their own, since Government are the biggest consumers of machine tools in the country? That is the problem with which we are faced.

As far as I am in a position to judge, there is no industry which has increased its capacity in response to war requirements. I am speaking of the world generally—no industry which has expanded its capacity more than the machine tool industry. At present, these machine tool factories in other countries are fully booked with orders, because there are important reconstruction demands coming up from all parts of the world, but there will be a different situation in about three or four years from now. At that time, it seems to me quite possible that these factories which have expanded their capacity on account of war requirements and are unable to find sufficient outlet for their production in European countries may want to dump their goods in

India. If at that time the railways have already set up their own factory and the most important section of the Indian market has been taken away altogether from private factories, a situation might arise which from the general industrial point of view of the country would require very serious consideration.

My Honourable friend asked me: What about the locomotives? The locomotives are in a different position in this respect, because the machine tool industry is an industry, which, as I said practically more than any other industry that I am aware of, has increased its capacity and the whole of the world consumption after a period of three or four years may not be sufficient to absorb at economic prices, the output of these factories in that respect. The locomotive industry to my mind stands on a different footing from the machine tool industry.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it of strategic importance?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I do not want, Sir, today to express any final view on this question of the railways starting their own machine tool factory, because it is a matter which has to be considered not merely by the Ministry of Railways, but also by the Ministry of Industries and Supplies and also by the Ministry of Defence.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: And the whole of the Cabinet.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have not so far had an opportunity of consulting the other Ministries on the question. In any case, a proposal for the establishment of a machine tool factory by the railways has been made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam for consideration by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and I hope to have an early opportunity of having that question considered in some detail. Pending that I should like for the moment to keep an open mind on the question.

There was one point that my Honourable friend Mr. Saksena raised, whether the changing of the location from Kanchrapara to Asansol, makes any difference to the estimates. As far as I know the position, it makes no difference.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad my Honourable friend.....

Mr. Speaker: What is it that the Honourable Member proposes to do?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Well, Sir, I want to say one or two words in regard to the last point.

Mr. Speaker: He has replied to the debate.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There is no closure yet. I want to make an observation in regard to the last point.

Mr. Speaker: He was called upon to reply. He wants to put a question anyway.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I do not exhaust my point by putting a question.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): May I put one question? Are private firms in a position to supply sufficient machine tools to the railway workshop?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is a difficult question to answer offhand, but the equipment, as far as I know of some of these machine tool factories is very satisfactory and I should not be surprised if they were in a position to meet the whole of our requirements.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: After these industries have begun to work, is it impossible for Government to think of acquiring those industries and thus run

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

the factory under the auspices of the railways in view of the fact that these machine tools manufacturing is of strategic importance and also in view of the fact that the last Government's Council had recommended that these machine tool manufacturing industry being one of the key industries should itself be taken up by the State?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, the other day the Prime Minister made a statement in the House explaining Government's policy in regard to nationalization One of the points made by the Honourable the Prime Minister was that even in regard to key industries it is only new units that would be taken over by the State. Whether therefore machine tool factories should be taken over by the State is a point I think that would require consideration in the light of the Prime Minister's statement.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Have the private firms any preference over the railway workshop in supplying machine tools and other things?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: At present they have not reached the stage of being able to manufacture the machine tools that the railways require. They have only made a beginning.

Mr. Speaker: No further questions. It is going into cross-examination.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I may be permitted to withdraw my motion.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 15—'CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LINES—CAPITAL AND DEPRECIATION FUND'

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,32,00,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Construction of New Lines—Capital and Depreciation Fund'."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,32,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Construction of New Lines—Capital and Depreciation Fund'."

Construction of New Lines and Restoration of Dismantled Lines.

Shri R. R. Diwakar (Bombay: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Construction of New Lines—Capital and Depreciation Fund' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as an introduction to what I am going to say on this important subject, I would really begin with congratulating the Honourable Minister for Transport for a surplus budget, but I am interested in the surplus budget, not from any other point of view except one on which I am going to speak. namely, the construction of new lines and the restoration of dismantled lines

I think that that surplus has now been disposed of on account of the Report of the Committee which had been appointed to decide as to how that surplus should be disposed of. It would have been better if such surpluses were really diverted to construction of new lines on a bigger scale and to the restoration of more dismantled lines than what has been done in the present Budget. The Budget shows that about Rs. 3 crores and 32 lakhs have been allotted to this head, "Construction of new lines". but I think in a vast country like India this is too poor an allotment when we survey the necessities and needs of the situation. In fact, when one studies the different proposals, one finds that there is not much system and planning about the whole affair. No doubt, there were big schemes which were proposed or projected under post-war development. I think about Rs. 230 crores were allotted and this amount was to be spent in the course of about five years. But now the circumstances have totally changed and post-war development schemes are in cold-storage; they cannot be revived. But if post-war development has been cold-storaged, there are what may be called "post-partition arrangements" which have to come into existence. I think in the post-partition arrangements, the point about strategic lines is a very important one. I do not know how far the Ministry of Railways is busy with this aspect of the question. Possibly, it involves the Defence Ministry also. But when we survey the new frontiers of India, we see enough scope for extension of railways as well as for new lines and joining ends which are cut off.

To take up a few instances, I find there is the Bengal Assam Railway, linking up Bengal and Assam and the railway line has to run through a very narrow strip of land and join these two parts of the Indian Union. Apart from that one single line, I do not see much planning or any new schemes put forth for strategic lines. I may just point out that on the Punjab border there are certain dead ends of railways. One new railway line may run from Kalyat—Phalodi-Jaisalmer-Barmer-Ranwara-Sidpur. If this line is constructed that particular frontier will be served strategically. Of course, I am not speaking from the commercial or economic point of view as to whether it would be profitable or not. I am speaking purely from the strategic point of view. Only the other day when we read in the papers that certain raiders came just up to Jaisalmer, we looked at the map and saw that there were not any lines which could take our troops to those particular parts and thus it suggested itself to me to put before the House that this is one of the lines along which the Transport Ministry and the Defence Ministry may coordinate and draw new plans.

The second thing which is important not only from the strategic point of view but from the civil point of view is that we have lost Karachi—one of the most important ports that we had on the west coast,—and naturally having lost it, some other port will have to be there; but even apart from that there will have to be railways which could serve the coastal cities and big towns along that line. I am simply throwing out hints rather than drawing up any particular plan. I am just pointing out that such planning, which we may call "overall planning after partition" might take the place of what was called "post-war development".

The next thing is general planning. I would like to draw the attention of the Transport Member to certain principles on which this planning has to be taken up. I may in this connection refer to the Report of Policy Committee No. III-A on Transport, page 25. Therein are set out some of the principles which the Honourable Member who was in charge laid down at that time. I think those principles may be of great help even now. For instance, there is the most important point about restoration of dismantled lines. The dismantling took place at that time rather indiscriminately. Naturally, under the stress

[Shri R. R. Diwakar]

of war when new material was not available, old material had to be used for new lines and therefore what was thought to be not very necessary or immediately urgent, was taken away. Even to come to a decision as to which was necessary and which was not necessary, there was not enough time and no data, and possibly in a hurry certain lines might have been dismantled and they have not been restored yet. It stands to reason that such lines should now be restored.

Another important point from that Report is the taking up of plans that might have been previously made. No doubt, those plans will have to be reviewed especially from two points of view. From the point of view of post-war development schemes and post-partition planning. From the latter point of view, the plans seem to have been few.

As it happens, in our country there are two gauges running throughout India, interspersed with each other, but we see that great advantage can be derived if certain links are made up. For instance, there may be a link between Hingoli and Khandwa and Chamarajnagar and Satyamangal.

If these two lines are linked up we could possibly come from Ramesharam to Delhi on metre-gauge lines without any transhipment. Transhipment on such lines from metre-gauge to broad-gauge or from broad-gauge to metre-gauge is always a bottleneck; not only that, in the transhipment of goods there is always some loss also. This is one of the points which I should like to place before the Honourable Minister so that in the new planning these essential links may be hooked together so that there are regular lines running throughout the land.

The next important question is about the opening up of areas which have today no railway communications. There are a number of such areas and I am glad to find somewhere that the Eastern States Agencies and one or two other areas have been taken up for being thus opened up. But as one looks at the railway map of India one sees that in certain parts, specially in Northern India, in Eastern India and in North-Western India, there are lines on a very big scale, we can almost say that at places there are three or four lines running parallel. No doubt there is traffic and there are goods and I do not say that they were not needed; but at the same time other parts of the country stand in need of being opened up in a similar manner. They have potential wealth, and unless communications—specially railway communications—are supplied, I do not think those parts will ever open up and will be industrialised and made prosperous. As communications are one of the most important things which convey civilisation to the interior it will be our duty to open new lines of communications. Of course it may be easily said that surveys have been made and many lines are not remunerative. Sir, so long as the railways were in the hands of commercial companies which ran them for profit and not for anything else, that would be a very effective and conclusive reply. But when we are on the eve of taking India not along the old rut and old lines but to a kind of millenium where there will be prosperity for every one and where higher standards of life will prevail, we cannot think in terms merely of commercial gain or profits when laying down new lines. It would be as bad as saying that when I set about educating my son he would not be able to give me dividends if I make him a graduate: because in the days of unemployment that does not give any profit. If I spend Rs. 10,000 on him it will be of no use! That is not the way of looking at things at least in the present set-up of things

In this background I make only one remark and that too a typical one. In the new lines proposed a line from Kurla to Karjat has been projected. It is not found in any of the literature supplied to us but on a query that a friend of mine made he has got this information. But Kurla—Karjat has been planned to avoid the route which goes *via* Kalyan. It will save in space about 30 or 33 miles and it will save in time about 20 miles. But the cost would be enormous. This would be just like using a few more cushions for my bed which is already very soft, while I am allowing my brother to lie down on the ground on a rough mat! So I think that that is a luxury-line which requires a lot of money, which is absolutely necessary for opening up new areas. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Construction of New Lines—Capital and Depreciation Fund' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Sir, I am glad my Honourable friend Mr. Diwakar has brought up this subject before the House. I have only one point to make. I wonder how many of us in this House and elsewhere realise that our attitude towards the expansion of railways has got to change now. Even at the time when post-war planning was done it was done with a back ground of what happened to the railways between 1931 and 1937 when rail-road competition made railways uneconomic and caused considerable diminution in railway revenues. We all anticipated that the possibility of expansion of railways was a thing of the past and in future road transport would overshadow any possibility of increase in the mileage of railways, excepting probably for strategic purposes and for the carriage of heavy goods. But during the last two or three years the menace of oil imperialism has made us sit up and think whether we were at all wise in considering that railways are an outmoded form of transport and no longer one that should be seriously considered as part of a scheme for the development of the economic life of a country. I think this problem we are now facing immediately and we shall be faced before long with a visible cut in the petrol supplies made to this country, while at the same time our consumption of petrol is increasing at a tremendous rate. And to a very large extent this increased consumption has gone into heavier forms of road transport, *viz.*, buses and lorries. Surely we will not be able to maintain the same kind of facilities available through this means of transport with the possibility of a cut in the supply of petrol. We have to sit up and take stock again of the position, and perhaps as a result of serious thinking and investigation come to the conclusion that in a country that does not produce oil to any considerable extent, so long as oil imperialism will be a dominant feature in the world, railways happen to be our only source of transport development of this country. I am sure the Honourable Minister for Railways is himself conscious of that fact and I hope he will make us all conscious of that fact more and more, so that we will get railway-minded again instead of being purely motor-minded, as we have become during the last two decades. I think the point mentioned by my Honourable friend in regard to the strategic railways is very important.

What type of railways they are going to be—whether that type of railway which it is cheaper to maintain though the initial costs may be more, are all matters for investigation. But it cannot be denied that a strategic railway will be one of the important means of fortification of our western frontier. We shall have to devise a scheme of railways running parallel to our frontier so that we can protect the inhabitants of the area whenever needed. We have to make further investigations generally in regard to the expansion of railways from these points of view. If we could build our own locomotives, our own wagons and make our own steel rails, this would be an industry where very little money would go out of this country.

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari.]

In this connection I would like to mention one or two points in regard to South India. The Honourable Member probably has mentioned times without number about certain proposed times or the restoration of dismantled lines being uneconomic. So far as passenger traffic in the railways in my part of the country is concerned, I do not think it could be uneconomic. There is one line in South India in the district of Tanjore which runs for 99 miles and if it runs another 11 miles beyond its terminus now at Arantangi to Karaikudi it will connect with another railway which goes further south. That scheme of connecting the two railways between Arantangi and Karaikudi has been on the map ever since I was a little kid. We used to be told then that when this was connected the Ceylon mail would run faster and quicker. That was nearly 37 or 38 years ago. But no attempt has been made all these years to connect those 11 miles. Surely the difficulties are not insuperable. It is only logical that a gap like that should be connected. Probably no one in the locality has brought it to the notice of the railway department.

There is another line in the same district to Pallukkottai the revival of the construction of which is a matter of importance. With the irrigation that has now developed in that area, it is quite possible we may have a miniature Damodar Valley Scheme there. I do not know what is in the mind of the Honourable Minister in regard to this particular line.

Questions were asked by several members in regard to the revival or resuscitation of a narrow gauge railway which was running in Salem District, from Tiruppattur and Morappur to Krishnagiri. My Honourable friend said the other day that this area now being catered to by road transport and he said that he had his own means to satisfy himself that there were adequate facilities available for the people of the locality. But to the extent of my knowledge, supported by insistent letters which are coming to me from that area—which certainly goes to augment the revenue of this Government in the P. & T. Department as I am convinced that there is a real need for a railway line in this area.

My Honourable friend from Mysore the other day pointed out that if that railway line which was dismantled is connected to Bangalore it would be productive. This is an instance in point. Such gaps however small they may be do go to make a railway serving an important area, unproductive. Surely, the idea of connecting Salem and Bangalore together is worth examining. I do not think any survey was made and I think my Honourable friend, the Minister's mind was made up against reopening up this railway line or establishing a new line.

These are other instances in point. As I said before I took advantage of this opportunity of speaking on this cut motion because this country being poor in those resources which go to promote automobile transport, we should make the railways our sheet anchor. Out-moded though we may be in these modern times, we have still to consider ways and means of developing this means of transport so that industry may flourish, the poor man might benefit and people may have a surer method of going about which will not be affected by exigencies of war and the vagaries of imperialistic powers, who wish to curtail our petrol supply according to their whims and fancies. I felt that this would be a good opportunity to press this point and I hope the Honourable Minister will consider it.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao (Mysore State): I rise to support this cut motion. In fact one is struck by the absence of any reference to national planning on railways in the first railway budget of free India, except in the case of the Bengal Assam Railway. I wonder if even that would have been taken up but for the partition and political and strategic reasons.

Reasons have been given for this; namely, the stress and strain of the war years: the partition difficulties: the civil strikes and lack of materials and so forth. But I wish to draw the attention of the Transport Minister to the fact that within one year after the cessation of war, Russia was able to construct 13,000 miles of railway in Ukraine and between 1945-50 the programme of construction is 735,000 miles of railways in Russia. We may not have the same material resources but with the vast manpower that we have in India, can we not have a few hundred miles of new railways in India? The railways are the nerve centres for the industrial and economic progress of the country. If we look at the progress of the countries in the West and of the United States of America, we will find that the prosperity of those States followed the expansion of the railway system in those States. I just tried to probe as to what were the post-war plans of the Government of India in the budget of 1946-47. The then Transport Member told this House that the Government of India had a plan for the laying down of 3,000 to 4,000 miles of railway. I wrote a letter to the Railway Secretary and he has been pleased to give me a copy of some of the projects under consideration. I find that all these projects are in Northern India. Of course, I do congratulate the people of Southern Bihar and Northern Orissa for their luck but I find that South India, has, as remarked upon by Mr. Krishnamachari, been completely blacked-out. It is out of the map of railway expansions in India.

I just want to refer to certain areas which are industrially and economically backward. As Mr. Diwakar pointed out, there are certain dead-ends and there are certain famine-stricken areas, especially the western coast in the Bombay Presidency. For a stretch of 4 500 miles from Mangalore to Bombay there is no railway connection. But the Honourable Member may argue that there is the coastal steamer service. But the sea on the west coast is very rough and it is only a fair-weather service. During the south-west monsoon the coastal service is stopped. Besides, the road and coastal steamer service cannot serve the poor man as the railway does. This part of Western Ghats, which is known as Malnad (or hilly tract as it is called in our part) is one of the richest parts of the country and is capable of vast industrial and power development. The other day His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore switched on the Jog Electric Works, which is to be named after Mahatma Gandhi. It develops 120,000 kw of electric power with possibilities of doubling that quantity, This is only one of the schemes that could be taken up in that vast stretch of 400 or 500 miles. The entire cashew nuts and coffee produced in the whole country is grown in this part; the best betelnut is grown there. The districts of Malabar. South Canara and the Western portion of the Mysore State is like a garden and granery, but its industrial development is today suffering for want of sufficient transport facilities. How can such parts of the country be industrially developed without an efficient transport system. If we take the East coast, we see a through line running from Rameshwaram right up to Calcutta, the line touching the coast-line at a dozen or more points. But if we look at the West coast, except at Marmagoa there is no railway line connecting the Deccan plateau with the sea, and Marmagoa, as the House knows, is a foreign port. There should at least be half a dozen outlets to the sea from the plateau, if that portion of the country is to be developed. I suggest that the Honourable Minister may consider the question of linking up Mangalore with Bombay. There are a number of ports on this side of the coast, which

[Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao]

could easily be linked up with the line that at present runs from Bangalore to Poona and Bombay. The line between Mysore and Tellichery *via* Coorg was surveyed in 1931, but for some reasons, which we do not know, that has been given up. Again the Mysore Government made a survey for a line between Hassan and Mangalore but nothing has been done. Mysore has extended its railways upto Jalguppa and wants to take it to Bhatkal. It has not been allowed to do so.

Again Hubli can be connected with Karvar. I am glad to know that the Bombay Government has made a suggestion that Alanavar may be connected with Karvar. But I suggest that Alanavar is again a dead end. Three lines radiate from Hubli, one running north to Poona, another to East coast *via* Guntakal to Masulipatam and the third running to Bangalore. If Karvar were to be connected to Hubli it will open up vast possibilities of development in this part of the country.

Again Kolhapur dead end may be connected with Ratnagiri and the line from Poona may be taken up to Bombay. Merchants of the South find considerable difficulty in transporting their goods, and these lines if constructed will remove one of the biggest bottlenecks of transport.

Again, I would refer to certain famine-stricken areas. There is a need for a line between Chitaldrug and Bellary. The entire Bellary district and the northern parts of Mysore State suffer from famine at times. If this line is connected it will serve those undeveloped tracts. Similarly there are a number of dead-ends which could be easily connected. My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari referred to Karaikudi—Arantangi line. This point was raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam in the policy Committee of Transport as early as two years back and then it was agreed that this line should be taken up, but for some reasons which we do not know it has not been taken up by the Railway Administration. In fact, we do not know what plans the Honourable Minister for Railways has for the development of railway system in Southern India. Again, in the Central Provinces there is a dead end at Yeotmal and another one at Ellichpur. Yeotmal could be connected to Wardha and Ellichpur with Betul.

Of course, the coordination and the cooperation of the States are necessary in some of these matters, but, I submit, Sir, till now that co-operation is not lacking on the part of the States. The Mysore Government, for example, has been pressing for the extension of the line from Chamarajnagar to Satyamangalam and also from Chitaldrug to Rayadrug or Bellary, but there has been no response from the Centre. Now that we have a National Government at the Centre, I hope this expansion of railways will be considered on a national basis and the entire development of the country taken into consideration in drawing up plans. After all, profit is not the only motive. As my Honourable friend Mr. Divakar put it, railways take civilisation to the door of the poor man. I hope the Honourable Minister will consider these points and place before the House a well-planned co-ordinated and comprehensive scheme of development of railways and put them through in the interests of the country. Sir, I support the cut motion.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: It is exactly one year since my friend Mr. Karunakara Menon moved an identical motion in the last Assembly. I had the honour to support that motion. I am glad that my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamurthi Rao has spoken and he has given a very good picture of the needs of South India with regard to Railway expansion. Only one portion remains and that is the most neglected portion no doubt. I think, Sir, the lines that he has suggested will no doubt be closely examined and a real plan for the development of railway systems in South India will be drawn up by the Honourable Minister's Department.

My purpose in getting up to speak on this motion is the same as that I had when I spoke during previous years. I do not know how often I have spoken about the line that has been dismantled—I mean the Shoranur-Nilampur line. When this line was about to be dismantled I had the honour of moving an Adjournment Motion, and later on I have spoken a number of times on cut motions. I am not going to repeat what I have already said, nor am I going to detain the House unnecessarily long on this subject. When my Honourable friend, the Railway Minister answered to one of my interjections the other day during question time he said that so far as the Madras Government had not given any reply to the reference made by the Central Government with regard to this particular line. I was taken by surprise when I heard this, because last year on the 24th February my Honourable friend, said in answer to my speech with regard to this line: "Since the Ministry Government came into power we have made a further reference we have just received a reply that the Madras Government are still considering the matter." It is very difficult for me to understand how the Madras Government may be considering this matter for more than a year. There is certainly something wrong somewhere and I am sure that the Members of the Madras Legislature hailing from the Malabar district will certainly look up this matter and do something in this particular case. But what I am now suggesting to my Honourable friend is this. He told us that the Central Board of Transport is going to examine the whole scheme. I wish that the Honourable Minister should put up this matter before the Central Transport Board along with the suggestion that this line should not only be restored, but also extended. That is what I have been pleading in this House for a number of years. If this line is extended from Nilampur to Calicut *via* Malapuram, Manjeri and the other thickly populated portions of taluqs of Erand and Valluvand, then the complaint that the project would not be paying, cannot be trotted out. There is the question (I am glad my friend Mr. Krishnamurthy Rao has brought it up again) of the Mangalore to Bombay connection. I gave the reasons for it last year. Mr. Krishnamurthy Rao justified the necessity for this line. This is a line which will have to be taken up at once. One of the reasons is that there is no direct connection between the Malabar coast and Bombay. If a man wants to go from Mangalore to Bombay by rail he has to travel about 1,400 miles but by the direct route the distance will be only about 350 miles.

4 P.M.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there no sea route?

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: There is the sea route which is only a fair weather route. There is only one steamship company and only one steamer runs once a week.

These are the two important suggestions which I have to make in regard to this matter and I hope the Honourable Minister will take them into consideration and do what he can in the matter.

[*At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shri K. Santhanam (one of the Pannel of Chairmen.)*]

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, I have also given notice of a cut motion (No. 81) regarding the urgent need of the construction of new railway lines in the Gorakhpur and Dooria districts. I just now heard my Honourable friend from the South complaining that they have had no capital programme as though the North had too much of it. I have the honour to belong to Gorakhpur which has a population of 40 lakhs but the raileage of railways is probably the lowest there. There are whole areas like Maharajganj having populations of ten lakhs without a single line. This tehsil is just on the border of Nepal which recently assumed great importance, when Raxaul was the centre of military activity. Russia and America are the two great powers today and there is the danger of war. If that is so, the Nepal border should

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena.]

not be neglected. This cut motion discusses the problem in a general way. It only says that more money should be spent on this

In 1909 the Nair Committee report said that India needed about one lakh miles of railway lines, whereas she had only 36,300 miles. I do not think we have since increased the mileage. With the partition our mileage will be much less. For 20 years since 1921 we have remained stationary. If we take a glance at the capital programme since 1908-9 the following figures could be seen:

	crores
1908–9	15
1909–10	15
1910–11	16·3
1911–12	14·25
1912–13	13·50
1913–14	18·00
1914–15	18·00
1915–16	12·00

and in 1921–22 it was 17·82 crores.

So that there was an annual budget allotted for capital programme and it was said that this sum must be spent on the increase in mileage of railway lines. Since 1922 the capital programme has been neglected with the result that we have not much more railways than we had in the year 1920.

At that time it was said that our railways stood in between Australia and Canada. Australia and Canada have since doubled their lines and we are almost where we were. I agree with Mr. Krishnamurthy Rao that we should change our outlook. We shall have to think of a great India so that we shall be able to compete with Russia and America and other great countries. Russia has prepared a programme of 175,000 miles for the next two years. Whereas a country torn by war could think of laying down 175,000 miles of railways we find in this budget provision for a capital programme of 3,32 lakhs. I do not think we have taken into account the needs of the country I wish this matter is considered from a new angle.

In 1907 the Nair Committee thought that India needed 1,00,000 miles of railway lines and we have not yet completed the programme. We should have the whole programme recast. We must know how much railway line is required and how much for each area. The mover of the motion gave lucid information and said that under strategic lines we need much more on the Western frontier and also on the Eastern frontier. To open up new areas we need new lines. The whole programme must be reconsidered and the blue print must contain all the new lines required, so that when the programme is completed we will be able to compare our country with other advanced countries of the world.

Then the question will arise how to finance this. In other countries the income of the railways is not appropriated to the general exchequer. The profits which the railways earn are spent on the railways themselves. This question was considered in the Acworth Committee report. Belgium, Italy, Japan, France, and South Africa are countries where the railways are run on this basis. The profits made by the railways are spent on their capital programme or to defray the interest on the money borrowed by them. No part of it was taken to the general revenues. In Japan the position is as follows:

The Railways have a separate capital account. Railway profits are devoted to extensions and improvements and may be supplemented by Government loans. The whole of the loans issued for railway purposes are charged against the railway account and the railways pay over each year to the National Debt Consolidation Fund the money required for interest and sinking fund on these loans. Temporary advances may be made by the Treasury if required to meet railway current expenses. This year out of the surplus of 9 crores half of it is taken away by general revenues, whereas it should be spent on new lines.

We discussed the question of locomotives and the Honourable Minister thought that it would take three or four years. We should cease to think in long terms. We should be able to do this thing quicker. We must develop all these programmes in a much quicker pace, so that we can make up the ground we lost during the period of our slavery. Our whole outlook must change about railways and we must think on new lines. The lines which have been dismantled should have priority and should be restored immediately. A plan must be prepared and the profits of the railways should be devoted to the execution of those plans.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to make any speech. I have only one suggestion to make. I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Railway Minister that Karachi having been lost to India, both from the strategic and the commercial point of view a new railway and a new port have to be opened in Cutch and Kathiawar. There was a scheme of having one railway known as the Sind-Bombay Railway. That scheme has been with the Railway Department for the last three decades. It has been surveyed twice. One scheme was *via* Baden and Mehsana. Subsequently it was realised that *via* Cutch to Verangan would be more suitable. The former scheme showed a realization of two point ten per cent. At that time the Secretary of State refused his sanction because it did not realize the full three per cent. Subsequently during the war the war-lords in India thought that it was a great mistake for this railway not having been built, from the strategic point of view. As we know, due to the absence of this railway the transport of war materials suffered to some extent. From such strategic point of view, Karachi, a very important port not being with us, somewhere near Cutch and Kathiawar we have to develop a new port—for instance Kundla port of Cutch State. I understand the Honourable Minister is already considering this matter. It is necessary to connect this port with important stations like Bombay and Delhi. I do feel that a railway from Kundla, where there is already a port existing, to Jodhpur and Delhi or something like that will be very much necessary. Already in Kundla the Sindhis have formed a colony and started a company with Rs. 2½ crores. So it is going to be a big colony. From the commercial point of view also it will therefore be necessary to have railways from their touching both Bombay and Delhi. I only desire that the Honourable Minister will kindly bear this in mind. It is important from the strategic as well as the commercial point of view. Since Karachi has gone you will be missing the link to all the coastal points. As I said, from the commercial point of view also it is necessary. The Sind-Bombay project is already there. I do not know the stage at which it is now lying. It has to be reconsidered, because a certain portion of that project has gone to Pakistan. I do not know what the intention of the Honourable Minister or the Government is regarding that railway. It is a very important railway line and I understand that Government themselves had given some high priority to it—what priority I do not know exactly—before partition. Now the situation is changed. The conditions under which certain portions of the railway are running are equally important. I therefore desire that the Honourable Minister will kindly bear this in mind very seriously.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am anxious that we should not lose ourselves in too many contradictions. As is well know, sometime ago the Government was anxious that the House should agree with them in bringing about road-rail co-ordination. We were not very co-operative at that stage. Now that political conditions have changed I hope the House would be quite willing to agree to this on the next occasion when the Government come forward with their proposals for rail-road co-ordination. More than that, if Government in the Railway Department could only come forward with proposals for themselves running the bus services wherever bus services are likely to come into competition or conflict with the railways it

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

would be a very constructive thing and I hope the House would support them. Whenever we are anxious to extend railways to various other parts of the country which are not at present served by the railways we would have to keep in mind the various other alternative sources of transit and communication that might possibly be exploited and developed. We have to develop as yet inland waterways, also coastal traffic, thirdly the roads. I want that the state railways should themselves take up the development of these three additional sources or avenues for Communications so that we would be able to have a sort of co-ordinated scheme of development of various facilities of communications that might be made available to the nation. Otherwise there would be unhealthy competition and huge national assets invested in the railways would go into jeopardy.

I am not in favour of the suggestion made by my Honourable friend Professor Shibban Lal Saksena that no contributions should be made by the railways to general revenues and that all the savings should be put for the development of additional railway lines. I am not prepared to give up the right of the general revenues for a share—at least 50 per cent—of whatever surplus the railways may be able to earn. It would be a different matter if the railways were to go to the general revenues and were to make out a case for the development of any strategic railway or any other means of communications, or for the development of any railway line which ought to be subsidised and were to ask for a specific bit of assistance from the Central revenues. That would be a very feasible proposition, a proposition in regard to the extent of which it would be possible for the Central revenues to have a control.

I would like to suggest that the Railways should have some idea as to the development of the railways. Today we have one line going along the eastern coast. That is all for the good. So far as the west coast is concerned we do not have any such line. There is a very good reason indeed for the Government to develop such a line all the way from Bombay right down to Kanyakumari so that both the east coast line and the west coast line can meet there. We have today the Grand Trunk Express from Delhi right down, as it were to Kanyakumari. Recently the Railway Minister was mooting the idea—almost out of exasperation by our criticism—that the Grand Trunk Express had better be abolished. Even this morning he was mooting the idea of diverting the the Grand Trunk Express line in some other way so that he might overcome the difficulties. I am very much opposed to the idea. In the interests of the nation, strategical as well as commercial, I am anxious that there should be this vertical line going from Delhi right down to Kanyakumari and we should not tamper with it at all. In addition to that we should have a number of horizontal lines also cutting across the peninsula. We have today one line from Vizianagram to Raipur and then Nagpur. In addition to that I would like to suggest that there should be a line from Vizagapatam going straight to the western coast. We have already a line from Marmagao to Masulipatam cutting across the peninsula. There should be another line, from Nellore or anywhere near any port, going through Nellore, touching Cuddappah, Bangalore and going straight to the western coast. If you map out your railway development in that fashion—one line going in a vertical fashion cutting the country from one end to the other into two halves and a number of horizontal lines—it would be of very great use indeed for strategic purposes as well as for commercial development.

Then you have the Godavari and the Kistna. The Kistna may not be such a useful river for navigation purposes, but the Godavari would be of very great use indeed. More than two hundred miles of it you can develop for inland waterways. I am anxious that the railways should try to prepare at

an early date a comprehensive plan for the development of not only the railways but of possibilities for all kinds of communications in the country including all those various means which I have already suggested. If a plan like that were to be prepared, then certainly it would be possible for the railways to give greater satisfaction to the people and serve our commercial as well as agricultural needs.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to take the time of the House by enumerating the necessity of further lines in Bihar such as connecting Chhota Nagpur with other parts of Bihar, etc., which, I am sure, will be taken into consideration by the Honourable the Railway Minister when he has sufficient means to open new lines. But I want to invite his attention to some dismantled lines in North Bihar, especially north of Bhagalpur *e.g.* lines between Forbesganj and Raghpur *via* Parbabgarh and other lines on Sabarsa and Madhipura area etc. where, when these railway lines were opened, most of the people of the villages were victims of flood. Then there is one line connecting Bhagalpur and Baursi. Now those lines have been suddenly stopped. These lines, if the Honourable the Railway Minister will go into the facts, are quite remunerative. A representation was made to the Railway Minister but it seems nothing has been done and I would request the Railway Minister to give special attention to these dismantled lines.

Further I would like to point out one thing, that there is no defined policy as to whether the railway is to be run with a profit motive or as a public utility service. We do not know as to what to do with the surplus we have in hand and recently a committee was appointed to decide as to what to do with the surplus of 9 crores. Some of it was taken into the general revenues and some was given for expenditure on railways. What I want to impress upon the Railway Minister is that he must have some defined policy as to what further improvements are going to be made in the railways. Without that, Sir, we do not know whither we are proceeding. I agree with the suggestion made by my Honourable friend Professor Ranga, that all the revenues should not be spent by the railways. Some of the surplus should go to general revenues first, and then Railway should put its scheme for any further improvement or expansion before the Finance Department for grant to be spent on that scheme. This will be a check on the railway also to ensure that no money is wasted.

Further the other day, during the general discussion, the Honourable the Railway Minister said in reply to a point raised by an Honourable Member that there were no capital goods with which he can improve the railways or make the present railways run efficiently. Today when the necessity was pointed out to him that early steps should be taken to produce such machine tools as will help in producing capital goods, the reply was that as a whole there are already so many private factories in India producing machine tools, etc.

Mr. Chairman: I am afraid the Honourable Member is straying far from the subject. We are now on new construction and restoration of dismantled lines.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: I am going to point out that the Honourable Minister said the other day that without capital goods he cannot develop the railways and today the Honourable Minister said that because of such and such things the work of producing capital goods could not be taken in hand. My request to the Honourable Minister is that even if there be slump after three years as apprehended by the Honourable Minister and foreign machine tools and other things which will help us in producing capital goods would be dumped in the market, we should take that risk and start such a factory in the shortest possible time to produce capital goods because unless those

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things are produced these cut motions and these resolutions for opening new lines will not be given effect to and would result in mere speech making conventions with no tangible result.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I merely want to bring to the Honourable Minister's notice the demands of my porvince, the Central Provinces and Berar and I would not like to take much time of the House in case you are thinking, Sir, of going to the next cut motion. I merely want to point out that the Darwha-Digras section on the C. P. Railway was dismantled and in answer to a question the Honourable Minister said it was not profitable. I would request him to reconsider the proposition and to connect that with some regular metre gauge system. He should also take up the old but agreed project of connecting Khandwa with Hingoli so that my friends from the South will have an alternative route for going to Madras and there would be no necessity of having any other parallel routes or having any other new lines. The distance is the shortest and the cost is not likely to be very much. There will be another alternative route to Madras and that is by connecting Amraoti with Narkhed which will go up to Akola and to the south because Amraoti is already connected with Akola and Akola would be the central place where the Khandwa-Hingoli line will cut the G.I.P. So I submit that the dismantled line be relaid and the two lines, Amraoti-Narkhed and Khandwa-Hingoli lines which were definitely to be undertaken should be completed and they should be given first priority. Lakhs of rupees have already been spent for survey and various other things and work was also already started. That appears to have been somehow given up now. I would request the Honourable Minister to take this into consideration and to start the work as early as possible.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I will take the very last point which my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh raised first because it is a point to which I think reference has been made more than once in the course of the discussion. It is the question of the restoration of dismantled lines. I know that is a matter in which the House takes a very real interest and there has been a good deal of dissatisfaction expressed as to what is the decision reached by Government on specific schemes regarding the restoration of dismantled lines. I would first of all repeat to the House the considerations on which we have come to decisions on certain specific schemes. First of all is the point they are not remunerative, but that consideration ought to be taken in conjunction with another, and that is the development of road transport in these areas. That raises the fundamental question which my friend Mr. Krishnamachari raised—what exactly is to be our attitude to the question of road transport in future? I do not take the pessimistic view that he does. Government are already committed to big schemes of road development. The Central Government are responsible for national highways. They have been responsible ever since 1st April last year. Government are already taking a substantial financial interest in rail-road schemes promoted by Provinces and in view of that Government are now keen on the development of motor transport. Whether the position with regard to oil supply as a whole is a matter which at present justifies so to speak Government retracing their steps, I do not feel very sure about. In any case I do not think we shall come to a decision on those lines under present conditions. With regard to dismantled lines, in view of the very live interest that the House is taking in this question, what I propose to do is to have a further review made in my Ministry of the various proposals which have been made by provincial governments for the restoration of dismantled lines. I propose to have this review first of all vetted by the Central Board of Transport and then I think probably the best way of coming to a decision since there are conflicting claims of various kinds, is for us to

have a conference with the representatives of provincial governments, and if need be, with non-official advisers.

I think it is only in that way that we could reach a really comprehensive and satisfactory solution of this question.

The other point—the main point—to which I think most of the discussion has referred is: what is to be the policy of the Railways in regard to future planning, future development? One point that I would like to make is this: when the old Government of India decided on a big plan of Railway development somewhere about the year 1944, they drew up those plans against a background of what I may call approaching deflation. They were afraid that as soon as the War ended prices would drop, there would be lack of employment and all those difficulties that arise in connection with a period of deflation—all their plans were drawn up on that basis. Today the position is very different. In fact, we are not merely still in the period of inflation, but it is a period of considerably intensified inflation as compared with the period when these plans were drawn up. Therefore, as I pointed out the other day, if today we decide to implement these schemes of post-war development, —in view of the very great scarcity of materials of one kind or another, if the Railways went all out for these materials,—then the effect of that upon the general economy of the country would, in my humble opinion, be more dangerous than the House apprehends.

What I really would like with regard to this problem of the further development of Railways is this. The Prime Minister, when he spoke the other day on the Government's economic policy, said that it was high time that we should set up a Planning Commission. You cannot draw up a really satisfactory, comprehensive Plan of Railway Development unless you relate your plan to two things. First of all, you have got to consider what are the main lines on which you are going to promote economic development as a whole. Your transport must be related to your schemes of economic development. The second thing is: what are you going to do, as my friend Prof. Ranga quite rightly pointed out, with regard to alternative modes of transport? What are you going to do with the rivers of the country, with the inland water transport? What are you going to do with coastal shipping? And again, what are you going to do with road transport? Unless you have a clear picture in your mind of what you are going to do with regard to these alternative modes of transport, any scheme of Railway development that you draw up would lack contact with realities.

Therefore, to my mind we cannot go upon the post-war scheme of development which was drawn up by the old Government. The basis on which it has been drawn up no longer holds good and we have got to consider the scheme afresh, and I suggest the best way of doing it is not for the Railways to draw up schemes in the isolation of their own Ministry. I personally think we ought to take a forward move, ought to take an early decision with regard to the question of a general Planning Commission, and this question of transport must be remitted to the Transport wing of that Commission. It is only in that way you can reach satisfactory results.

Various specific schemes have been referred to. The House will appreciate it is not possible for me to give a definite reply, but my Honourable friend the Mover, Mr. Diwakar, laid down certain general principles. In case we are going to have a plan of Railway development, he thought it ought to be based on certain general considerations, with most of which I find myself in agreement. All I can say at this stage is that these general considerations are matters which must be taken into account by the Planning Commission.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What about the Sind-Bombay service?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I said I would not express any opinion on these specific schemes because my idea is that with regard to the restoration of dismantled lines the matter must be referred ultimately to a conference of Provincial representatives.

As far as the general schemes are concerned, that must be handed over to a Planning Commission.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: I asked about the strategic lines.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: With regard to that, the matter is not really one to be initiated by the Railways because proposals regarding strategic lines come to us from the Defence Ministry.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: That is exactly what I pointed out. May I know if something like that is being planned?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as I can remember certain proposals come to us occasionally from the Defence Ministry and of course, proposals of that kind coming from the Defence Ministry will receive the most serious consideration at the hands of the Railway Ministry.

Mr. Chairman: Does Mr.Diwakar want to press his motion?

Shri R. R. Diwakar: In view of the debate as well as the Honourable Minister's statement, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 1—RAILWAY BOARD—*contd.*

Application of Pay Commission's Recommendations to the Members of the Railway Board and Officers of Railways.

Shri Khurshed Lal (U. P.: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, the structure of pay for the services in India was fixed long ago and it was fixed primarily with a view to providing high salaries for the officers, mostly foreigners, who came from abroad to this country, and no where else in the world would we find the disparity in the salaries which we have in this country.

The position was that so far as the higher services were concerned, very high salaries were fixed and so far as the lower services were concerned in which Indians were always employed, they got very low salaries. The Pay Commission which considered the entire subject did one thing, and that was that while they raised the salary of the lower paid employees, they also tried to bridge down the gulf between the higher services and the lower services by reducing the salaries of the higher staff.

Now, we find that so far as that part of the recommendation is concerned which tended to raise the salaries of the lower staff, that has been, if I may say so with all respect, rightly complied with and we have had the salaries raised. But so far as the other part is concerned, namely that of bringing down the salaries, I regret to say that from a perusal of this Budget I find that nothing has been done in that direction. I realise the difficulties of the Honourable the Railway Minister as he remarked the other day in his reply, that that is a matter which also concerns other Departments. But I submit that when this Budget was being presented, it was time that this question was taken into consideration and a move made in the right direction.

I know that all our higher paid officers today are Indians. I also know that they are imbued with a spirit of patriotism, and with a spirit of service to the country.

I would ask, through the Honourable the Railway Minister, that they should also consider the question that they should not now demand those salaries which were given to their predecessors who came from outside. The Pay Commission, Sir, recommended a maximum salary of Rs. 3,000, being the highest that anybody can receive in our country. Their recommendations, so far as the Railways are concerned, are contained in para. 61 of their Report. They say there: "The higher paid posts like those of Secretaries, General Managers of Railways, Members of the Railway Board, Members of the Central Board of Revenue, Chairman and Members of the Public Service Commission etc. should be fitted into a scale between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 3,000, preferably in four levels of Rs. 2,250, Rs. 2,500, Rs. 2,750 and Rs. 3,000." Rs. 3,000 was the highest salary which they proposed to allow to anybody and it cannot be said, Sir, that their recommendations are out-dated or that they did not take into account the increased cost of living, because this Report came out after all these factors which tended to raise the cost of living had come into operation. I therefore, Sir, feel that time has come when the Government should take a decision on the matter and reduce the salaries of higher paid officers. I would also say, Sir, to the Indian officers who are now occupying the higher posts that they should not grudge this scaling down of their salaries because most of them, I mean the Indian members of the higher services, benefited the most from the coming of independence. They have had their promotions which they would not have ordinarily earned for years to come. In fact, if ordinarily what is said is true, Swaraj as a matter of fact has really so far benefited the services only and I submit therefore that they should not mind this scaling down of their salaries, especially at a time when, looking to the poverty of the country and the demand on the resources of the Government, there is so much need for economy.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved.

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board', be reduced by Rs. 100."

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, my friend Mr. Khurshed Lal has raised a very important point in regard to the recommendations of the Pay Commission and their implementation by the Railway Department. He has very rightly said that the higher paid officers of the Railway Board and Railways who had their salaries fixed in an age which has passed into history should not now insist on those salaries. He also pointed out that they would not personally lose because they have had their promotions. In fact, Sir, last time when this Budget was being discussed, we saw that about Rs. 36 crores had been set apart for implementing the Pay Commission's recommendations. I had very much to do with the way in which the money had been distributed and to see how it was being given to the smaller employees. I think that this motion is very apt. It tells exactly what has happened. The major portion of the money which has been spent has been spent upon the higher salaried officials, whereas the lower salaried officials and many of the lower paid staff who ought to have been benefited have not been benefited. Last time I pointed out on the floor of the House that about 81,000 persons had actually had their salaries reduced. Of course, now that position has been remedied by the new settlement made by the Railwaymen's Federation with the Railway Board, but even then I feel that there are many respects in which things have need to be reviewed. I know that the Honourable Minister was discussing these things with the Railwaymen's Federation and I also know that there are many individuals categories which it is not possible for him here to discuss in detail. But I can tell him that I know of many cases where obvious injustice has been done and it was natural, not intentional, on the part of the Pay Commission; after all, they could not be expected to be all-knowing and so they have made mistakes. In fact, I myself submitted many of the grievances to the

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

Honourable Minister and I hope again to discuss all the grievances of the different categories with him. But all I want to say at present is this. The Government of India are going to spend a lot of money in implementing the Pay Commission's recommendations. In doing that, we should see that the men do get real satisfaction. They should not be allowed to have a feeling of injustice done to them. I do know that at present such a feeling exists, and I also know that unless it is removed, all the money that we have spent or are spending will be wasted, because after all what do we ultimately aim at? We aim at a very efficient system of working.

Only the other day, Sir, we had in this House discussion about the failings of the Railways and all those things. People were very angry with the railwaymen and accused them of many things, but they forget that it is not fair to accuse them in that way. Sir, I was reading the Bhita Disaster Committee Report and in one place Justice Sir John Thom has recorded that the man who is responsible for the track was being paid only Rs. 9 and he was surprised that this man.....

Mr. Chairman: Will the Honourable Member please read the motion? It is to discuss the "recommendations of the Pay Commission and their application to the Members of the Railway Board and officers of the Railways." His observations may be quite interesting, but they are beside the particular motion.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, I only want to point out that this motion really relates to the lopsidedness of the expenditure incurred on implementing the Pay Commission recommendations. It is my point that more has been given to the officers than to the men.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member is free to criticise the application of these recommendations to the officers and to say whether they get more or they get less, but so far as the workers are concerned, I think it will have to come in under some other motion.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Thank you, Sir, I would only say this, that I welcome this motion and I commend it to the Honourable Minister. I know he will himself look into this matter and make a settlement and see that efficiency is not impaired, but I would once again emphasize to him that the money should be more evenly distributed and he should see that there is no discontent among the workers and the real purpose of the Pay Commission, namely, better and more efficient administration, is in fact ensured. I do not agree with all the criticism that has been made about the workers, that they are dishonest and all that. My own feeling is that the number of black sheep is very small. If you see how the workers do their work, you will see that it is not proper to level those charges against them. They have to work under great stress and strain and I hope the House when it criticises them will not lose sight of their difficulties.

I once again commend the motion to the Honourable Minister.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay: General): Sir, while supporting this cut motion, I would like to make a few observations. The salaries that had been decided in the past have definitely been decided by the foreign rulers in order to make life more convenient and more comfortable for them. The Pay Commission has made a recommendation that nobody should get more than Rs. 3,000 a month. That is the maximum salary which any official in this country should get. Under these circumstances, I would say that the Manager of a Railway should not get more than Rs. 2,000 and other higher officers may be given somewhere between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 3,000. I do not agree that even this amount is consistent with the economic structure of our country. The

recommendations of the Pay Commission are on too liberal a scale. In this connection I would like to place before the House a Resolution that has recently been passed by the Executive Committee of the Indian National Trade Union Congress. That Resolution lays down that looking to the economic structure of India and looking to our national income and also looking to the various development programmes which the country is called upon to make, the highest salary which anyone can get should not be more than Rs. 1,200 per month; while, in the present cost of living the lowest should not be less than Rs. 100. Now if you really want to come to this stage, the Government should have made a beginning in the very first budget that is coming before us. I know that it may be argued that the question of the salaries of the railway staff cannot be considered separately from the salaries of the other civilians who might be working in the Government. There may be some difficulties or some hitches in the case of the Covenanted servants, but those persons who are working with the Railways are not Covenanted servants and moreover they must also realise this that had the National Government not come into existence, had there been no improvement in this country, had the Europeans not quitted this country, they would have been working on somewhere between a thousand and two thousand rupees. That consideration ought to weigh with them and I think they are patriotic enough to consider this. It is also to be noted that the Honourable the Railway Minister should have placed these matters clearly before the Government. When framing a budget, and placing it before the House and ultimately before the country. Naturally the country is going to enquire what concrete steps have been taken to put into operation the main recommendations of the Pay Commission and, I naturally think, at the Government stage this question would have found some weight. Now even in the case of the General Budget, when the Honourable the Finance Minister will place it before us, he will naturally argue that nothing has been done, because the House has already passed the Railway Budget and no steps have been taken and so we would have to wait for one year more. I think the time has now come when such questions which affect one department after another of the Government of India should be considered beforehand when they are making the plan for the next year.

It is said that if the higher officials' salaries are cut down, they would not work with energy, that they would not be diligent in their work. But when a nation decides that henceforth nobody is going to get more than Rs. 3,000. I think they will all be satisfied. It is also argued that industries and commerce are paying very high salaries to their employees and servants and therefore it would not be possible to attract to the Government services or to the railway services the intelligent class of the people. But when you are going to lay down a maximum, have not the Government got enough inherent power, enough strength to see that it would not be made possible even for the commerce and industry to pay anything more than Rs. 2,000? Either they can tax the profits of the employers themselves or they may also lay down that for the purpose of taxation, any salary or income beyond Rs. 3,000 would be considered not as revenue expenditure, but as profits. So, if the Cabinet and Government decide that this is their policy, I do not think there is going to be any difficulty in bringing down the very high salaries that our administration have been paying, at the same time raising up the level, the strata of the lower people. I think that the Honourable Railway Minister should place before us the policy that the Government is going to follow. He will naturally say that they have not been considered, but I would suggest that as far as this particular question is concerned, he must also at least assure us that the discussion before this House will be placed at the earliest moment before the Cabinet, so that before the Finance Minister comes before us with his financial proposals, the Government will be in a position to declare its policy with regard to the higher salaries.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Khandubhai Desai raised an extremely important and an extremely interesting problem. I wish I were in a position to state to the House my personal views on that question, but I am not.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: My Honourable friend's suggestion was that in view of the conditions prevailing in this country, it was necessary to take steps of a pretty drastic character in order to remove the gross inequalities that exist today. I am entirely in sympathy with him. To what extent it has to be done and on what basis it has to be done, I am not in a position to express any views.

The real problem that has been raised in the motion moved by the Honourable Mover is the steps that we have taken in regard to the recommendations of the Pay Commission. We did not appoint the Pay Commission. Somebody else did. But it was part of our agreement with the Railwaymen's Federation that we would carry out as far as we could the proposals of that Commission in regard to railways. That, of course, applies to the lower scales with which the Railwaymen's Federation is concerned.

With regard to the Chief Commissioner and the Railway Board and the higher officers, the position as it emerges from the Pay Commission's recommendations is this: The Pay Commission recommended Rs. 3,000 for the Chief Commissioner. It recommended Rs. 2,750 for a Member of the Railway Board; it recommended also Rs. 2,750 for a General Manager. The Government's decision is that the Chief Commissioner's pay should be fixed at Rs. 3,250, that of a Member of the Railway Board at Rs. 3,000 and the pay of a General Manager Rs. 2,750.

An Honourable Member: Why this generosity?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, the reason why that was done was that so long as people work even in Government service, not entirely from motive of service, but also from motive of profit, to some extent there must be a little difference between the General Manager and the Member of the Railway Board who carries higher responsibilities. Once you get on to that stage, then you are up against the problem of providing another little margin between the Member of the Railway Board and the Chief Commissioner. That, I do not think is really the point that my Honourable friend raised. I think he was worried about the salaries shown in the budget which are higher than these figures. That arose elsewhere.

The Pay Commission's recommendation was with regard to people who entered the service before 1931. It was for Government to decide whether they should be brought on to the Pay Commission scale or whether they should be given the option to remain on their existing terms. Government decided that they should be given the option and therefore, all the officers who were recruited into the services before 1931—that applies not merely to railways, but to every department of Government—they have been given the option and they have exercised their option according to their varying circumstances whether they should remain on the pre-1931 scale or to the Pay Commission scale. All the officers whose salaries are shown in the budget are officers who joined the services before 1931. In view of the Government's decision, their option exercised in favour of remaining on the existing scales naturally entitled them to the salaries which they are drawing now. That is how the position stands at present. I am quite free to admit that this question of salaries in Government services is one that would require serious consideration at an early date. But the decision that we have come to so far are decisions arrived at within the narrow framework of the Pay Commission's recommendations but that is not by any means the last word on the subject.

I think this House and public opinion in the country would have to decide whether the time has not arrived for recasting the basis on which public servants are remunerated for their services.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Sir, may I ask a question? In as much as there is no possibility of any one employed after 1931 coming to the Railway Board for some years to come, am I to understand that the salaries of Members of the Railway Board and the Chief Commissioner cannot be reduced for some years to come?

5 P.M.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should say that is how matters stand at present.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know what the salary of the present incumbent would have been if there were no 'Quit India' movement?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact the real reason why the present Chief Commissioner was appointed to this post was not because the previous incumbent was bound to go; it was because Government considered that in the circumstances the present Chief Commissioner would be the best executive head of the railways. The previous occupant of that post was free to go on for some years.

Shri Khurshed Lal: I should like to know whether there is any lien on these posts. These posts are not on time-scale; is it necessary to appoint any one on the old salaries?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The decision that Government have arrived at is that people who chose to remain on the pre-1931 scales got not merely the salaries on their time-scale, but when they have finished the time-scale and are appointed to special administrative posts beyond the time-scale, they would get salaries that the posts carried at the time they were recruited into service.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Then am I to understand that we can reduce the salaries of these posts only by abolishing these offices?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This House is a sovereign body and it can do anything it likes.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 24th February, 1948.

GIPD—L—62LAD—27-1-48—904

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Tuesday, 24th February 1948

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS.

PURCHASE OF WHEAT FROM ARGENTINA.

427. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether any enquiry is being made for the purpose of purchasing wheat from Argentina?

(b) Is it a fact that Argentina has a surplus of 40,00,000 tons of wheat for export?

(c) What is the prevailing price of a ton of wheat in Buenos Aires?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member has made enquiries with regard to certain purchases which we tried to negotiate. But Government feel that it is not in the public interest to publish at this stage all the efforts they are making to secure foodstuffs to meet the situation in the country. The transactions to be made are of a commercial character and all references to the efforts being made in different quarters to secure high quantities at best prices may prejudice national interests. Information regarding their inquiries from various countries for this purpose cannot therefore be given by Government. But Government will have no objection to supplying all necessary information to the House after the transactions are completed.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any order has been placed in Argentina for the purchase of food?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Daulatram: As I said, we are trying to negotiate these purchases. Government at this stage feel that they should not give more information.

Seth Govinddas: Will the Government see that before the *rabi* crop comes, no import of grain should be negotiated for, because we are having sufficient grain and if the *rabi* crop comes.....

Mr. Speaker: I may point out to the Honourable Member that all questions making suggestions for action are inadmissible. These are restrictions under the rules.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Is Argentina a member of the international pool or not?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Daulatram: It is outside the pool.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether Government will see that no fabulous price is paid for the purchase?

Mr. Speaker: I invite the Honourable Member's attention to what I have just said with reference to a question put by Seth Govinddas.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will Government see that the purchase is made at competitive prices?

Mr. Speaker: It comes to the same thing.

FERTILISER PLANT AT SINDRI AND IN OTHER PROVINCES

428. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state when the fertilizer plant at Sindri is likely to be completed?

(b) Do Government intend to erect fertiliser plants in other Provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Towards the end of 1950.

(b) Yes, if practicable.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is there any fertilizer plant owned by any private manufacturer in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The other factory is at Travancore, which is really State-owned.

Seth Govinddas: Are there any provinces which have applied that such fertilizer companies shou d be developed? And if so, which are those provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Mardas wants one but we have not considered that until we make some progress in regard to our Bihar project.

Seth Govinddas: No other province except Madras?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am not sure. I think the Central Provinces also!

Seth Govinddas: That is what I wanted you to say!

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Do they want to scatter the construction of these plants various provinces or only in one province?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We shall have other factories.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: In which provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not know yet.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Have any sources for this raw material been found in India to replace the source from Malabar? We expect to get some gypsum within the Indian Union and we are investigating this possibility.

Seth Govinddas: Will Government see that priority should be given to those provinces which have applied first and not to provinces who applied later?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is very difficult for me to say what the policy will be. But we shall bear that request in mind.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN KANDLA AND JODHPUR BY CUTCH AND JODHPUR STATES

429. Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an agreement has been reached between the Cutch State and the Jodhpur State for construction of a railway line between Kandla and Jodhpur?

(b) Is it a fact that the sanction of the Railway Board for the construction of this railway line, has not yet been given?

(c) on what date did the above States apply to the Railway Board for such sanction?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of expediting the matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) An agreement has been reached between the Jodhpur and Cutch States for the survey and construction of a line between Kandla and Raniwara.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Jodhpur State applied to the Ministry of States for obtaining the consent of the Government of India to the construction of this Railway. The Ministry of States made a reference to the Railway Board on 19th January 1948, forwarding the traffic survey reports of the project and have asked for the Railway Board's comments.

(d) The construction of this line is closely linked with the question of development of Ports in Kathiawar. A Technical Committee is being appointed to consider the need for a major Port in the stretch of coasts covering Kathiawar and Cutch and a decision on the Kandla Raniwara Railway will be taken after the report of the Committee is received and considered by the Government.

AERODROMES IN INDIAN DOMINION AND ACCEDING STATES

430. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the names of places in the Dominion of India and the States which have acceded to India where Aerodromes exist?

(b) Do Government propose to build aerodromes at other stations? If so, where?

(c) What is the total maintenance cost per year of all aerodromes in India?

(d) What is the total income derived from licence fees and by way of postage stamps for air mail letters, etc.?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (b). I lay on the table of the House statements giving the requisite information.

(c) The total estimated cost of maintenance during 1947-48 of the Civil Aerodromes maintained by the Director General of Civil Aviation in India is Rs. 40,59,000. No information is available of the cost of maintenance of the aerodromes in the States.

(d) The net receipts from surcharges on inland and foreign air mails during 1946-47 amounted to Rs. 1,41,32,000. The estimated revenue for 1947-48 from fees for the grant and renewals of licences and certificates, landing and housing fees is Rs. 16,65,950.

Statement I.

International Aerodromes	Minor Aerodromes
1. Bombay Airport (Santa Cruz)	1. Akola.
2. Calcutta Airport (Dum Dum)	2. Amritsar.
3. Delhi (Palam)	3. Bareilly.
Major Aerodromes	4. Bilaspur.
1. Ahmedabad	5. Cuddapah.
2. Allahabad.	6. Donakonda.
3. Lucknow (Amausi)	7. Gauhati.
4. Madras (St. Thomas Mt.)	8. Gorakhpur (Kusmi).
5. Nagpur	9. Jhansi.
6. Patna. (Proposed to be taken over by the D.G.C.A. for development as a Central Government aerodrome).	10. Jorhat.
7. Vizagapatam	11. Jubbulpore.
Intermediate Aerodromes.	12. Khandwa.
1. Asansol.	13. Madura.
2. Banaras (Babatpur).	14. Manipur Road.
3. Bezwada.	15. Raipur.
4. Bombay (Juhu).	16. Rajahmundry.
5. Cawnpore (Civil).	17. Ramnad.
6. Cochin.	18. Saharanpur (Sarsawa).
7. Coimbatore.	19. Siliguri (Bagdogra).
8. Cuttack (Bhubaneswar).	20. Tanjore.
9. Delhi (Safdar Jung).	21. Tezpur.
10. Gaya.	22. Vellore.
11. Jhansuguda.	
12. Mohanbari.	
13. Trichinopoly.	

(This statement does not include allowances mentioned by the Defence Ministry).

Statement II.

Name of aerodrome	State in which located :
1. Agartala	Tripura.
2. Baroda.	Baroda.
3. Bangalore (H.A.L.)	Mysore.
4. Bangalore (Yellahanka)	Mysore.
5. Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar.
6. Bhopal	Bhopal.
7. Bhuj (Rudramala)	Kutch.
8. Bikaner (Nal)	Bikaner
9. Deesa	Palanpur
10. Gwalior (Maharajpur).	Gwalior.
11. Jaipur (Sanganer)	Jaipur.
12. Jammu	Jammu & Kashmir.
13. Jamnagar (Chela)	Nawanagar.
14. Jamnagar (Gordanpur)	Nawanagar.
15. Jodhpur	Jodhpur.
16. Keshod	Junagadh
17. Khambalia	Nawanagar.
18. Kolar	Mysore.
19. Mandvi	Kutch
20. Morvi	Morvi.
21. Porbandar	Porbandar.
22. Rajkot	Rajkot.
23. Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir.
24. Trivandrum	Travancore.
25. Wadhwan	Wadhwan.
26. Wankaner.	Wankaner.

Besides the above there are landing grounds at a large number of places which are not being maintained up to normal standards.

Statement III

New Civil Aerodromes which the Government of India proposed to construct.

1. Ajmer.
2. Aligarh.
3. Berhampur.
4. Calicut.
5. Cuddalore.
6. Dehra Dun.
7. Jubli.
8. Mangalore.
9. Nellore.
10. Ootacamund.
11. Salem.
12. Ratanagiri.
13. Saugor.
14. Surat.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know if an aerodrome exists in Bhuj in Cutch and that it has now been abandoned?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I require notice of that.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I have asked that question in part (a) of my question. I want to know from that statement.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Well, it is not on the list.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether an aerodrome exists in Bhuj?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I have said that I require notice of that question.

Seth Govinddas: Are Government aware that recently an air service has begun between Jubbulpore and Nagpur and that the Jubbulpore aerodrome is eleven miles from the town? Under those circumstances will Government see that the aerodrome which is nearer to the town is repaired and made fit for use?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Since the party concerned was in a hurry to start the service, we had to go to that aerodrome.

Seth Govinddas: Is Government going to improve the nearer aerodrome to Jubbulpore in the near future?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Not in the near future.

Seth Govinddas: How much time will it take to improve that aerodrome?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I do not know because the aerodromes which are immediately under construction and repairs will themselves take time and I do not know when the turn of the second aerodrome to Jubbulpore will come.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the growing need for more and more aerodromes and landing places for various purposes, including strategic purposes, is Government pursuing their earlier process of dismantling some of these aerodromes, removing these landing grounds and giving those lands back again to those people from whom they were taken?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Where the aerodrome is not detailed off, its rights of possession are given back to the owners or cultivators.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Was there an aerodrome in Bahadurgarh and is it being abandoned? Will Government see to the urgency of keeping more aerodromes roundabout Delhi and issue orders to stop their being dismantled?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I think we have sufficient aerodromes in Delhi and therefore the land goes back to the cultivators.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is either asking for opinion or making suggestions and not asking for information.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I shall ask a question for eliciting information, Sir. Is it a fact that there are lots of buildings standing on that aerodrome which can be used for refugees?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I do not know.

MEMORANDUM BY SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY WORKERS' UNION *re* ANOMALIESNI-FIXATION OF NEW SCALES OF PAY

431. *Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the South Indian Railway Workers' Union has, in its memorandum dated 2nd December 1947, brought to the notice of the South Indian Railway administration and the Government of India various instances of unfair fixation of scales of pay on the said railway?

(b) Are Government aware that a large number of experienced men on the said railway with twenty to thirty years of service are put on the same pay as new entrants with two or three years of service?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take to remove the anomalies pointed out?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) An advance copy of a Memorandum which is undated but purporting to come from the S. I. Railway Workers' Union, has been received but Government have not been able to examine in detail the contents of the Memorandum, pending its receipt through proper channel with the recommendations of the South Indian Railway Administration thereon.

(b) According to the method of fixation of initial pay in the prescribed scales recommended by the Central Pay Commission and accepted by Government, every employee is assured of a certain minimum benefit over his existing pay. Government are aware that, on the South Indian Railway, the method of fixation adopted has, in some cases, given rise to results as referred to.

(c) Government feel unable to depart widely from the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission and have already gone, as far as they could, in meeting the demands of the All India Railwaymen's Federation for the removal of some of the more glaring anomalies. Government have also recently agreed to representatives of the All India Railwaymen's Federation being associated with the machinery in the office of the Railway Board for discussing special points or anomalies in the implementing of the Central Pay Commission's recommendations and hope thereby that many of the questions still outstanding will be more expeditiously investigated and settled.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Has the attention of the Honourable Minister been drawn to the fixation chart issued by the South Indian Railway as addenda to the Railway Service Rules, 1947, according to which several categories of workers with services ranging from 10 to 39 years are now put on pay that an entrant of today would get in his second year of service?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That matter is the subject of a question that comes late.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government give equal opportunities to those unions which are not affiliated to the All India Railwaymen's Union and which are affiliated on the other hand to the Indian National Trade Union Congress so that they may also be consulted when these questions relating to the Pay Commission are being decided?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I think probably the Honourable Member would appreciate that in the settlement of questions of this kind it is better, as far as possible, and much more convenient from an administrative point of view if the Railway Board is in a position to deal with a single body, whether representing one Association or more associations. If the Railway Board is asked to discuss these questions with a variety of deputations, it is very difficult to come to a reasonable settlement. I would suggest to the Honourable Member that if there is any particular sector of labour opinion in which he is interested, they should associate themselves with others as far as the discussion of these outstanding questions is concerned.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Is the Honourable Minister aware that in connection with a number of committees and conferences held by the Government of India not only one representative organisation but also other national organisations of labour find representation and are consulted?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am puting this forward simply as a matter of administrative convenience, that if it would be possible for other labour associations to come and discuss with the Railway Board at the same time and in the same negotiations with the representatives of the All India Railwaymen's Federation, it would, to my mind, be more convenient from the administrative point of view and it would also be more advantageous from the labour point of view.

Mr. Speaker: I think this is a question which should be discussed with the Honourable Minister outside the House.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I, with your permission, ask one supplementary question, Sir?

دیوان چمن لال کیا میں پوچھ سکتا ہوں آنریبل منسٹر کہ اب اسوقت بے گفتگو ہوری ہے فیڈریشن اور بورڈ کے درمیان کیا تسلی بخش ہے؟

(Sir, May I ask the Honourable Minister whether negotiations which are, at present, going on between the All India Railwaymen's Federation and the Railway Board are proceeding satisfactorily?)

Mr. Speaker: That again is only a question of opinion.

LOWEST SCALES OF PAY FOR STAFF OF SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY

432. *Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that about 90 per cent. of the staff of the South Indian Railway are now put on the lowest prescribed scales of pay fixed for different categories of employees?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Government are informed that the number of posts in the lowest prescribed scales in the various principal and miscellaneous categories for which more than one scale has been prescribed ranges from 33 to 99 per cent. according to the strength in each category.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Is it a fact that 3,323 out of 3,478 general office clerks on the South Indian Railway, 1,124 out of 1,171 station masters, 901 out of 908 booking and parcel van clerks and 579 out of 592 goods clerks are at present put on the list of the prescribed scales of pay?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am unable to answer off hand the particular detailed question which the Honourable Member has put.

دیوان چمن لال کیا یہ ٹھیک ہے کہ آنریبل منسٹر نے وعدہ کیا تھا کہ سب سے نیچے کا جو اسکیل (scale) اُس میں نہیں رکھے جائینگے بلکہ اُس میں رکھے جائینگے جس پر پہلے تھے۔

Diwan Chaman Lall: Sir, Is it a fact that the Honourable Minister promised to place them on the scales of pay on which they were employed and not on the lowest scales of pay?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (Replied in Malayalam) I cannot answer the question since I do not follow it.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister promise to look into the case if the figures given are found to be correct and see that injustice is not done?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am prepared to look into that.

FIXATION OF LOW SCALES OF PAY FOR ARTISANS, STORE-KEEPERS AND SUB-HEADS IN RAILWAY DEPARTMENT

433. *Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that artisans, store-keepers and sub-heads, till recently drawing higher scales of pay than their assistants, are put on the lowest of the prescribed scales?

(b) Are Government aware that store-keepers at Golden Rock have asked the railway administration to relieve them of their stock responsibility for this reason?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) In equating the lowest prescribed scale to more than one existing scale on a uniform basis for all railways, it has been reported that on some railways like the S. I. Railway, staff who were hitherto holding selection and supervisory posts have been grouped with their assistance and placed on the lowest scales. The question of removing this anomaly is at present under consideration in consultation with the Railway Administrations concerned.

(b) Yes. The representation is receiving the attention of the Railway Administration.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: How long will it take to settle these questions?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They will have to be settled as quickly as possible.

ENQUIRY INTO SELECTION BOARDS OF SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY

434. *Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what was the result of the inquiry, conducted by the Conciliation Officer deputed by Government, into the functioning of the Selection Boards in the South Indian Railway?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Conciliation Officer, Madras after contacting representatives of the South Indian Railway Workers' Union as well as officers of the Railway Administration has so far submitted only an interim report to the Chief Labour Commissioner which is under examination. A further report is awaited from the Conciliation Officer and it is, therefore, not possible at present to give a reply to the question asked by the Honourable Member.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Do Government propose to publish the report of the Conciliation Officer?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That question should be addressed to the Labour Minister.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government appointed a Conciliation Officer for each Railway Administration, such as the S. I. Railway, M. S. M. Railway and so on?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should have notice of that question.

Diwan Chaman Lall: In view of the delays caused in making these enquiries through Conciliation Officers, has my Honourable friend considered the possibility of implementing the suggestions made by the Royal Commission on Labour (Whitley Commission, as it is called) regarding conciliation machinery, on the railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: These are matters which come within the province of the Labour Minister and not mine.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know whether it is not a fact that this particular type of machinery was specially recommended for railways alone?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not very familiar with the details of the Whitley Commission Report.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know whether the Honourable Minister will make himself familiar with it?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will consult the Labour Ministry and give the Honourable Member the information he wants.

LOWER SCALES OF PAY ON SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY

435. *Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the scale of pay on the South Indian Railway is much lower than that on most of the other Railways?

(b) If so, do Government propose to raise the pay on the South Indian Railway to the level of that on other railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government are aware that the scales of pay on the South Indian Railway were generally lower than these in force for corresponding categories of staff on other railways.

force for corresponding categories of staff on other railways.
by the Central Pay Commission and approved by Government have been introduced uniformly on all Indian Government Railways.

REORGANISATION OF INDIAN RAILWAY SYSTEM

†**436. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Government of India have evolved any scheme for the re-organisation of the existing railway systems and the amalgamation of certain railway administrations in India?

(b) If so, what are the details of the said scheme and do Government propose to lay a copy of the scheme on the table of the House?

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

(c) Do Government propose to publish the said scheme for inviting public criticism and also to afford the Legislature an opportunity to discuss it before a final decision is taken?

(d) If so, when is the scheme likely to be published?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Government have under consideration the question of the regrouping of existing railway systems. No decision has so far been arrived at and it is likely that some time will elapse before the matter can be finalised. Government will take the interests of the public served by the different railway administrations into account before a decision regarding regrouping of railways is taken.

ESTABLISHMENT OF BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS IN ORISSA

437. *Shri Lal Mohan Pati: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many miles of the Bengal Nagpur Railway pass through the Province of Orissa?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of establishing a Bengal Nagpur Railway District Headquarters at any suitable place in the Province of Orissa?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, when will it be possible for Government to establish it?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The mileage of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway passing through the province of Orissa, including the Orissa States, is 875 approximately.

(b) and (c). There is already a District Commercial Headquarters of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway at Khurda Road which is situated within the province of Orissa. As regards the location of the District Headquarters of other departments, *viz.*, Locomotive, Civil Engineering and Operating, the question is at present under consideration in consultation with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Administration.

Shri Lal Mohan Pati: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state when we can expect to have a definite answer as to the time by which it will be possible to open the District Headquarters in Khurda in all respects?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a matter which I am at present discussing with the local railway administration, and I will have a decision arrived at as early as possible.

MANUFACTURE OF MOTOR SPARE PARTS IN INDIA

438. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether any motor spare parts are being manufactured in India?

(b) Are Government aware that batteries for motor cars are almost impossible to get even in cities, like Delhi, Madras and Calcutta?

(c) Do Government propose to encourage the manufacture of motor car batteries and if so, what assistance do Government propose to give to individuals for starting this industry?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) There is no organised production of motor spare parts in India at present. A few items of motor vehicle spare parts such as pistons, gaskets, piston rings, batteries, radiator hoses, diaphragms are, however, manufactured by unorganised manufacturers. It is expected that in the next three years a large number of spare parts will be manufactured in India on an organised basis.

(b) Government have no definite information, as distribution of batteries is not controlled, but it is believed that they are now in short supply.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government have taken active steps to increase the production of batteries in India. With the assistance given to firms by Government for the import of machinery and raw materials there are now over 10 firms who are manufacturing batteries on a planned production basis, with an aggregate annual capacity of 248,000 numbers, as against an estimated domestic demand for 200,000 numbers. Steps are also being taken to encourage the manufacture of containers required for the manufacture of batteries.

Seth Govinddas: May I know what Government is doing with respect to the importation of the machinery of those two concerns which started a few years ago for preparing motor cars but whose work is not being started as they are not getting the machinery?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I believe, Sir, the Honourable Member refers to Premier Automobiles Limited and Hindustan Motors Limited.

Seth Govinddas: Yes.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are trying to give them as much facilities as is possible and it is believed that they will be able to start their work in the course of 1948.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government propose to regulate or control the unorganized manufacturing of spare parts to which the Honourable Minister has referred?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as batteries are concerned, we have in India nine factories which are now producing about 70,000 annually. This is expected to go up to 248,000 and we are encouraging them within our existing resources.

Seth Govinddas: Are Government aware that if certain alterations are made in the machinery of the Jubbulpore Ordnance factory, most of the motor car parts can be manufactured even in the government factory?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I can ask the Defence Minister to look into the matter—the Ordnance factories are under him.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to explain the reasons for continued control of motor spare parts while motor cars themselves are not controlled?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I believe the reason is to regulate the kind of supply that is needed. We want to organize the whole thing according to the scale which will be approved by Government and that is why some regulation is necessary.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether the manufacture of these batteries is confined to lead acid cells or are alkali cells being manufactured?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I cannot say definitely. But so far as my information goes, it relates to both.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Is it not a fact that lead is not available in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That may be so.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know why the distinction is made between batteries and other spare parts when both are in short supply?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Actually batteries are being manufactured in India more than the other spare parts.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it not a fact that the Government's desire to organize the distribution of spare parts has merely increased the difficulties of people who want them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not think so. We have been able to help in some cases.

SUPPLY OF WHEAT OR WHEAT PRODUCTS AND RICE TO WEST BENGAL FOR 1947-48

439. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) what quantities of rice and wheat or wheat products were supplied to West Bengal by the Government of India in the year 1947;

(b) whether any allotments of rice and wheat or wheat products have been made for West Bengal for the year 1948 and if not, why not;

(c) whether any representation has been made by the Government of West Bengal regarding the allotment of food-stuffs and if so, what the quantity of each variety asked for is; and

(d) whether Government have taken any action in connection with such representation and if so, what it is?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) From 1st January 1947 to 15th August 1947, the following supplies were made by the Government of India to the Government of United Bengal:

Wheat and Wheat Products.	59,204 tons.
Barley.	46,049 tons.
Gram.	16,337 tons.
Maize.	13,522 tons.
Rice.	27,195 tons.

From 15th August 1947 to 31st December 1947 the following supplies were made to the Government of West Bengal by the Government of India:

Wheat and Wheat products.	50,745 tons.
Barley.	8,000 tons.
Gram.	3,547 tons.
Maize.	6,650 tons
Rice.	30,241 tons.

(b) For 1948, a ceiling import quota of two lakh tons consisting of 140,000 tons of wheat and 60,000 tons of barley has been allotted to West Bengal.

(c) It has been represented to the Government of India that the ceiling import quota is inadequate.

(d) The Government of India have promised to give all possible assistance to Bengal subject to the limited resources available at their disposal and other competing demands, but no further definite commitment for the whole year's supply to Bengal can be given at this stage, as the Government of India are not sure at present of what they will be able to import; nor can they anticipate at present where new demands on account of failure of *rabi* or some such unpredictable cause may arise later in the year.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: Does the Honourable Minister know the number of rice and wheat ration card holders in the province of Bengal?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I suppose, Sir, I cannot be expected to give an answer to that.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: Does he know, that only four chattaks of rice and wheat are given to the ration card holders in Bengal?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am quite prepared to accept that statement. All I can say is that Government are aware of the difficult times through which people are passing in certain provinces. All the resources at the disposal of the Government of India are at the disposal of the provinces and we make the best possible effort to see that the minimum inconvenience is suffered anywhere.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know whether the attention of the Honourable Minister has been drawn to the fact that only the other day the Minister in charge of Civil Supplies in Bengal has come forward with a statement that there is no prospect of any increase of ration so far as rice or wheat in Bengal is concerned?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: My attention has been drawn to that statement. But things may improve.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know, Sir, how long the province of Bengal will have to live on this meagre supply: do the Government of India propose to increase the supply of rice and wheat to Bengal?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As I said, the Government of India represents the people of India and the interests of all the provinces will be safeguarded. There is no question of favouritism being shown to one province at the cost of another province.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the ration that is allowed in Bengal is much higher than what is allowed in Madras?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Possibly so.

RUNNING OF GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS IN THREE CONNECTED SECTIONS FROM DELHI TO MADRAS

440. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the answers given to starred question No. 27, asked by R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar on the 30th January, 1948 and to its supplementaries and state whether Government propose to consider the advisability of running the Grand Trunk Express in three separate but connected sections, *i.e.*, Delhi to Balharshah, Balharshah to Bezwada and Bezwada to Madras to obviate some of the difficulties pointed out by him?

(b) Do Government propose to compare the running of the Grand Trunk Express with the running of G. I. P. Trains Nos. 5 and 6 (Punjab Mail) and Nos. 197 and 198 (Peshawar Express) which have to run upto Itarsi on the same track with all the handicaps mentioned by him and yet do not run habitually so late, and state the reasons for this vast difference in the running of these two different sets of train?

(c) In view of the fact that the real traffic bottleneck is much more between Itarsi and Nagpur, than between Itarsi and Bhopal, do Government propose to examine the necessity of taking up the doubling of this section first?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a), (b) and (c). The problems relating to the running of Grand Trunk Express which have been a source of continual anxiety to the Government are being taken up for special investigation and the points raised by the Honourable Member will receive careful consideration in connection therewith.

SUBSIDIES BY GOVERNMENT AND QUANTITY OF MANURES AND FERTILIZERS USED IN COORG UNDER GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

441. *Shri C. M. Poonacha: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of manures and fertilizers used in Coorg during the years 1944-45, 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48 under the Grow More Food Campaign;

(b) the quantity of groundnut cake, Sulphate of Ammonia and bone-meal separately;

(c) the amount subsidised by the Government of India towards the cost of these manures and fertilizers;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Province of Madras has banned the export of these manures and fertilizers to Coorg this year; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to take necessary action immediately, so as to enable Coorg to import the required quantity of manures and fertilizers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). A statement (No. I) showing the quantities of manures and fertilisers used in Coorg under Grow More Food Campaign since 1944-45 is placed on the table of the House.

(c) A statement (No. II) showing the grants sanctioned to the Coorg Administration for the subsidised sale of manures and fertilisers is placed on the table of the House.

(d) The Government of Madras have prohibited the export of manures and fertilisers to any place outside the Province and not merely Coorg except under permits issued by them. Due to heavy deficit of manures and with a view to to conserving their resources, the Madras Government did not allow the export of manures to Coorg this year.

(e) The Coorg Administration is free to obtain the requirements of oilcakes and bone-meal from any available source in the country. Regarding Sulphate of Ammonia, the Government of India have already met the requirements of Coorg in full by allocating 30 tons of this fertiliser during the current fertiliser year.

Statement I

Showing the grants sanctioned to the Coorg Administration for the subsidised distri- bution of manures and fertilisers.

Name of the scheme	Amount of grant sanctioned for subsidy	Quantity involved
1944-45	Rs.	Tons
1. Distribution of oil-cake to growers of paddy .	30,000	400
2. Distributin of Ammonium Sulphate at 50% of cost price	5,000	25
1945 -46		
3. Shceme for chnducting experimental tests with Ammonium Sulphate in comparison with Ammonium Nitrate . . .	2,205	9
1946-47		
4. Distribution of Ammonium Sulphate . .	2,345	25
5. Distribution of Ground-nut cake . . .	22,500	500
1947-48		
6. Distribution of bone-meal . . .	14,966	166
7. Distributuion of Ammonium Sulphate . .	2,822	23

Statement II

Showing the quantities of manures and Fertilisers used in Coorg under the 'Grow More Food' Campaign from 1944-45 to 1947-48.

Year	Sulphate of Ammonia	Groundnut cakes	Bonemeal
	Tons	tons	Tons
1944-45 . . .	Nil	Nil	Nil
1945-46 . . .	25	394	Nil
1946-47 . . .	24	443	Nil
1947-48 . . .	12	Nil	46

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Is it a fact, Sir, that this annual grant for subsidising the supply of fertilisers for Coorg has now been stopped?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I require notice of that question.

EXPORT OF PADDY FROM COORG TO MYSORE STATE AND MADRAS.

442. *Shri C. M. Poonacha: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state the quantity of surplus paddy exported from Coorg to the Mysore State and the Province of Madras during the years 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48?

(b) What is the quantity of surplus paddy available this year for export from Coorg?

(c) Under whose orders was the surplus paddy exported from Coorg to Mysore and Madras?

(d) Do Government propose to issue necessary directions to these two Governments (*viz.* Mysore and Madras) to supply the required manures and fertilizers to Coorg?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Exports during 1945-46 and 1946-47 of paddy from Coorg were as follows:

1945-46	Mysore	11,480 tons
	Madras	Nil ,,
		11,480 ,,
1946-47	Mysore	7,738 tons
	Madras	5,026 ,,
		12,764 tons
1947-48	Please see answer to part (b)	

(b) For 1947-48 Coorg has declared an exportable surplus of 7,500 tons. Out of this, 3,000 tons have been allotted to Mysore for export during the quarter, January to March 1948. So far only 426 tons have been exported.

(c) Uunder the instructions of the Central Government in accordance with the Central Basic Plan of allocations.

(d) No; Allotment of foodgrains from surplus to deficit areas made by the Central Government in accordance with their Basic Plan did not impose upon the recipients any such obligations, and it would not therefore be proper to give the proposed directions to Mysore and Madras.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the quantity of paddy produced in Coorg in a normal year?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I want notice of that question.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Sir, in view of the fact that there is a steady decline in the export from Coorg would the Government of India consider the feasibility of issuing some sort of a direction to the neighbouring States or provinces to supply the necessary fertilisers or manures to Coorg?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think we cannot give any instructions or directions to a province like Madras, which itself today is in dire need of fertilisers.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Would it not be in their own interest that a certain amount of tillip is given for the production of food-grains in Coorg in order to augment their own supply to their deficit area?

Mr. Speaker I am afraid the question will not be admissible.

APPOINTMENT OF CATTLE PROTECTION COMMITTEE.

443. *Shri Ram Sahai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state when the Committee, appointed by Government for the protection of cattle, started functioning and when it is likely to finish its work?

(b) What are the names of the persons serving on this Committee?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The first meeting of the Cattle Development and Preservation Committee was held on the 18/20th February, 1948. It is expected that the work of this Committee will be concluded before the next session of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative).

(b) A list showing the names of the members of the Committee is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Showing names of the members of the Cattle Preservation and Development Committee.

1. Sardar Bahadur Sir Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and Cattle Utilisation Adviser to the Government of India—Chairman.
2. Rai Bahadur P. N. Nanda, Animal Husbandry Commissioner with the Government of India.
3. Mr. N. B. Shahi, Director of Veterinary Service, C. P. and Berar.
4. Dr. Zal, B. Kothawalla, Dairy Development Adviser to the Government of India.
5. L. Hardev Sahai, Secretary, Gau Rakshini Sabha, Hissar.
6. Rai Bahadur J. N. Manker, Honorary Secretary, Bombay Humanitarian League, 149, Shroff Bazar, Bombay.
7. Sardar Bahadur Harchand Singh, Agricultural Commissioner, Patiala.
8. Guru Partap Singh, Bhaini Sahib, District Ludhiana.
9. Shri Dharam Lal Singh, Secretary, Bihar Gowshala Federation, Sadaqat Ashram, Patna, P. O. Dighaghat.
10. Mr. Satish Chandra Dass Gupta, Khadi Pratisthan, Sodepur near Calcutta
11. Shri Mahabir Parshad Poddar, Gorakhpur.
12. Shrimati Jankibhai Bajaj, President Cow Protection Committee, Wardha.

Seth Govinddas: Are Government aware of the fact that in spite of various orders of theirs that the slaughter of cows, bullocks and calves of a particular age should not take place, such orders are not obeyed and indiscriminate slaughter of cattle still goes on?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government will go into this matter.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: May I know, Sir, whether the activities of the Cattle Development and Preservation Committee extend to the cattle population of the States also?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think it will be able to cover those of the States which have acceded.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What are the various species included in the term 'cattle'?

Mr. Speaker: That question is not admissible.

GRANTS TO EAST PUNJAB FOR SINKING WELLS.

444. ***Ch. Ranbir Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the grant allotted to East Punjab for the year 1947-48 for the purpose of sinking wells;

(b) the sum spent out of this grant;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to disturbances and partition, he programme of sinking wells had to be postponed; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to include the said amount together with the allotment for the year 1948-49 in the Budget Estimates for the year 1948-49?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a), (b) and (c). A grant of Rs. 50 lakhs was sanctioned to the Government of the Punjab before the Partition for the sinking of wells during 1947-48. The amount spent out of this in East Punjab is not yet known. The disturbances and partition obviously had some effect on the programme of sinking wells. After the Partition the Government of the East Punjab was asked to submit a revised scheme to cover the existing boundaries of the Province but the Provincial Government have not so far submitted any scheme.

(d) If the Government of the East Punjab launch a scheme for the sinking of wells during 1948-49 which offsets the effect of postponement the Government of India on their part will be prepared to consider favourably the inclusion of the unspent amount intended for East Punjab.

ALLOTMENT OF FOOD GRAINS TO WEST BENGAL IN VIEW OF INCREASED POPULATION

445. ***Shri Arun Chandra Guha:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement made by the Premier of West Bengal recently, that the Government of India have not made any allotment of foodgrains for West Bengal for the year 1948-49;

(b) whether the Government of India have ascertained if the last paddy crop will be sufficient to meet the needs of West Bengal for the year;

(c) whether Government are aware that a large number of immigrants have been and are coming into West Bengal from East Bengal and other parts of India;

(d) whether it is a fact that since 1943-44, the Government of India have been taking the responsibility of feeding the people of Calcutta and the industrial areas; and

(e) whether Government are aware that about 25 per cent. of the total population of West Bengal live in Calcutta and its industrial areas and that no foodgrain is grown in these areas?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes. The statement is incorrect in so far it omits to mention the fact that an allocation of 200,000 tons has been given to Bengal for 1948 under central Basic Plan.

(b) Figures necessary to compare paddy crop in West Bengal during 1948 with that of 1947 are not available. Given intensive procurement by Bengal Government and economy by the public and all possible assistance that the Centre could give to Bengal, it is hoped that unless something unforeseen happens they would be able to tide over the situation.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Government of India assumed responsibility for meeting the entire food demand of Calcutta on rationed basis only during 1944, that is to say in the year after the famine, when conditions were exceptional but in subsequent years the responsibility has lain with the Bengal Government and the central allocations made to Bengal have been on the same basis as for other provinces.

(e) Government are fully aware of the concentration of population in Calcutta and its industrial character and they have taken full account of the demands of this population in the allocation already made to West Bengal.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know whether the Honourable Minister is going to make any extra allotment in view of the fact that a large number of people have been pouring into West Bengal from East Bengal.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government will consider any excess of population in any province from the Pakistan area. The whole question has to be considered from time to time and we are watching the situation very carefully, and if necessity arises and suplies are available, the requirements of all parts of India will be met.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that more than ten lakhs have migrated from East Bengal to West Bengal?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The newspapers give that figure.

COLLEGES FOR TRAINING INDIAN FOREST SERVICE PERSONNEL

446. ***Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the location of colleges for training Indian Forest Service personnel;

(b) whether Government propose to re-open the Forest Training College at Coimbatore;

(c) whether the number of men trained from the existing colleges is adequate to meet the requirements of the country; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the plans of Government to train the requisite number of men?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) There are three Colleges for training Indian Forest Service Personnel at Dehra Dun: The Indian Forest College for Gazeted Officers, and the Indian Forest Rangers' College, at Dehra Dun, and the Madras Forest College for Rangers at Coimbatore.

(b) The Madras Government re-opened the College at Coimbatore in 1945.

(c) They are adequate for the present and immediate future demand but not for a full development of the Indian Forests.

(d) In their post-war plans the Government of India had provided for accelerated training of Forest Officers at the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, but difficulties are in regard to material and staff have retarded the proposed expansion at Dehra Dun. The Government of India are now considering a proposal to take over the Coimbatore College as well, which if utilised to full capacity, can relieve the pressure on Dehra Dun. These two together will then be able to train the full number required for the present.

Seth Govinddas: Is it a fact that the C.P. being a province of vast forests, the Central Provinces Government have written to the Government of India to have a college of the kind at Dehra Dun in the Central Provinces also?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Seth Govinddas: Are Government contemplating to give aid to the Central Provinces Government to start this college?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter is being considered.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know if any persons are being sent to Oxford for study in forestry?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I want notice of that question.

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW ROUTES IN INDIA AND NEW AERODROMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

447. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the places in the Indian Union where aerodromes are under construction and the probable dates of their completion; and

(b) the new air-routes for which applications have been received and are under consideration of Government and the probable dates of commencement of air traffic in these routes?

The Honourble Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement I showing the Civil Aerodromes in the Provinces of India where major construction works are in progress. This works programme covers a period of 5 years.

(b) Grant of licences for the operation of scheduled air services is the function of the Air Transport Licensing Board. I lay on the table a statement II showing new routes for which applications for grant of licences are under consideration by the Board. Probable date of commencement of the services on these routes cannot be anticipated as the licensing of such services depends on various technical and economic factors which require detailed and careful consideration by the Board.

Stotement I

Showing Civil Aerodromes in the Provinces of India where major construction works are in progress.

International Aerodromes.

1. Bombay Airport (Santa Cruz).
2. Calcutta Airport (Dum Dum).
3. Delhi Airport (Palam).

Major Aerodromes.

1. Ahmedabad.
2. Allahabad.
3. Lucknow (Amausi).
4. Madras (St. Thomas Mt.)
5. Nagpur.
6. Vizagapatam.

Intermediate Aerodromes.

1. Banaras (Babatpur).
2. Cuttack (Bhubaneshwar).

Minor Aerodromes.

1. Amritsar.

2. Gauhati.
3. Siliguri (Bagdogra).

Statement II.

Showing new routes for which applications for grant of licences are under consideration by the Air Transport Licencing Board.

1. Delhi-Lahore-Rawalpindi-Srinagar.
2. Lahore-Bikaner-Jodhpur-Ahmedabad.
3. Calcutta-Siliguri-Cooch Bihar.
4. Bombay-Indore-Bhopal-Cawnpore-Lucknow.
5. Calcutta-Dacca-Sylhet-Tezpur-Dinjan.
6. Bombay-Poona-Belgaum-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Cochin-Trivandrum.
7. Calcutta-Chittagong-Akyab-Yonanguaung-Rangoon.
8. Delhi-Gwalior-Jubbulpore-Cocanada-Bezwada-Madras.
9. Patna-Gaya-Koderma-Hazaribagh-Ranchi-Jamshedpur-Purulia-Asansol-Dhanbad-Giridih-Deoghar-Jamui-Behar-Patna.
10. Patna-Chapra-Siwan-Hathwa-Gopalganj-Bettiah-Mothihari-Sitamarhi-Madhubani-Darbhanga-Muzaffarpur-Patna.
11. Patna-Arrah-Buzar-Sasaram-Dehri-Deltonganj-Gaya-Patna.
12. Madras-Andamans-Rangoon-Mandalay.
13. Bombay-Hyderabad (Sind).
14. Dum Dum-Bhubaneshwar-Vizianagaram-Vizagapatam-Bezwada-Bangalore-Trichinopoly-Colombo.
15. Calcutta-Benaras-Bhopal-Bombay-Lahore.
16. Calcutta-Dacca-Sylhet-Comilla-Chittagong-Calcutta.
17. Nagpur-Jubbulpore-Cawnpore-Allahabad.
18. Bombay-Bellary-Madras Colombo.
19. Bombay-Gao.
20. Agra-Delhi-Saharanpur-Ambala-Amritsar-Rawalpindi.
21. Jamnagar-Mandvi-Bhuj.
22. Bombay-Madras-Rangoon.
23. Calcutta-Cuttack-Vizagapatam-Madras-Pondicherry-Madura-Colombo.
24. Delhi-Jaipur-Jodhpur-Bikaner.
25. Karachi-Jaipur-Agra-Benaras-Calcutta.
26. Lucknow-Bareilly-Rampur-Moradabad-Hardwar-Dehra Dun-Meerut-New Delhi.
27. Lucknow-Allahabad-Benaras-Allahabad-Jhansi-Gwalior-Agra-Aligarh-New Delhi.
28. Lucknow-Gorakhpur-Lucknow-Cawnpore-Jhansi-Agra.
29. Lucknow-Bareilly-Haldwani-Meerut-Dehra Dun.
30. Bombay-Karachi-Jiwani-Sharjah-Basra-Baghdad.
31. Calcuta-Patna-Jubbulpore-Bombay.
32. Calcutta-Lalmonirhat-Gauhati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Dinjan or Chebua.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether there is any application for a new service between Madras and Delhi?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes, there is an application for a new service between Madras and Delhi.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: May I know whether the Government are constructing aerodromes in the States also since the Honourable Minister has laid on the table a statement showing the aerodromes in the Provinces?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: For the present the Government has not undertaken any construction of aerodromes in the States.

(c) It is the intention of Government to extend the drive to all Provinces. The Bihar and Bombay Governments have already indicated their willingness to co-operate in this matter. The Assam Government are assisting by providing the help of armed police on the worst affected sections and they have in addition appointed a special magistrate to try cases in a mobile court. Measures adopted by Railways include the inauguration of a special publicity campaign directed towards securing public co-operation in combating ticketless travel, the provision of improved facilities for purchasing tickets and booking luggage, a stricter check on 'Entrances' and 'Exits' at stations, the appointment of additional checking staff, the introduction of a greater element of surprise in checking, the reduction of opportunities for collusion by controlling Travelling Ticket Examiners from a Central Office, and the co-operation of railway officers of all departments in a drive against irregularities both at stations and in trains. Fencing is being provided or strengthened at stations as rapidly as existing conditions permit.

Seth Govinddas: The Honourable Minister said that the returns of the booking offices have increased. Is there any booking office in any part of India where these receipts have gone down, or everywhere they have increased?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is much too soon to tell; I have based it entirely on the report that I had for a fortnight from certain areas of the U. P. I am not in a position to answer this general question.

Md. R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated that 25,452 prosecutions were launched. May I know how much money has been realised from the ticketless travellers from these prosecutions?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That I am unable to say offhand.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In how many cases were convictions obtained in regard to these prosecutions?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That again is a matter for which I require notice.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Which Railway showed the highest incidence of ticketless travel?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have said more than once in this House that the O. T. Railway happens to have the highest incidence.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: Does the Railway Administration try the technique of surprise mass checkings of trains at out of the way roadside stations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is precisely the method that is being followed in the U. P.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: Does the Railway Administration think of trying the same technique on other Railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, Sir.

گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر : کیا آنریبل منسٹر اس بات سے واقف ہیں کہ without ticket سفر کرنے والوں کی تعداد اس وجہ سے بھی بڑھی ہے کہ بہت سے سٹیشنوں پر Printed ticket ملتی ہی نہیں ہیں –

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Is the Honourable Minister aware that people are travelling without tickets because printed tickets are not available at many stations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am aware of that; we are trying our best to meet that difficulty.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Were any prosecutions launched against those officers and employees of the Railways who have been found to be colluding with some of these ticketless travellers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Certainly

Shri Khurshed Lal: Is it a fact, Sir, that there is lot of ticketless travelling on trains starting from Delhi for Ghaziabad and does Government propose to take steps for checking at Delhi Station?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is a very active campaign organised in connection with the Delhi Station.

LOCOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT OF EAST PUNJAB RAILWAY RECEIVED FROM NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY HEADQUARTERS

450. *Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that at the time of the partition of the Punjab, a portion of the stores components for the up-keep of locomotives and other equipment at the North Western Railway Headquarters and workshops were allotted to the Government of India for the use of the East Punjab Railway?

(b) If so, has the whole of it since been received by the East Punjab Railway?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) At the time of the partition of the North Western Railway, permanent-way, bridge, signal, electrical, medical and general stores and foodgrains were divided; the maintenance of locomotives of the Eastern Punjab Railway was to be done by the North Western Railway (Pakistan).

(b) No. A small proportion of the foodgrains due to the Eastern Punjab Railway and 8 wagon loads of locomotive and carriage and wagon component parts, etc., have been received by the Eastern Punjab Railway from the North Western Railway; the receipt of other stores is awaited.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: When do Government expect to receive the remaining allotment?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The matter has been the subject of constant communication between us and the Pakistan Railways, and recently at my instance the matter was taken up at the highest possible level; the Prime Minister has addressed a strong communication to the Pakistan Government and I believe a larger release will be possible in the near future.

Shri K. Santhanam: Had any stores to be sent from here to Pakistan and have they all been sent?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They are being sent.

RESUMPTION OF RUNNING OF FRONTIER MAIL BEYOND DELHI

451. *Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state why the running of the Frontier Mail beyond Delhi, which was stopped owing to the disturbances in the middle of August 1947, has not been resumed?

(b) What is the approximate date by which this is likely to be resumed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The passenger traffic now offering does not justify the resumption of running of the Frontier Mails beyond Delhi.

(b) In view of the reply to part (a) it is not possible to state when the running of these trains will be resumed.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether there is no traffic between Delhi and Amritsar for the Frontier Mail?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There are four trains running between Delhi and Amritsar and one of them starts from Bombay and goes right up to Amritsar.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the position with regard to the old Peshawar Express?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is gone.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Is there any railway communication for passengers between India and Pakistan at the moment?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am afraid, not.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Do Government propose to establish some kind of communication in the near future?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to answer the question at present.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIM EMPLLOYEES OPTING FOR PAKISTAN ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY.

452. *Dr. B. V. Keskar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Muslim employees of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway who had finally opted for Pakistan are being reposted to their original posts?

(b) What are the reasons for the reversal of policy of Government with regard to the personnel who opted for Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No. Nine Muslim employees of the O. T. Railway who had opted finally for Pakistan were reposted to their original posts some time back following an incorrect declaration made by them. As soon as these cases came to notice, the staff concerned were discharged from service and action was also taken to avoid a recurrence of such cases.

(b) There is no reversal of Government's policy in regard to personnel who opted for Pakistan.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: If the names of such employees are supplied to Government will the Government be prepared to take action?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, I should like to have the information.

REGULATION OF RATES AND FITTING OF METERS IN TAXIS IN DELHI.

453. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government are aware that taxis in Delhi are not fitted with meters and that their charges are not regulated in any manner?

(b) Are Government aware that a trip from Old Delhi to New Delhi and back generally costs about Rs. 20 whereas at the rates prevalent in Bombay and Calcutta, it should not cost more than Rs. 5?

(c) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an editorial note published in the *Statesman* dated the 29th January 1948 on the subject?

(d) Do Government propose to take steps to see that all taxis are fitted with meters?

(e) Do Government propose to import taxi meters and if the same are not available in India, do they propose to direct the licensing Board not to pass any taxis which are not fitted up with meters?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes. While taxis in Delhi are not fitted with meters, their charges are, regulated by a tariff issued by the Provincial Transport Authority in Delhi.

(b) No. A comparative statement of basic taxi fares in force at present in Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta is laid on the table of the House. A trip which according to these rates should cost Rs. 20 in Delhi will cost Rs. 23-8 and Rs. 17-7 in Calcutta and Bombay respectively.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes, compulsory fitting of taxi meters will be enforced as soon as meters become available in the market.

(e) No. Any direction to the Licensing Board on the lines suggested by the Honourable Member will cause a breakdown of taxi services in Delhi, as due to world shortage of taxi meters, it is not possible to import them in sufficient numbers.

Statement

Showing the comparative rates of motor car fares in Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi

Fares	Calcutta	Bombay	Delhi	Remarks
Per mile				
(*i*) For the first mile or part thereof	Re. 1/-	As. 9/-	As. 12/-	
(*ii*) For miles after the first, upto five miles	*As. 12/-	As. 9/-	As. 12/-	*As. 2 for every 1/6th of a mile.
(*iii*) For miles after the first five miles	do.	do.	As. 10/-	
Detention charges	nil.	As. 2 for 5 minutes	As. 2 for 4 minutes.	
Empty haulage if discharged outside municipal limits	nil.	nil.	1/4 of the above rate for the distance between the place of discharge and the municipal limit.	
Additional fare per mile if more than three passengers are carried.	nil.	nil.	As. 4/- per adult and As. 2/- per child.	
Additional fare per mile for travel during the hours of 12 p.m. to 5 a.m.	nil	nil.	As. 2/-	
Additional fare for carriage of packages not nomally carried by hand.	nil.	nil.	As. 2/- per package.	

454. *[Cancelled]

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

(Postponed from 20th February, 1948)

CONTRACT SYSTEM FOR HANDLING B. B. AND C. I. RAILWAY TREASURY AND APPLICATION OF PAY COMMISSIONS RECOMMENDATIONS TO STAFF

†360. ***Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is a contract system in handling treasury on the Broad Gauge line of the B.B.&C.I. Railway?

(b) If so, what is the reason for retaining this system?

(c) Has such a system been abolished on the N. W. Railway and if so, why?

(d) Are Government aware that the treasury contractor on the B.B. & C.I. Railway, Broad Gauge, does not recognize the Staff Union organized by a recognized association (B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Association), and if so, why?

(e) Is it a fact that the treasury staff do not get advantage of the recommendations of the Pay Commission?

(f) Do Government propose to abolish the contract system? If so, when? If not, why not?

(g) Are Government aware that the treasury staff are going to stage a symbolic strike?

(h) Do Government propose to look into the grievances of the staff concerned and redress them?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) The reasons for retaining this system are that:

(i) the arrangement has been working satisfactorily ever since 1921.

(ii) a large security is given by the contractor and the Government is fully protected against loss of all kind by the Contractor, his Agents or Employees. The system is also flexible in that specialised trained staff are provided by the contractor whenever required.

(c) On the partition of the country the Cash Contractor was not willing to continue his contract for the work on the N. W. Railway in Pakistan and that Railway decided to have the work done departmentally.

(d) It is understood that the Contractor on B.B. and C.I. Railway, Board Gauge, has agreed to recognise the staff union.

(e) As the Contractor's staff are not Government servant, the recommendations of the Pay Commission do not apply to them.

(f) Not for the present for the reasons stated in answer to (b) above.

(g) and (h). It is understood that the Contractor's staff has given up the idea of staging a symbolic strike. The dispute between the Contractor and his staff has been referred for conciliation by the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) Bombay to the Conciliation Officer Central (Bombay) and negotiations are in progress. The Government has not been approached by the staff for redress of any grievances.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the question hour being over.

BUDGET AS CORRECTED OF THE RAILWAY REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE—LAID ON THE TABLE

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the *Budget of the Railway Revenue and Expenditure of the Governor General, February 1948, as corrected.

RAILWAY BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE

DEMAND NO. 4—WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,98,43,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Administration'."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,98,43,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Administration'."

DEMAND NO. 9—WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister may move Demand No. 9 also.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,30,37,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,30,37,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

DEMAND NO. 4—WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION

Ground Elevators and Special Facilities for Working and Movement of Agricultural Commodities especially Foodstuffs

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Working Expenses—Administration' be reduced by Re. 1."

Sir, I find and everyone knows, that foodstuffs comprise one of the biggest items producing goods revenue to the Railways, and yet, the Railways have not been taking the least amount of trouble and care to encourage this traffic and to help those who are interested in sending their foodstuffs including oil seeds through the Railways to the places of their destination, namely, the consumption centres. If you will look at the Chapter on Goods Revenue, Statement No. 13 in Volume II of the Report of the Railway Board, you will find all the statistics that one wants in regard to this matter. So far as grain and oilseeds are concerned, as much as Rs. 15 crores are being derived by the Railways as opposed to Rs. 9 crores from coal and Rs. 69 crores from other commodities. Therefore, we find that grain and oilseeds alone contribute easily 15 per cent. of the total revenue from goods traffic, and yet, are we quite sure that the Railways are giving even five per cent. attention to the conveniences that are needed for the transport of goods by the Railways? I am afraid the answer is in the negative.

Then, Sir, in the pamphlet that they have published, on the policy that guides Government in fixing the freight rates for goods traffic, it is stated that so far as raw materials are concerned, both for agriculture as well as for industry, lower rates should be fixed than for consumers goods, because the

*Not printed in these Debates. Copy placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed. Deb.*

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

consumers goods are expected to carry a heavier rate than raw materials, and in addition to that, an idea of public benefit is also brought in there that these raw-materials being the fundamental factors of production for the manufactured goods they should be helped in every possible manner in their movements by a lower scale of freight rates. But I find, Sir, that the concession that is actually enjoyed by the grains is not very much. In actual practice, we found that in 1946-47, whereas for all other commodities only 11.1 pies was being collected for one mile per ton of goods, as much as 9.8 pies was charged for grain and oilseeds. So there was only less than 2 pies difference between grain and oilseeds and other commodities. I am afraid, this difference is not enough if we are really to encourage the grain and oilseeds traffic.

Then, Sir, look at the way the Railways treat themselves. When it comes to the coal that is needed for their consumption, they charge only 2.25 pies per mile and when the public want coal they charge as much as 3.19 pies. Even then coal is being charged only one-third as much as grain and oilseeds are being charged. I quite understand the importance of coal as being the most basic raw-material for all industries including the Railways, but even then, is there any justification for so much of a difference between the rate charged for coal and the rate charged for grain? I would rather think that coal might be expected to carry a heavier rate and grain and oilseeds may be expected to carry a little lower rate and other commodities may be expected to carry a little higher rate, so that the difference between these three kinds of rates for the different materials carried by the Railways may be much more evenly and much more justly graded.

Then, Sir, coming to the other point, namely, what is being done for their benefit and encouragement, we know in very many cases open trucks are being utilised for the conveyance of foodgrains and also oilseeds, with the result that they are exposed to the vicissitudes of seasons and naturally they reach the consumers in a very damaged condition, and that is not conducive either to the consumers or to the producers and it certainly hurts the whole of the community. Secondly, Sir, in all these cases, not enough care is taken at the goods sheds to protect the foodgrains as well as oilseeds from the vicissitudes of the seasons and also from pilferers or robbers or rogues and it generally happens that by the time any stuff reaches the consumer quite a good portion of it has been lost and the Railways protect themselves by saying that they will not be held responsible for any such loss. And who really are the people who pilfer these foodgrains? We cannot very well say it is only the public; possibly a portion of the public may also come in, but I do not think more than 25 per cent. of these losses are due to pilfering indulged in by the public, but the other 75 per cent. must be placed at the doors of the Railway Administration itself. Which particular section of their employees really indulge in this sort of thing is not material just at present. From the station master right down to the gang cooly, may be, everybody has his hand in it. My Honourable friend mentioned in fact. . . .

Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): How can the public approach the station?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You have yourself answered it, but if I may add one word more, I can say that the railway stations are the less approachable things in these days and the public also cannot very well go in and have a hand in it. My honourable friend is very glad that I have admitted that the public have a hand in it, but let him not be sure that the Railway staff does not have a hand in it at all. Personally I feel that 75 per cent. of the pilfering is due to the railway staff themselves. Therefore, something has got to be done to stop this pilfering.

Then, Sir, while quite a lot of care is being taken in the transporting in good condition what are known as the perishables, so far as the consumers' goods are concerned, practically no care is being taken to see that the foodgrains are transported in good condition and are protected properly, not only from pilferers, but also from various troubles on the way and I suggest that some special care should be taken. Some campaign should be started to see that adequate protection is afforded from rain, from various other vicissitudes of seasons and from pilferers and that the foodstuffs are actually transported to the consuming centres in good condition and that is a very important thing.

In many cases I have had reports that even the stuff that is being exported is being adulterated. The quantity remains the same, but inferior stuff is put into it, whereas the better stuff is already being taken out and one other difficulty is being met by our people and that is too much time is being taken in the transit, so much so that the grain is kept for too long a period either at the first station or in the wagons themselves which are exposed to the wind and rain; or either on the platform or in the goodsyard or in the goods station. And this delay not only affects the price of foodgrains but also their quality as well as their quantity. Something has got to be done to minimise the total amount of time that is being taken today in transporting the foodstuffs from one place to another and this raises a bigger question also and that is this: Whereas a little more care is being taken to expedite the transit of industrial goods from one station to another, when you come to agricutlural produce not so much care is being taken at all, if any care can be said to be taken in very many cases.

Lastly, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the practice that obtains for a number of years in America and Canada. The railways have themselves taken the initiative in establishing huge big grain elevators. There they store on payment of a fixed or prescribed rent, the wheat that is brought there by the producers themselves. An effort should be made in this country to construct such grain elevators. I feel sure that their construction will be an economical proposition. Except for the first five or six years they are bound to pay their own way and even during the first five or six years, they will not involve the Government in any heavy losses at all. But what is most necessary is the investment of a very large bit of money. The railways alone can invest such huge quantities of money in an important thing like this. Now by providing this facility, the railways will help the public utility side also. We are badly in need of very good elevators which should be so constructed as to minimise the present losses that are being incurred by our peasants as well as consumers and merchants due to rats, insects, fungus and various other things. In our own country the Food Department has been making very many experiments as well as demonstrations as to the various methods of constructing these elevators as well as grain stores on an economical scale. If the Government in the Railway Department were to consult the Food Department, I am sure it would be possible for them to construct these grain elevators in a manner which would be cheaper and more efficacious than is to be found in other countries. Then, Sir, we need grain banks in this country and this can be helped also by the railways by establishing these grain elevators.

Lastly, we want a more even distribution of foodgrains as between different parts of the country. It is no good even for the railways that all the foodgrains should be simply rushed out from the producing centres within say two or three months and then the stuff again to be blocked on the way or rather to be sent to the consuming centres there again to be dumped to be exposed to the vicissitudes of the season. Therefore it would be advisable to have an even distribution of foodgrains, their proper usage, their protection and also proper usage of the railway wagons and railway traffic and all the rest of it. If we are to construct these grain elevators at suitable places and expect the peasants

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

to bring their stuff, put it there, insure it also against fire and all things and pay the necessary rent and keep it there, so that as the consuming centres need more and more foodgrains according to their deficit months, it would be possible for the railways to so arrange their railway programme as to send out the stuff in a regular planned fashion and the present wastage of effort on the part of the railways as well as the public can be minimised. I request the Honourable Minister for the Department to cause a special investigation made into the possibilities for establishing these grain elevators and see that some active definite steps are taken at an early moment in order to give satisfaction to the public, the peasants as well as the railways themselves.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Working Expenses—Administration' be reduced by Re. 1."

Mr. Mohd. Tahir (Bihar: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to submit a few words in support of this motion that has been moved by my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga. As you know, I had also given notice of a motion to discuss the non-availability of wagons for transporting jute from the district of Purnea in Bihar to Calcutta. But unfortunately that motion is not coming for discussion and I think this also covers the same idea. Therefore, Sir, I will especially draw the attention of the Honourable Minister towards this aspect only. In Purnea, Sir, the only district in the Province of Bihar where jute is grown, the jute growers feel great difficulty as regards the shortage of wagons in those places. This shortage of wagons brings great financial loss to the jute growers there in this way that generally in the rate of jute in Calcutta and in the Purnea district there is a difference of only two or three rupees per maund. But when there is shortage of wagons the dealers in jute have to stop purchasing it; but the poor cultivators have to sell it and they have to dispose of their jute at a price which is Rs. 10 or Rs. 8 lower than the price in Calcutta. So there is great financial loss to these jute cultivators because jute is a money crop in that area. Further, the non-availability of wagons also leads to corruption because there arises a vigorous competition for these wagons among the dealers who have to send their goods to Calcutta, and whoever proves to be more generous and more hospitable gets the wagon all right. The shortage of wagons therefore leads to this kind of corruption. For all these reasons I request the Honourable Minister to see that at least in the jute and tobacco seasons—which are the two main crops in our place—sufficient arrangements are made for wagons so that the cultivators may dispose of their crops at a good price and thus save themselves from financial loss.

12 Noon

चौधरी रणबीर सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं पंजाबी होने के नाते मंत्री महोदय को ३० लाख पंजाबियों को पाकिस्तान से हिन्दुस्तान लाने और इसी तरह का हिन्दुस्तान से पाकिस्तान ले जाने में जो भारी इमदाद की और इन लोगों की जान बचाई उसके लिए कृतज्ञता प्रगट करना अपना पहिला कर्तव्य समझता हूं।

जिस तरह का कट मोशन (Cut motion) श्री रंगा ने भेजा है उसी तरह कट मोशन मैंने भी फौडर (Fodder) गुड़ और अनाज की जो स्पलाई (Supply) है उसके लिए वैगन (Wagon) का स्पलाई न किए जाने पर किसानों को जो बहुत भारी मुश्किल हो रही है, उसके लिए रक्खा था। कल ही गुड़ के बारे में एक सवाल का जवाब देते हुए मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि गुड़ जहां पैदा होता है वहां ७ रु० मन बिकता है और हिन्दुस्तान के बहुत से हिस्सों में गुड़ की कीमत

१० रु० और ५० रु० मन हैं। इसका कारण यह है कि वैगन न मिलने की वजह से गुड़ वाली जगह से दूसरे जरूरत की जगहों पर नहीं भेजा जा सकता। इसका नतीजा यह होता है कि जो गुड़ पैदा करने वाला किसान है उसको तो इस बढ़ी हुई कीमत का हिस्सा नहीं मिलता है लेकिन व्यपारी जो कि इसमें कुछ भी मेहनत नहीं करता वह सारा मुनाफा ले जाता है और इसी की वजह से ब्लैक मारकेट बढ़ता है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस चीज़ की तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं। इसी तरह अनाज और फौडर के लिए भी तकलीफ बयान करना चाहता हूं जब पाकिस्तान से हजारों भाई अपने साथ डंगर लाये तो वह अपने साथ चारा नहीं ला सके थे। यहां भी चारा नहीं मिलता था। इसका कारण यह था कि जो मुसलमान भाई थे उन्होंने चारे की काश्त नहीं की। यू० पी० और सी० पी० से भी चारा नहीं पहुंच पाया। इसका कारण यह था कि चारा लाने के लिए वैगन न मिल सके इससे ३० और ४० फीसदी डंगर जो हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर पहुंचे वह चारा न मिलने की वजह से मर गये। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान विषेशत: इस तरफ भी दिलाना चाहता हूं। अगर किसानों का सामान इधर से उधर नहीं भेजा गया तो इससे रेल को जो ज्यादा आमदनी किसानों से होती है वह कम हो जायगी। रेल में जो ज्यादा सवारी बैठती है वह किसान ही है। अगर उनका सामान इधर से उधर करने के लिए सहूलियत नहीं दी गई और उनके सामान का वह पैसा उनको नहीं पहुंचा तो जो रैविन्यू (Revenue) मंत्री महोदय को मिला है वह भी गायब हो जायेगा और लड़ाई के पहिले जिस तरह से खाली गाड़ी चलती थी उसी तरह से चलनी शुरू हो जायेंगी। और किसानों के पास जो छोटी छोटी इंडस्ट्रीज़ (Industries) हैं वह खतम हो जायेंगी। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से विनम्र प्रार्थना करता हूं कि पहिली प्रौइरटी (Priority) किसानों के सामान के लिए दी जाय। मुझे बड़ी खुशी हुई कि जब उन्होंने हाल ही में गुड़ के लिए पहली प्रौइरटी देने का एलान किया था कि जहां भी गुड़ बनता है वहां यह प्रौइरटी दी जायगी। इस तरह से मैं मंत्री महोदय से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि वह अनाज और फौडर के लिए भी पहली प्रौइरटी दें जो मनुष्य तथा डंगर की जिन्दगी बचाने के लिए बहुत जरूरी चीज़ है। यह कहकर मैं इस कटमोशन का समर्थन करता हूं।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Ch. Ranbir Singh: (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, as a Punjabi it is my first duty to pay sincere thanks to the Honourable Minister for saving the lives of 30 lakhs of Punjabis and moving them from Pakistan to India and from India to Pakistan.

A cut motion similar to the one sent by Shri Ranga was also tabled by me in which attention was drawn to the great difficulties faced by the farmers in not geting wagons for the supply of fodder, *gur*, and foodgrains. The Honour-

[Ch. Ranbir Singh].

able Minister in reply to a question has stated only yesterday that the price of *gur* is Rs. 7/- per maund in the areas of its production, while in many other places the rate is about Rs. 40/- to Rs. 50/- per maund. The rise in price is due to the fact that wagons have not been available for moving *gur* from the areas of its production to places of its demand. This results in a loss to the farmer who is the actual producer and he is not able to take any advantage of the rise in the price; whereas, the merchant who has not to work hard receives the entire profits; this factor promotes black marketing. It is therefore for this reason that I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to these facts. It is the same difficulty in the case of fodder and foodgrains that I wish to explain here. When thousands of refugees came from Pakistan and brought their cattle with them but could not bring any fodder, an acute shortage of fodder was visible here. Such a situation arose because our Muslim brethren had not grown fodder and the supplies from U. P. and C. P. were not received. As no wagons were made available for this purpose. Ultimately about 30 to 40 per cent. of the cattle brought to India died of hunger: I draw the attention of the Honourable Minister particularly to this. It should also be considered if the railways do not carry the farmers' goods, a great fall in the substantial income from that source will follow. The farmers, indeed, constitute the largest number of passengers. If they are not provided with facilities to move about their goods in the trains and they are not able to get money out of it, the entire revenue which the Honourable Minister has received will disappear, and you will see, once again, that the trains have to run without passengers as they did before the war. This will definitely bring small industries of the farmers to an end. I, therefore, make an earnest appeal to the Honourable Minister to grant first priority to the farmers' goods. In fact it delighted me most when he recently made an announcement granting first priority for *gur* at all places of its production. On the same ground I request the Honourable Minister to grant first priority for foodgrains and fodder also as they are the essentials for saving the lives of men and animals.

With these words I support the cut motion.

Dr. V. Subramaniam (Madras: General): Sir, with regard to the movement of foodstuffs by railways I must say that there are no proper arrangements at present for the movement of food and milk. The first thing that we must have for free supply of milk from villages to towns is for the railways to have special facilities in the shape of refrigerators. The village dairy farms can bring their milk and put it in these refrigerators, or the railway people themselves can construct a small tank where the milk can be collected and then delivered to the towns. So also about the movement of vegetables and other things. By the time the vegetables or fruits reach their destination a greater portion of them gets spoiled. Specially in the hot seasons here some such arrangement will be very good for the foodstuffs, vegetables and fruits. These arrangements are made in many foreign countries: and as we are deficit in foodgrains we have to supplement our foodstuffs with fruits and milk products; and this kind of special arrangement will be very beneficial.

Then when foodstuffs are removed from areas affected by plague and other diseases no arrangements are made for fumigation. Such arrangements should be made when these things are brought to the station and loaded there because when they reach their destination the railways are unable to do it as a preventive method. The railway authorities can themselves arrange these fumigation methods when they load these vegetables and other articles of food.

These things can also be undertaken or some arrangements made in collation with the public health authorities.

Shri Khurshed Lal (U. P.: General): I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the conditions prevailing in my district. I come from Dehra Dun and that is a district which produces hardly a month's supply of foodgrains in a year. For eleven months supply we have to depend upon imports from outside. The district comprises important towns like Dehra Dun, Mussorie and Chakrata. Our difficulty is that the U. P. Government have now done away with the rationing of wheat and rice. They only provide wheat and rice to persons with an income of Rs. 100/- and less. But there is great difficulty in procuring wheat and rice. Therefore, I would request the Honourable Minister to make special arrangements in view of the special difficulties of this district of the transport of these two foodgrains to this district.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I was very interested in the speech with which my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, moved this motion, because I think the question that he raised are questions of very great practical importance.

The most important that he raised was the question of the classification of railway rates. The present classification is a long-standing classification and personally I do not mind confessing that I consider it in many respects an unsatisfactory classification. It is high time that we considered revising the present classification of rates. One of the objects with which I have proposed the setting up of a railway rates tribunal is that in matters of the kind that my Honourable friend raised, that is to say whether the freight rate applicable to a particular class of commodities is unfair or unreasonable as compared with the rates applicable to other classes, such matters could appropriately be taken up before the railway rates tribunal and any award made by them would be absolutely binding on the railways. For the moment I leave the question at that. But I want to assure the Honourable Member that this question of the classification of railway freight rates is a question to which I attach a great deal of importance.

The next question was about the kind of wagon accommodation provided for the transport of foodgrains. I am aware open trucks have been used but that is the result of the extremely serious wagon situation with which we are at present faced. That is to say, where it is found that immediate movement is of greater importance than safety, we adopt that. It is not of course the most satisfactory course to adopt but we are working under abnormal conditions and the Honourable Member will appreciate that in the conditions in which we are working, a situation of that kind arising from time to time cannot altogether be avoided.

The question of pilferage is a question with which I have been a great deal concerned during the past few months. I do not want to apportion responsibility but the important thing is to try to devise measures for preventing it. As far as I can find, the pilferage occurs either when the wagons are standing still or it occurs when the wagons are on the run. Personally, I think most of the pilferage occurs when the wagons are at sidings or in stations. The only way in which, by taking railway measures, we can prevent that immediately, is by securing the absolute safety of the contents inside a wagon by mechanical devices, and that matter is receiving very close attention.

The question also of providing more Watch and Ward at stations where the wagon stands is also a question to which we are giving attention. That pilferage still exists on a very considerable scale I quite admit and so long as you have an extreme shortage of consumer goods of various kinds, the temptation for pilferage is likely to continue. That is no justification for the railways not taking every precaution it possibly can to meet the situation. That is as far as I can carry that matter for the time being.

Then my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, raised the question of elevators. I am aware of the important part played by elevators in the agricultural economy of advanced countries like the United States and Canada. As far as I have been able to understand the part played by elevators in these countries

[Dr. John Matthai.]

they seem to me to serve two purposes; one is the existence of suitable elevators facilitates, I think, the mechanical handling of grain in bulk; the second thing it does, and under Indian conditions to my mind it is more important, it provides for the safe storage of foodgrains. My Honourable friend is sufficiently familiar with the co-operative movement in India to know that the question of setting up warehouses for the storage of agricultural commodities is a subject which has received a great deal of public attention. It is a very important matter from the point of view of agricultural marketing generally. If you want to see that the agricultural producer receives a fair price for his produce, it is necessary that he should be in a position to wait until market conditions are suitable from his point of view, and waiting necessarily implies the provision of suitable storage. So that you will find all workers in the co-operative movement who are familiar with this problem, consider the setting up of warehouses as one of the most important things to be done from the point of view of agricultural marketing. That is the main consideration with regard to warehouses or elevators.

If that is the position, then the question that arises is: Is it a governmental responsibility or is it specifically a railway responsibility? I do not pretend to know in detail how elevators are worked in the United States and Canada but the impression that I have formed, and I am speaking subject to correction, is that the State hands these elevators over for the purposes of operation to private or semi-private agencies. As far as my reading goes, the only country where State-owned elevators are operated by railways is South Africa where I believe it is the railways who operate these elevators. The whole question therefore that my Honourable friend has raised is whether in the conditions of this country we should adopt the South African practice. It raises a very big issue. Personally, I am inclined to think—although from the point of view of transport elevators have their importance—that the general importance of elevators is of a much wider character than is covered by transport considerations. Therefore, it seems to me it is for the State to take up this question. It is for the Government to consider it. But I am prepared to act on the suggestion put forward by my Honourable friend, that is to say, that this question should be taken up for examination in consultation with the Food Minister. I may inform my Honourable friend that this is not the first time that we have been up against this question of elevators. Two or three years ago, before the partition, this question was considered in regard to the situation in the Punjab, and recently also we have considered it in consultation with the Food Ministry but not in the comprehensive manner suggested by my Honourable friend. I can assure him that I shall keep the matter continually under consideration.

Questions were raised with regard to specific commodities. The position of jute is one of increasing anxiety, I admit, and we are trying to do what we can, in the existing difficult circumstances, to meet the acute situation which has arisen in regard to jute. Similarly with regard to *gur*, which probably gives one more anxiety than any other commodity at present. What we have done for the time being is—we are trying to run at intervals of a few days special trains consisting of about 50 to 60 wagons for the movement of *gur*. These special trains move *gur* from the producing centre to the main distributing centres. As far as I am able to make out the grievance that gur producers have is largely concerned with the provision of transport for wagon loads to be sent on to centres of retail distribution, that is to say, in order to maintain prices at a satisfactory level they need transport not merely to the main distributing centres but also to retail distributing centres. There the question of the rationalisation of transport arises. If railways are required to move wagons up to every small centre of distribution, then it would mean a scattering of our rather limited railway resources which, in my opinion, would not, at present, be in the public interest. But the *gur* question is continually present to our mind and we are giving, in consultation with the Food Ministry, very active attention to it.

The last question which was raised was by my Honourable friend Dr. Subramaniam and it is regarding refrigerators. I realise the importance of refrigerators in the transport system, particularly with regard to milk and perishable articles generally. There the whole question is whether we should be in a position in the near future to get a sufficient number of refrigerators. It is not possible for us to get them locally.

The last question was I think raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Khurshed Lal about Dehra Dun. If he will be good enough to give me a note stating the precise difficulties and what he wants to be done I shall be glad to give attention to it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw this cut motion.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

DEMAND No. 9.—WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Loss on Railway Grain Shops

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U. P. General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, let me inform the House at the very outset that I do not want by this cut motion that the benefit which the railway employees are deriving at present under the scheme should be reduced or curtailed in any way. My object in moving this cut motion is quite different. If you refer to the estimates you will find that there is a provision under this head of 2480 lakhs. The provision that was made in the last budget for 7½ months, it was 14 crores. The revised estimate for the same period is 16 crores. That means that even during the last 7½ months the estimated amount has been exceeded by about two crores under this head. The Honourable Minister was pleased to accept a cut of 50 lakhs but we find that this has already been exceeded by two crores. When I was in the Lucknow Municipal Board I found that a few hundred rupees this way or that did not matter. When I went to the provincial council I saw that a few thousands this way or that did not count. And when I came to this House I found that a few lakhs one way or the other did not matter. Now I find that 25 crores are being given without any notice. These estimates were brought before the Railway Standing Committee. A meeting was held on the 4th February at 10 o'clock and all the estimates were placed before this committee and these estimates were passed. I am one of those who believe that the Committee should have refused to look at these estimates as it was not given sufficient time to scan these estimates. We have got a number of provinces whose revenues do not come to the figure of 25 crores which we are asked to sanction under one item. In provinces they spend days and weeks discussing ways and means to reduce the demands and to effect economies. We find here that 25 crores are asked for under this head. My fears are that this figure may be exceeded during the coming year, if the estimates for 7½ months are expected to be exceeded by two crores.

I want to place before the House a few figures. The figures relate to the losses on different railways. The rates being more or less the same it was expected that the losses would be somewhat uniform; but it is not so. I shall take the S. I. and M. & S. M. railways first. I have not got the exact number of employees but from the report Part II supplied to us we find the figures as

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

on the 31st March, 1937. On that basis I have worked out. On the M. & S. M. Railway the loss comes to about 220 per head per annum. On the S. I. Railway it comes to Rs. 166 per head per annum. On the other hand we find that on the O. T. Railway (that notorious railway) it comes to Rs. 307 per head per annum. On the G. I. P. Railway it is Rs. 410 per head per annum, on the B. B. & C. I. Railway it is Rs. 430 per head per annum and on the B. N. Railway it is 367 per head per annum.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: On a point of information I would like to know from the Honourable Member whether these average figures relate to average worker per annum or average cardholder per annum?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It relates to the average employee. I could not get the number of dependents. Even under the increased provision we find that on the M. & S. M. Railway it is Rs. 222 per head per annum and on the S. I. Railway it is Rs. 166 per head per annum. Looking at the prospects of the harvest we know that there are scarcity conditions prevailing on those two lines and naturally one would expect the loss these railways would have to pay would be much more than on other railways. On the contrary the provision is for Rs. 166 and Rs. 222, whereas on the O. T. Railway it is Rs. 307, on the G. I. P. it is 410 and on the B. B. & C. I. it is 430. The B. B. & C. I. and G. I. P. Railways are almost in the same area and yet we find this difference. If we calculate the percentage in relation to the salaries paid we know that the total bill comes to about 60 crores, which includes the salaries of the gazetted officials. I do not know whether they are benefitting under the scheme or not. If they do, even then it comes to 66 per cent. on the B. N. Railway, 67 per cent. on the E. I. R., 50 per cent. on the G. I. P. 68 per cent. on the O. T. and 27 per cent. on the S. I. Railway. I would like to know whether the Honourable Minister went into the figures or any other responsible officer of his department did so and ascertained the reasons why this disparity exists.

We might look at it from another point of view. The figures I am giving are estimates of the value of the grain that is proposed to be purchased during the year and the amount that is to be realized by the sales. On the B. N. Railway the value of the grains proposed to be purchased is Rs. 5.72 crores and by sales it is expected to recover Rs. 2·67 crores. The loss comes to Rs. 2:05 crores. But they have provided Rs. 3·17 crores. That is, over and above the actual difference they demand nearly a crore of rupees more. That means that this amount is being spent on overhead charges, in the maintenance of the shops, on the staff engaged to run these shops and other losses. Similarly we find in the B. B. & C. I. the value of the grain estimated to be purchased is Rs. 5.54 crores and the sale proceeds are expected to be Rs. 2:62 crores. The net difference comes to Rs. 2:92 crores. Instead of that we are required to pay Rs. 3.69 crores. We can compare the figures with the S. I. and M. & S. M. For the M. & S. M. the total value of the grains which is expected to be purchased is Rs. 2,88.36,000. The sale proceeds to be realized is Rs. 1,68,36,000. The net loss comes to Rs. 1,20,00,000. But the demand is Rs. 1,62,00,000. For the S. I. Railway the value of grain to be purchased is Rs 1,50,00,000. The sale proceeds are expected to come to Rs. 88,00,000. The loss is about 62,00,000. But they want Rs. 71,53,000. For O. T. Railway we find that the estimate comes to about 307 per head. The expected value of the grain to be purchased is Rs. 1,90,15,000. The sale proceeds are expected to come to Rs. 96,00,000. The net loss is about Rs. 1 crore. But we are expected to provide for Rs. 1,40,00,000. That is, over and above the actual losses in the purchase and the sale price of the grains we are required to provide for another Rs. 40 lakhs more.

These are the figures that I have collected from the estimates of the different railways. We have not been provided any consolidated statement in regard to losses that are going to be incurred on this item. Sir, I am not disclosing any

secret when I say that during the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee when my friend was the Chairman of the Committee as Finance Member, we had scrutinized these items and we came to the unanimous conclusion that this sort of losses in the maintenance of grain shops were due to fraud, pilferage and other mal practices. That information came to our notice. We therefore came to the unanimous conclusion that this system should be changed and, if necessary, the employees should be paid the difference of the rates as that would mean a considerable saving to the state, I do not want for the present that this demand should be reduced because, the Honourable Minister has not got any definite figures. What I want to suggest to him is that under the circumstances it is absolutely necessary that a Committee of this House, or, failing a Committee of this House, at least a Committee of the Standing Railway Finance Committee, should be appointed to go into the question, actually visit the shops and find out how much wastage there is in this system. An effort should be made to eliminate wastage in this direction as far as possible. If it is not possible to eliminate the wastage it is much better if we paid the workers the difference in the price of the grains *i.e.* between the market price and the price at which we are supplying them. At least they will then be getting much more than what we are giving them now

There is one more factor which we have to take into consideration and it is this. This is the report for 1945-46. We do not know how many persons have actually been covered, but it says that 9,34,000 card holders were registered at the end of the year. We find also that they were supplied 1,73 maunds per month which came to about 75 ounces a day. I do not know at what rate the employees were being supplied. We know it does not come to more than 6 ounces per head, or at the most eight or ten ounces. But how this 75 ounces is worked out I do not know. You will remember that during the last Budget debate my friend Mr. Patil informed the House how the employees were taking cloth from the mills and how it found its way into the black market. I would like the Honourable Minister to examine and find out whether the grain that is being supplied through these shops is not being misused or that the privilege is not being abused.

I may also remind the House that the railway employees are also getting dearness allowance in addition to the facility of grain shops. If that factor is taken into account—I suppose the representatives of railway labour are on the Railway Finance Committee, but if they are not there I would like them to be included in it—I hope they will co-operate with us in eliminating the wastage that is involved in the present working of the grain shops.

With these words, Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I may just tell the Honourable Member, Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena, that I find him changing his seat every now and then and it becomes difficult for me to know who is anxious to speak. The only remedy for me is to ignore those Members who change their seats.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, I will try to fix a seat for myself.

Sir, I am very glad about the motion which has been moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena. The loss on grain shops is certainly a very large amount. The figures which he had quoted do make out a case for careful scrutiny. I want to point out one thing. Probably he is not aware of the working of the system of distribution of grains. He pointed out just now that the amount per worker was 75 ounces and he was surprised how it was done. Probably he does not know that workers are given family rations. They are given rations for all the members of the family. One of the main causes why the Railway Federation and the workers prefer this system is that

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

it enables men with large families to be able to live an existence which makes it possible for them to work. Men on low salaries, if they have large families, are helped by this rather than those that have small families.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Are the railway workers having larger families than the average Indian?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Not that. Probably he knows that the population of Gorakhpur is denser. That is a question probably that need not be raised here. What I wanted to point out was that 75 oz. per man is probably equal to six men's grain per day. I do not think that is a very large amount because normally 12 oz. was the amount given per man. If it is 75 oz., it means six men's grain. So that is not a thing to be wondered at. But while I condemn the system, I want its maintenance because railway employees want it. I also want to point out that a large part of the money is wasted and probably embezzled. I will give you the instance of the strike which took place on the O.T. Railway. It was a 12 hours strike and the complaint was the bad kind of grain supplied in grainshops. They had given notice to the Manager 15 days before and promises had been made that things would improve: but nothing happened and so the workers went on strike. Suddenly the District Magistrate and everybody else was stirred, the trains were at a standstill. We had immediately to go to the grainshops and to our surprise we found the kind of grain in those shops was such that no man could eat it. When we went to the Regional Food Supplier where the grain had come from, we found very fine quality of grain there. When the two were compared, the District Magistrate was surprised. After some trouble the grain was changed. The grain taken for the shop had been stolen away and the worst kind of grain was supplied to the workers and this resulted in a strike. In fact the workers had been allowed heavy manual workers' allowance, *i.e.*, they were to get eight chhataks of grain, four chhataks of rice and four chhataks of wheat, but much less was given. The workers resented this and ultimately it was found that there had been swindling. I was really sorry to see that the whole matter was hushed up. It only shows that the working of the grainshops is at fault. During the war the railway workers had been able to do a large amount of work on account of the encouragement given to them. I know that a large amount of the money given to them had been swindled away and taken away by those responsible for the working of the system and my friend was quite right in saying that a large part of the money goes away. I know the tenders which are given and the amounts purchased. It is an open scandal that the tenders that are given are sometimes much more than the actual cost and there is a sharing between the members of the Committee and the contractor who gives tenders. I would like the Honourable Minister to hold an enquiry into these scandals and find out whether it is so or not. I really know that if this whole thing is carefully gone into and an enquiry committee is appointed, many things will come to light. This amount of money if properly utilised will do substantial good to the workers. The workers will get better quality of grain. These days they do not sometimes get what they want because what they want is taken by others. So while I do not think that the system should be changed, while I do no think that the railway workers should not be allowed the salary which they have been getting, and while I do not think that these figures of the amount of grain are excessive, I do think there is strong ground for looking into the whole thing. Now let us take this figure of 1,40,00,000—one crore for grain and 40 lakhs the actual cost of the administration. I want a committee of the House to go into the matter. 40 per cent. of the overhead charges is really too much. The Committee should see that all this waste is avoided and what is really wanted is given to them. With these few words I support the motion.

Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): Sir, I do not wish to intervene in the debate on the inequities or equities of the grainshops. I simply wish to draw the attention of the House to paragraph 74 of the Report of the Central Pay Commission. This question came before us as to whether the grain shops should be continued or not. Some of the railways wanted that it should continue, while others wanted to do away with it. We had to steer a middle course and we recommended that whatever be the policy which is adopted by the Government, one thing should be encouraged. That was the establishment of co-operative stores. The specific recommendation which we made was in these words:

"We only wish to say that as long as any concessions in the matter of supply in kind are allowed, the estimated monetary value of such concessions shall be deducted from the dearness allowance calculated in accordance with the above scale."

I want to know from the Honourable Minister for Railways whether these losses are to be recovered from the government servants or it is being made as a present. If it is a present, I think, Sir, an invidious distinction is being made between one class of government servants and another. One of the fundamental principles which we recommended there was that there should be uniformity of conditions in all government services, so much so that we recommended PTO's being given to other government servants who were not entitled to have this concession in the older days. It was urged before us that Madras is a cheap place, prices are very low and that is a justification for smaller rates of pay in Madras than in Northern India. We did not listen to that. We said there must be uniformity as far as the minimum living wage was concerned. We tried to introduce a system of uniformity to the largest measure possible compatible with the conditions existing. It is for this reason that we recommended that in bigger towns, and in the specially expensive places, special allowances should be given in order to compensate government servants for the higher cost. But I personally believe that if these grainshops are maintained only for railway servants and not for others, it will make an invidious distinction unless an amount is deducted from the dearness allowance. I would like to have some light thrown on this subject.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay: General): Sir, the House is really grateful to Shri Mohan Lal Saksena for raising the debate on an issue on which the facts that he has placed before us, are really staggering. The disparity that is shown between the losses incurred on the South Indian Railway and other Railways is really very, very glaring indeed. He has shown that whereas the loss in the South Indian Railway is Rs. 166 per annum per employee, it goes up to a figure of Rs. 430 in the case of the B. B. & C. I. Railway. I must admit at this stage that as far as employees working in the Railways on lower scales of pay are concerned, they have really been benefited by this grain allowance, and if a suggestion is made, as one previous speaker did make, that the grain allowance in kind be withdrawn, I would very strongly protest against it. If the grain allowance is withdrawn, it will mean disorganisation and discontent, and the Railway system which even today is not working smoothly will be further disturbed.

But, Sir, looking at it from the Railway finance point of view, I think Shri Mohan Lal Saksena has made out a very good case indeed that there is something wrong with the administration of the grainshops. I find from the figures that he has quoted that for the administration of Rs. 20 crores worth of grain and other commodities supplied to the Railway employees, rupees five to six crores are spent in administration. Surely these five crores of rupees are spent away. They do not come to the employee but are spent away in administering the shops. This is really a very high expenditure as far as I can see. If the Railway Administration, in co-operation with the labour organisations, is able to evolve a system whereby without putting the lower

[Shri Khandubhai K. Desai]

paid employees to any lowering of their standard of living, and if the money can be saved for Railway finance, certainly the arrangement would be welcome. I think a case has really been made out to explore this system of supplying amenities in kind when the cost of living has gone high. It has been suggested by one of the previous speakers that Stores for supplying the needs of the employees may be started on a co-operative basis. Well, Sir, this is not a co-operative Stores that is working—they are centrally managed grainshops with which, as I know for a matter of fact, quite a large number of employees are not satisfied in respect of their administration. I am sure that in the matter of purchase as well as in the matter of distribution, if very active and close co-operation of the employees is taken, much of the mal-administration that it is alleged is going on in those two or three Railways will be removed. Therefore, Sir, I suggest that without any loss of time this question should be taken up by the Railway Administration with a view to further investigating the disparities that have been shown between expenditure incurred on the various Railways, and evolve a system whereby the Railway Administration, may be benefited to a great extent, without bringing down the standard of living of the lowest paid employees. The country cannot afford to lose such a large amount of money if it is proved that this loss is due to maladministration or mismanagement or waste, which is avoidable.

With these words I very humbly request the Honourable the Railway Minister not to lose any time but immediately to appoint a Committee on which various sections of the House are represented, to look into this question very closely and evolve a system whereby the criticisms that have been levelled in this House may be looked into.

1. P.M.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

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

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim): Sir, may I bring one fact to your notice? We find in today's agenda there is the question of appropriation to Reserve Fund and Betterment Fund. We have no occasion to discuss this item. Will you give us an opportunity now to have a discussion on it, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member refer to the additional accounts that were filed today?

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: I refer, Sir, to the addendum to the combined list of business under the heading "The Budget (Railways)—Second Stage" in the "List of Demands", after Demand No. 11, to insert the following, namely,—

"13. Appropriation to Betterment Fund.

14. Appropriation to Reserve."

The matter, as we know, Sir, was referred to a Committee and we had no chance of discussing the findings of that Committee.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: The matter being of very great importance, I think we should be given an opportunity to discuss this matter.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, the member will get an opportunity when the demand comes up.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: But we could not give notice of any cuts to those demands.

Mr. Speaker: But how can any cuts be moved now?

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: This was only issued today.

Mr. Speaker: That I know, but the point is really, whether there are cuts or not, today being the last date, when the guillotine time comes, if all the other demands are finished and if there is time, these two demands can be discussed; otherwise, cuts or not cuts, it makes no difference. Thus, if the House takes time in discussing the remaining cut motions up to 5 o'clock, then the question of moving cut motions to these two items becomes more or less an academic right. Of course, there was this possibility, that if the Honourable Member wanted to make any cut motions, perhaps by agreement it could have been included earlier, but as the position actually stands at present, it is not going to make any difference. If these two demands are raised earlier, I will give the Honourable Member an opportunity of discussing the matter.

श्री गोकुलभाई दौलतराम भट्ट : माननीय सभापति जी, जो कटौती का प्रस्ताव हमारे सामने है वह एक तरह से बहुत महत्वपूर्ण चीज़ है। यह देखा गया है कि अनाज की दुकानों को चलाने में हमें ४० फीसदी खर्चा करना पड़ता है तब यह जरूर सोचना पड़ता है कि यह बदइन्तजामी की वजह से है जिसे जल्दी ही [illegible] करना चाहिये। जब ४० लाख रुपया इस इन्तजाम में खर्च करना पड़ता है तो हर [illegible] दुकान में मज़दूर संघ के एक या दो आदमी इन्तजाम करने के लिये रहें जोकि ठीक रीति से सामान तोला जाता है या नहीं यह देखें। जैसा कि अभी श्री खन्डू भाई ने सुझाव रक्खा है इस से यह फायदा होगा कि हमारा काम भी अच्छा होगा और आधे खर्च में हमारा इन्तजाम हो जायगा।

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अनाज की दुकान के बारे में मुझे और जगहों का तो अनुभव नहीं है लेकिन महसाणा और आबू रोड़ की बात जरूर जानता हूं। इन दुकानों के बारे में यह सुना है कि अनाज खराब तो है और खराब होता भी है मगर इसके साथ ही साथ कम दिया जाता है और लोगों को नुकसान होता है। तब यह जरूर सोचना चाहिये कि कहीं न कहीं ऐसी जरूर बदइन्तजामी है जिसकी ओर हमारे माननीय मंत्री को जरूर ध्यान देना चाहिये।

अभी यह सुझाव रक्खा गया है कि इस चीज़ के लिये एक कमेटी बनाई जाय। मगर इस कमेटी के पहले यह जरूरी है कि इस इन्तजाम में ऐसे लोगों को दाखिल किया जाय जिनकी भावना सार्वजनिक कार्य की हो। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में काम करने वाले आदमियों के हाथ में इस चीज का संचालन दिया जाना चाहिये। कमेटी जरूर बैठेगी तो हमारा खर्चा जरूर कम हो जायगा। इस से यह हो सकता है कि हम एक दो आदमियों पर उस दुकान के नाप और तौल का काम छोड़ दें। इस दुकान में आप माल लगा दीजिये कीमत लगा दीजिये वे दियानतदारी से यह सब काम करेंगे। इससे हमारा खर्चा कम हो जाता है। एक दुकान में इस चीज़ का प्रयोग किया जाय कि वहां सामान रख दिया जाय और भाव नियुक्त कर दिये जायं। एक दो नागरिक बैठे हैं, सौदा पड़ा है लोग आवें और सामान खरीद लें। यह एक बड़ी चीज़ है। यह

[श्री गोंकुलभाई दौलतराम भट्ट]

प्रयोग हिन्दुस्तान भर में किया जाय यह भी मैं नहीं कह सकता हूं। लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि अमेरिका में बहुत सी ऐसी जगह हैं। जितने अखबार बेचने वाले हैं या दूसरे सौदे बेचने के बारे में ऐसा किया गया है वहां चीजों के भाव नियत कर दिये जाते हैं और लोगों को जो जरूरत होती है वह डिब्बे से ले जाते हैं। हम ऐसा प्रयोग कर सकते हैं या नहीं यह सोचने की बात है। मैं नहीं कहता कि यह प्रयोग जल्दी होना चाहिये। लेकिन मैं यह मानता हूं कि हमारे महेकमे में इस वक्त जो इन्तजाम में खर्चा करते हैं वह सब आधे खर्च में हो सकता है अगर लोग अपनी दियानतदारी को समझेंगे और वह इस बात का ख्याल करेंगे कि सब इन्तजाम उन्हीं के ऊपर छोड़ा गया है। इस तरह से हम लोगों को एक प्रकार की शिक्षा भी दे सकेंगे। मैं समझता हूं कि यह चीज एकदम करने लायक नहीं है लेकिन मैं जरूर कहूंगा कि एक दुकान में इसका प्रयोग करने से मालूम हो जायगा कि लोगों की भावना क्या है। अगर हम ४० लाख रुपये की बजाय कम खर्च करना चाहते हैं। कमेटी बैठेगी यह एक तरीका है। दूसरा तरीका श्री खन्डू भाई ने बताया है कि मजदूर संघ के आदमी इस काम में लिये जायं जिससे कम खर्चा हो। तीसरी बात यह है कि इस तरह का प्रयोग किया जाय। मुझे आशा है कि इसका अगर एक दुकान में प्रयोग किया जायगा तो नतीजा अच्छा आयेगा।

इस लिये मैं इस कटौती का समर्थन करता हूं और माननीय मंत्री से प्रार्थना करता हूं कि कम खर्च करने के लिये इन सुझावों को वह जल्दी से अमल में लायेंगे।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt: (Eastern Rajputana States Group): Mr. Speaker, the cut motion before us is quite important in one way. When it has been found that we have to spend about 40 per cent. on running the grainshops, it is considered that this is due to bad management. It is therefore necessary that steps should be taken to remedy it immediately. Our expenses are now touching the figure of Rupees forty lakhs, we should try to reduce them; we should have only one man or two on each shop to manage it and they should be of the labour group, they will check the weighing of commodities also. This is what Shri Khandubhai also suggested just now. In this way you will find that our work will be done smoothly and efficiently and our expenses will be halved.

I do not know what is happening at these shops at other places. But I know about Mahsana and Abu-Road. I have heard that while the quality of grains supplied from these shops is bad—and it is really bad—they are not weighing the quantities properly, so that it is a loss to the public. Therefore there is definitely something wrong with the management, and the Honourable Minister should pay his attention to it. Earlier a suggestion was made that a committee should be appointed to look into this matter. But before setting up such a committee it is necessary that the persons who are appointed on the committee have a spirit of social service as the working of the committee rests on those who are actually working in the social field. If we can have such a committee, I am sure, our expenses will certainly come down. Then you can also put one or two men in charge of a shop and they will attend to weighing also. When you have supplied the stocks and have marked their

prices on them you will find that everything goes on quite smoothly and there is no dishonesty in the dealings. We can reduce the expenses, in this way. Then in another shop you can try this method where the stocks have been arranged and the prices have been marked, one or two local men may be posted there who will attend to buyers. This is a novel way and I do not say that this should be practised all over India, but in America there are many examples of it. There the hawkers of newspapers and the sellers of other articles mark their prices on each piece and keep them in a box so that when a man comes he has simply to take out what he wants. Let us therefore see if we can introduce such a method in our country also. I know that it cannot be done all of a sudden but I am quite convinced that whatever we are spending on the existing, arrangement can be done in about half the amount. If the people are honest and realise their responsibility we can set an example before the public. I agree that this method cannot be put into practice all of a sudden but I must say that after introducing it in one of the shops you can understand the reaction of the public.

Therefore to bring down our expenses from rupees forty lakhs, the first step would be to appoint a committee and the second is the one proposed by Shri Khandubhai, *viz.*, appointing men of the labour group, and the third is the introduction of the new method in the shops. I hope this is going to have very good results if it is introduced just in one shop at the present.

Therefore I support the cut motion, and request the Honourable Minister that to minimize the expenses these suggestions should be put into practice immediately.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I shall be brief in reply to this motion. The two aspects of the question which the House discussed are these: first whether there is a justification for the continuance of the grain shop system and the other is whether in point of the administration of the grain shop system, satisfactory results are being achieved. As regards the first, the House will appreciate that ever since the inflationary process began in this country, it has been felt by people who employ large numbers of workmen that one of the ways in which inflation can be kept down is by providing part of the remuneration in the form of foodstuffs. To that extent it prevents increase in the circulation of money; that is the justification. The question which arises in this connection is whether in accepting this on the railways, we are exceeding the quantum of relief prescribed by the Pay Commission. Actually what has been done is we have accepted the continuance of the grain shop system, but along with that we have accepted also the lower scale of dearness allowance which has been in existence so far. The Pay Commission's dearness allowances are higher than the dearness allowance which is now being paid in conjunction with the grain shop concession to railway employees. That really is the ground on which we are able to justify it in the light of the Pay Commission's recommendations. The House is probably aware that under the Pay Commission's proposals dearness allowance is to increase with increases in the cost of living index. Now that would not apply as far as the present system which we have adopted on the Railways in concerned. The main point which has been raised by the Honourable the Mover is that there are very considerable disparities between different railways in the matter of expenditure incurred on grain shops. *Prima facie* the expenditure on different railways would vary in accordance with the scope of the articles included, in accordance with the number of dependants, in accordance with the local scale of price and so on, but whether actually the discrepancies correspond to the working of these considerations is a matter on which I am unable to give any reply. It is a matter for investigation. I am prepared to admit that having listened to the speeches which have been made in the course of the discussion that a strong case has been made out for an enquiry into the grain shop

[Dr. John Matthai]

system and I propose therefore to accept the suggestion made by the Honourable the Mover that a committee composed of Honourable Members of this House should be appointed straightaway to look into the administration of the grain shop system and I have decided, therefore, to appoint a Committee consisting of my Honourable friend Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena as Chairman and Mr. Santhanam and Mr. Khandubhai Desai as members, to go immediately into this question and make a report to us.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: In view of the statement made by the Honourable Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 5.—WORKING EXPENSES—REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Prevention of Thefts of Railway Fittings

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move: "That the demand under the head 'Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance' be reduced by Re. 1."

I wish by this cut motion to raise a discussion, not as it has been entered in the agenda, Sir, namely, for 'steps being taken for the thefts of railway fittings', but 'the prevention of the thefts of railway fittings.'

Sir, it is a matter of common knowledge that in spite of the war conditions, there were not many deficiencies in the fittings in the compartments of the railways. But although the war was over, we are experiencing the dearth of almost every fitting that was available in the railways. As, on the last occasion I had given a fair list of the missing fittings, I need not repeat what I then said, most if not all of them are missing as a rule and if some of them which are absolutely irremovable, are there they are in such a bad condition that they are more a source of nuisance than convenience. For instance, sometimes we find that the wash basins are missing. But the fitting that brings water to the wash basin however continues to leak with the result that whenever you wish to have the advantage of having a wash, you find that there is no water. Similarly, Sir, the hangers are removed; mirrors are removed, and all this has been going on unchecked. Although the Honourable Minister has given replies to all our cuts and given the best explanations he could offer for all the inconveniences we suffer, I did not find any explanation or any hope of the lack of these fittings being supplied from any of his speeches. He did not show that he was very much concerned about these fittings, although he might have certainly been; and has also not said whether he is going to do anything in the matter.

It was pointed out, Sir, in one of the speeches made during this debate that some times the passengers also are responsible for pilferage. Prof. Ranga probably only for argument sake admitted that the public also may be responsible for pilferage of the goods stored in the stations and station-yards. Whatever that may be, so far as the fittings are concerned, my contention is that it is impossible that any passenger or any member of the public could remove them. The very fact that the trains are far too overcrowded is itself an adequate preventive for anything being removed by a passenger. I feel certain, Sir, that all these things happen in the yards and at junction stations. This again cannot happen only because of the thieves; the thieves must perforce be assisted by the railway staff, the police and every one connected with the yards. Unless there is complete co-operation and complete understanding between the

whole lot of them, the thefts of fittings and these things is absolutely unimaginable and inconceivable. So I put it to the Honourable Minister that this is a nuisance which has gone too far and has become a tremendous joke. My Honourable friend who just spoke was trying to suggest that it is time we took some steps to improve the morals of our countrymen. Here is another instance where probably my Honourable friend might give deep thought and consider whether this is also not another item where he might try his hand at improvement. So far as this House is concerned, it is well-known how anxious we are to co-operate with Government; we are very careful to see what words we use and we weigh our words twice before we actually utter them. So in view of this I think if the Honourable Minister were to come before this House with a drastic measure to stop these thefts he will have the whole-hearted co-operation and support of this House. That was exactly what I meant last time; I had very insufficient time at my disposal to express my views and all that escaped me was that we were prepared to give him the power to shoot at sight. Actually this was what I had in mind, namely, that if it is necessary that we should empower our Honourable Minister with an enactment arming the policemen who will guard the yards with power to shoot at sight any one who touches the fittings, we are prepared to give that power to him. But this nuisance and this nonsense must be stopped under any circumstances; and if the Honourable Minister puts his heart to it surely it should not be impossible.

Then, Sir, these are not articles which can easily be hidden. Every article used on the railway is marked usually with the letters of that particular railway, company, and I am sure that these articles which are stolen generally come back to the railways in some shape or the other, after of course the proper price is given for them. I was told some time ago that there was a regular gang in Calcutta; we have heard nothing more about it. We have also heard that there was a regular gang of young boys who stole bulbs from trains and these were resold to the same railway at perhaps black market prices. Although this may be an exaggeration I am sure some such system must be operating; or the whole police and railway staff must be connected with this. As I said, every one of these articles is marked and I do not think our sense of truthfulness or morality has fallen so low that we would observe the letters "B.B. & C.I." or "G.I.P." on articles used in houses and not mention the fact to any one. So I feel sure that these articles are not really in the use of any person; I at least have not seen them at any time anywhere. So the mystery actually is as to where these things go. As a matter of fact, some of the bulbs used on the railways cannot be used elsewhere. So, as the nature of circumstances discloses it should be quite easy to catch hold of those persons who steal them. My Honourable friend is keen on propaganda. Here is another item of propaganda where he can tell every citizen of India that wherever he finds any article on which the name of a railway is marked he should consider it his duty to give this information to the nearest police station so that the man may be caught. And if he wants any salutary punishments to be inflicted and if the present enactments are not sufficient for the purpose we are prepared, as I said, to empower him still further. But some drastic and concerted action must be taken to stop this; otherwise along with the fittings our morals also will go to pieces. Taking all these things into consideration I hope the Honourable Minister will put his heart into it, and if he makes sufficient effort it should be possible for him to tackle this. I do not think every railway servant is so bad. The Honourable Minister of course is prepared to admit only that a very small percentage of his staff are bad According to me the percentage is very high; but we will not quarrel about that. If it is possible to find at least one man to guard the station yard who will be honest and will not permit any thefts, that will suffice to diminish the

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mischief, although it may not end it, altogether. I am sure he will be able to find at least a few dozen honest people who will give him a clue as to where these articles have gone, whether they come back or not, and if they do not come back what happens to them. If he is proud of the honesty of railwaymen let his assertions be tested in this way. I am prepared to give him six months; in six months we should like to see that not a single fitting in any of the railway carriages is missing and that it will never be missing thereafter. That should constitute a good test for the Honourable Minister himself and also a good test to convince us of the morals of his department. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance' be reduced by Re. 1."

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General) Sir, I am glad that my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh has raised through his cut motion this somewhat important matter which has been causing a lot of inconvenience to the travelling public. We who travel by train know very well to our cost how very often the absence of fittings like light and water adversely affect our convenience. I hope the Honourable Minister will not dismiss this complaint in a summary fashion by saying that there are kleptomaniacs. There are kleptomaniacs but I believe psychologists are now agreed that the proportion of kleptomaniacs in any society is very small; they are perhaps very much smaller that the small number of black sheep among railway servants to whom the Honourable Minister referred in the course of his illuminating budget speech. We should therefore dismiss from our minds this idea that these thefts are committed by kleptomaniacs and we should tackle this question on a different basis, and that is, anti-social elements deliberately pilfering and removing these fittings for their own advantage. It was stated the other day by the Honourable Minister to which my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh referred just now—that some passengers are in the habit of removing these fittings. My Honourable friend Mr. Sidhva said the other day that many of these articles fit only the railway coaches and are a misfit in other places. So I think we as sensible people should dismiss this theory also from our minds that passengers are in the habit of committing these petty thefts. (Kazi Syed Karimuddin: Question.) My Honourable friend questions this. Well, if he is aware of any passengers having actually committed these themts in his presence, he as a responsible leader of society will, I am sure—if he has not actually done so—bring this to the notice of the administration. As he has not done that so far—I do not know whether he will do it in future—I take it that he questioned it just for question's sake and did not mean anything beyond the question. It is in a certain measure true that this question of thefts goes to the very root of our social order. It was said that in Ram-Raj there were no thefts of any kind, and every one used to keep his house open. Of course there were no railways in those days and so there is no knowing whether there were thefts of coach fittings and light fittings, etc. But generally speaking there were no thefts at all in those days and it may be taken for granted that if there had been railways there would have been no thefts the social order was then based on principles of equality and no discrimination of creed, caste or sex. But today, as we know to our cost, the social order is based on a pernicious principle and that is perhaps responsible partly for this evil tendency in human nature,—whether it is the ordinary people or railway servants. After all they are all human and are perhaps not exempt from the evils that the social order seeks to perpetuate today.

Therefore the fundamental remedy is to change the social order and to increase firstly the standard of living of the people and their economic condition, so that there may be no temptation to commit thefts. So long as the standard

of living is low and their purchasing power is low, this temptation of theft will continue. An Honourable Member: "Question". An Honourable Member has questioned my remark. I hope he will answer that question when he speakes on this motion.

Dr. Deshmukh referred to the standard of morality. He said there should be a sustained drive to educate the people and reorientate the outlook of the common man. Certainly I would wholeheartedly support him in this. In these days we find many advertisements and publicity posters in railway coaches, yards and platforms. Some of them are absolutely of no use and to no purpose. There are still in some railway coaches advertisements regarding mosquitoes and malaria which were put up in war time, asking soldiers to roll up their sleeves, to pull down their sleeves and to apply some cream. Those publicity posters are still there. They should be substituted or supplemented by posters such as telling people how bad it is to steal and how your own fellowmen suffer and that it is to your advantage that people should not steel; suppose someone stole your own things etc. etc.—putting it in an elementary fashion. That would be profitable. Formerly on the South Indian Railway, many years ago, when I was a student, I used to see publicity posters *Dongalannaru Jagratta undandi* in Telegu, meaning "Beware of thieves and pickpockets." I did not see them on other railways. But the other day when I travelled on the South Indian Railway I did not even find these posters: *Dongalannaru Jagratta undandi.* I do not know whether it is due to the fact that there are no more thieves or whether there are too many to be counteracted!

3 P.M.

I would make one suggestion and that is about having a sort of vigilance squad. Besides a sustained propaganda and publicity drive, a vigilance squad should be there to patrol and go up and down the train at junctions and big stations; at any rate before the train leaves a station and when a train arrives at the terminus. They could go up and down the whole train and ascertain from the passengers whether any thefts have been committed and if so who are the thieves and certainly the Railway Department should not merely ask people to report thefts, but also offer rewards to those who would report thefts of railway fittings to the administration, so that they can take prompt and proper action. That would be an inducement to many people. Of course people do expect some sort of inducement, human nature being what it is. And if the Honourable Minister offers rewards to people who would report such anti-social practices to the administration, I think he would go a long way to remove such thefts.

Lastly, I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to what happened in Italy many years ago. Before Mussolini came to power, when conditions were as disturbed, as chaotic and perhaps more chaotic than they are today on the trains—trains never ran to schedule there were thefts, robberies, pillage and plunder—he declared: 'I will see that the trains will be clean: the trains will run to time and there will be no thefts in trains'.

I think he succeeded to a remarkable degree. Unfortunately he is not alive today.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Did he administer castoroil?

Shri H. V. Kamath: He is not here today to tell the Government how he managed to eliminate these things from the railway. Whatever may be said to his discredit it should be admitted that the trains in Italy during the Fascist regime ran to time and that the railways were among the most efficient instrument during the Fascist regime. Though we are against Fascism and Nazism I think there are some good points in them which we can emulate.

I wish to stress another point. During the last War Russia, though it had just emerged from backwardness, had a transport system which functioned so efficiently that the world marvelled how such a country that had just come out of serfdom, feudalism and slavery could organise their transport so well that

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the war ultimately turned in their favour. It perhaps would not be out of place for me to suggest that the Honourable Minister might as well depute an officer of his department, if he himself could not go, to visit Russia.....

Shri Khurshed Lal: Or an Honourable Member of this House!

Shri H. V. Kamath: Yes, I accept that. He may be asked to visit Russia and ... ...

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Press the suggestion. The Honourable Minister is in a good mood. He might accept it!

Shri H. V. Kamath:.....study how Russia managed her Transport system most efficiently and how today the railway in Russia are being run. I do not know anything about the German railways today. Before the war the German railways were famous for their efficiency and speed. But the Russian transport system today and during the war was very efficient and it would be very profitable for us to learn from the experience of this oriental country, which perhaps 20 years ago, was in a worse position than we are in today, and yet today it has become one of the greatest Powers in the world.

I would therefore most wholeheartedly support my friend, Dr. Deshmukh, in the motion he has brought before the House, and that is that we are all anxious to see that these thefts of railway fitting which cause so much inconvenience to all of us and to the travelling public come to an end. The sooner these evils are eliminated and the sooner this practice of pilferage is put an end to the better By all means let the Minister assume all powers to this end and he will have a very thankful travelling public who will be all out to assist him in his very right and noble endeavour.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva (C.P. and Berar: General): I rise to support the motion moved by my friend, Dr. Deshmukh. One of the causes of bad name in the railway administration is the missing of these articles of bare necessities from railway compartments. It has now become a scandal. This State of affair has happened only after the war. There was no question of pilferage by passengers before the war. Suddenly, after the war, passengers have become so immoral that they begin to pilfer railway materials from the railway compartments, and the absurd argument is advanced that they have been stolen by the passengers when the trains are moving. You know that ordinarily about 54 passengers sit in third class compartments. Today there are more than a couple of hundreds.

Do you ever imagine that when one or two of the passengers steel the bulbs the others are so stooped in their immorality that they would not either prevent them or report the matter? I have taken some little interest in reporting this matter regarding the stealing of bulbs. Meet of these bulbs are manufactured in India. They are also imported from foreign countries. Lakhs of them are purchased annually and they are specifically manufactured for railway purposes. These bulbs have their own marks and are not useful for ordinary purposes. They are of a particular voltage and cannot be used by common people in their houses in any part of the country. Notwithstanding that it is audacity or sheer effrontery on the part of the railway officials, right down from the highest to the lowest to say that the bulbs are pilfered by the passengers. I told one of the members of the Railway Board two years ago, he was a European gentleman by name Mr. Brown, a Director of the Railway Board about these thefts. He sympathised with me and asked me to assist him. He said that the passengers steal them. I gave him some instances but still he was not satisfied. I went to the Member in Charge and he gave me the same answer which the Director gave me. This goes to prove that the Minister are absolutely guided by what their secretaries say and do not take pains to go a little further into the matter themselves.

An Honourable Member: That was in old days.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Of course these were old days. I am not mentioning it as a recent instance. But the fact remains that conditions today are the same and nothing is being done to remedy, or improve the situation. Therefore I have to repeat this. I do not know how from the inter class or even from the upper classes mirrors could be removed and put underneath the armpits and taken away in the presence of so many walking passengers. That really surpasses my comprehension, anybody could give an explanation. They are out to fool everybody all the time. I do not know whether they can fool everybody all the time. There is no denying the fact that I have investigated the matter too, that the whole pilferage happens among the railway staff itself. There is no question about it. They know the manufacturers or contractors who supply the bulbs to the railways and sell them.

When I was young I used to do welfare work among railwaymen and used to visit loco workshops. I used to find that every workman who returned in the afternoon from the workshop was searched by some chowkidar at the gate. I did not like then the idea of search of men who were released from duty in the workshops. If the chowkidar suspects somebody he would detain him and search him fully. In my opinion if these continue they should be vigorously held and proper type of honest men should be located at these gates. My friend Dr. Deshmukh went to the length of saying that they should be shot. I will not go to that length. Conditions have become so bad that my friend has become desparate. Let us take a realistic view. Is there nobody who can check this kind of thing? I have investigated several instances and in not a single instance was it proved that a passenger stole the articles. Have the Railway Board applied their mind and found out how the pilferage takes places? We would like to know what steps have been taken and who has been entrusted to check this crime that is constantly taking place. That really goes to prove that there is something so rotten in the administration from the very bottom to the top. The Honourable Minister must really take serious steps in the matter. I know he says that he has at heart the well being of the travelling public. He must concentrate his mind upon this matter and find out how these thefts take place. What happens is this. Not only are bulbs stolen but the switches are also stolen. In the upper class compartments there is no switch with the result the passenger has to twist two open wires to put on the light. If the third class passengers are thieves, am I to understand that the upper class passengers are also thieves. Everybody has become a thief excepting the railwaymen. That is the position that we are led to believe. The travelling public have become immoral but the railwaymen are perfect, honest and straight forward. I am not prepared to accept that. These articles are of no use to the average passenger. Ordinary person does not know who is the contractor or manufacturer who supplies these bulbs to the railway. It is the railway people who know it. They steal these things and sell them to the contractor.

On the B. B. & C. I. and G. I. P. the mirrors bear the stamp of the railways. Has anybody seen in anybody's house such mirrors existing? Even the pegs on which we hand our coats are removed and no notice is being taken by anybody of these matters. This is the condition in which we are asked to travel and we are asked to be patient until new coaches are received. We are told conditions are bad, stocks are not available, more coaches are not available and we should be patient. How long can the passengers be asked to be patient. This question does not depend on the availability of coaches or new engines or spare parts. When I represented these things there is no satisfactory answer either from the Divisional Superintendent or the Chairman of the Advisory Committee or from the member of the Railway Board. I have never received any satisfactory answer which would appeal to the ordinary common-sense man. I therefore humbly suggest to the Honourable Minister that he should seriously take this matter up and find out who is to blame. If he wants the co-operation

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva]

of some of our friends we are ready to help him in the matter. Do not dismiss us by saying that we do it merely to criticise the Government. It does not give us any pleasure to criticise our own popular ministers in our free Government of India. It is a disgrace and shame that I have to tell the passengers that our popular government cannot do anything. If we have to restore the good name of the railway administration and the name of the popular government, these mattters which may be small to the Honourable Minister but are big ones to the public, should be attended to.

I do not know whether I will be in order in pointing out that in the budget under *compensation for goods lost in transit* a sum is provided and I think this covers.....

Mr. Speaker: It does not cover it.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: A crore of rupees is provided by the Railway Board to give compensation for the articles lost, *i.e.* lost and pilfered by the railway servants. Of course there may be 5 or 10 per cent. theft by the public in this. Instances have been brought to the notice of the Railways that the railway police and the railway guards have been responsible for thefts of parcels from brake vans for which the Railways had to pay heavy compensation.

With these words I strongly support the motion of my Honourable friend. This is one of the main points and I am glad that it has been brought home to the Minister. I hope he will give it that attention which is due to it.

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the cut motion moved by my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh. Not only are the fittings being pilfered from the railway carriages but I know that wagons are broken. The investigations made by the railway authorities through the local police authorities are to no avail. I know of many cases where Congressmen, who tried to help to stop these pilfering cases, have been punished. There are many cases and I am still investigating these cases. I hope the Honourable the Railway Minister will help us in future in this matter. He has received many applications from the public and he is moving in his own way. I want to say that moving in that way cannot remove these gangs from those places. I have come to know that these gangs live by the side of the railway lines They are in collusion with the railway servants. Station after station the men who are responsible for these pilferings are in collusion with the railway employees—the station masters and other railwaymen. When the railway authority tries to investigate the matter what happens is when the local police go for investigation they are bribed and the real incidents do not come out. Such incidents are going on. I hope that the Honourable the Railway Minister will give his kind attention to these matters and find out other means so that these pilferings may be checked.

With these words, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the cut motion.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, I think two very important points have been made in this debate by my two friends, Dr. Deshmukh, the Mover of the motion and Mr. Sidhva. This is a matter which ought to attract now the serious notice of the railway authorities. This does not entail very heavy expenditure on the part of the Government: It only requires a little toning up of the administration in the lower ranks. I do not agree with my friend Mr. Sidhva that this evil has been an aftermath of the war. If Honourable Members will turn to the pages of debates during 1944-45 they will see that we had in the past discussions of a motions very much on these lines. This evil really started from 1943 till it assumed such formidable proportions that it had to be taken serious notice of by this House. But whenever this matter was raised either in this House or in the Standing Finance Committee, surprisingly enough the usual stereotyped reply used to be, that all this act of pilferage was by the passengers. My Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh has not in the least exaggerated when he said that by trying to shift the whole blame on the travelling public the railway authorities were really going to shirk their own responsibility in the matter. I do not believe that my Honourable friend the Railway Minister holds the view that passengers, including passengers of first and second class go on stealing the railway fitting and equipment as they travel on. I openly asked Sir Edward Benthall, the Railway Member in those days, whether the excuses that were generally put forward by the railway administrations that these things were stolen by the passengers were thoroughly and scientifically investigated. I say 'scientifically investigated'. Mr Sidhva was on very strong ground when he said that the bulbs fitted in railway compartments could not be used any where else except in the railway compartments themselves or perhaps in private electrical installations at individual residences. I pointed out at that time to Sir Edward Benthall and do point out now also that among the third class passengers, who are charged with this crime, I do not know of many people who have private electrical installations or dynamos in their residences wherein to use these bulbs. The House would be interested to know that the type of bulb that is generally fitted in railway compartments can only be operated under a very low voltage not exceeding 110. The voltage in railway compartments is generally 30 to 40, whereas in all public electrical installations the current is supplied generally at 220 volts in this country. It is not America where for domestic consumption electricity is supplied at a very low voltage. In this country you have got D.C. installations in cities and A. C. installations outside big cities. In all such installations the current is generally distributed under fairly high voltage. If any bulb which is used in a railway compartment is put on any of the points on these electrical installations where current is distributed at high voltage the bulb will get fused in a second. It is no use therefore telling that these bulbs are being taken away for being sold privately to people. The question then arises who are the people that steal them? That is a question which requires investigation. It cannot be demonstrably proved that they are stolen by railway employees only to be sold to the railway concerns, but there is a grave suspicion. I had occasions to discuss this matter with the General Managers of the E. I. Railway and of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. They told me very seriously that these bulbs were stolen by the people. They told me "You please do one thing for us. You are a public man of some standing. You please go on making propaganda to the public not to steal these bulbs". I said "It is a wonderful suggestion you have made. How can I go about the country telling people all that?"-They said "Unless you do that we cannot do anything to stop this". I suggested, "Why not introduce a system by which your railway operatives, when working on the station yards or in places where these coaches are stabled, can detect them Why don't you institute vigorous measures? You have your watch and ward staff. What are these people doing " But nothing was done. It is not only a case of bulbs. As has been pointed out, mirrors and other fittings also are being removed. There are other astounding things. I have seen compartments from which all cushions have been completely removed—the entire cushions. I remember the occasion when we were making a tour as members of the Joseph Bhore (Post-War Reconstruction) Committee.

The railway authorities were requested to supply us an air-conditioned coach, but they could not do it. So we had to travel in an ordinary first class touring coach with no cushions. After a couple of hours I found that we had been really in a water-conditioned coach. There were sharp showers and water dripped through the roof. So we got soaked. Soon after that, when nightfall came we went to switch on the lights, but to our painful surprise there were all faked bulbs and they would not work. At every station we tried to get the bulbs replaced, but none could do anything. I then reported to the authorities the whole matter including the conversation that passed between me and the different station masters at important places. They also said the same thing—

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra]

"You carry on propaganda advising passengers not to steal bulb. So I am suggesting to my Honourable friend the Railway Minister that he should, and I am sure he would, pass strict instructions to all individual railway administrations to be very particular in this matter. After all it is true that we are still through a period of shortage of equipment and of bulbs, and we cannot afford now to allow this state of things to continue any further. In certain railway administrations they have put up something like anti-theft devices. I have seen them working in some of the railways and as a member of some of the local Advisory Committees I had asked railway administrations to give me an idea of the utility of the devices. But I found that it helped to put in more money into the pockets of the contractors but really did no good to the people as the compartments were very poorly lighted by reason of these devices. I want to tell the Railway Minister that these days I do not find the railway technical people coming and checking carriages—I mean the train inspectors, mechanics and fitters, who in the past, who, used to come at every important station and test every electric light or fan and the other fittings and fixtures. I wish that that practice were revived. You will say 'Yes, it is in force.' I would respectfully tell you that it it not. Either this department has been scrapped or these people have become so lazy that they do not turn up for their duty. If these people turned up at important stations, as they used to do before there could be some check. If at the starting point the guard is satisfied on the information of the technical staff that a particular rake is perfectly well fitted with all the necessary requirements and if at all subsequent important stations you have this inspecting arrangement then if there was anything missing, he could straight-way report it. Then one could really see whether the theft was committed by passengers. If on the other hand, throughout the journey of a particular train from the starting point to the point of its destination, there is no report of any theft by the technical staff in attendance, and if when the train reaches the destination it is allowed to be stabled somewhere and if thereafter you find bulbs and fittings missing, don't you think my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh or Mr. Sidhva has very strong ground for alleging that this theft must have been committed by people in the yard, that is, by the railway people? Therefore, Sir, if for no other purpose, but for the one of conserving the equipment that we have at present in our trains, the Honourable the Railway Minister could see that supervision was tightened up, probably we could reduce the evil to the minimum. At the same time I do realise that there has been a considerable decline in the moral of our people. Many young people do mischief for the sake of mischief. But to check the evil propensity the authorities must see that proper propaganda is carried on. They can impress upon the people once or twice a week, through the radio that these railways are our national assets and that none should do any damage to them. If they did any mischief, they themselves would have to pay for it. If this kind of systematic propaganda is carried on through radio and through posters at all stations, probably good results could be achieved. But something must be done; mere statements that this is the work of passengers is absolutely useless. I hope this sort of attitude will not be taken. We are out to help the Railway Administration in every conceivable way, but I think these are some of the ways in which the evil can be checked or at least minimised in all railway administrations. The local Advisory Committees should be instructed to take definite step in the matter immediately, as every year we are losing a vast amount of valuable material. Sir, I support the motion.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, Having followed the discussion on this important question I find that they have gone on, if I may be permitted to say so, rather in a way which could be called random. Sir, a friend has suggested that steps should be taken to make a search of the railway subordinates or officials or menials. I would never be a party to any search being realise the realities of the independence that we have secured after the 15th of

undertaken at our suggestion. I am out to appeal to all my countrymen, to August 1947. In this view of the question, I would never think of a search nor would I believe that any of our countrymen would be so mean as to go so low as to be a party to a crime which would necessitate search. Sir, the fact remains that there is pilfering. How best to put a stop to this pilfering? I would not convert the floor of this House into a debate putting the passenger against the railway subordinates or officials. Sir, it does not concern me in the least whether the passengers or the railway subordinates are a party to this pilfering. I would not go into these details. But I would appeal to the Honourable Minister in charge of the Railways to insist upon responsibility. Every railway is a property by itself. Let the officers or the menials concerned carry out checks when the train starts from a certain specified station, and they should be held responsible for the railway train and all things connected with it. Therefore let responsibility assert itself, and those who fail to discharge their responsibilities should be made to make good the loss. It is not mere propaganda, but it is propaganda and punishment. If and when found, both should be combined to produce the desired result. In this connection I would appeal to my Honourable friend to read that famous chapter on *danda*—punishment—which was inculcated by *Bhishma* on *Yudhishtira*, so well described in *Shanti Parva Mahabharat*. There in *Bhishma* explains how the world hangs on *danda*. I cannot understand why the gentlemen from the Railway Commissioner downward to the very porter should not be held responsible for theft or for any damage done to railways. I would not soil the floor of the House by discussing as to who is responsible for a theft.

It is they that have to enquire and bring before the court the persons responsible, they have to pick the criminal, it is not left to me nor given to me to investigate, enquire and place before them. They are paid for it and they must do it. If they do not do it, they have no place—that should be the attitude. Therefore, I would place before my Honourable friend the very good thesis left to us as a legacy by *Bhishma*, *i.e.* the chapter of *danda*, and this *danda* could be translated into actual practice by enforcing responsibility, responsibility which should be realised if necessary by searches. Let them do it; it is not our business to dictate as to how well it should be done or that pilfering be commuted into money. I want my property, the Nation wants the Railway asset to stand as it was. Therefore it is they—the high officials, the subordinate officials and the menials,—who must be held responsible equally whether they are a party to the pilfering or not.

If the passenger public do it, if there is any person so mean as to do it, let him also be brought before the law. What is the Watch and Ward Department doing? Under these circumstances I would appeal to you and through you to the Honourable Members of this House to insist upon the Honourable Minister that he will please see that responsibility is located and insisted upon and the punishment that flows from such lack of responsibility is insisted upon. Of late, it is painful to admit, the machinery of administration has become loose, and our notions of responsibility—we are also partly to blame for this—have also undergone some change. *Swaraj* brings responsibility; it brings freedom, it brings liberty and at the same time it brings responsibility. It has given India all the Railways of the country; that means and implies that we have to protect our railways and run efficiently—we, in the sense of the public as also the Railway officials. It is the joint responsibility of both because both are Indians. In this view of the question we have to realise our responsibility and see that this is insisted in practice. Therefore this pilfering has to be stopped. It is not only pilfering. Look at the Railway Budget—and I had given notice of a motion also—and the mounting provision for compensation that has been provided for losses. What really are "losses"? They are also pilferings. You may call them thefts; if it does not come under pilfering, I do not know, but you may expand the expression, and call it thefts—Railway

[Shri Biswanath Das]

thefts. The Railways have to pay contribution to the police for watch and ward. They have got their own officials. I do not see why a combination of all these forces and the co-operation of the public will not be able to fight against these difficulties. For myself, I hold every official, including the highest official possible, responsible for these because in them lies the whole responsibility; if they could administer properly and could improve morale, I do not think such thefts would be common. If the morale goes down, it is the men at the top that are responsible; high salaries have no justification if these officials cannot instil high morale in the subordinate staff.

Sir, we on our part have given what all you placed before us. We have placed our grievances before you only to enable you to see our difficulties because your responsibilities and our difficulties are one and the same. We have only placed our difficulties, but we have unstintingly given all that you wanted. Having given all that you wanted, we have a claim, we have a right to insist that all these should be attended to. Let us hope that by next year we do not expect to have such discussions in the feeling that there will be no pilfering whatever, and that the officials fight their battle against pilfering. With these words I support the motion.

Dr. P. K. Sen (Bihar: General): Sir, the debate has already gone on for a long time and I should have been the last person to add to its prolongation. But there is one item which I feel has been omitted from the list of things that are the subject matter of pilfering. We have already heard that things that relate to comfort and convenience have been found to be missing. Well, apart from electric bulbs or looking-glasses or things of that sort, there is something very vitally important for safety which is often found missing. It has been my experience in six cases out of ten whenever I have travelled for the night, that the clamps of the door, the safety catches, were missing. It was for that reason that I had to go on from station to station shouting for some *mistry* to come and set it right because one is perfectly unsafe in a compartment with the catch gone either from the door or even from the window. There are three parts to each window—the glass shutter, the wire netting and the venetian wood-work. In the two, apart from the glass shutter, there is always a catch. These catches are more often than not found missing. Now it does nobody a bit of good—whether he is a first class, second class or third class passenger—to steal these. There can be no doubt whatsoever that it must be the work of somebody belonging to a gang of thieves who want to effect an entrance into the compartment at night. Therefore, I think it really is a matter of very great importance; and it does not cost much in money either—the missing parts being only small catches, either of iron or sometimes a piece of wood. Therefore, I would draw the serious attention of the Honourable Minister for Transport in regard to this matter so that this evil may be remedied at once. Otherwise it is extremely unsafe for passengers to undertake night journeys.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: Sir, I had no intention to intervene in this debate, but Honourable friends have suggested some measures which require comment from me also. It is suggested that no searches should be made on the railway servants or anybody else, and the objection was that from the moral point of view it was not proper. There is no reason why searches should not be made None of the members of this House has suggested any measure as to how these thefts are to be stopped. We complain, and we rightly complain, that there are thefts and that there is pilfering. But the question is what is to be done? Whether the passengers are responsible or whether the railway servants are responsible is not the point at issue. Whether they have better morals or the passengers have better morals is also not a point to be discussed. The only real point is whether there is pilfering,—which is admitted—and if so, what are the remedies and what are the measures

to be taken for stopping this. In my opinion, Sir, there is only one suggestion which might probably improve the situation. In railway compartments, while the trains are running and at the railway stations, close inspection should be made by the detecting staff. Now, it is said that the railway servants should be made responsible. If the thefts are not detected are they to be prosecuted? Are the Police Officers to be prosecuted? What do you mean by "holding them responsible"? If thefts are committed, and they are not detected, it will be a proof of incompetency of the detecting staff. So the only remedy, according to me, is that the Member in charge of Railways should increase the detecting staff and the punishment meted out to them—I mean the offenders—should be serious.

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Bihar: General): Sir, I move.

"That the question be now put."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I am very grateful indeed to the House for the discussion which has taken place on this question and for the very valuable suggestions which they have made to me as to how this problem is to be tackled. I think I may conveniently summarise the problem with which we are faced in this manner. I do not want to apportion blame between one section of our population and another. The thefts that occur of these fittings might occur in one of two ways or in both ways; either when the train is on the move or when the train is on the stabling and the washing lines. As far as pilfering, if any, that occurs when the train is on the move is concerned, there is only one way in which we can tackle it, and that is, by intensifying the inspection of the train as it proceeds from point to point. That suggestion has been made, and I shall certainly see that it is carried out. There is inspection now, but the point is whether the inspection should not be strengthened and intensified.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Recently it has been very much slackened.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will have that looked into and set right.

The other thing is the pilfering which occurs when the train has performed its journey and is on the stabling and the washing lines. So far, for a long time, we have been depending on the services of our Watch and Ward. We have also been depending on the services of our anti-corruption staff for detecting whatever thefts might occur at the station premises. We could strengthen these two measures, have more effective Watch and Ward and also take much stricter action in the way of anti-corruption. But there is one thing that I want to tell the House, and that is, since two or three months ago, we have been taking this matter up very seriously and we have instructed all the Railway Administrations to appoint Resident Conductors to take charge of rakes when they are on the stabling and the washing lines. That system has been introduced since about two months ago and I am waiting to see whether it will make for any improvement.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is that the case on all Railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: A begining has been made with some, but we are instructing all Railways now to have a system of Resident Conductors who will be in charge of the rakes. It is very likely, as far as pilfering by railwaymen is concerned, pilfering must take place when the rakes are on the stabling in the washing lines. Therefore, at that point we are going to

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attack the problem on this basis. Whether there is anything more I can do at present, I do not know. I believe propaganda may help; I believe also something in the nature of rewards for information given may help, and stricter supersision at the stabling in the washing lines. . . .

Shri Biswanath Das: And punishment.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I think that is what is required. My Honourable friend Mr. Biswanath Das believes in punishment. I think the Honourable the Mover was prepared to give me powers to shoot at sight, and my Honourable friend Mr. Kamath said that I ought to emulate Mr. Mussolini. I do not mind having a shot at all these suggestions, but as far as Mr. Mussolini is concerned, he began well but I think his end was rather unsatisfactory. . . . . .

Shri H. V. Kamath: But he carried on for a long time!

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai..... and as far as shooting at sight is concerned, I regret to have to say that I have never handled a gun in my life and I believe in non-violence.

[*At this stage, Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen).*]

But, Sir, the problem is one which is very seriously present to my mind and it is a matter not merely of importance to our travelling public but it is a matter, putting it at its very lowest, which is of very great financial importance to the Railways and therefore from both points of view I give a definite undertaking to the House that the suggestions which have been made will not only be considered but I shall do my very best to implement them.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Will the Honourable Minister consider one suggestion? If the process of enquiry reveals a particular group or source, will he as an experimental measure consider a system of collective fine?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not a believer in vicarious punishment. It is rather a drastic measure—the imposition of collective fines—but I think before we proceed to a measure of that kind we ought to see whether we cannot effect fairly substantial improvement along the lines which have been already suggested.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable Minister consider my suggestion of sending Dr. Deshmukh to Russia or America?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am prepared to give way to my Honourable friend as the suggestion has emanated from him.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I would leave the question to be settled between the two Honourable Members.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 1—RAILWAY BOARD—*contd.*

Conditions prevailing on Oudh and Tirhut Railway

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, I am glad that the motion which I am moving is recognised to be a motion of extreme importance. In fact, the other day, during question-hour, the Honourable Minister for Railways said that O. T. R. was a headache. I am glad it is a headache, but I wish that headache went away and he became quite healthy and that it did not persist long.

Unfortunately the people on the O. T. Railway side have suffered far too long and any further prolongation of the agony will not be desirable. In fact I listened with great interest to the discussion on the preceding motion about the railway fittings and I was interested to see the resentment of the House at the removal of fittings. But if my Honourable friends were to travel on the O. T. Railway and they found that the whole trains there moved almost without a single light I wonder what they would think about it? This sight is not an exceptional one, but a very frequent sight. If merely for the absence of fittings or catches the Honourable friends in this House are excited, I wonder what they would do if they saw all trains practically every day going without any lights in all the compartments on the O. T. Railway? I repeat that this is not a rare sight, but a very frequent sight. In the compartments, there are no latrines and they are overcrowded in a manner to be found nowhere in any train in India. Every day there are at least half a dozen accidents on the O. T. Railway, because people are on the roofs, they are on the boards and they are everywhere and yet they have not got even ordinary lights at midnight. If I want to describe all that agony I will be simply repeating what has already been said here but I will say that all that has been said prevails on the O. T. Railway in a very extreme form and the question is how to remove it. I am glad the evils on the O. T. Railway are recognised and it is for us to see how we can remedy them. Apart from the passenger difficulties, the House has not probably heard the kinds of thefts that have happened. Have you heard that two whole wagons loaded with salt were stolen from the yards of the O. T. Railway Gorakhpur headquarters? Have you ever heard that whole wagons containing bales of cloth continued to be missing for months together? It is not possible that any single person or any passenger can remove all these things. Without the men on the top conniving these things cannot happen. You must have read, Sir, in the newspapers of the hardship and numerous grievances in Gorakhpur and other places and personally I find that things have not improved and do not improve. I therefore thought it necessary that I should bring this motion to bring pointed attention to this particular railway, which is in fact a sort of microcasm of all the evils that prevail on the railways in a most extreme form. The whole question is what is the cause of all these evils and how it can be remedied? As regards ticketless travelling in the O. T. Railway, I wish to say that everything is in its extreme form. I have known that on certain portions of the railway the T. T. E.'s have been beaten. In fact if they check the trains, they will be beaten and probably some are even mained. The whole thing has been so unsatisfactory that unless the administration take the whole thing very seriously, things will not improve. Accidents on the O. T. Railway are the largest on record in India; derailments are a common thing; you can never expect to reach in time by the O. T. Railway.

4 P.M.

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

I quoted a case of a strike in the railway on one of our grain shops and as I told at the time that matter was hushed. Why was it hushed unless the men on the top knew what happened? I therefore want that all these things when they are found out should be traced to the very source.

I have been connected with the O. T. Railway workers ever since I went to Gorakhpur in 1930 and I have known that things are still continuing in the same condition as they were then found. After the 15th of August, we had hoped that a new spirit will come, but what is happening? The other day I found that a Railway Police Sub-Inspector had arranged to carry some coal from Bhatni to Gorakhpur for his private consumption; the guard came to know of it; he was a young man from the north and he reported the matter and somehow or other that man was detained and an enquiry was begun. But I learnt that a very high official of the Railway who has now gone to Pakistan intervened and got the case hushed up. Very soon after that the Sub-Inspector got some case and got the poor guard named by the man who was guilty; and he has been suspended for six months. If anybody who tries to be honest or wishes to help Government by doing his duty this is the reward he gets. And this is also how the people who want to defraud work. So after a long consideration of the matter I think that the O. T. Railway has some traditions: for hundred years it has been managed by a company who was reputed to be the worst in the whole country.

I was just going through figures and I found that until 1946 in the expenses of management the O. T. Railway was the lowest. For the year 1945-46 the percentage of expenses on the B. and A. Railway was 83 per cent; on the B. N. R. it was 91; on the B. B. & C. I. cent per cent.; on the East Indian Railway it was 70 per cent and on the G. I. P. Railway 56 per cent; on the N. W. R. it was 76 but on the O. T. Railway it was 38·32 per cent. That shows how this railway was very badly managed and was a source of probable milking by the Company and the situation continued until 1946. I do not know of recently after the Pay Commission recommendations came in, but that was what was happening till then. Unless and until all those officers who are there were removed every year and a new staff,—who have been in an atmosphere quite different from that railway atmosphere or some other railways—are put there, I am afraid things will not improve. That is what I have heard from everybody; they say that the whole thing cannot be improved until at least for once the entire staff who has been connected with the railway for long years is completely changed and particularly the men on top. It is quite obvious that such extraordinary things cannot happen every day and nothing can happen unless such high officers connive at it. I do not want to condemn anybody, but it is a serious reflection on their efficiency and on the Government that they should continue to be so. When the matter has been referred here, without stopping such things from happening, the Honourable Minister has said that the O. T. Railway is his headache. But when I said that 38 per cent. was the expenditure on the O. T. Railway compared to the large percentage of the other railways, you can imagine how badly it is managed. I had the privilege of representing the O. T. Railway Union before the Railway Adjudicator Mr. Rajadhyaksha who was appointed to discuss the questions of leave and other matters, and I was surprised that during that discussion there were cases where guards drivers and all those people had to work continuously some times for 80 hours, for 90 hours and station masters had to work for 139 hours and no relief was given. That is what has happened. I am sorry the report has not yet been published—at least I have not seen it—and the recommendations made by them have not been given effect to. The O. T. Railway staff is

probably the smallest in all the railways; unless it is increased in very large measure I think it will not be possible to set things right. I have heard workers complain that they cannot get leave because there is no relief available. I wish things were set right soon and this complaint stopped.

Then, Sir, the Pay Commission's report and its implementation by the Railway Board in the O. T. Railway has caused very grave dissatisfaction. In fact, as I said, it is worst paid of all railways and its men draw the lowest salaries. Even now after the Pay Commission's recommendation I find that conditions have not improved. This morning my Honourable friend Mr. Shastri gave figures for the S. I. Railway and said that 90 per cent of the staff was fixed on the lowest scales. I go further and say that on the O. T. Railway 95 per cent. of the staff is on the lowest scales, because they were all on the old scales and those have continued. And things are as bad now as they were before. In fact a man with 30 years service is now equal to one who was there three years ago. But if a man has been there for 30 years he should get increment for 30 years.

Then there is the question of overlapping. The Pay Commission suggested that things should be simplified and the pay scales should be reduced. But on the O. T. Railway I find that where there were two scales there are now three and where there was one there are now two. Still the major portion of the people are in the lowest grades. For instance, there are 31 drivers placed in grade A. All of them are Anglo-Indians or Europeans and the old things continue. In fact I have heard some drivers say that those who taught them are still in the lower grades on the Rs. 35-60 scale. I suggest that the Pay Commission's recommendations as they have been applied to the staff should be revised. There is too much overlapping. In fact it has been suggested that 15 years' time should be given for the pay scales of drivers. A driver cannot be a driver without 20 years' service; he must be a fireman and a shunter, and so on, and then alone he can be a driver. He will have to spend 20 years in that way and in 15 years he cannot reach the maximum. So I want that this should be rationalised and there should be such a scheme that everybody may reach the maximum.

Secondly, there should be only one scale for drivers. It is now Rs. 200-300 and another Rs. 60-120. There is no reason why there should be so much difference. There should be only one single scale. I have suggested that the O. T. Railway is in a very bad condition because the staff is badly paid, and unless the whole thing is revised things will not improve. I wish the Honourable Minister would go into this whole thing and remove this headache of his so that this blot on the railway administration is removed. Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I am very familiar with conditions on the O. T. Railway and I have been anxious for some time for special steps to be taken in regard to the improvement of existing conditions on that railway. There are three directions in which I am hoping that some improvement may be effected. I agree with my Honourable friend Prof. Saksena that in the O. T. Railway Government have inherited a pretty bad legacy, and it is rather a difficult problem to meet all the handicaps which we have inherited along with the assets of the O. T. Railway. As I said, there are three directions in which I am hoping some effort may be made. First of all when it comes to appointments to the top offices of the O. T. Railway, the Chief Commissioner and I are agreed that we should in every case pick out the very best officer available anywhere on the Indian railway system. That is the principle

[Dr. John Matthai]

that we are going steadily to follow. I think the three General Managers that we have had recently on the O. T. Railway have been among the ablest of our senior Indian officers, and that principle will be applied also to the heads of the various departments.

Secondly, I hope that as a result of the application of the Pay Commission's recommendations and such proposals as may emerge from the Adjudicator's report some improvement would also be effected in the conditions of labour. The various specific points raised by my Honourable friend Prof. Saksena would be considered in the consideration which is at present going on regarding outstanding matters relating to the Pay Commission's report.

There is a third direction in which I am hoping something may be done, and that is by the regrouping of the railway system in India; and the O. T. Railway then will disappear in its present form and will be tacked on to other administrations whose traditions are, I hope, a little better.

So it is in these three directions that I am trying to apply my mind to the problem of improving conditions on the O. T. Railway; and I would ask my Honourable friend Prof. Saksena to rest assured that so far as it lies within my power I will leave nothing undone to secure a better order of things on the O. T. Railway.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, I thank the Honourable Minister for the assurance given and beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 13—APPROPRIATION TO BETTERMENT FUND

Mr. Chairman: May I request the Honourable Minister for Railways to move Demand No. 13?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 83,62,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Appropriation to Betterment Fund'."

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 83,62,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Appropriation to Betterment Fund'."

DEMAND NO. 14—APPROPRIATION TO RESERVE

Mr. Chairman: May I requeht the Honourable Minister for Railways to move Demand No. 14 also?

The Honourable Dr John Matthai: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,50,00,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Appropriation to Reserve'."

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,50,00,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Appropriation to Reserve'."

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: Mr. Chairman the amount that has been assigned out of the Rs. 10 crores surplus for the Reserve Fund is Rs. 4,50,00,000. In my speech at the time of the general discussion. I had argued and stated that the entire surplus should go to the Reserve Fund. It was stated in the speech of the Railway Minister that a Committee was appointed and the findings of

Committee was appointed and the findings of the Committee that would be arrived at would be communicated to the House. It seems, that the findings are that Rs. 4,50,00,000 should be given to the Reserve Fund and the rest should be appropriated towards general revenue. I had explained last time that it is an accepted principle that the Reserve Fund should be higher than Rs. 20 crores. The Wedgwood Committee had recommended that the Reserve Fund should be at least Rs. 50 crores. In the last budget speech by the minister in charge of Railways it was stated:

"All proposals for increase in fares and freights would be unpopular. I personally wish that it had been possible for me to avoid making these proposals. When I suggested a small increase during the last budget session I was so severely attacked that I had no mind to propose further increases, but circumstances have been altogether beyond my control. There is one difference between the last increase and the present increase. Last time the increase was made not in order to meet a deficit but to strengthen the surplus while this time we are making these proposals because it is the only way we can avoid a deficit."

Thus the rates and fares were increased because there was a deficit. And when there is a surplus rates and fares are not being decreased. I should say, that this will be a breach of faith on the part of the Government.

Sir, the need for an adequate Reserve Fund cannot be over-stated. I have already submitted that the Wedgwood Committee recommended that the Reserve Fund should be at least Rs. 50 crores. I do not know, Sir, the reasons why the surplus of Rs. 4,50,00,000 has only been assigned to the Reserve Fund and the rest has been taken away. The railways in India are a public utility concern. They are not only a commercial organization from which any exploitation of revenue to the general revenue is expected. As I have already said, the prices had gone up very high. According to all economic laws if there is a depression, there ought to be a sufficient reserve fund from which the railways could fall back to fill up the deficit? The minister in charge of Railways will come to this House and say that there is not a sufficient reserve fund. There is a deficit and the fares and taxes may be increased as was done the last time. Whenever there is a surplus that will be taken away to the general revenues and would not be credited to the reserve fund. This is a very peculiar position.

The Government of this country had given a definite promise last time that rates would increase only because there was a deficit. But when there is a surplus that amount of the surplus is not credited to the reserve fund nor are rates and fares being decreased. Therefore I submit that this is a betrayal of the interests of the poor people in any case. The rates and fares have increased. Therefore the Railway Member should not have accepted the giving away of Rs. 4,50,00,000 to general revenues.

One of the objects of the reserve fund is that money should be spent on the betterment or conveniences of the third class passengers. It is an admitted fact that 80 per cent of the revenue, or 85 per cent of it, come from the pockets of third-class passengers. This was the proper time when something could be done in that connection. This was the year when an improvement could have been made in regard to the comforts and conveniences of the third-class passengers. But this has been denied for reasons not known. No reasons have been assigned as to why the whole surplus is not being credited to the reserve fund and why this amount is not to be spent towards the reduction of the fares and rates and towards the comforts of the third-class passengers. As I have already stated there are no better coaches now there are no better lavatories for passengers: there is no cleanliness and there is no remedy for over-crowding. My submission is that it has been stated that there is to be replacement of locomotives and other parts in the railway department. I have already submitted that if the entire depreciation amount is spent away it would

[Kazi Syed Karimuddin]

be difficult to replace the locomotives that have been worn out. This was the singular occasion that with Rs. 10 crores as surplus, the railway department could have applied this amount towards the betterment fund or towards the improvement of the comforts of third-class passengers, the replacement of old locomotives and to have kept a certain amount in the reserve fund.

There is already a move, and it is being openly discussed that the private concerns are better than State-owned concerns. If in a year of depression it is found that there is no sufficient reserve fund: if it is found that the railway/ industry is not prospering; it would be said that this nationalised industry, which is an asset to India, has failed because it is State-owned. But nobody would see what amount has been taken from the surplus. Nobody would have seen that this ought not to have been taken from the surplus. Therefore, this is a wrong and injustifiable move and I submit that this grant of Rs. 4,50,00,000 should have been rupees ten crores, which is the surplus.

Shri O. V. Alagesan (Madras: General): Sir, I want to offer a few remarks about the Betterment Fund. When there was this surplus of nine and odd crores there were three parties claiming it—the Honourable the Railway Minister, the Honourable the Finance Minister and of course the third party which is the most important party, namely, the third class passenger. But the Committee which went into the question had to satisfy the two dominant claimants and so divided the amount equally and whatever remained, *i.e.*, Rs. 83,62,000, was allotted to the Betterment Fund. In my opinion the Betterment Fund is the only ray of hope for the third class passenger, who otherwise has to suffer a lot. This year from the Betterment Fund an expenditure of 5,80 lakhs has been proposed, out of which I find only 2½ crores have been provided for amenities for the third class passenger. Two crores is allotted for staff quarters and there are various other items like workshops, loco shops for which six lakhs and odd is provided and for 'Other Works' under one general head is allotted a sum of 27 lakhs. Though 5,80 lakhs is being allotted for expenditure from the Betterment Fund, less than 50 per cent of it actually goes to the third class passengers. When this fund was initiated in 1946 the intention was purely to help and provide amenities to the lower class passengers. But even at that stage other factors have been let in. I shall read from the speech of the then Railway Minister:

"In February 1945 the Standing Finance Committee for Railways recommended that during years of prosperity a fund be built up of appropriation from surplus for financing amenities for lower class passengers."

He goes on:

"We now have here a large programme of additions and improvements covering amenities to lower class passengers and staff welfare and other items designed for the safety and comfort of the public which are likely to be unremunerative."

While providing amenities to the third class passenger the then Member has brought in other items of unremunerative expenditure also. In that way the importance of this fund to the third class passenger has been in my opinion very considerably lessened. The other day during the course of the general discussion I was very glad to hear the Honourable Railway Minister say that this Betterment Fund is chiefly intended for providing amenities to the third class passenger. I only request him to put that into force and see that at least 75 per cent of this amount is actually spent on providing amenities for third class pasengers. In the whole of the South Indian Railway they are spending about 32 lakhs and odd under this head and I find that only Rs. 20,000 is provided to improve the latrines and for other sanitary arrangements. Every body knows how woeful the sanitary arrangements are in the various stations. There are other matters also like watering arrangements. Actually there are large

crowds beseiging the stations and whole nights they have to spend in the open without waiting room facilities or even a semblance of a roof over their heads. These things cry for urgent attention and wherefrom can provision be made for these things except perhaps from the Betterment Fund. I would therefore request the Honourable the Railway Minister to see to it that the best portion of this fund is spent on amenities to third class passengers and thus help really the man who contributes most to the revenues of the railway.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I have very little to say on the subject. As the House well knows the proposals that we have made to the House are based on the finding of a very authoritative committee and I would not therefore like to offer any observations.

Mr. Chairman: There is no other cut motion and I will put all the demands to the House.

The question is:

"That the separate sums not exceeding the sums shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of corresponding demands entered in the second column thereof."

The motion was adopted.

[*As directed by the Honourable the Speaker, the Motions for demands for grants, which were adopted by the Assembly are reproduced below:—Ed. S. D.*]

DEMAND NO. 1—RAILWAY BOARD

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,84,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Railway Board'.

DEMAND NO. 2—AUDIT

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,84,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Audit'.

DEMAND NO. 3—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,00,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'.

DEMAND NO. 4—WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,98,43,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Administration'.

DEMAND NO. 5—WORKING EXPENSES—REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,94,44,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance'.

DEMAND NO. 6—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATING STAFF

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,20,13,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operating Staff'.

DEMAND NO. 7—WORKING ERPENSES—OPERATION (FUEL)

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,77,78,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)'.

DEMAND NO. 8—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION OTHER THAN STAFF AND FUEL

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,93,87,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operation other than Staff and Fuel'.

DEMAND NO. 9—WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,30,37,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'.

DEMAND NO. 10—PAYMENT TO INDIAN STATES AND COMPANIES

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,52,99,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Payments to Indian States and Companies'.

DEMAND NO. 11 —WORKING EXPENSES—APPROPRIATION TO DEPRECIATION FUND

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,18,41,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Appropriation to Depreciation Fund'.

DEMAND NO. 13—APPROPRIATION TO BETTERMENT FUND

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 83,62,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Appropriation to Betterment Fund'.

DEMAND NO. 14—APPROPRIATION TO RESERVE

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,50,00,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Appropriation to Reserve'.

DEMAND NO. 15—CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LINES

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,32,00,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Construction of New Lines'.

DEMAND NO. 16—OPEN LINE WORKS—ADDITIONS

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,12,00,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Open Line Works—Additions'.

DEMAND NO. 17—OPEN LINE WORKS— REPLACEMENTS

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,65,80,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Open Line Works—Replacements'.

DEMAND NO. 18—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON VIZAGPATAM PORT

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,30,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Vizagapatam Port'.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday the 25th February, 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Wednesday, the 25th February 1948

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS

COMMITTEE FOR STUDY OF CONSTITUTION FRAMED FOR PORTUGUESE INDIA

455. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Governor-General-in-Council of Portuguese India has appointed a Committee of 23 persons to study and give their opinion on the Constitution framed by the Portuguese, Government for Portuguese India?

(b) Is it a fact that the Portuguese Peoples Association in Goa has refused to be a party to this Constitution?

(c) Is it a fact that the Satyagraha is continuing in some parts of Portuguese India by their nationals?

(d) Do Government intend to take up these matters with the Portuguese Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Government of India understand that out of 62 persons invited by the Governor-General of Portuguese India, a Committee of 21 persons was appointed to express their opinion on the new "Statute" on the 17th and 18th January which dispersed without reaching any conclusion. Subsequently the full assembly of 62 persons was invited by the Governor-General on the 26th January. They also dispersed without reaching any conclusion.

(b) The Government of India are awaiting a report which they have called for from their Consular Representative.

(c) No exact information is available about the extent of the Satyagraha movement in Portuguese India, but political arrests are taking place from time to time.

(d) No. I may, however, draw the attention of the Honourable Member to my answer on 11th February 1948, to Starred Question No. 246 by Honourable Member Shri V. C. Keshav Rao.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Now that the British imperialists have quitted India, will Government consider the desirability and the advisability of taking steps on a high diplomatic, interstate or international level in order to liquidate the other blustering little jingoes, namely the Portuguese and French chauvinist panjandrums from the soil of India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: In the last part of my answer to this question I referred to a previous answer in which I dealt with this matter. We are very much interested in this question, but it involves all manner of international contacts and for the moment we are not in direct diplomatic relations with the Portuguese Government. It is possible that we may have such direct relations. Meanwhile we can only deal with them through other Ambassadors and this delays matters. We are pursuing the matter.

Seth Govinddas: Are any negotiations going on with the Portuguese Government for our diplomatic relations with them in the near future?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, something has been done. A suggestion was made on the part of the Portuguese Government whether we would be agreeable to have such representation and we agreed to it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the Honourable Prime Minister's answer to my question apply to the French Government as well?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as the French Government is concerned, the French Government is represented here and we are represented in France and we have considered this matter and discussed it in some detail with them and I hope that before very long some further steps may be taken.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that the Portuguese Governor-General in India has informed his Government in Portugal that in view of the present condition in which the reports are not coming from the people, the *status quo* should prevail?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I do not know about the communications between the Portuguese Governor-General and his Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government tried to ascertain whether there is any truth in the news that there were certain negotiations going on between Hyderabad and the Portuguese Government for the acquisition of Marmagao by the Nizam?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: This is a difficult question for me to answer about secret negotiations between other Governments. There are all manner of rumours to that effect, but I can assure the House whatever the rumours that actual thing cannot happen.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: May I know who is our Consul at Goa today?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: At the present moment there is no regular Consul there because our Consul at Goa has some little time back assumed charge of the Consul-Generalship at Pondicherry. Goa for this purpose is under Pondicherry.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How can it be?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Quite so. Our Consul-General at Pondicherry is also in charge of Goa, but in addition to that there is a Vice-Consul at Goa. Now since our Consul at Goa was promoted to Pondicherry, there is no other like appointment at Goa. We did appoint a certain gentleman, but the Portuguese Government did not approve of him on the ground, as they stated, that he was a Portuguese subject. Since then no other appointment has been made.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Is there any idea of appointing another Consul?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Oh yes. There is always a Vice-Consul there. He is in a sense under the Consul-General at Pondicherry but he functions from Goa and deals directly with us.

Seth Govinddas: Is our Consul-General in Pondichery an Indian or a foreigner because I think that Consul-General was appointed by the foreign government.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir. The previous Consul-General was an Englishman, but now since his departure our Consul at Goa has been promoted to Consul-Generalship of Pondicherry. He is not a foreigner.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has not the Portuguese Government so far asked for exchange of Ambassadors with our Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have just answered that question. There has been no formal request but we have been approached indirectly whether we would be prepared to exchange diplomatic representatives, and we said we would be so prepared.

QUARANTINE REGULATIONS FOR INDIAN PASSENGERS AT MANDAPAM BY CEYLON GOVERNMENT

456. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are quarantine regulations by the Ceylon Government for Indian passengers at Mandapam;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are special rules for III class passengers;

(c) whether Government are aware that III class passengers who carry with them the vaccination certificates of Health Officers and also comply with all the quarantine requirements are detained by Ceylon authorities at Mandapam whereas upper class passengers are allowed to proceed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that quarantine rules are applicable to all passengers irrespective of the class they travel;

(f) whether it is a fact that Mandapam Quarantine is located on Indian soil; and

(g) if the reply to part (f) be in the affirmative in what year, under what conditions and at what price this land was granted to the Ceylon Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. That is the practice followed by the Medical Officer of the Ceylon Government whose view apparently is that I and II class passengers ordinarily live a more hygienic life and incur comparatively less risk of infection during the railway journey.

(e) The Ceylon quarantine regulations are applicable alike to all passengers irrespective of the class in which they travel, but the issue of a health certificate is at the discretion of the Quarantine Medical Officer, and in the exerise of such discretion the Medical Officer insists on the detention of III class passengers.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The land was acquired by the Government of Madras and transferred without any condition to the Government of Ceylon at various times during the years 1913 and 1928 on payment by that Government of Rs. 7,894-12-11 as market value of the land and the capitalised value of land revenue.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Have the Government of India negotiated with the Government of Ceylon regarding discrimination about III class passengers at any time, and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Our Agent there is in constant touch with the Government of Ceylon and some time last year I think, one of our principal officers of the Commonwealth Relations Department went specially there to meet the quarantine officers and others, and discussed the situation so that we are having continuous discussions. It is not so much a question of discrimination. The way they put it is this: He has a right to inspect anybody. But normally speaking the Ceylon authorities said the III class passengers are more unhygienic. Therefore, he pays more attention to them.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that our ex-Agent Mr. Aney reported to the Government of India that this distinction requires to be considered and that the matter has been referred to the Government of India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Because of that we sent a special officer to this place and we had a long report from him and we communicated it to the Ceylon Government. Now the question is whether the thing is being done by the Ceylon Government. We can of course, if we so choose, insist that the Ceylon Government should remove that officer and put him somewhere else, may be in Ceylon territory. Then we will have no control over him at all. We prefer to leave him where he is because if on Indian soil we can check any abuse.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that III class passengers also produce the same type of health certificate as upper class passengers and still they are detained?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sorry, I do not know.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if owing to the stoppage of emigration of unskilled labour the whole arrangement has not become meaningless nowadays?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not so important as it was, but there is plenty of traffic.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the question been examined whether it would be in the interests of our own working classes, whether skilled or unskilled, who go to Ceylon, to be examined for hygienic reasons on the Indian soil or on the Ceylonese soil?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Ceylon Government wants to examine them. We can insist on the Ceylon Government doing so on its own soil, not on our soil, but that would not result in any advantage to our people. Probably they will be subjected to still more stringent examination on their soil.

ISSUE OF IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENCES FOR CLOTH TO REFUGEE MERCHANTS

457. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether a letter regarding allotment of special quotas for export of cloth to Sind merchants who suffered losses in foreign countries during the war addressed by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries to the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has been passed on to the Ministry of Commerce?

(b) Are Government aware that these merchants have suffered further in the recent disturbances in Sind?

(c) Have they asked for a special quota for export of cloth to foreign countries and if so, what steps do Government propose to take in this matter?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the question of granting import and export licences more liberally to refugees from Sind and Punjab?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) No, Sir. The Ministry of Commerce, however, received a letter No. 2451/730, dated the 16th December, 1947, on the subject, direct from the Federation.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. The letter asks for special export quotas to the merchants in question. As however, many of these merchants are already receiving quotas out of the 25 per cent. of destinational quotas for the export of cotton piecegoods reserved for newcomers and others who have not received any quotas in the past are also eligible to apply for similar allotments, Government do not propose to take any special steps in the matter.

(d) Refugees from Pakistan who used to receive export quotas while in Pakistan continue to get these quotas in India. The claims of refugees who were doing import trade in Pakistan will also be duly considered provided they produce satisfactory evidence regarding the extent of their previous business. Those refugees, who were not receiving import or export quotas in the past can also apply for such quotas as newcomers and their cases will be considered sympathetically on merits.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister has stated that sufficient quotas have been given to them. May I ask how much quota has been granted to them?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: There is not a particular quantity that is fixed for it. But quite a large portion of the quota that has been reserved for newcomers has been allotted to several of these merchants.

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES FROM SIND

458. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the total number of refugees from Sind who came to India, how many of them are located in refugee camps and in which refugee camps they are so located?

(b) What arrangements have been made for their rehabilitation?

(c) How many of them have been employed in services and how many are engaged in trade?

(d) Have they taken any monetary help from Government under the Rehabilitation Scheme?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No tally has been kept of refugees who have come to the territories of the Indian Union from Sind. A rough estimate indicates that the number who have come to India upto date may be 5½ lakhs. A statement showing the number of refugees from Sind in the various camps run by the Central Government is laid on the table.

(b) No separate arrangements for rehabilitation of Sind refugees have been made. The general schemes of rehabilitation applicable to other refugees from Western Pakistan will be applicable to them also.

(c) Upto 31st January 1948, the Transfer Bureau has obtained employment for 372 Sind refugees. The number of refugees from West Pakistan who have found employment through the Employment Exchange upto 15th January, 1948, is 11,769. The Employment Exchanges have not maintained separate statistics for refugees from Sind. The number of Sind refugees who have found employment otherwise than through the Transfer Bureau or the Employment Exchanges is not known.

(d) The schemes for monetary help to refugees have started functioning only recently. The information asked for is, therefore, not available. No monetary help under these schemes has so far been taken by any Sindhi refugee in Delhi or in Ajmer-Merwara.

Statement

Name of Camp	Population
Chembur	8,900
Pawai	2,700
Ahmadabad	3,000
Kaira	1,500
Virau	350
Borivili	600
Deolali	2,000
Pimpri	3,310
Visapur	8,394
Dhond	6,719
Marwara Jn.	3 600
Pali	1,400

Name of Camp	Population
Luni	500
Durgapura	8,736
Kolyat	3,000
Rajkot	700
Navlakhi	1,525
Mandvi	67
Okha	353
Deoli	3,000
	62,654
Camps in Delhi :	
Kalkajee Temple Camp	34
Purana Killa	222
Anand Purbat	86
Bela Road	12
Wavel Canteen	9
Kingsway Camp	696
	1,088
Grand Total :	63,742

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is there any camp for Sind refugees in provinces run by Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As far as I am aware there is no special camp reserved for refugees from Sind in any provincial area, which is run by the Provincial Administrations, except perhaps in the case of Ajmer-Merwara.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that the Government of India have decided that the Kalyan military camp in Bombay should be reserved for Sind refugees? If so, what is the position today?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I should like to have notice of that specific question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do the refugees from the urban areas of Sind preponderate over those from the rural areas, or is it *vice-versa*?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: They are of both categories, but perhaps the urban refugees predominate.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do the refugees come mostly from Karachi or from the other towns in Sind too?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: They are coming from all over.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: Are the refugees coming voluntarily or are they being forced by the Government there?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It seems to me that they are all coming away voluntarily and they are anxious to come away.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is there any specific arrangement for the dispersal of the refugees coming from out of Sind? Are they allocated to certain provinces, or are they free to go anywhere they choose?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: They are allocated to certain camps after they arrive at the reception centres.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is the number of Sindhi refugees in Delhi?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have no idea about it.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: How many of them are there in Bombay?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I cannot say that offhand.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the fact that Delhi is already dominated by refugees from West Punjab will the Government consider the desirability of asking the Bombay Government or other Provincial Governments to make special arrangements for refugees.....

Mr. Speaker: This question is specifically with reference to Sind refugees.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, I was asking whether in view of the fact that Delhi is already full with refugees from West Punjab the Government will consider the desirability of asking Bombay and other Provinces to make special arrangements for Sindhi refugees.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact, the Central Government themselves are going to set up, and have set up, several camps in Bombay Presidency for the benefit of Sind refugees.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it a fact that the Sind refugees have started coming after the treatment they recently got at Karachi?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is so.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government registering these refugees from Sind?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Have Government any estimate of the non-Muslim population which is still there in the city of Karachi?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid such a question is difficult to answer on the spur of the moment. It fluctuates from day to day.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Can he not say even approximately what percentage is still there?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact, Karachi is getting quite a large number of people coming from other parts of Sind everyday. It is therefore very difficult to give any such percentage on any day.

Seth Govinddas: What is happening to the property of the refugees who are coming from Sind, either from Karachi or from the other places of Sind?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as their property is concerned, I noticed in the press the proceedings of the Sind Legislative Assembly where the Government are proceeding with a measure relating to the disposal of the property left by the evacuees.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is our Ambassador in Pakistan doing?

Mr. Speaker: I think these questions are being discussed every now and then.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Have the provisions of the particular measure referred to by the Honourable Minister been brought to the notice of the High Commissioner or the Honourable Minister in charge?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: They are definitely within the knowledge of the High Commissioner. This is under discussion in the Sind Assembly at the present moment.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: It was stated that special trains will be arranged to evacuate the Sindhis. May I know whether the special trains have since been arranged?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Special trains are running almost regularly, but then the tempo of evacuation slowed down for a few days very recently.

UNEMPLOYED REFUGEES REGISTERED IN EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

459. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state how many refugees who have registered their names for service in the employment Bureau, are still without service?

(d) What is the result of the request of the Government of India to Provincial Governments to absorb these refugees in services in their provinces?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The number of refugee applicants for employment on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges on 15th January, 1948 was 51,979.

(b) All the Provincial Governments have generally agreed to waive their domicile restrictions in the case of experienced Hindu and Sikh refugees formerly serving in Pakistan. A number of refugees have actually been absorbed by certain Provincial Governments. A statement of figures so far available is laid on the table of the House.

Number of Refugees employed by Provincial Government

Madras Province	8	
Delhi Province	2,149	
Central Provinces	310	
West Bengal	2	
United Provinces	214	
Ajmer-Merwara	75	
East Punjab	13,590	(From West Punjab including persons in Government Service on the 14th August, 1947 who opted for Service in East Punjab *plus* 123 persons from provinces other than West Punjab).

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I have some idea from that statement as to how many approximately have been absorbed by Provincial Governments.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is very nearly 16,000. The statement gives figures Province by Province.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Which is the Province in which the largest number have been observed?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Naturally, East Punjab.

WITHDRAWAL OF PAKISTAN ARMED POLICE FROM CHARSANDASPURA WEST BENGAL

460. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the armed police force from the Eastern Pakistan which occupied a portion of Charsandaspur in the Murshidabad district of West Bengal has been withdrawn therefrom;

(b) whether Charsandaspur is now wholly under the administration of the Government of West Bengal;

(c) whether the dispute over the ownership and possession of this territory of Charsandaspur is still pending;

(d) if the dispute referred to above has not been finally settled, whether the Government of Eastern Pakistan have agreed to a settlement by a joint survey by the two Provincial Governments concerned or the two Dominion Governments; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the negative, how the dispute is proposed to be finally settled?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes, but armed parties of Eastern Pakistan Government (employed on anti-smuggling work) are still maintained.

(b) No. It is wholly under East Bengal Administration.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). It has been agreed to by the Governments of West Bengal and East Bengal that a joint survey will be made by the Directors of Land Records and Surveys of the two Provinces and the results of the survey reported to Government. A final decision will be taken by the two Dominion Governments.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Have Government fixed any time limit for any report to be made by the Government of West Bengal in this respect?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Not that I am aware of. I cannot answer that question straight away.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I wanted to know whether or not this joint survey is being made at the instance of the Central Government. If so, whether they have sent any directive as to the time by which this report has to be submitted to the Government of India.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The survey is being made at the instance of the Central Government because it is a Dominion matter, but through the agency of the West Bengal Government.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I also know from the Honourable Prime Minister if the actual map on which the boundary was demarcated by Sir Cyril Radcliffe has been published so far. There has been a good deal of confusion created by reason of the non-publication of the map itself.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I believe it has been published repeatedly. Whether it has been formally published or not, I am not quite clear in my own mind. But the Honourable Member will remember that this is a land between rivers which a normal map would not easily show—it is a tiny tract of alluvial land which it is difficult to show in a normal map.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the map on which the demarcation was actually made by Sir Cyril Radcliffe was a very old and antiquated map copy of which was not generally available? Therefore, I want to know from the Honourable Minister if Government has taken any steps to publish that particular map, which would set all disputes arising out of this matter at rest?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as I know Government has taken no special steps to publish that map. I am not quite clear that the publication of that map would settle all disputes because having gone into this matter in another case we found the map was not absolutely clear. What we will have to go back to is the language of the Report, rather than the map, which helps a little bit more.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I tell the Honourable Prime Minister that the maps at present available in the Province of Bengal with regard to the particular area are entirely different from the map on which Radcliffe made the demarcations? There has been considerable difference—the description does not help there because there has been. . . . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It seems to be an argument. What is the information that the Honourable Member wants?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I am not arguing, I am giving him the facts.

Mr. Speaker: He may give him the facts elsewhere; now he may obtain information.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I am asking the Honourable Prime Minister if he is aware that the map of the particular area which is in vogue in Bengal at present is entirely different from the map on which Radcliffe made his boundary demarcations.

INVESTIGATION INTO LAXMANATHEERTHA AND HARANGI IRRIGATION PROJECTS, COORG

461. *Shri C. M. Poonacha: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Officers of the Government of India were deputed to Coorg during October 1947 to investigate the Laxmanatheertha and Harangi Irrigation Projects in Coorg?

(b) If so, what are their findings?

(c) Have they submitted their report?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government of Mysore had raised some objections against these projects?

(e) If so, what action have the Government of India taken in this matter?

(f) What is the estimated cost for each of these projects?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes.

(b) In regard to Harangi Project, the original site for the construction of an anicut near the Harangi Village was discarded in favour of a site lower down where a dam 100 feet high could be constructed. The new site needs detailed investigations and the project has to be prepared afresh, as regards Laxmanatheertha Project the anicut site already selected is considered suitable but detailed investigations are necessary.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to reply to part (b) of the Starred Question No. 553 given on 11th March 1947 and reply to question No. 14 given on 18th November 1947. So far as Government of India are aware, the Mysore Government have raised certain objections only in regard to the Laxmanatheertha Project which are under consideration.

(f) Harangi Project—cost estimated by Coorg Administration in 1946—Rs. 23,40,000.

Laxmanatheertha Project—cost by Coorg Administration estimated in 1943—Rs. 3,25,000.

These estimates are liable to changes on account of rise in prices modifications in projects as a result of detailed investigations.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the approximate extent of land which is expected to be irrigated by these two projects?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: So far as the Harangi Project is concerned it is approximately 9 000 acres, and for Laxmanatheertha Project it is about 3,000 acres.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the total area of arable land in Coorg?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is impossible offhand to give any answer to this.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: How long will it take for a final decision to be taken?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The report submitted by the officers of the Commission is under consideration and we will take the decision as early as possible.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: What is the type of crops that may grow in that particular area which is going to be irrigated?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I require notice for such a detailed question.

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES IN STATES

462. *Shri Ram Sahai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state what are the names of the States where refugees have been sent, and what is the number of refugees sent to these States?

(b) Have the refugees sent to the States been provided with suitable occupations or not? If not, why not?

(c) Have Government any such scheme under consideration for keeping watch over the conditions of the refugees and for seeing whether they have been provided with suitable occupations?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The names of the States where refugees have been sent and the number of refugees so far sent to each of them are given below:—

Name of State	*Number of refugees sent*
1. Gwalior	3,200
2. Alwar	6,193
3. Rewa	3,300
4. Indore	3,008
5. Bharatpur	11,110
6. Kotah	2,140
7. Ratlam	127
8. Bikaner	4,523

In addition to these, fairly large numbers of refugees have arrived in these and some other States on their own.

(b) Most of the refugees sent to the States are agriculturists. Some of them have already been allotted lands for cultivation. Land is being allotted to others. Measures are being taken to provide them with bullocks, ploughs and other implements of agriculture. Refugees who are not agriculturists are also being absorbed in the economy of the States where they have been sent. Unfortunately the land offered for resettlement of refugees in some of the States is virgin soil without irrigational facilities and has failed to attract the refugee peasants.

(c) Visits are paid by the officers of the Ministry to keep a watch over the conditions of the refugees and the progress of their rehabilitation. I have called for fortnightly report on the progress of settlement in each State.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Bhavanagar State had announced that they could accommodate 15,000 refugees and that that announcement was made through the Government of India? May I know whether there are any refugees in Bhavanagar State, and if not, what is the reason?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have given the figures that I have got. As regards Bhavanagar I do not exactly recollect the number of refugees that they are prepared to take. I can make a statement on that position if the Honourable Member gives notice of a Question.

Seth Govinddas: Is there any scheme of sending refugees now to those States which have merged in different Provinces, and if so, is there any negotiation going on with those Provincial Governments in which those States have merged?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I recollect that in one particular case the Authorities were addressed, and the reply was to the effect that for certain reasons it would not be prudent for us to send any refugees there.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister give the figures of evacuees also from those States mentioned in reply to part (a)?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid the question does not arise, but if my Honourable friend puts down a Question I will answer it: the information will have to be obtained from the States.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: The Honourable Minister explained that virgin soil is placed at the disposal of these refugees, whereas large quantities of property has been left behind by evacuees. Why not give preference to refugees in respect of those properties?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: My honourable friend assumes that virgin soil is being offered in every State to refugees. Virgin soil is offered in such States wherefrom perhaps there has been no exodus of Muslim.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact, Sir, that a large number of Muslims left Alwar and Bharatpur, while the number of Hindu and Sikh refugees from Pakistan accommodated by these States is considerably less?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: More and more refugees are going there. The refugees have been allotted land evacuated by the Muslims who left for Pakistan.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the distribution of refugees among the various states been made on a definite understandable basis, or just at random?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The distribution is based mainly on an understanding with the States concerned.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister kindly make enquiries as to whether the information about the resettlement of refugees furnished by the Alwar State is correct?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have had Alwar inspected more than once through officers of my Ministry, and am satisfied that things are progressing satisfactorily; and now that the administration of Alwar is under the control of the Central Government, I hope there will be no ground for complaint whatsoever.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, the Honourable Minister said that if I put a question regarding Bhavnagar, he will answer it. In view of the statement made by me that the Bhavanagar State has already announced that they can accommodate 15,000 refugees: will the Honourable Minister put himself in communication with the Bhavanagar State?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am prepared to do so.

TREATMENT OF REFUGEES BY CUSTODIAN OF EVACUEES PROPERTY AND OTHER OFFICIALS

463. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musaffar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a letter which appeared in the *'Indian News Chronicle'* dated the 11th October, 1947 under the caption "Is it people's rule"?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken to see that the West Punjab Refugees are treated by the Custodian of Evacuee Property and other officials with sympathy and kindness?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes.

(b) Strict instructions have been issued to ensure courteous treatment to refugees and other visitors.

TRANSFER OF PROVIDENT FUND ASSETS OF REFUGEE TEACHERS FROM PAKISTAN

464. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musaffar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on behalf of displaced refugee teachers the All-India Refugee Teachers' Association submitted Memoranda to Government, and also sent a deputation to wait on the Honourable Ministers regarding the transfer of their Provident Fund Assets from Pakistan?

(b) Is it a fact that the Advisory Committee, Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry of the Government of India made practical suggestions after examination of the whole question?

(c) Are Government aware that not a single teacher has so far received his Provident Fund Assets? If so, what action have Government taken with regard to the transfer of the Provident Fund Accounts?

(d) Has any agreement been reached between the two Governments and if so, do Government propose to lay a copy of the same on the table of the House?

(e) If nothing has been done so far, do Government propose to take up the question now?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes.

(b) The Advisory Committee have made certain recommendations.

(c) Yes. Government hope to announce shortly the procedure regarding withdrawals by refugee teachers from their Provident Fund Accounts in Postal Savings Banks.

(d) and (e). The general procedure regarding transfer of Postal Savings Bank accounts has already been announced. A copy of the Press Communique issued on the subject is laid on the table. Free transfers of the accounts in the Imperial Bank are also allowed. As regards accounts in the Co-operative Banks a scheme is being worked out jointly by the Registrars of Co-operative Societies East and West Punjab.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Savings Bank Deposits, Postal Cash Certificates and Other Certificates, e.g. National Savings

(a) (1) In regard to Post Office Savings Bank Accounts it is recognised that there are two categories :

(i) where the pass-books are available;

(ii) where the pass-books have been lost or misplaced.

In regard (i) it is understood that the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, Pakistan, has been in correspondence with his opposite number in India and that a satisfactory procedure had been devised. It is agreed that the proper procedure should be for persons resident in Pakistan to hand over pass-books at Pakistan Post Offices and that D. G. Posts and Telegraphs, Pakistan, should consolidate such cases and forward list to the D. G., P. & T., in India who would arrange transfer of accounts without insisting on production of pass-books or on verification of signature.

As to (ii), where pass-books have been lost or misplaced, persons resident in either Dominion should apply to the D. G., P. & T. concerned giving particulars of post offices where they had savings bank accounts. Consolidated lists of such cases would be exchanged between the D. Gs. of the two Dominions, who would make the necessary investigations and have the accounts transferred. Once the accounts have been transferred, the responsibility of a particular Dominion towards the depositor will cease. The two D. Gs. should clear legal and procedural difficulties between themselves.

2. It is agreed that the same procedure will apply to Post Office Five year Cash Certificates, Defence Savings Certificates and National Savings Certificates.

It is agreed that consolidated lists on both these items, separately should be exchanged by the two D. Gs. at regular intervals weekly or fortnightly. This is a matter for the two D. Gs. to arrange between themselves.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether he is aware of the fact that most of these provident funds are in the hands of the Managers What steps are being taken to make the funds available to those teachers?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: My Honourable friend, I understand, is in touch with the Ministry of Education; he led a deputation not very many days ago to the Education Minister. This is a matter which has got a good deal of complication and three different Ministries are concerned, first the Education Ministry, second the Communications Ministry, and third, the Ministry of Finance. I understand that the various complexities of the problem are being examined closely by these three Ministries.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it not a fact that this examination has been going on for the last two or three months?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Well, it may be so, but I am not aware, because my Ministry is not directly concerned with the examination of the prob-

I am. We try to co-ordinate the activities of the Ministries concerned, as far as possible. I am, however, aware of the complexities of the case. As a matter of fact, it would be impossible for me to give in the course of a reply to a supplementary question an idea of the complexities of this problem. But I can assure the House that the problem is full of complexities.

PAKISTAN'S ALLIANCE WITH ARAB COUNTRIES

465. *Shri Lal Mohan Pati: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan intends forming an alliance with the Arab countries?

(b) Have Government any information regarding the nature, character and scope of the contemplated alliance?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). Government have no information on the subject.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are Government aware, Sir, that the Arab world is fast becoming the cock-pit of struggle between two or three power-mad States of the world and, therefore, propaganda in the Arab world for the preservation of peace is essential?

Mr. Speaker: Order order, that question does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, are Government making any efforts to establish diplomatic relations with the Arab countries?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Government have recently appointed an Ambassador at Cairo which is more or less the Headquarters of the Arab movement. That Ambassador will also represent us in Transjordan. For the present, these are the only arrangements that have been made. In a sense we are instructing our Ambassador at Cairo to keep in touch with the other Arab countries also.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are Government, Sir, pursuing the good work done at the Inter-Asian Relations Conference with a view to the preservation of peace in the Arab world?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the Honourable Member expects me to answer. Government is not pursuing the resolutions passed by the Asian Relations Conference. The Conference was convened and it passed certain resolutions; it is for the conference to implement its resolutions. Naturally Government is very much interested in the establishment and continuance of peace all over the world—particularly in Asia. If Government can do anything in this direction, it will certainly do it, but the suggestion that the Government should send propaganda missions for peace to different parts of the world is not very helpful.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, has the attention of the Honourable Prime Minister been drawn to a report published yesterday in newspapers that the Anglo-American bloc is seeking to form a League of Muslim States, including Pakistan?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir, I know nothing about it.

INFLUX OF NON-MUSLIM REFUGEES FROM JAMMU AND KASHMIR

466. *Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Hindu and Sikh refugees from Jammu and Kashmir State have been coming to India since November, 1947;

(b) if so, what arrangements have been made to provide relief to them;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of such refugees is increasing; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to set up a separate camp or camps for them?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) There is no organised evacuation from the Jammu and Kashmir State. The number of refugees coming from the State is therefore, not known exactly. But a number of refugees have come into India from that State.

(b) Some refugees have been accommodated in the Kurukshetra camp. Others are known to be in various East Punjab camps.

(c) Yes.

(d) It is proposed to set up a separate camp for them at Chunar in the United Provinces.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether he has any information regarding those refugees who were left behind in Mirpur after the attack on that unfortunate town?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have no information.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether he would be prepared to make an enquiry into this matter and see that evacuation of those people who were left behind is expedited?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Does the Honourable Member refer to subjects of Kashmir State?

Diwan Chaman Lall: Yes.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As far as I am aware, it is not the policy of the Government of India to encourage the evacuation of the subjects of Kashmir State.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is the Honourable Minister aware that an attack took place on Mirpur. Many people of the place were unable to get away from Mirpur with our forces and they were captured by the Pakistan forces. This question relates to those people for whom a responsibility naturally rests upon us.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: If the evacuees are now in Pakistan, they come under the arrangement regarding evacuation of refugees from Pakistan.

The Honourable Pandit Jawharlal Nehru: May I add to what my Honourable colleague has said. From Mirpur a very large number of women were also abducted and taken away. The Government of India have been greatly concerned about this matter and have been trying their utmost to recover them. Their efforts have now succeeded to a certain extent and about four or five days ago a batch of about 400 women with about the same number of children were recovered from a camp in West Punjab near the Kashmir border. They are now in Lahore, being looked after at the Gangaram Hospital. They came back in such an unfortunate condition that they were physically hardly capable of travelling much further. So, they will take rest there for a few days and then it is proposed to transfer them to better surroundings. Then ultimately, after they have recovered somewhat we shall send them back to their homes. Yesterday I was in Jullundur and they have got an excellent establishment there to look after these women who come back in every way and I was going to suggest to my colleague to have these women from the Mirpur area who are in Lahore sent to this Jullundur Camp. We expect also to recover quite a considerable number of these women from the Jammu area, Mirpur and other areas who have come to West Punjab in the course of the next few days.

Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: Will the Honourable Prime Minister have the list, giving the names and particulars of these women published, so that the anxiety of their relatives who are in Delhi and other places may be relieved?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: May I point out to the Honourable member that, while we are perfectly prepared to do that, I am not quite clear that it is desirable to do it. We get into touch immediately with the nearest relatives. I am not quite sure that the women concerned like tremendous publicity to be given to this fact.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if the refugees from Kashmir and Jammu are eligible to be registered in Delhi and have any arrangements been made in that score?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Any refugees who are at Delhi would be registered.

ALLOTMENT OF MUSLIM EVACUEES' FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS IN DELHI

467. *Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of factories and industrial concerns left by Muslim evacuees in Delhi;

(b) how many of these factories and industrial concerns have been allotted to (i) refugees from West Pakistan, and (ii) the local residents of Delhi; and

(c) what is the period for which leases have been given?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) 420.

(b) (i) and (ii). The allotment started yesterday. The figures will be laid on the table of the House as soon as available.

(c) Leases will be for three years.

PROGRESS IN EXECUTION OF NANGAL AND BHAKRA DAM PROJECT

468. *Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken for the execution of (i) the Nangal Project, and (ii) the Bhakhra Dam Project;

(b) the progress made in each project since the 15th August, 1947;

(c) the amounts estimated to be spent on each project during the period from 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, and in the financial year 1948-49; and

(d) whether any Experts from America or other foreign countries have been or are being engaged for advice and assistance in the execution of these projects?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The Government of India has promised to give necessary loan to the Province. The projects are otherwise the concern of the Provincial Government.

(b) and (c). The information is not available with the Government of India.

(d) None so far.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Do I take it, Sir, that the execution of these projects will be left to the East Punjab Government and will not be administered centrally?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As things stand today, the execution of the project is the responsibility of the East Punjab Government.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I take it that the final decision—not today, but the final decision—of the Government of India is that this project will be executed by the East Punjab Government although the money will be supplied by the Central Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is so, and it is in consonance with the usual practice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is that the practice for all India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes.

SURVEY OF WATER RESOURCES IN EAST PUNJAB FOR CANAL IRRIGATION

469. *Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been, or are being taken, for making a survey of the potential water resources in East Punjab and in the States in East Punjab (other than the Nangal and the Bhakhra Dams) so as to provide canal irrigation for the dry areas;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the results of the survey; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to make such a survey, in view of the fact that East Punjab is a deficit province in respect of food, and over 25 lakhs of agriculturists have migrated from West Punjab?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter is primarily the concern of the East Punjab Government. The Central Government will, however, afford every possible assistance if there is a request from the Provincial Government.

Shri B. Das: Has the East Punjab Government got the necessary machinery to supervise the construction and execution of such work?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: So far as the project which was referred to in question No. 468 is concerned, I think they are fairly equipped.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But are we to understand that the Central Government is always prepared to lend the services of their experts if and when the concerned Provincial Government asks for them?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: They are always ready to do so.

EXCHANGE OF MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM CONVICTS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST PUNJAB

470. *Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement has been arrived at between the Governments of India and Pakistan for transfer of non-Muslim convicts and under-trial persons from West Punjab to East Punjab and Muslim convicts and under-trial persons from East Punjab to West Punjab;

(b) if so, whether the agreement has been or is being carried out by (i) the Government of East Punjab, and (ii) the Government of West Punjab; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) (i) or (b) (ii) be in the negative, what are the reasons for the failure to carry out the agreement by the Governments concerned, and what action, if any, has been taken by the Government of India in the matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) (ii) and (c). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given on February 21st to Question No. 380 by Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar.

(b)(i). The Government of the East Punjab have been and are most anxious to carry out the agreement.

EUROPEAN AND EX-ENEMY TECHNICAL PERSONNEL TO SERVE INDIA

471. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that highly qualified European engineers, manufacturing chemists and other technical personnel are willing to come to India;

(b) if so, what efforts Government have made to secure the services of these personnel; and

(c) whether any applications have been received from ex-Enemy nationals of the above categories for service in India and if so, what decision Government have taken in their cases?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister for Industry and Supply. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 5th March 1948, when the Honourable Minister for Industry and Supply will answer it.

ALLOTMENT TO INDIA OF REPARATIONS FROM EUROPEAN ZONE

472. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the share allotted to India in the reparations from the European zone;

(b) whether the necessary naval personnel have been trained to man the ships that India is likely to be allotted; and

(c) whether Government propose to give the capital goods so obtained to private industries or to use them for establishing State concerns?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) The only country in Europe from which reparation is being received by India is Germany. Under the Paris Agreement on German Reparations undivided India was allotted 2 per cent. of general reparations called category A and 2·9 per cent. of industrial and capital equipment removed from Germany, merchant shipping and inland water transport called category B. Consequent on the partition of India the percentage shares have by mutual agreement been apportioned between the Dominions of India and Pakistan in the proportion of 82½ per cent. and 17½ per cent. respectively of the total allotted to India as a whole. The shares of the Dominion of India in the two categories are now 1·65 per cent. of category A and 2·39 per cent. of category B.

(b) India has not been able to secure any ship from Germany by way of reparation. The question of training any naval personnel to man German ships does not therefore arise.

(c) It is proposed to utilise capital goods allocated to India to the best interest of the Dominion. Government have not yet laid down any definite policy regarding disposal of the goods but their present intention is to allot these to such private industries as are most likely to utilise them to the best advantage of the Dominion as a whole, after retaining such of them as may be required for any industrial scheme sponsored by Government.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Did Government at any time demand reparations from Italy?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: No, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: From any other ex-enemy country?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: As I said, the only reparations from any European country would be the reparations that are to be received from Germany.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that some of the officers who were deputed by the Government of India had suggested that it might be possible for Government of India to obtain synthetic dyes plants from Germany?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I would like to have notice of this specific question.

Seth Govinddas: Why was it that reparations were asked only from Germany and not from other ex-enemy countries.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Because in the course of the treaty discussions reparations were not demanded from any other enemy country.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Why was it that Germany was singled out for this invidious distinction?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: The Paris Conference.

REORGANISATION OF STATISTICAL SECTIONS OF VARIOUS MINISTRIES

473. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to re-organise the Statistical Sections of the various Ministries;

(b) the qualifications necessary for appointment as officers in the Statistical Sections; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the question of co-ordinating the activities of the various Statistical Sections to avoid the overlapping and duplication of work?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) Yes. In accordance with the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Official Statistics which reported in 1946, the major Ministries of Government have recently strengthened their statistical Branches, or set up new ones.

(b) No specific qualifications have been prescribed for candidates whom it is proposed to appoint to the Statistical sections, but subject to the special requirements of individual Ministries, the following may be regarded broadly as the minimum qualifications for Statistical Officers.

(1) A high degree in Mathematics or Economics (with Statistics as special subject) and some training in a recognized Statistical Institute; *or*

(2) A degree in Statistics.

Practical experience would be an additional qualification.

(c) A proposal for the setting up of a Central Statistical Office which will be responsible for the co-ordination of departmental statistical activities and the prevention of duplication and overlapping of work is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is the new system introduced completely or partially?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: A beginning has made with the new system.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Has there been any economy in the staff in that respect?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I cannot answer that at this moment.

REPLACEMENT OF EAST PUNJAB EVACUEES (ADMINISTRATION OF PROPERTY) ORDINANCE BY AN ACT OF LEGISLATURE

474. *Kazi Syed Karimuddin: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state when the East Punjab Evacuees (Administration of Property) Ordinance, 1948 will be replaced by Act of the legislature?

(b) Are Government aware that this Ordinance is causing great hardship to the Muslims of Delhi and particularly to the *Pardanashin* ladies?

(c) Do Government propose to suspend the operation of the said Ordinance in Delhi and bring in some other suitable bill for the purpose?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) This is a matter for the East Punjab Government to decide.

(b) Government of India are not aware that the Ordinance is causing any hardship.

(c) No. The Ordinance was promulgated so as to bring the law on the subject into line with the law governing evacuee property in Pakistan.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that the necessity for promulgating this Ordinance in Delhi arose from the fact that there was a vast number of transactions carried on by evacuees in their property?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Well, not necessarily so. As a matter of fact, at an Inter-Dominion Conference of officers which took place at Delhi it was generally agreed that the problem of settlement of property claims on both sides of the border would be facilitated by the adoption of a uniform policy relating to the evacuee property in both the Dominions.

PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS OF NON-MUSLIMS PROPERTY TO PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT

475. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have presented any claim to the Government of Pakistan for value of property lost or left behind in Pakistan and in respect of which claims have been registered with the Government of India and if so, with what result; and

(b) if no such claim has yet been presented, what action is being taken in the matter and when Government propose to present such a claim?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No.

(b) The question of property left behind or lost in Pakistan is still under negotiation between the two Governments. Certain conclusions were reached at Secretariat Level Conference of the Inter-Dominion representatives on the 18th, 19th and 20th December, 1947. Further discussions are expected to take place shortly.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether it is a fact that the discussions were scheduled to take place on the 8th of January or thereafter and whether any steps have been taken to expedite those discussions?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The meetings that were scheduled to take place in January had to be postponed from time to time due to difficulties that have arisen both on the side of Pakistan and on ours.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask whether the stage of negotiations as far as we are concerned is still at the Secretariat level, and whether the stage as far as Pakistan is concerned is based on a dominion status level?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not think so. As a matter of fact the procedure that was agreed upon was that, in the first instance, the Secretariat Level Conference would thrash out all the details and when an agreement has been reached between the Secretariat officers on both sides of the borders on all the points, the matter would be taken up for negotiations between the two Governments concerned at the Ministerial level.

Shri H. V. Kamath: By what date will these inter-State negotiations be consummated?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It will be very difficult to make a prophecy.

Seth Govinddas: Has a full list of the property which has been left been made by the Government and is there any machinery provided to keep that list up-to-date?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Well, we are making an effort to make a list but I cannot say that a full list is yet available or will be available in the very near future.

Seth Govinddas: Is there any machinery set up so that the list may be kept up-to-date?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, Sir. The machinery that is functioning is expected to keep that information up-to-date?

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether he is aware of the fact that the stand-still agreement comes to an end at the end of March and whether the effect of that will be very adverse to the settlement of these claims unless and until the settlement is previously arrived at on a Dominion basis in regard to all negotiations that have been going on.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I hope the Inter-Dominion Conference will be able to come to agreements before that date.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has any estimate been prepared of the property left behind in Pakistan on the basis of the property registered here?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I think I gave an answer to a similar question some time ago. So far as Delhi is concerned, we have got an estimate, but registration is proceeding in other parts of the country.

EXPLOITATION OF IRON AND COAL DEPOSITS IN ANDHRA DISTRICTS

476. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government are aware that large quantities of iron and coal capable of exploitation on commercial basis, are reported to be in the Andhra Districts?

(b) If so, have Government considered the question of exploiting these natural resources?

(c) Has an investigation been made into the potentialities of these districts in this respect?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Government of India have been aware of the existence of coal and iron ore in the Andhra Districts since 1871, when W. T. Blanford described these deposits in the Records of the Geological Survey of India, Volume 4. The most recent reports on these deposits are—

(1) Report on Iron Ore Deposit near Ramallakota, Kurnool District, By Dr. M. S. Krishnan and Mr. M. S. Balasundaram (Published by Government of Madras in G. O. No. 3408, dated 7-8-44).

(2) Report on some Iron Ore Deposits in the Cuddapah District by Mr. M. S. Balasundaram (Published by Government of Madras in G. O. No. 4380, dated 12-10-44).

(3) Note on prospecting work for coal near Lingala, East Godavari District by Messrs. S. N. Sen and Subramanyam (Unpublished).

The reserves of Iron Ore in the Kurnool District are reported to be 3·7 million tons and the estimated reserves of coal in the known areas of Godavari Valley are as follows:

(1) *Lingale*—8 million tons.

(2) *Langala*—8 million tons.

(3) *Bedadanuru*—not estimated.

Relevant extracts from Dr. Krishnan's report on Mineral Resources of Madras (1944) are being placed on the table

(b) The question of exploitation of these resources is for the Government of Madras to consider.

(c) Yes—*vide* answer to part (a) of this question.

EXTRACT FROM DR. KRISHNAN'S REPORT ON MINERAL RESOURCES OF MADRAS (1944) REFERRED TO IN STARRED QUESTION NO. 476

Coal

There are three areas of coal-bearing Barakar rocks in the Godavari velley:
Lingala (18°1′ : 80°50′).
Totapalle (17°37′ : 81°4′).
Bedadanuru (17°14′ : 81°14′).

Lingala.—Coal exposures were found at the confluence of the Talperu with the Gadavari River near this place, of the four seams found in the river bed, two 2-feet seams were on the British side, one 5-feet seam in the middle and one 2-feet seam on the Hyderabad side. The coal bearing area on the British side (East Godavari) is said, to be about 5 sq. miles in area. A pit was sunk here in 1891 and about 70 tons of coal raised from a 5-feet seam which contained a shale parting, 6 inches thick, two feet from the floor of the seam. According to the East Godavari Collectorate, this field is estimated to be capable of yielding 8 million tons after allowing 1/3 loss in mining.

Totapalle.—A boring 86 feet deep, put down here in 1870, under the supervision of W.T. Blandford of the Geological Survey of India, revealed the presence of two seams, each 3 feet thick, separated by 6 feet of carbonaceous shale. The upper seam was at a depth of 53 feet from the surface and gave the following analysis:

Moisture 10·8 per cent.; Volatile matter 26·9 per cent.; fixed carbon 42·7 per cent.; ash 19·6 per cent.

The coal-bearing rocks here are said to be 16 sq. miles in extent of which 10 sq. miles may contain workable coal. A seam 5½ feet in thickness was found near the village Rajahzompalle and 2,000 tons of coal were raised from trial pits. This seam is expected to yield about 24 million tons of coal, allowing 1/3 loss during working.

This field was worked in a small way between 1891 and 1895 and a total of 3,657 tons raised. The enterprise was abandoned in the latter year.

Bedadanuru.—Dr. W. King of the Geological Survey of India estimated that the Barakars here covered an area of 5¼ sq miles. Borings put down in the seventies near the Bedadanuru village revealed the existence of a 4½ feet seam at a depth of 183 feet, as well as some thinner layers.

Messrs. Best & Co. put down 4 drill holes in this same area in 1901 and 1902. One of the boreholes showed a section comparable to one of the earlier period and also encountered the 4½ feet seam.

At a still later date, in 1921, a drilling campaign was conducted by the Singareni Collieries Co. near the village Swarnavarigudem some distance SSW of Bedadanuru. One of these (borehole No. 4) revealed thin seams of shale and coal, each about 3½ feet thick between 818 and 828 feet while another showed a 5·6 feet seam at a depth of 225 feet. Thinner layers were met with in other boreholes.

A concern called the Southern India Mining Syndicate had boreholes put down at Venkatapalem near Gopalapuram (17°6′ : 81°32′) and encountered thin seams of coal of fairly good quality (Volatile matter 27·5 per cent.; fixed carbon 45·5 per cent.). This area was later visited by Mr. C. S. Middlemiss of the Geological Survey of India who advised deep boring. A borehole put down later under the supervision of one Mr. Beadon near Buchinalem (Atchipalem? near Gopalapuram) showed carbonaceous matter at several horizons and thin coal at 250 feet, 380 feet and 482 feet (? a 2 feet seam at 482 feet). The bottom of the Barakars was not reached at 763 feet at which depth the boring was discontinued.

In 1942-43 two boreholes were put down in the neighbourhood of Bedadanuru, under the supervision of the Geological Survey of India. The first borehole, situated at a distance of 2½ furlongs S.W. of village, showed a 4-inch seam at 156 feet, a 1-foot seam at 193 feet, a 6-inch seam at 196½ feet and a 4-inch seam at 206½ feet. It had to be discontinued at 235 feet depth. The second borehole was located at a distance of 1,200 feet SSW of the first. It revealed a 3-inch layer at 259 feet and a 10-foot seam of coal and shale intercalated at 261 feet and an 1 inch layer at 280½ feet. This borehole was abandoned because of drilling difficulties at 351 feet.

The coal-bearing Barakar rocks are covered by Kamthi (Chintalpudi) sandstones which appear to be only a few hundred feet thick in this region except perhaps near their southern margin where they pass under the Upper Gondwana rocks. The area occupied by these Kamthi sandstones lies amidst Bedadanuru (Sheet 45 G/4), Ashwaraopet (Sheet 65 G/4), Chintalpudi (65 G/16), Tundkalpudi (65 B/1), Ernagudem (65 G/12), Gopalapuram (65 G/12) and Zangareddigudem (65 G/8), and occupies over 300 sq. miles. The borings put down so far cover only a small area near Bedadanuru, Swarnavarigudem and Gopalapuram, all near the northern edge of the field. Sir Cyril Fox has suggested (Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India, Vol. LIX, p. 336) that borings be put down to a depth of, say, 1,500 feet near Mulagalampalle (17°11′ : 81°14′), Kammayyapalem west of the above, Zangareddigudem (17°7′ : 81°18′) and at Chintalpudi (17°3′ : 80°59′).

It would be useful to put down about half a dozen deep boreholes equitably distributed over the central and northern parts of the field (occupied by the Kamthi sandstones), so that any useful seam present in a restricted part of it may be brought to light.

Iron ore

Hematite.—Several deposits occur along a fault zone near Veldurti and Ramallakota in the Kurnool district. The better parts of the deposits contain good hematite estimated to amount to 3·7 million tons within a depth of 100 feet from the surface of the outcrops. A few samples from these deposits showed a high percentage of iron (50 to 65 per cent.), variable silica, very low phosphorus and a sulphur content of 1·3 to 1·8 per cent. Two analyses done by a firm of analysts for the lessee of one of the deposits showed only 0·008 and 0·072 per cent. of sulphur.

Several deposits of siliceous hematite are known in the Sandur State, Bellary district, some of which are likely to contain high grade ore. They have yet to be examined in detail. Some of these grade into manganiferous ores.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government, Sir, propose to dig for iron and coal anywhere else in India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Certainly not in this Assembly.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are Government aware that large deposits of iron have been or are expected to be found in Mayurbhanj State in Orissa?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I require notice of that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the Government of India's policy generally to keep natural resources as a national asset have Government made any suggestions to the Government of Madras, that they should not issue licenses for exploitation to private individuals?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Government of Madras is well aware of the general attitude of the Government of India in respect of all the minerals.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware of the fact that in regard to iron and other deposits in iron and other deposits in Rayalaseema the Government of Madras have already given licences to some private individuals?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I think the succeeding Government of Andhra will set matters right.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve on the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Transport (Other than Roads), until the end of the next financial year, *vice* Shri Mukanda Behary Mallick, who has resigned from the Assembly."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve on the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Transport (Other than Roads), until the end of the next financial year, *vice* Shri Mukanda Behary Mallick, who has resigned from the Assembly."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election by means of the single transferable vote of a member to the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Transport (other than Roads) the programme of dates will be as follows:

Nomination to be filed in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 27th February.

Election, if necessary, will be held on Tuesday the 2nd March, in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT

(15th *August*, 1947 *to* 31st *March*, 1948)

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 2,53,67,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Withdrawal from Railway Reserve'."

May I just state the point of this motion? It is a purely formal motion which seeks the approval of the House for meeting the increased deficit on the railways shown in the revised estimates for the current year out of the Railway Reserve Fund.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 2,53,67,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Withdrawal from Railway Reserve'."

The motion was adopted.

PROVINCIAL INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmed, Shri Ram Sahai and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before the 16th March, 1948, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, in order to put the House in possession of the facts which have made it necessary for Government to introduce this measure I should like to make some preliminary observations with regard to certain decisions which have necessitated the making of this provision. I think it would be enough if I began from 1924 when a case went up to the Privy Council which is known as Sat Narain *versus* Behari Lal. The facts of the case briefly were that a Hindu father had been adjudged insolvent. Now under section 17 of the Presidency Towns Insolvency Act the property of the insolvent becomes vested in the Official Assignee from the date of the adjudication. The property of the Hindu father consists of two things: (i) his share in the joint family property, and (ii) his power to dispose of his sons' property in the joint family for his personal debts provided that the debts were not incurred for an immoral purpose. The question that arose in that case before the Privy Council was whether the power of the father to dispose of property of the son is property within the meaning of section 2(e) of the Presidency Towns Insolvency Act On that issue the Privy Council gave its decision to the effect that the power of the Hindu father to dispose of the property of his son in the joint family was not 'property' within the meaning of section 2(e) on the ground that section 2(e) contemplated that power which was absolute over property and power which was not absolute was not property. According to the Privy Council the power of the father to dispose of the sons' property was not absolute because it was subject to the condition that the debts for which the property could be disposed of must not be immoral. On that ground they did not agree that the Official Assignee could become automatically vested under sec. 17 with the property belonging to the son In that particular case that decision of the Privy Council did not matter very much to the creditors, for the simple reason that the Presidency Towns Insolvency Act contains a separate section—section 52—which permits the Official Assignee and the creditors to pursue such property or such capacity to obtain the property of another person. Therefore although in that particular case the property did not automatically vest in the Official Assignee, yet the Official Assignee was free to pursue the property of the son which was liable under the rule of pious obligation to pay the debts of the father by separate proceedings; and I believe he did that.

Now what happened was this. After that decision of the Privy Council the courts in India had occasions to interpret another Act which is called the Provincial Insolvency Act. As lawyer members of this House will remember, we have two separate statutes dealing with insolvency,—one which deals with insolvency taking place within the towns, and the other with those in the mofussil. The Provincial Insolvency Act does not unfortunately contain a provision such as section 52 which finds a place in the Presidency Towns Insolvency Act. Consequently when a similar question arose before the courts, namely, whether the property which a Hindu father could claim under his right or power to sell his son's interest for the payment of his own debts could be interpreted as property and become vested in the Official Assignee, only that was property within the meaning of section 2(e). Unfortunately what has happened is that different courts have interpreted this section 2(e) of the Provincial Insolvency Act in different ways. It would be interesting to note that the Bombay High Court has held that though the property does not vest power is not property and therefore, it does vest; the Patna High Court also follows the Bombay High Court and so does the Allahabad and Nagpur High Courts. On the other hand when you come to Madras, one Bench of the Madras High Court has held that the property vests, while another Bench has held that it does not vest. And the same is the case in Calcutta where one Bench has held that the property does vest and another Bench has held that it does not vest.

Now I think this matter should be put right. The Madras High Court in one of its decisions clearly gave an indication to the Government of India that it was high time that legislation was brought in to set aside this discrepancy in the decisions of the different High Courts. Unfortunately during the war such a piece of legislation could not be brought in because there was not enough time. Therefore it is to set right this discrepancy and division of opinion in the different High Courts that this measure has been brought in. All that this measure does is to reproduce bodily section 52 from the Presidency Towns Insolvency Act and makes it a part of the Provincial Towns Insolvency Act as section 50-A. There is nothing more that the Bill seeks to do.

As the House is aware, there is also a measure for a similar purpose standing in the name of Shrimati Durgabai. Her measure differs from the Government measure in two particular respects. She wants to give retrospective effect to the measure: the Government Bill does not propose to do so. The other provision contained in the Bill of Shrimati Durgabai is that the law not only should declare that the power which the Hindu father has over the son's interest in joint family property should be made clear as being available for distribution among the creditors, but that the power of disposal of the Manager also should be clearly stated. On that point all that I should like to say is this that I have not an empty mind but I have an open mind; and I am prepared to leave this matter to be decided by the Select Committee. Indeed one of the purposes or motives which have led me to move for reference to Select Committee was to enable the Select Committee to discuss these matters.

I do not think there is anything more I need say in elucidation of the provisions of this Bill. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmed, Shri Ram Sahai and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before the 16th March, 1948, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Shrimati G. Durgabai (Madras: General): It is in the great pleasure that I rise to congratulate the Honourable the Law Minister for having introduced this legislation, which is long overdue. Sir, it is regrettable that the Legislature did not move all these years to set the matter right in the interests of justice. To start with, Sir, this legislation, as has already been explained to us by the

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Honourable Minister, is taken for resolving a conflict of opinion that had arisen among the various High Courts, as to whether in the case of adjudication of a Hindu father, his power of disposal of his son's share in the joint family property would devolve upon the official receiver, as it does in the case of the Presidency Towns Insolvency Act.

Sir, this conflict was first created by a Full Bench decision of the Madras High Court, reported in I.L.R. 1943 Madras. This decision of the Madras Full Bench had made a sudden departure from a long chain of decisions which were unanimous and which held the view that the Hindu father's right on his adjudication had devolved on the official receiver with regard to his power to sell his son's share in the discharge of the debts which are not illegal or immoral.

Sir, the Bill as sponsored by the Law Minister, as we are already aware, is in my opinion, defective in two material particulars. First of all it is not retrospective in operation. If the object of the proposed legislation is to resolve the conflict and thus clear up the confusion created by the Full Bench decision of the Madras High Court, that confusion could be cleared up only if the Bill is made retrospective in its operation and not otherwise, because it is the decision of the Full Bench that had really uprooted all the vested and settled titles in his creditors or purchasers.

Sir, I submit in this connection that it has been for well nigh a period of two decades held uniformly that though the son's share in the family property does not as such vest in the official receiver, at least the father's power of disposal of the son's share would vest in the official receiver on his becoming insolvent. This is the view which is supported by and based on a long chain of decisions which are practically unanimous on this point. The confusion created by that Full Bench decision has resulted this way: that it has uprooted all the titles vested and settled in his purchasers. They entered into the bargain with the belief that the official receiver had that right and that they derived the entire interest in the family estate and the price which was paid on the basis of the full entire interest of the family estate. Sir, it is this class of creditors who may also in many cases be purchasers. Their titles have to be protected. It is these creditors who have not only lost their property but also their money who have to be protected by this legislation.

Sir, as I have already stated, that if the creditor happened to be a purchaser, he lost both his money and his property. Therefore it is just that these vested titles have to be protected by this legislation. If really the object of the proposed legislation is to clear up that confusion created by the Full Bench for the first time, that object can only be achieved if the Bill is given retrospective operation and not otherwise.

Sir, if the Bill is not really made retrospective in operation, it will merely become academic. It will remain only a statutory directive for the future. That is all it does. Even if in 1947 Madras Full Bench would set the matter right, and creditors would not be misled, and they would regulate their conduct according to their decision, still unless it is made retrospective, all the innumerable purchasers and creditors to whom hardship has been caused for the first time by this Full Bench, and since that Full Bench decision, it would not set the matter right. Therefore I would appeal to the Honourable the Law Minister and also to the Select Committee to consider this point and give retrospective effect to this Bill.

Also there is another point: that is that the hardships referred to by me are applicable to a case where the Manager not being the father, had exercised his right of disposal of the junior member's share in the family property for the discharge of debts not immoral or illegal. They must equally apply to a manager who may not be a father on his becoming insolvent.

These are the two matters to which I would appeal once more to the Law Minister and the Select Committee to give their consideration and see that the Bill is given retrospective operation.

As the Law Minister has already stated, I have brought a further amending Bill which is there standing in my name. In this connection it may not be out of place just to recall the observations made by Mr. Justice Somayya in the second appeal No. 1307 of 1945 on the 31st July:

"The sales which took place between 1900 and 1943 were affected by that decision (1943, Madras, 83, F.B.) and in most cases purchasers would have no remedy, whatsoever particularly as there is no warranty of title in cases of sales held by the official receiver. It was high time that the legislature moved or was moved in the matter and necessary legislation made in order to protect the title that has been acquired between 1900 and 1943 and thereafter. It was regrettable that in spite of the defect being pointed out by a F. B. of the High Court, as early as 1942, the legislature should not have acted during all these four years to set the matter right."

Therefore, with these few observations, I would appeal to the House to accept my suggestion that the Bill should be given retrospective operation, and also the other matter about the manager may be considered by the Select Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): I have very great respect for my learned friend, Durgabai, but unfortunately I am not able to agree with her on the two points that she has made today. Before I come to these

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two points, I wish to offer one remark. I am not myself a lawyer and I am not concerned with the various numbers of sections. But I am more concerned about the fundamental principle involved in this Bill and that is, whether a father should be vested at all with this right to alienate the rights of his own son merely because he happens to be the head of the family. In the case of joint stock companies, there is a limited liability. In the case of the joint family, we are taking upon ourselves the right to vest in the father an unlimited liability of the son. I am opposed to that.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may give his views on the point but that would be a matter of Hindu Law.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am coming to that, Sir. It is because the framers of the Hindu Law were not quite so sure, whether they would be doing the right thing in vesting such a drastic power in the father, that they had taken care to incorporate that particular provision. For those debts that may be contracted for immoral or illegal purposes the son at least should be protected. There are two acts the position in each of which is different. In one the father has the right to alienate the son's rights in the property: it is not considered his property at all: and in the other Act it is considered to be his property. Therefore they themselves were not so very clear and it is high time that this House should also keep in mind this particular uncertainty about it and should try to give its attention to this particular point, whether it is advisable that the father should be vested with such high powers of disposing of the property of his son for whatever purposes, including the satisfaction of his own immoral or illegal ends.....

An Honourable Member: Is the Honourable Member speaking on the Provincial Insolvency Act or the Hindu Law?

Mr. Speaker: That was why I was pointing out that, instead of being a discussion on the Insolvency Law it would be a discussion of the Hindu Law. Whether a father should or should not have the power is a point of Hindu Law entirely.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There are two insolvency Acts here—one applying to the Presidency towns and the other to the whole of the province. In the Act that applies to the whole of the province the position of the son is much better than the position that we find in the Presidency Act. Therefore I want the House to keep in mind the position of the son as it is found in the Presidency Act.

Coming to the point, *viz.*, this question of retrospective effect, I wish to point out one particular fact. Even according to the Honourable Minister in charge of this Bill it is clear that the High Court judges were not all unanimous about it. Some High Courts like Bengal and Madras had given contradictory judgments. If retrospective effect is sought to be given to this particular

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amendment who is going to be benefited and how? Some will be benefited, because that judgment had gone against them. Another section again will be harmed because that judgment has gone in favour of them. How many judgments were contradicting each other. Therefore each section of the people will be affected in different ways and you really cannot be doing any sound justice even among the creditors themselves by giving retrospective effect to this Bill.

Secondly, there is the question of the manager. My Honourable friend wants this power to be extended to the Manager also. Evidently she has in mind some of the big zamindars who get their properties managed by managers.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They are called 'Karta'.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is bad enough to vest the power in the father but it is worse to vest it in the agent also.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No, no. It is wrong.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is the answer given by lawyers. I am looking at it from the point of view of the debtors. They have as much right to be protected as the creditors. Creditors are rich enough to engage these lawyers and get things done in their own way. I wish to suggest that the benefit of this Act should not be extended at all to these managers and it should not be given retrospective effect. This amendment may be passed but we should take care to see that the Law Minister comes forward at an early date with a suitable amendment in order to protect the interests of the sons also as against the vagaries of their own fathers.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, the Honourable speaker who preceded me was certainly off the mark a bit and his being so could easily be understood inasmuch as he told us that he was not a lawyer. It is therefore easily understandable if his mind was prejudiced against the 'managers' having any power. He naturally thought managers meant ordinary managers. Actually this 'manager' is the manager of a joint Hindu family under the Hindu Law. Nonetheless I am in agreement with some of his comments and would therefore appeal to the Honourable Minister to agree to circulate the Bill. It is quite true that conflicts have arisen and the present situation is far from satisfactory but even so it is questionable if it would be right to give the courts retrospective power. It may not be an unmitigated evil or good, as you may be pleased to call it. Although we have a certain amount of sympathy for innocent purchasers who entered into transactions without knowing the pros and cons of the matter and the situation would certainly be somewhat curious and would lead to certain amount of hardships, because some innocent persons may be deprived of the property which they had held for some considerable time. But it should be remembered that after all these provisions have been in force for a very long time. There may be difficulties and conflicts, but we could I think wait a little more. If we are to adopt the point of view which has been placed before the House by the Honourable the Lady Member, *viz.*, giving retrospective effect to the provisions, I think it would be as well to spend a little more time and to know the reactions of both the judges as well as advocates and other people so far as both the Bills are concerned

I have an inborn prejudice against creditors, because I regard them as a body of persons who take advantage of other people's needs. They are very rarely anything but unscrupulous. So from that point of view I do not want any expansion of their powers in any shape or form by any enactment. So if there are any difficulties in their way of getting hold of a property under the Provincial Insolvency Act, I would much rather keep those difficulties in the way rather than remove them.

Shri C. Subramaniam (Madras: General): On a point of order, Sir, as a member of the Select Committee which is to sit on this Bill, can the Honourable Member express any definite opinions of his on the floor of this House?

Mr. Speaker: It cannot be a point of order at all. I have stated many times before that I would not call upon people who are appointed members of the Select Committee to address the House to give their views, because they have got the chance of doing so in the Select Committee. The position in regard to this Bill seems to be a peculiar one. It is not only a technical matter: but after the Honourable the Law Minister expressed some opinions with reference to the private Bill of Shrimati Durgabai, that introduced into the discussion some matter strictly outside the scope of the Bill. I do not blame the Law Minister for that. There were common points in the two Bills and as those points were referred to, it became necessary for me to allow Shrimati Durgabai to explain her position with reference to them. It is, therefore, that I am allowing a few members to speak but this should not be taken as a precedent for future occasions.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am thankful to you, Sir for this correct ruling. I know the ruling about Select Committee members not speaking and that was why I am confining myself strictly to the point of principle and was not going into details at all. In view of the complications that are likely to arise as a result of the two Bills which are not identical, it would be far better if we have before us the country's reactions to the Bills and also the opinions of the judges who have been differing from each other and are therefore responsible for creating the chaos with which are faced. Under these circumstances I would appeal that both Shrimati Durgabai and the Honourable Minister would be pleased to wait for a little more time and agree to circulate the Bills for eliciting opinion thereon.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome this measure because there is a lot of confusion about the provision of law regarding the power of the father to dispose of the son's share under the Provincial Insolvency Act. I will confine my remarks to the one aspect which my Honourable friend Shrimati Durgabai referred to, that is, that this provision should be made to have retrospective effect. You will find that even in 1924 the Privy Council expressed its opinion that Section 2 (e) of the Presidency-towns Insolvency Act does not include the power of the father to sell the son's share for his own personal debts. The provisions in Section 2(d) of the Provincial Insolvency Act are identical to those of Section 2(e) of the Presidency-towns Insolvency Act. Again in 1936 the Privy Council expressed the opinion that in the Presidency-towns Insolvency Act there is a specific provision, Section 52, and it is only in pursuance of that Section that the Official Assignee gets the power to dispose of the son's share. So, as far as the Privy Council is concerned, it expressed its opinion definitely on these points as early as in 1924 and it was further reiterated in 1936. Even regarding the interpretation of the provisions of the Provincial Insolvency Act, the Bombay High Court, as was pointed out by the Honourable Minister, has held that the power does not vest. Patna, Allahabad and Nagpur have also held that it does not. Except for Madras and Calcutta all the other Provincial High Courts have held that the power does not vest. Suppose we are going to make it have retrospective effect. Retrospective from what date? That would be a pertinent question. Suppose you hold that the Official Receiver always held this power from the origin of the Provincial Insolvency Act; then what will become of the Bombay, Patna, Allahabad and Nagpur decisions where it was uniformly held that the power does not vest? Are you going to say "As far as Madras and Calcutta are concerned, we shall give retrospective effect"? It will lead to all sorts of absurdities and anomalies. In cases where it relates to property rights, whether the law was rightly understood by certain High Courts or not it is wrong in principle to give retrospective effect. It will affect the property rights. My humble submission would be that in all these matters where property rights are involved,

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

as far as possible we should restrict the operation of any Act from the date on which it comes into effect. I would therefore recommend to the Select Committee to consider this aspect fully before coming to the conclusion whether it should be given retrospective effect or it should come into operation only from the date of passing of the Act.

As regards the question of manager it is a different question. It depends upon the mental attitude of the Select Committee whether creditors should get certain more rights or Junior members of debtors' family should be protected. That is a point which I hope will be taken into consideration by the Select Committee before they come to any conclusion in this matter. With these words I support the motion.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, if the House comes to the conclusion that an Insolvency Act is necessary I think the Bill brought by the Honourable the Law Minister is a necessity. But my submission to the House is that an Insolvency Act of the nature of the existing Act is an unnecessary and undesirable one and breeds a certain amount of immorality into the society. In the first place my objection is that this is in the Concurrent List and as such the Central Government should not have poked its nose in the matter but should have left it solely to the Provincial Governments and the Provincial Legislatures. The name of the Act is 'Provincial Insolvency Act' and there is no reason why the Central Government should enter into the field. I think the only course of action that is necessary is to do away with this Act. If today I ask for doing away with this Act my reasons are these. There is nothing in this Act to help the poor. I will invite the attention of Honourable Members of this House to Section 10 under which protection is being given. Section 10(1)(a) bars the door against the poor. Unless the amount is over Rs. 500, no person could seek the protection of the Insolvency Court. That means that the poor people whose debts do not reach that level cannot have protection of the court of law. If that is the position it is unfortunate. Sub-clause (b) lays down that a debtor shall not be entitled to seek the protection of the court unless he is under arrest or imprisonment. That means after spending money in courts, after getting a decree, after paying the parties for the loss, then alone the protection of law could come to the poor. Look at the other side of the picture. The Act encourages.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am afraid the Honourable Member is going beyond the scope of the Bill. The question before the House is not whether it is desirable or not to have any law about insolvency. The actual question is as to whether this particular Section should be so amended as to include the father's right, unequivocally, of transferring the property in respect of his own debts so that if may devolve upon the Official Assignee or Receiver. Whether it should be included in the word 'property'. That is the only question before the House.

Shri Biswanath Das: In fact I am opposing the Bill in the sense that if at all the Act needs revision it is its repeal and no addition to its provisions or no amending Bill of this nature is called for. That is my position. If the Chair holds that I am not in order I am prepared to resume my seat. But I feel that this aspect of the question should also be placed before the House.

Mr. Speaker: If I were to permit a detailed discussion of that, then the scope of the discussion is so much widened that the whole of the Provincial Insolvency law comes under review. That, I do not propose to allow. The Honourable Member has already referred to the point. That should be enough. He may make any remarks he would like to, with reference to this particular Bill.

Shri Biswanath Das: I have nothing to say about this particular Bill. In fact I have clearly stated that if the House comes to the conclusion that the Insolvency Act as it is should stand, then this Bill is a natural corollary to it. There is no denying that fact. Therefore I have nothing more to say in the matter.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will begin with my answer to the point made by my friend who spoke last. If I understood him correctly his points were two. One was that this was purely a provincial matter and ought therefore to be left to the Provincial Legislatures.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I interrupt my Honourable friend, Sir? I stated clearly that it is in the Concurrent List and that as such the Central Government should have left it to the Provincial Governments and the Provincial Legislatures. I know it is in the Concurrent List.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I was just going to say that. The reason why it was put in the Concurrent List is undoubtedly—and I do not think there can be any other reason—that in a matter of this sort there ought to be uniformity if the Centre decided there should be uniformity. Therefore it is the right of the Central Legislature to legislate on the subject.

With regard to the question whether there should be an Insolvency Act or not I do not think that that can be a point at issue on a matter of this sort. If my Honourable friend wants that there should be no insolvency legislation at all the proper thing for him would be to bring in a resolution before the House and say that all laws relating to insolvency may be abolished.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I state that I never said that the Insolvency Law is not necessary. All that I said is this law is unnecessary, undesirable and breeds immorality into society.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, therefore not necessary. However with regard to the point made by Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh he is not here—I was somewhat surprised when he said that the Bill ought to be circulated. He has accepted a place on the Select Committee and I am sure about it that the two positions are quite inconsistent. I do not wish to say anything more about what he has said.

With regard to the point Shrimati Durgabai, namely that the Bill should have retrospective effect, I was bound to make a reference to it because I had induced her to withdraw her own Bill on a promise that when I bring my Bill I will say something about her Bill also. But as to the substance of it, as I say I feel a certain amount of doubt and difficulty; and I cannot very readily say in this House that I shall accept the proposition that the Bill should have retrospective effect. In fact one of the friends on the bench there who spoke said something which has a great deal of force and we must be very careful in giving retrospective effect to a measure of this sort.

Now coming to the point made by my friend Professor Ranga—he of course has the habit of entering into subjects which undoubtedly he himself will acknowledge are not his own—I am prepared to modify his argument and to give it some sort of a shape so that it might appear respectable. Now if I understand correctly, what he said was that there was a difference between the Presidency Towns Insolvency Act and the Provincial Insolvency Act inasmuch as one contained a clause or a section like 6 and 52 while the other did not.

One could infer from what he said that the legislature in passing the law had different intentions from the very beginning that while they intended that since interest must pass to the Official Assignee under section 52 when the father became insolvent, the legislature has no such intention when they passed the Provincial Insolvency Act. I think my friend Professor Ranga, not being

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a lawyer, has not understood the position correctly. If he refers to the definition of the term 'property' to which I made reference, he will see that in both the laws, provincial as well as Presidency Towns, the definition of 'property' is just the same. There is no difference at all. In both cases the phraseology is property or power. The difference is that under 52, the official assignee can pursue property, but somehow there being an omission in the Provincial Insolvency Act, he has no right to pursue that property. Therefore there is no doubt about it that this must have been a very inadvertent omission. If the legislature did not intend that the father's right to dispose of the property of his son under the Provincial Insolvency Act should not accrue to the official assignee, the definition of the term 'property' in the Provincial Insolvency Act would be very different to what it is now, and therefore I submit with all respect to my friend that his point really has no substance. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

That the Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Mr. Nazirudddin Ahmed, Shri Ram Sahai and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before the 16th March, 1948, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE.* EXTENSION OF PERIOD MENTIONED IN SECTIONS 2 AND 3 OF INDIA (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND LEGISLATURE) ACT, 1946, AS ADAPTED.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Sir, I move:

"In pursuance of the proviso to section 4 of the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947, this Assembly hereby approves the extension of the period mentioned in sections 2 and 3 of the said Act for a further period of twelve months commencing on the first day of April, 1948."

Now, Sir, it is not necessary for me to enter upon a very lengthy discussion in support of this resolution. It will suffice if I tell the House that the Central Legislature has passed various legislations imposing controls on commodities, requisitioning land, and so on, matters which are purely in the Provincial List. This power the Centre was able to exercise because of the proclamation of emergency which was issued by the Governor General when the war broke out: and as the House knows, since the proclamation is issued by the Governor-General the Central Legislature gets the necessary power to make any order or to pass any law notwithstanding the fact that the subject falls in the Provincial Legislative List. It is also provided in the Government of India Act that this power of legislating upon provincial subjects would disappear six months after the Proclamation of emergency has been withdrawn. Now this power was exhausted in the year 1946. The Government of the day felt that although technically the emergency had disappeared, yet factually there did exist a certain urgency for the controls imposed by the Central Legislature to be continued. There was no method by which the Centre after the emergency had ended, could get the power to keep the controls alive, and therefore the Central Legislature approached the British Parliament which was then the only authority which could confer such power on the central Legislature to make due provision in this matter, and Parliament, as the House will remember in 1946 passed an Act called the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946. Section 2 of that Parliamentary statute permitted the Dominion Legislature make laws with regard to the matters which it had done during that emergency. But what the Parliamentary Statute did was that it gave the power to the Central Legislature for one year only in the first instance.

Under the provisions of that Act, the Central Legislature passed Acts called the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act 1946, and the Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) Act 1947. That law was passed in 1946. Under the Parliamentary Statute it continued in existence for one year, that is up to 1947.

Now, Section 4 of the Parliamentary Statute as I said provided that the Centre could exercise these powers for one year. It also provided that the power could be extended by another year if the Governor-General so certified. Consequently those two Acts to which I made reference were continued in existence by another year by the fiat of the Governor-General and we are now exercising those powers under that extension effected by the Governor-General. Now, under the extension effected by the Governor-General, these would continue up to 31st March, 1948. The various Departments of the Government of India have been consulted in this matter in order to ascertain whether they could do without these controls after the 31st March 1948. I believe that almost all the Departments who are charged with the administrative control feel that they need at least one year more to continue these controls.

As I said, Section 4 of the Parliamentary Statute gave the power for one year in the first instance, in the second instance one year on the fiat of the Governor-General, and thereafter by a Resolution of this House. The position, therefore, is this, that unless this House passes a Resolution extending that power, these powers will come to an end on the 31st March 1948. As the House will remember, I am only a Law Minister, I have no administrative responsibilities for the affairs of the Government of India, and I am therefore not in a position to answer any questions if they are asked as to whether in fact this extension is necessary, but I can tell the House that all the Departments are agreed that this extension is necessary, and I hope that the House will accept the view of the Departments of the Government of India and pass this Resolution. I have taken the precaution of calling my friend Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee to be by my side in order to reply any questions requiring detailed particulars with regard to the necessity of a provision of this sort. Sir I move.

Mr. Speaker: Resolution moved:

"In pursuance of the proviso to section 4 of the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947, this Assembly hereby approves the extension of the period mentioned in sections 2 and 3 of the said Act for a further period of twelve months commencing on the first day of April, 1948."

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, I do not doubt the desirability of continuing to some extent the provisions of the Essential Supplies Act, but whether this is the proper method of continuation is a matter to be considered. I think the proper procedure would have been to bring forward that Act as an Act of this Legislature with such modifications as may be necessary. As you are aware, many of the articles have been de-controlled and it is a proper principle that the Government should take only such legislative powers as are absolutely necessary for a particular purpose. We want to know whether the Government want all the powers given by that Act for all the articles. As the Law Minister has pointed out it was an inroad into the powers of the Provincial Governments and Provincial Legislatures but these inroads were justified by an absolute emergency. But it was the duty of the Government of India to respect the Provincial autonomy of the Government of India Act and restrict, if not altogether abolish, the inroads made by this particular Act. I think it is simply due to laziness on the part of the Government of India that they should have asked for a mere extension of the whole Act. It was the duty of every Department affected to scrutinse which provisions were needed and to what extent, and to have sent their views to the Law Minister so that he could bring a proper Bill before the House.

[Shri K. Santhanam]

As it is now, we also have blindly to say that the Government Departments want, and therefore we give them, the powers; we have no right in discussing the Resolution to restrict those rights to any extent—we simply either have to give them the whole of what they want or not give them at all. I must express my utter dissatisfaction at the method of handling such things. I think the Legislature should have been treated with a great deal of consideration; it should not be treated as a mere registering body—whatever the Government wants we are supposed to be here to put a rubber stamp on! That should not be the attitude towards the Legislature. If they want any power they should come and justify that the entire power, and for the entire period, is needed. I do not think a justification has been given to us. Of course, as the Law Minister has explained to us it is not his business to do it—I do not blame him. It is the business of the other Departments. I hope the Minister for Industry will tell the House whether he is in actual need of the entire powers given by that Bill, otherwise why he did not come forward only for the restricted powers.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister for Industry and Supply): Sir, I think I should intervene at this stage and clear up what is an apparent misapprehension on the part of the last speaker. What has been done in this case is merely to ask for the continuance of the existing powers to pass orders in regard to control of certain commodities. If you look at the Act, Sir, under Section 2, "essential commodity" includes eight items: Foodstuffs, Cotton and woollen textiles, Paper, Petroleum and petroleum products, Spare parts of mechanically-Propelled vehicles, Coal, Iron and Steel, and Mica. So far as the orders which have been issued from time to time by Government under this Act are concerned, they will be considered separtely by Government in relation to the necessity of continuing such orders. All that we are asking for now is that the present Act should continue; that the powers which the Government of India enjoys to enforce control if necessary should remain vested in the Government of India for one year more. Nothing beyond that.

So far as the policy of de-control is concerned, as the House is aware, Government practically stands committed to it. A gradual policy of de-control is the policy of the Government of India. That being so, I have not deliberately enlarged the list of Commodities which is included in paragraph 3. If later on it is found necessary to include other commodities we shall then, as Mr. Santhanam suggests, come up specifically before the Legislature and ask for additional powers. All that we now do is to act with a certain degree of caution with regard to these particular commodities. We have de-controlled some of them; may be, in the course of the next few months, there may be fresh developments and some fresh orders may have to be passed. We are just retaining the powers in our hands; we are not asking for anything more. In view of this explanation, I hope, Sir, the House will accept the Resolution and continue to trust the Government of India to exercise its present policy of de-control in relation to the conditions obtaining in the country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Sir, I have listened with great care to the explanation given by my Honourable friend Syama Prasad, but I am not satisfied for this reason. We are not here to distrust our Government; we are quite prepared to trust them. We are also quite prepared to clothe them with all the powers that they want, but we should also be helped to understand why they want to do a particular thing. When a Resolution like this is sought to be moved, any impartial person, Sir, who simply reads this thing will be completely dazed. He will not know what this Resolution really purports to be, what it is intended to do.

Now my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar was good enough to give some explanation, but is that enough? Is it not the duty of the Government of India and the Departments concerned to place on the table of this House and make it available to all the Members also, a Report of working of these controls? Two years ago I made this suggestion, that a scientific study should be made of the working of these controls in order to see whether their continuance would be necessary at all, whether their working was satisfactory and in what way their working should be improved and so on. No effort has so far been made in that direction. We are told by my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar that almost all the Departments have agreed that these emergency powers should be vested in Government. Very well, it may be so. Were we not told, Sir, some time ago that all the Departments were completely convinced of the utter necessity for the continuance of these controls, and that they were convinced that it would be dangerous for the country that Government should adopt any de-control policy at all? If it had not been for Mahatma Gandhi's intervention—and powerful intervention at that,—are we quite sure that even the present Government would have been quite willing to accept and adopt their present policy of de-control? Therefore, Sir, the fact that almost all the Departments have recommended that these emergency powers should be extended does not carry any conviction, but a sincere attempt should be made by the Departments concerned to convince this House. After all, we have got to prepare the public mind, we have got to back them, we have got to enlighten them and win them over, and how are we going to win the public opinion unless we are helped with the necessary statistics and figures as to the working of these controls,—whether they have been working for the benefit of the people or for their disadvantage or anything like it. We have not so far been given any such information.

Secondly, Sir, we are told that there are only eight more items on their list of controlled articles. Some of them are being de-controlled; some more may come to be de-controlled by about the end of March or something like it, or in a few months. We do not know how much longer Government would take in order to de-control the whole lot of these commodities. Not that I am at all opposed to the idea of the Government control over such commodities or any sort of control for that matter, but unfortunately in our country the working of these controls has been so very unsatisfactory, peculiarly situated as we are, with the sort of services that we have been blessed with. It is for that reason that I have been fighting against these controls for the last two years and therefore I request the Honourable Minister for Industries, late though it is, to order even today an enquiry into the working of these controls, the present as well as the past, so that it will be of great use indeed as a sort of guide for the future, and it will also be possible for him then to see how soon he can put an end to almost all these controls and not to have to come to this House again for any extension of these emergency powers.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I expected that the Government would do us the favour of constituting a Committee of the House and place before them the necessity of the further continuance of these controls. My Honourable friend Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherji has called upon us to repose confidence. We give all confidence. We give him a blank cheque. There is no want of confidence in the Ministry, but we on our part would appeal to him to give us his confidence. It is not a question of our confidence being given to them, because we have given them all our confidence and there is nothing more in us to give. We necessarily feel that it is they, the Government, who have to give their confidence to us.

Sir, go to the countryside. The whole country wants de-control. It is Mahatma Gandhi who knew by instinct the popular mind and put his powerful influence on the side of de-control and the acuteness has been eased because of

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de-control in certain commodities. It took my breath away, Sir, when I was told by some Madras friends that after controls have been loosened in Madras moffusil, rice is being sold at 3½ seers in Bezwada and for 14 annas per seer in Madras city. Therefore, it is fair under the circumstances that the House should know how the controls are working. I think we have the right, and people expect us to tell them how the controls are being worked and why it is that they get nothing in certain commodities.

Sir, you have been carrying on propaganda for 'Grow More Food', and yet, nothing is given to the rural population to meet their agricultural needs by supplying them with their iron necessaries such as rims, ploughs and the like. What is worse is that everything is available in any quantity in the black market and nothing in the white market. Under these circumstances, I would appeal to my Honourable friend to agree, or to come forward subsequently, with a proposal to constitute a Committee of the House and place before it all the information that Government have in their possession in justification of the continuance of the control and then have it. I say, have it for one year or even more, if necessary, but do tell us what is the justification for it and convince us of the necessity, so that we will go to the countryside and explain to the people the utter indispensability of the same. Sir, these are days of democracy. Our little masters are impatient to do away with these controls. Under these circumstances, any further continuance of the control means a continuous propaganda in the countryside to explain to the people how and why the controls are justified.

Sir, I understand the difficulties of my Honourable friends. They are the people to run on the machinery as *karnadhar*. The machinery they have inherited is an unfortunate one. It is not only heavy but also unworkable. It is not for us to call for a revision of the entire thing now. Reformation of the whole machinery is not possible all at once. Therefore the controls however good they might be, however well-intentioned they might be, have not been working for the purpose for which they are intended. Under these circumstances, I would appeal to my Honourable friend to appoint a Committee of the members of the House and place before the Committee all the necessary information or the reasons for justifying the continuance of the controls and then have the controls. With these words, Sir, I appeal to my Honourable friend to accept the suggestion.

Shri Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir there are two points for consideration: one whether the Dominion Parliament is to be invested with the power to exercise control and secondly, whether in particular circumstances control is necessary or not. It is necessary to keep the two points distinct. What the Honourable Minister is seeking to ask this House is there must be a resolution to implement the Act of Parliament so as to enable the Parliament to exercise that power if it so chooses. It does not mean that the House is committed to the policy of control. But supposing in any given case control is deemed necessary, you will not get the power within the frame-work of the present Constitution unless this resolution is passed. The only object as I understand of the Honourable Minister's motion is to have a resolution of the House so that the Dominion Parliament may be invested with the power to exercise the control if it so chooses. We need not deny ourselves the power. I have no doubt that when people who are versed in public affairs when they bring to the notice of the Government that control is no longer necessary that control will not be exercised. Therefore, we are pursuing a wrong path when we say that we ought not to be invested with the power under the earlier Constitution. In regard to the subject of pure trade and commerce between the Governments it was entirely a provincial issue. Parliament then

1 P.M.

thought that unless in the exigencies of the war the Indian Government is invested with the power it would not be in a position to pull through the difficulties of the situation. Accordingly the particular Parliament Act, to which reference was made by the Honourable the Law Minister, was passed. That very Act provides that if you want to have a power for a further period it must be by means of a resolution. If you do not pass a resolution it will be passing a self-denying ordinance. The legislature even if it chooses will not have the power unless there is a change in the Constitution. Therefore, the object of this resolution, as I understand it, is not to commit the Government to any definite policy of control, but merely to clothe the Government and the Dominion Parliament with the power, if the circumstances and the necessity of the situation demanded that control should be exercised. I think these two points ought to become distinct—the necessity of control and the wisdom of the Dominion Parliament being invested with the power under the existing constitution to exercise this control, if the circumstances warrant it. That is the only point at issue before the House and I have therefore great pleasure in supporting the Resolution now placed before the House by the Honourable the Law Minister.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

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

Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): Sir the Britishers have left the land but God alone knows how long we will continue to suffer from the legacy they have left behind. My Honourable friend Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee has emphasised that all the departments of the Government of India have agreed that controls should continue for another year.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I did not say that; they are agreed that this power should be kept.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: A wrong thing cannot be right simply because all the departments of the Government of India have agreed to it. Sir, the House is being consulted, the whole country may be consulted, a plebiscite may be taken, and it will be found that the departments of the Government of India are in this matter quite wrong. They have held that the power to control articles should be continued for another year. Sir, we have seen that controls created havoc throughout the country and there is not one single man who has not suffered from these controls.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (U.P.: General): Sir, on a point of order, I should like to know if any discussion on the basic policy of control *versus* decontrol will be germane to this Resolution. If I read the Resolution aright, it does not wish to perpetuate the controls put only seeks power to impose controls if necessary. In that view of the case will a discussion of the whole policy of control *versus* decontrol be in order?

Mr. Speaker: I just wanted to follow what exactly the Honourable Member was going to develop in his argument. It is perfectly true that the policy of control or decontrol is not at issue in this debate, but reference to that policy will be inevitable because this Resolution seeks to continue the powers with reference to control. It, therefore, appears open for argument, that, even if there is a desire to decontrol, perhaps the continuance of powers may hamper the policy of decontrol because of the force of executive action. That seems to be the line open and to that extent I think reference to control and decontrol would be in order.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Sir, I thank you for this ruling. Had not the departer Mahatma Gandhi come to our rescue this Government might have continued to control everything that they have decontrolled in the recent past. We have seen that by decontrolling some articles the situation in the country has been eased. Let us, for instance, take the case of petrol.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the Honourable Member is now going beyond the limits which I have prescribed.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Sir, I will keep within those limits, but I will say this that control has created corruption; it has destroyed the character of our people and has attempted to corrupt the incorruptible. The Congress Committees and all of us Congressmen have suffered in our reputation and prestige owing to our cooperation with the control department of Government. I go further and say that even this Government and the Provincial Governments have all suffered in reputation and prestige owing to this control. I therefore ask Government to withdraw this Resolution: the House should also ask for its withdrawal, if not reject it.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): Sir, I am not a lawyer and therefore in the words of the Honourable Minister for Law, this is not in my line at all. But what is perfectly in my line is to request Government that they should not draw up Resolutions like this in the form of something like crossword puzzles to test the intelligence of Honourable Members of this House. I do not think many Honourable Members had before them the particular Act to which this refers, and it is impossible to know what the subject-matter of the Resolution is. I think, Sir, you can yourself hold that a Resolution which does not mention the subject-matter itself is out of order. However, I am not on that point now, but I make a humble request to Government that they should state what it is all about and what it is that they want to do, instead of mentioning the chapter and verse of so many enactments.

My Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam said that Government should have first drawn up a list of subjects on which they wanted the power to continue the controls and then framed this Resolution. Sir, reading section 4 in a laymen's way I do not think that this House has authority to extend the powers only in a limited form. What the House can do is either to extend it or not to extend it at all.

With regard to giving these powers I can say that there is no objection whatever to grant these powers to Government. It is not as if Government want to continue all these controls,—they have made that clear. I think there is no harm in giving these powers and therefore I support the motion.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Sir, I was really surprised to find such weather-beaten and seasoned parliamentarians as my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam, Prof. Ranga and Mr. Das take this Resolution to mean that it was actually with a view to continue this policy of control that they are asking us to vote for it. I think nothing of the kind was in the mind of the Honourable Minister for Law or the Honourable Minister for Industry. As a matter of fact, nobody can deny that today we are living in abnormal times. The emergent situation according to law might have disappeared with the end of the war, but we must not forget that even today we are at war, and therefore it is just likely that at any time the Central Government may be required to use certain powers which are necessary in order to fulfil the exigencies of an emergent situation and as such I think it is quite proper that they are asking us to vote for this resolution and to take this for one year more. I think at the end of the year we shall again be at liberty to consider whether the situation as then prevails requires those powers for any further period or not. The mere passing of this resolution does

not mean that we are voting for the policy of control. I was one of those when that policy was being discussed in this House who was in favour of the continuance of controls. But the experience that we have gained of certain of the commodities which have been decontrolled encourages us in the hope that perhaps it may not be quite so disastrous to decontrol still further, and therefore I think the Government also will not use those powers which we are giving them today in any haphazard manner or with a sense of irresponsibility: nothing of the kind. Therefore there is no reason whatever to confuse this issue with the actual policy of control or decontrol and as such I wholeheartedly support the Honourable the Law Minister's resolution.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): I have the advantage of starting with a cipher knowledge. I took two days' leave and do not know what the resolution is and luckily the contents of it are obscure. They give references to chapter and verse which we cannot get immediately. Thanks however to the points of order raised by one of our Honourable friends and the lucid explanation given by the Speaker, I am put on the right lines.

My objection to the continuance of this power which will now be a reserve power is this. The declaration of controls has completely set up a new standard of morals amongst the officers. A new atmosphere was created. Controls meant that everybody was free to control his own morals as he liked and if you decontrol that will mean that there will be decontrol also over the new standard of morals or immorals. It should be made plain that once the controls are removed and the law is abrogated no officer can bank upon the indulgence of the higher authorities and the atmosphere favourable to a certain immorality will no longer be there. What is meant to be protected is deviation from the normal. That is the main point that strikes me. As for the powers: it is not as if you are hard up for powers. Thanks to the ingenuity of Sir Samuel Hoare, who introduced the principle of Ordinances into the Act of 1935—which have been perpetuated in the Adaptation Act, and which I daresay will be found to be very wise and convenient measures in the new Constitution as well—you can start an Ordinance overnight. The other day we wanted to deal with the sugar question—that it should be controlled and the prices should not be raised all of a sudden. We approached the Member. Overnight an Ordinance was passed freezing all the stocks in India. There is no power that will stand in the way of your exercising your discretion and judgment in the manner you consider them to be the best under the circumstances. "If you are giving me the powers", you may ask "why not allow the existing powers to continue". That looks plausible. But behind it there is the presumption that with the atmosphere of controls and the demoralization that has set in the wake of controls, and the lowered standards of morality which have come to be recognised as almost permissible by the Government of the day, all these will raise their head once again. Therefore, purify the atmosphere. Say the controls have been removed altogether and declare once and for all that the old standards of morality in public service must be re-established and reinstated in order that we may chasten and exalt the Government officers' standards of conduct. If you do that, then you can start afresh, and then we can try our good luck once again with the officers, under the new order.

This is all that I have to say: You have the powers. Any day or at any moment you can invoke them.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Though I have not been here to hear the speeches of my friends Mr. Santhanam and Prof. Ranga, I agree with them that a Bill like the one at issue ought not to be placed before the Assembly without taking the Assembly into confidence regarding the manner in which the controls have worked so far at least in regard to those items in respect of which this Act may be continued or the controls continued.

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

I do not agree with my friend, Dr. Pattabhi, that ordinances can be made available for these purposes, because most of these subjects are provincial subjects. Each province may impose an ordinance as it likes. There cannot be uniformity regarding these controls all over India. That is one of the main reasons for clothing the Centre with the power to continue the controls in case control is necessary.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: May I say that a Provincial Government has the power to enact Ordinances!

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: They do. But Provincial Governments have power to enact Ordinances which will not be uniform all over the country. Take sugar. Unless there is a Central control there will be no uniformity: so likewise with cement, petroleum, paper etc. These are matters where each province ought not to be left to have its own control. If you take the States they will have 500 and odd contro's! Therefore, in the interests of administration, it is necessary that the Central should regulate it.

But the other question is as to how far the Centre should be clothed with powers without telling us in what particulars controls should be extended. It is true we have our own Government and that the Government will take care to see that the control is extended on certain items for a period and then they will review the control in respect of those matters where control is not necessary. I would urge on the Minister for Industry and Supply, that, if these controls are not removed, but some have to be kept alive beyond three months, he will come before the Assembly and justify the need to continue these controls and the manner in which they are to be continued so far as expediency shows. If the Honourable Minister gives that assurance. I think we may clothe the Centre with power, seeing that the Centre is none other than a limb of this Assembly and would not be irresponsible to it. There is a change that has come over it and I am sure it will not abuse that position but they must review the situation. I would therefore urge upon the Minister to take the House into confidence, place the matter before it. and though this Act may clothe him with general powers, he must come before the Assembly and take its verdict on each control later.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Members who have opposed the resolution have been mainly actuated by a desire to see that the policy of decontrol is fully implemented as soon as possible. As I said. Sir, previously in the course of this debate that Government has adopted a gradual policy of decontrol.

One objection which has been raised by several members is, particularly by Professor Ranga and Shri Biswanath Das, that Government did not take the Legislature into full confidence regarding the various commodities mentioned in this Bill. There I join issue. If you refer to these items you find that the first place is occupied by foodstuffs. With regard to food policy the then Food Minister, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, placed the entire policy of the Government before the Legislature and there was a full dress debate. There has been decontrol in respect of most of the items but so far as inter-provincial movement is concerned that is still under some sort of control or directions which may be issued by the Central Government. I ask the Honourable Members of the House to point out whether in violation of the declared food policy of the Government, Government has done anything behind the back of the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We want to know how they have worked and why they have failed.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the policy is concerned, it has been approved by the Legislature. So far as the working of the policy is concerned naturally it will take some time before we can see the full results thereof. There was some serious situation the other day in Madras and the Food Minister had to rush to South India to see that no emergency arises in that area. What I am saying is this. The way in which decontrol should be introduced with regard to foodgrains was placed before the Legislature and the Legislature was taken into full confidence.

As regards cotton and woollen textiles, there again I placed before the House the policy of Government and decontrol has already been introduced. In respect of one or two items decontrol could not be introduced and Prof. Ranga was one of the members who congratulated the Government on having continued control with regard to yarn. Now how can Prof. Ranga or any other member complain today that Government is doing something with regard to decontrol. . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: On a matter of personal explanation, Sir, I do not take any objection to this resolution. I want the Government to place before the House a report of the way in which the controls have worked, if they have failed where they have failed and why. That report has not been placed before the House.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: At every stage Government was anxious to take the House into full confidence in deciding upon its policy of decontrol of the two major items relating to foodstuffs and cotton and woollen textiles.

Paper is the third item. There also the House knows newsprint has been decontrolled. With regard to other varieties of paper which are produced in India I have assured the House that the matter is receiving my attention and within the next few weeks I hope to be able to announce the policy of the Government.

"Petroleum and petroleum products" is the fourth item. That is also being considered by Government now in view of certain recent developments which I am not in a position to disclose but I can assure the House that this matter is also receiving the attention of the entire cabinet.

Next comes "spare parts of mechanically propelled vehicles". In regard to this matter only yesterday I announced to the House what the policy of the Government was, how in respect of certain matters Government has accepted the policy of decontrol and how with regard to certain others we have to proceed with a degree of caution.

Next comes coal. So far as coal is concerned there also the policy was announced to the House that for the time being we are not in a position to decontrol coal but we are examining the recommendations of the Coal Enquiry Committee and whatever decision Government arrives at will be placed before the Standing Committee as also before the legislature.

Next in the list are iron and steel and mica. So far as iron and steel are concerned there also it was only a few weeks ago that I informed the House that it would not be possible for Government to decontrol immediately but that matter is also being considered in consultation both with representatives of consumers and producers.

These are all the items that are covered under this Act. With regard to every one of these items Government has been extremely anxious not only to keep itself in touch with the Standing Committees concerned but also this House. Government has accepted the policy of gradual decontrol. As my Honourable friend Mr. Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar pointed out there are two aspects to the question. One is the retention of certain powers in the hands of the Government and the other is the exercise of those powers. So far as the

[Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee]

exercise of those powers is concerned we shall proceed with caution. The very fact that I have not added to the list of commodities shows that we are not anxious to extend the atmosphere of immorality of which Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya has spoken, either in the department or in the Legislature or outside. We do not want that the policy of control should affect the general purity of the administrative atmosphere in any way whatsoever. But so far as the question of the retention of powers is concerned it is essential that the powers must be kept in the hands of the Government.

I was surprised to hear one of the Honourable Members saying that the resolution may be thrown out or Government may be asked to introduce an ordinance. Why should Government introduce an ordinance? Government has come forward before the House, placing the entire facts before it and asking for the support of the Legislature. Government cannot pass an ordinance on the 31st March: the House will then be in session. An ordinance can be passed only at a time when the House is not in session and this Act expires on the 31st March. Supposing the House does not accept the resolution today, what will be the effect? With regard to foodgrains partial decontrol continues and the result will be catastrophe and chaos. With regard to textiles the control continues with regard to certain matters. If you do not pass the resolution the Government will not have the power and whatever orders there are in existence will become null and void. So also with regard to iron and steel. I am surprised that any Honourable Member could have seriously suggested that this resolution need not to be accepted or that powers may be obtained by means of an ordinance at a time when the House will be in session.

One member asked, and quite pertinently, why should a resolution be moved. That I find is the procedure which Parliament has laid down. The power to extend the time really vested in the British Parliament until the Indian Independence Act was passed. Now the amendment made by Parliament says that by passing a resolution in the Dominion Parliament this Act can be extended by such period as the Dominion Parliament may decide. It was not that Dr. Ambedkar has special love for bringing up this matter through resolution but that was the procedure which was laid down by Parliament and naturally, functioning as a constitutional government we had to follow the procedure.

I assure the House that so far as the general policy of decontrol is concerned the Government has accepted that policy. Government is watching development and it will not introduce control in respect of any commodity where it can be avoided. As I have explained in respect of all these nine items we have already decontrolled many of them, though somewhat partially and I hope within the next few months it will be possible for us to accept the entire policy of decontrol in a manner which will be found satisfactory not only to the House but also to the public outside.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"In pursuance of the proviso to section 4 of the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947, this Assembly hereby approves the extension of the period mentioned in sections 2 and 3 of the said Act for a further period of twelve months commencing on the first day of April, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

DENTISTS BILL

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to regulate the profession of dentistry, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Sir, in recommending this measure to the House it is not necessary for me to say anything more than what I said during the last session when asking for its reference to a Select Committee. The principle of the Bill is non-controversial and needs no advocacy. Dentistry is a very important limb of the medical profession and I suggest that it is only right and meet that its practice by untrained persons should forthwith be restricted. If that is done, then legal provision for the regulation of the education and training of dental practitioners and registration of qualified persons is absolutely essential.

All the opinions that we had received in response to the circulation of the Bill were carefully considered by the Select Committee and Honourable Members will have noticed that such amendments as were considered necessary have been incorported in the Bill. Since one member of the Select Committee has written a minute of dissent, I think it is only right that I should in a few words answer the criticism which he has raised against the registration of qualified dentists in Part A and of unqualified dentists in Part B. This distribution,

3 P.M. I submit, is absolutely essential because election to the Central Council which is concerned with the training standards should surely be confined to dentists with suitable qualifications. If there were to be a common register the Central Council would under the present circumstances be swamped by unqualified dentists. Surely that would be defeating the very purpose of the Bill. Moreover a separate register will help the Central Council in the matter of arrangements for reciprocity with foreign countries. Reciprocal recognition, I am sure the House will admit, must necessarily be confined to recognized qualifications. Further I would like the House to note that the differential is applicable firstly to election to the Central Council from dentists registered in the Provinces and even here the Select Committee has recommended that two out of six members to be nominated to the Central Council by the Central Government shall be those registered in Part B, and in the Provincial Councils both Part A and Part B dentists will be able to elect an equal number of representatives.

The next point is that after the expiry of two years from the commencement of this Act only a person who is registered in Part A of a Provincial register will be able to hold any appointment as dentist in any institution which is supported wholly or partly from public or local funds. But even here it may be noted that the rule will not apply to those dentists who are holding such appointments at the time of the commencement of the Act. Even after the Act comes into force Provincial Governments are at liberty to allow any person they consider fit to hold such posts.

As regards private practice there is no distinction at all in the Bill between the dentists in Part A and those in Part B. There is therefore no real hardship involved in the register being maintained in two parts. Indeed I may add that such a procedure is absolutely necessary in the interests of the profession. Standards must be raised and tried to be raised forthwith, and they also have to be maintained. I hope, Sir, that the Bill as amended by the Select Committee will be passed.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to regulate the profession of dentistry, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, I wholeheartedly welcome the principles of the Bill. The Honourable the Health Minister has said that untrained dentists are a danger to society. I submit, Sir, there are trained but unsympathetic dentists who are also equally a menace to society. Two patients went to a hospital. One had a bad tooth and the other had an old sore in the leg. The doctor examined them cursorily and said that the tooth of the one must be extracted and the leg of the other amputated, and asked them to wait. After disposing of other outdoor patients the doctor called one of them, ready with a pair of forceps to take away the tooth. But by mistake he called the man who had the sore leg. He was asked to lie down on a dental operation chair. The man was very gratified and he lay down on the chair. He was then asked to open his mouth. He was extremely grateful. The doctor only remembered the tooth though not the man. So he caught hold of his tooth with the powerful forceps and was trying to extract it. It was a good tooth and threrefore gave some trouble. The man had by now fully realised the doctor's mistake. He struggled in agony but with his mouth open and the forceps in it, he could not speak. The doctor said "Well, you will be all right very soon", and pulled out the tooth. He was then taken to the tap where he washed his mouth. The doctor then kindly asked him "Are you all right?" The man said "Yes, I am all right—but I was not the man with the toothache". The doctor then asked "where is the other man?" The other man had by now fully understood the situation. He did not however stop and said "I can't trust the doctor, he will cut my leg" and he ran away.

If you go to an unqualified dentist the most difficult thing about them is that they use the same needle to penetrate the gums of everyone without sterilising the needle. This causes propagation of disease from one to the other. I therefore submit that trained but sympathetic dentists should alone be allowed to practise.

While wholeheartedly supporting the principles of the Bill I have tabled a number of amendments, mostly of a drafting nature. With regard to those amendments which I do not propose to move, I have given a list of them to you, Sir. And some amendments which are really a correction of printing mistakes also I shall leave to you for correction. With regard to other classes of amendments there are one or two points to which I wish to draw the attention of the House at this stage. In fact I find that there is a tendency in the Bills to perpetuate a kind of drafting which has been rejected by the House before. I am troubled about the word 'Council'. It is to be found in clause 2, sub-clause (a). The word 'Council' has been used many times in the Bill. First of all there is the 'Provincial Council'. There are again the 'Medical Council' and the 'Dental Council of India' called the Council. I submit that the 'Dental Council of India' should be called the 'Central Council'. There is plenty of confusion about them. I have therefore suggested for the consideration of the Honourable Minister and the draftsman and the House to change the word 'Council' into 'Central Council'. That would prevent the awkward juxtaposition of the word 'Council' and 'Provincial Council'. Suppose we say the 'Government' and the 'Provincial Government'—'Government' meaning the Central Government—that would create confusion. In the circumstances I submit that the words 'Central Council' should be used to describe the 'Dental Council of India'.

There are one or two other drafting points to which I shall draw the attention of the House in proper time. But I should submit that the drafting points which are presented for the House should be rather carefully considered by the Department as well as by the Honourable Minister. The arrangement in respect of the other Bills would not be very satisfactory. The practice of an amendment being moved and the Honourable Minister merely saying 'I accept it' or 'I do not accept it' is not a very satisfactory way of dealing with the

amendment. This method of acceptance or rejection of amendments by the Honourable Minister has been commented upon by some Honourable Members —and with plenty of justification In certain cases some important amendments affecting the texture of the Bill, introducing new principles, have been made on the floor of the House and on a mere mention of the amendment the Honourable Minister has said 'I am going to accept it' and it was carried. In fact this way of dealing with the amendments would be improper, especially in regard to amendments of substance. I should submit that amendments should be considered—except those which are obvious or are of a drafting nature. Amendments should be carefully considered and reasons for acceptance or rejection should be given by the Honourable Minister, and it would be desirable for the Members of the House to say a word or two. There need not be a prolonged debate but short statements on the principle of the amendments will be better.

Otherwise the business gets absolutely one-sided. People absolutely lose heart and interest, and especially in the afternoons the tendency to hurry up matters is more pronounced. I suggest that Honourable Members should pay more attention even to drafting matters. With these few words I wholeheartedly support the First Reading of the Bill.

پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو : مانیہ سپیکر صاحب ! میں آنریبل منسٹر صاحبہ کو بدھائی دیتا ہوں کہ سلیکٹ کمیٹی سے جو یہ بل درست ہو کر ہاؤس میں پیش کیا گیا ہے وہ پہلے بل کے مقابلہ میں بہت ہی اچھا ہے میں ایک اور وجہ سے بھی انکا شکریہ ادا کرنا چاہتا ہوں اور وہ یہ کہ جو ترمیمات میں نےاس بل کے مختلف دفعات کے متعلق دی تھیں انہوں نے بہت سی ان ترمیمات پر غور کیا ہے اور منظور کی ہیں اور بعض صورتوں میں مجھکو سمجھانے کی کوشش کی ہے اس کے لئے میں انکا نہایت ہی شکر گزار ہوں اس کے باوجود بھی میں انکی توجہ خاص طور پر ایک چیز کی طرف دلانا چاہتا ہوں وہ یہ ہے کہ بھور کمیٹی کے figuros کو دیکھکر ہر ایک کے دل میں یہی خیال ہوتا ہے کہ ڈینٹسٹری کے لحاظ سے ہمارا ملک نہایت ہی پسماندہ ہے اور اس ملک میں ڈینٹسٹری کی knowledge نہایت کم ہے - اور شاید اس کی پسماندگی میں دوسرا کوئی بھی ملک ہمکو شکشت نہیں دیسکتا ہو چونکہ ہمارے ملک میں پہلے کوئی کالیج اور سکول مناسب انتظام dentistry کا نہ تھا - اسلئے زیادہ تر لوگ سوائے انکے جو غیر ملکوں میں پڑھے ہیں quacks ہیں اور ان میں سے بہت سے ایسے ہیں جو کہ ڈنٹسٹری کی کوئی qualifications نہیں رکھتے ہیں- تاہم ان کو recognition دینے کا ضرور خیال رکھا جانا چاہیے امریکہ ولایت اور دیگر ممالک میں بھی شروع میں ایسا کیا گیاہے- میں اس سے سنتشت ہوں کہ اس بات کی کوشش کی گئی ہے کہ اگر کوئی ایسا آدمی ہے جسکو کوئی qualifications نہیں ہے اور جنکا بہت عرصہ سے اس کام میں تجربہ ہے اور جنھوں نے اس کام کو اپنی روٹی کمانے کا ذریعہ بنا دیا ہے انکو اب اس ذریعہ معاش سے محروم نہیں کیا گیا ہے - انکی روٹی کمانے کا موقعہ دیا گیا ہے

[پنڈت تھاکر داس بھارگو]

لیکن اگر ایسے اشخاص کو قرار دیا جاویگا کہ وہ high dental qualification رکھتے ہیں تو بمصداق ایسی ہی بات ہوگی

"اندھوں میں کانا راجہ"

جس ملک میں ڈینٹسٹری کی ایسی حالت ہو جیسی کہ ہمارے ملک کی ہے وہاں پر ہمیں ان کو recognition تو ضرور دینی چاہئے لیکن صرف انکو جو پوری قابلیت رکھتے ہوں ٹریبل منسٹر نے جو س میں دو حصہ رجسٹر رکھے ہیں یعنی "اے" اور "بی" ٹائپ کی رجسٹر اُس سے میں ان سے متفق ہوں میں ایسا ہونے کی دلیل میں نہیں جانا چاہتا ہوں لیکن میں صرف اتنا عرض کرونگا کہ اسمیں جو ڈینٹسٹری کی qualification کے متعلق یہ درج ہے کہ صرف ان ہی آدمیوں کو "اے" میں رجسٹر ہونے کے لئے recognition دی جائیگی جنکے پاس کہ ڈنٹسٹری کی high qualifications ہیں اس کے متعلق میری یہ گزارش ہے کہ اس بارے میں بھی ایک پرنسپل قائم کرنا چاہیے تاکہ ان لوگوں کو بھی اس میں recognition دی جاسکے جو کہ فی الواقعہ بہت عرصہ سے اسکام میں تجربہ رکھتےہیں لیکن ان کےپاس کسی high qualification کا ڈگری یا ڈپلوما نہیں ہے میری گزارش یہ ہے کہ جیسے لوگ آپ کے رجسٹر "بی" میں ہونگے ویسے ہی آدمی رجسٹر "اے" میں ہونگے لیکن جو "اے" میں ہوں وہ گورنمنٹ کے ہسپتالوں میں نوکر ہو سکتے ہیں - لیکن "بی" رجسٹر والے نہیں ہو سکتے ہسپتال میں نوکر ہو کر اگر وہ ماہر نہ ہونگے تو تمام لوگوں کے لئے وہ باعث خطرہ ہونگے اسلئے ان لوگوں کو رجسٹر کرتے وقت بہت ہی احتیاط کرنے کی ضرورت ہے - "اے" لسٹ میں ان آدمیوں کو رجسٹر نہیں کرنا چاہیئے جنکو کہ dentistry کا پورا پورا علم نہ ہو-

میں نے شیڈیول میں درج کی ہوئی qualifications کو دیکھا ہے - اور مجھے بہت افسوس سے کہنا پڑتا ہے کہ میں اُس اصول سے متفق نہیں ہوں جو کہ وہاں پر درج ہے اور نہ ہی میں اس قسم کےاصول کو ماننے کے لئے تیار ہوں جوکہ اس شیڈیول میں درج ہے- یہاں پر یہ کہا گیا ہے کہ recognifion صرف اُسی آدمی کو دی جائیگی جس کے پاس diploma ہے اور high qualification ہیں اسکو قابل ڈینٹسٹ خیال کیا جائیگا - اس میں یہ درج ہونا لازمی ہے کہ وہ آدمی جو کہ بہت تجربہ رکھتےہیں - اور جو مدت سے یہ کام کرتے آئے ہوں اُنکو بھی قابل تصور کیا جائیگا - اور dental qualification والا سمجھا جائیگا میں یہ عرض کرونگا کہ جو خود ڈینٹسٹس ہیں اور خود ماہر ہیں اور ڈنٹسٹس بورڈ کے اکابرین میں سے ہیں وہ بھی ان مدات سے متفق نہیں ہیں جو کہ شیڈیول میں درج کی گئی ہے -

اسلئے میں یہ گزارش کرونگا کہ اس میں ہائی ڈگری و ڈپلوما qualifications کے علاوہ اُن کو بھی درج کیا جاوے جو کہ تجربہ رکھتے ہوں - کیونکہ آئندہ تو ایسے آدمی موجود ہونگے جن کے پاس ڈینٹسٹری کی high qualifications ہونگی لیکن آج کل کے جو حالات ہمارے دیش میں ہیں اُنکی طرف بھی خیال رکھنا ضروری ہے مجھے ذاتی طور پر معلوم نہیں ہے لیکن کہا جاتا ہے کہ تقریباً آٹھ نو ہزار آدمی ایسے ہیں جنکے پاس high qualifications نہیں ہیں اور تین سو سے ۸۰۰ تک ایسے بتلائے جاتےہیں جنکےپاس qualification ہیں لیکن اُنکے علاوہ ایسے آدمی بھی ہمارے ملک میں موجود ہیں جو کہ بیس تیس برس سے دانت بناتے آئے ہیں اور پریکٹس کرتے آئے ہیں اور اپنے علم میں اتنے قابل اور ماہر ہیں کہ اِنکے مقابلے میں high qualification رکھنے والے نہیں آ سکتے کیونکہ اُنکو اس کام میں عملی دست رس حاصل ہے اور وہ practical کام کرتے آئے ہیں یہ ایک اصولی بات ہے کہ practical کام کرنے والے کو اپنے کام میں کافی مہارت ہوتی ہے بنسبت اُس آدمی کے جو کہ صرف تھوریٹکل کام جانتا ہو ان وجوہات کی بنا پر ان لوگوں میں بے حد بیچینی پیدا ہو گئی ہے کیونکہ اُنکو خدشہ ہے کہ اتنی پریکٹس ہونے کہ باوجود بھی اُنکو "اے" لسٹ پر نہیں رکھا جائیگا -

اس شیڈیول میں یہ ایک شرط عاید کی گئی ہے کہ اگر کسی نے اول جنوری ۱۹۴۰ سے پہلے کلکتہ کالج سے ڈپلوما حاصل کیا ہو تو اُسکو recognition ملیگی اور اُسکو high qualification والا خیال کیا جائیگا اسکا یہ مطلب ہے جس شخص نے کالج میں کتنا ہی عرصہ رہکر کچھہ بھی پاس کیا ہو اسکو High qualification والا تصور کیا جائیگا ایک طرف تو یہ مشکل ہے اور دوسری طرف یہ مشکل ہے کہ اس بل میں درج کیا گیا ہے کہ جن آدمیوں کی practice دو برس سے کم ہو اُسکو رجسٹری میں درج نہیں کیا جائیگا اس بارے میں میں یہ نہیں سمجھہ سکا کہ جو لوگ کالج میں پڑھتے ہیں جنکا کورس دو برس کا ہے انکا کیا حشر ہوگا اُنکے لئے اس بل میں کوئی provision نہیں ہے یہی دو تین باتیں ہیں جنکی طرف میں ہاؤس کی اور منسٹر صاحبہ کی توجہ دلانا چاہتا ہوں اول یہ کہ high qualification رکھنے والے آدمی کے علاوہ اس لسٹ میں کوئی دیگر شخص درج رجسٹر نہیں ہونگے دوسرے یہ کہ اُن لوگوں کے لئے اس بل میں کوئی دفعہ نہیں ہیں جو کہ بیس بیس برس سے یہ کام کرتے آئے ہیں اور جنکی پریکٹس نہایت اعلے ہے اور ہر طریقہ سے اپنے کام میں قابل ہیں لیکن "بی" لسٹ میں درج ہو سکتے ہیں حالانکہ وہ "اے" لسٹ میں ہونے چاہیئے تھے اور تیسرے اُن آدمیوں کے لئے جو کہ دو برس سے کام کرتے ہیں اور دو دو سال کالجوں میں پڑھتے رہے ہیں اُنکے سانھہ آئیندہ کے لئے کیا سلوک کیا جائیگا -

[پنڈت تھاکو داس بھارگو]

میں ان تینوں چیزوں کے لئے solution پیش کرتا ہوں جہاں تک کہ اُن لوگوں کا تعلق ہے جو کہ دس برس سے زیادہ عرصہ سے پریکٹس کرتے آئے ہیں اور جن کی Practical knowledge بہت ہی اچھی ہے اور جسکے متعلق شری یت رام نرائن سنگھ نے ایک ترمیم پیش کی ہے اُن کے لئے یہ کیا جائے کہ تین ماہ کے بعد ایک امتحان لیا جائے اور جو اُسمیں پاس ہوگا اُسکو دا ے لسٹ میں رجسٹر کیا جائے حالانکہ میں یہ گزارش کرونگا کہ اگر مجھکو اسوقت بی-اے کا امتحان دینے کے لئے کہا جائے تو Theoretical حصہ میں میں بھی اسوقت فیل ہو جاونگا اسلئے ایسے اشخاص کیلئے فارمل اور ایک آرل امتحان مقرر کیا جائے اور جو اسمیں پاس ہوں اُنکو دا ے لسٹ میں رجسٹر کیا جائے لیکن ایسا ان لوگوں کے ساتھہ کیا جا سکتا ہے جو کہ مدت سے یہ کام کرتے آئے ہیں اُنکے لئے ہر سکتا ہے کیونکہ اُنکی پریکٹس اور Practical knowledge بہت اچھی ہوتی ہے اس کے علاوہ وہ لوگ جنکی پریکٹس دو برس سے کم ہے یا جو دوبرس کالجوں میں لگا چکے ہیں اُنکے لئے اس قسم کا امتحان رکھا جائے جو کہ جنرل Recognition کے لئے ہوتا ہے اور ان سب کو دبی لسٹ میں رجسٹر کیا جائے ان کے لئے یہ ہو کہ اگر وہ اس امتحان کو پاس کریں تو دبی لسٹ میں درج ہوں اور اگر فیل ہوں تو اس لسٹ میں ہوں نہ رکھے جائیں

اسکے علاوہ کالجوں میں جو عرصہ qualification حاصل کرنے کیلئے رکھا گیا ہے اُسکو چار سال کا کم ازکم عرصہ مقرر کیا جاوے اب رہا سوال special qualification کا اسبارے میں میں یہ عرض کرونگا کہ جو کچھ اس بارے میں شیڈیول کے حصہ ایک دو تین میں درج ہے اُس کے لئے یہ مناسب ہوگا کہ ایک Expert کمیٹی مقرر کی جائے جو یہ دیکھے کہ یہ ادارے جنکا نام schedule میں درج ہے وہ high qualification دینے کی قابلیت رکھتے بھی نہیں اور کب سے کب تک اسکے ایسے حالات تھے کہ وہ اچھے اور قابل Dentist بنانے کے اہل تھے چونکہ آنریبل منسٹر نے اس بل کو درست کرنے کی کافی کوشش کی ہے اور مجھے چند ایک باتوں میں اتفاق کیا ہے اسلئے میں اپنی تمام ترمیمات کو تو پیش نہیں کرنا چاہتا لیکن چند ایک پیش کروں گا کیونکہ میں یہ سمجھتا ہوں کہ وہ اس قابل ہیں جو کہ ہاؤس کے نوٹس میں لائی جائیں -

اس کے علاوہ میں فارن qualification کے اداروں کے متعلق آنریبل منسٹر سے یہ گزارش کرونگا کہ وہ اُنکی recognition کے بارے میں experts کا ایک بورڈ بنائیں اور ان سے consult کرکے صرف اُن Dentists کو recognition دیں جو ایسے Institution سے پاس ہوئے ہیں اور ڈگری ڈپلوما حاصل کئے ہیں جن میں درست اور معقول انتظام پڑھائی و عملی تربیت کا تھا -

کیونکہ اگر ایسے بورڈ سے یہ فیصلہ نہ کرایا گیا تو بعدازاں ایسے اشخاص کو جنکا نام رجسٹر دA، میں درج ہوگا اس رجسٹر سے خارج کرنا مشکل ہو جاویگا اگر یہ قرار دیا جاویگا کہ ان اداروں سے جسمیں ایسے اشخاص پڑھتے ہیں پورا و معقول انتظام پڑھائی - یا Dental qualification دینے کا نہ تھا - Dentists Bill پر جو رائے چھاپی گئی ہیں اور جو گورنمنٹ کے شائع کردہ پمپھلٹ میں موجود ہیں اسکے صفحہ ۱۳ ، ۸ کے ملاحظہ سے ظاہر ہوگا کہ شیڈول کے بہت سے Foreign qualification فرضی اور نکمے ہیں اسکے علاوہ سوال باقی رہ جاتا ہے کلکتہ ڈینٹل کالج وہاسپیٹل کا جو نمبر ۲ پر اور ایک کراچی کالج اور ایک بمبئی کالج کا کہ اس میں بھی Dental qualification طلبا کو دینے کا پورا انتظام تھا یا نہیں - میرے ہاتھہ میں کراچی کالج کا پراسپیکٹس ہے اس پراسپیکٹس میں صاف طور پر صفحہ ۳۸ پر آخری چار سطور میں حسب ذیل درج ہے -

"The College of Dentistry has now been recognized by the Government of Sind. This consideration applies to the sessions commencing from 15th January 1942 and onward."

"The College was first inaugurated in 1926 with meagre accommodation, with only three and scantly equipped rooms, and having only five students on the roll. In 1932 the College was restarted and only three students joined. With the session commencing from July 1933 the College had on its roll 10 students coming from all parts of India. Better facilities were then provided, and a fairly commodious building was reserved. The increased number of students compelled us to shift into larger premises where clinics, lecture rooms, technical laboratories, etc., were added. The number of students rapidly increased till in January 1936, there were 45 students studying at the College.....'.

جناب والا ! یہ کالج سنہ ۲۶ع میں شروع ہوا اور سنہ ۴۲ع تک اسکو گورنمنٹ سندھ نے Recognise نہیں کیا اور سنہ ۴۳ع میں بند ہوگیا- یہ امور جو میں نے عرض کئے ہیں وہ اس prospectus میں درج ہے جو اس کالج کے چلانے والوں نے خود درج کئے ہیں اس لئے ان امورکو ماننے میں کوئی تامل نہیں ہونا چاہئے بلکہ وثوق سے ان پر یقین کیا جا سکتا ہے -

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I say that the Sind Government came into existence in the year 1937 and that delay in recognition was due to that fact?

جناب والا ! آپ اس کے صفحہ ۹۶ کو ملاحظہ فرمائیں جسپر یہ الفاظ بھی درج ہیں-

(Listed according to the sessions attended)

Under "Past and Present Students of the College" it gives the following figures. For 1926-27 only five names are given. Then the next session is 1932—from 1926 to 1931 there is no mention of any session or students whatsoever. And then in 1932 one student, 1933 two students, and in the year 1933-34 there are another ten students.

جناب والا !مجھکو نہیں معلوم کہ کس وجہ سے recognition میں delay ہوئی- میں تو ایک بات جانتا ہوں کہ یہ کالج سنہ ۴۲ع میں Recognise کیا گیا ہے اس سے پہلے نہیں جیسا کہ Prospectus میں درج ہے - اگر ہاؤس کی رائے میں یہ کالج اس قابل ہے کہ سنہ ۲۶ع سے یہ High qualified قرار دے دیا جائے

[پنڈت ٹھاکرداس بھارگو]

تو یہ ہاؤس کو اختیار ہے مگر میرے پاس جو اسکا پراسپیکٹس ہے میں اسکی Basis پر کہہ رہا ہوں اور صفحہ ۹۶ پر جو فہرست ہے اس سے صاف نتیجہ نکلتا ہے کہ اس کالج کے اندر کوئی لڑکا سنہ ۱۹۲۷ع سے ۱۹۳۱ تک تعلیم کے لئے نہ تھا اور نہ اس کالج میں کوئی معقول انتظام پڑھائی کا عرصہ دراز تک ہو سکتا تھا - اور صریحاً وہ لڑکے جو ایسے وقت میں رہے جب انتظام پڑھائی معقول نہ تھا اور پاس کئے گئے وہ Dental qualification کے مالک قرار نہیں دئے جاسکتے- اس کالج کے بنانے والوں نے ایک موقعہ پر جو Speech دی وہ صفحہ ۱۰۶ Prospectus پر درج ہے- میرا یہ منشا نہیں ہے کہ میں ساری چیز کو پڑھکر زیادہ وقت لوں اسکے چند ٹکڑوں کو پڑھکر سناتا ہوں- اور ساتھ میں ان صاحب کی جنہوں نے یہ کالج کھولا تعریف کرتا ہوں- اور علم Dentistry کا اس ملک میں رواج دینے کا pioneer مانتا ہوں - لیکن پھر بھی میں اس کالج کے ان طلباء کو High Dental qualification کا مالک قرار دینے کو تیار نہیں ہوں کہ جنہوں نے اس علم پر عبور حاصل نہ کیا ہو - میں اسکا سخت مخالف ہوں کہ ان طلباء کو خواہ مخواہ High Dental qualified قرار دے دیا جاوے جو ایسے کالج میں پڑھے ہوں - جناب والا ! صفحہ ۱۰۶ پر یہ درج ہے

"This College (the opening ceremony of the new premises of which will be presently performed by His Excellency the Governor) had a humble beginning. In 1925 we had only four students and two rooms were placed at their disposal. In 1932, but three students joined....."

After the year 1926, the first mention that we have of this College is in 1932 when only three students joined.

".....with the session commencing from July 1933, the College had ten students on the roll, and they came from all parts of the country....."

As if coming from all parts of the country also is a good basis of recognition.

"....this increased number of students prompted us to move into larger premises, and clinics, laboratory and lecture rooms were added. The number of students swelled till in January 1936, there were 45 students regularly attending the College." etc. etc.

میں ادب سے عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ جب اس کالج کا سنہ ۱۹۳۶ع کا کورس بنایا گیا اور اس میں ٹھیک طرح سے تعلیم دی جانے لگی تو اس کالج کے لڑکے چار برس کے بعد تعلیم حاصل کرکے ڈیگری ڈپلوما پائے ہونگے- تو پھر سنہ ۱۹۴۰ع سے پہلے کے طلبا کو جبکہ کالج میں ٹھیک تعلیم نہ تھی کیسے High qualification والا قرار دیا جا سکتا ہے- Schedule میں سنہ ۱۹۴۰ع کے طلباء سے پہلے جنہوں نے ڈیگری یا ڈپلوما حاصل کئے جبکہ یہ کالج ٹھیک تعلیم نہیں دے سکتا تھا ہو ئو Dental qualification کے مالک قرار نہیں دئے جاسکتے- اور انہیں وجوہات سے سندھ گورنمنٹ نے اس کالج کو سنہ ۱۹۴۲ع سے پہلے recognise نہیں کیا - ایسے کالج کے طلبا کو Schedule میں شامل کرنا محض غلطی ہوگی -

دوسرے اب میں کچھ کالکتہ ڈینٹل کالج کے لئے عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں - جناب والا ! میں یہ پڑھکر سناتا ہوں کہ کسطرح یہ شروع میں کالج تھا میں جناب والا کو گورنمنٹ کے شائع شدہ opinion میں سے صفحہ ۱۱ سے اس Letter سے کچھ حصہ پڑھکر سناتا ہوں جو بنگال ڈینٹل بورڈ کے ممبر صاحب نے چیرمین بنگال Dental Board کو لکھا -

"It is a known fact that the training of the Calcutta Dental College has been raised to a standard only after the commencement of the B. D. Act, 1939. Before this the courses of studies followed in the College were absolutely different, *i.e.*, one or two years course even and at that stage even non-matriculates were taken in the College, when it was decidedly ill-equipped, lacking in staff and teaching facilities. From the past students even we hear that the first batch of students got the diplomas after practically 9 months course. Then the course was raised to 2 years and after that to 3 years. The course was raised to 4 years only from July 1935; *i.e.*, those who got the diplomas from 1939 received a four years' training. Therefore any L.DSc. diplomas granted privately by the College previously are decidedly of lower standard and cannot be classed or put in the same category with the diplomas of those who passed on completion of training prescribed under Sec. 25 (2) (a) and with matriculation as minimum standard".

And so on and so forth.

جسکے معنی یہ ہیں کہ اگر آپ اس کالج کی پرانی ہسٹری کو صحیح perspective میں دیکھیں تو ان باتوں پر روشنی پڑیگی کہ اس کالج میں شروع میں کیا ہوتا تھا- صاف ظاہر ہے کہ چار سال کی تعلیم ہی سنہ ۳۵ع تک اس کالج میں رائج ہوئی اور بلا چار سال کی training کے کسی شخص کو High Dental qualification رکھنے والا قرار دیا جاسکتا ہے اگر ایسے طلباء جو پوری طرح qualified نہیں ہیں دوسرے ملکوں میں جاوینگے اور وہاں پریکٹس کرینگے تو ہمارے ملک کا نام بدنام کرینگے- اور اگر ہمارے ملک میں انکو ہسپتالوں میں نوکری ملے تو لوگوں کے لئے باعث خطرہ جان بنینگے اس لحاظ سے کالجوں کی پرانی ٹریننگ کے بارے میں سخت احتیاط سے کام لینا ضروری ہے - اس کالج کے بارے میں شائع شدہ opinions صفحہ ۲۷، ۲۵، ۲۲، ۲۰ پر جو رائے درج ہیں ان سے ظاہر ہے کہ اس کالج کا سنہ ۱۹۴۰ع سے پہلے کے طلبا کو High Dental qualification کا مالک قرار نہیں دیا جا سکتا- میں زیادہ ہاؤس کا وقت ان سب رائیوں کو پڑھکر نہیں لینا چاہتا ہوں - میں نتیجہ کے طور پر یہ عرض کروں گا کہ اس بل کے اندر ایسے provisions رکھے جاویں جن سے یہ بدعنوانیاں قائم نہ رہ سکیں - مناسب یہ ہے کہ اسکے لئے ایک Expert Board قائم کیا جائے - میں نے اس کے بارے میں Foreign Qualification کے ورکر صاحبان سے بھی بات چیت کی انہوں نے بھی یہی رائے ظاہر کی کہ پروسیجر یہ ہی رکھا جائے High qualified ہو اسکو A میں رکھا جائے اور جو

[پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو]

کم کوالیفائڈ ھے اسکو B میں رکھا جائے اسلئے میں آنریبل منسٹر صاحبہ سے ادب سے یہ گزارش کرونگا کہ وہ ان امور پر جن کا میں نے ذکر کیا لحاظ کریں اور سب qualification ایک Expert Board سے Scrutinize کراویں اور نیز دس سال سے زیادہ کے practitioner کے لئے A رجسٹر لوو انکا ایک معمولی سا امتحان لیکر جو پاس ھوں انکو رجسٹر A میں درج کریں تاکہ بے چینی دور ھو اور انصاف ھو -

(*English translation of the above speech*)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Honourable Minister on the Bill which is now before the House after it has been amended by the Select Committee. It is much better than the original one as introduced. I am grateful to her for another reason that many of the amendments of which I gave notice were considered and accepted by her. I am also thankful that in other cases she has given reasons and explanation. In spite of this I would like to draw her special attention to one fact, *i.e.*, on examining the figures given in the Report of the Bhore Committee everyone is bound to agree that as regards dentistry our country is most backward and we are far behind in that science. Previously there was no school or college or other proper arrangements for the teaching in dentistry in our country, therefore, most of the practitioners except those who have been educated abroad are quacks. A great number of them are not qualified dentists. Provisions must however be made to recognise them. In the beginning in America, England and other countries also, this practice was followed. I am satisfied that an effort has been made that if there are any practitioners who are not qualified but have very long experience and have made this profession their means of livelihood are not deprived of their means of livelihood and have been afforded an opportunity to make a living. But if such practitioners are regarded to have high dental qualifications, they would be like 'a figure among ciphers.' In a country in which the science of dentistry is in such a poor state as it is here we must recognise only those who are fully qualified.

I agree with the Honourable Minister on the question of maintaining two types of 'Registers'—'A' and 'B' and I would not argue the matter further. But as regards 'qualifications' laid down in the Bill for dentists that only those who have 'high qualifications' in dentistry will be eligible to be registered in register 'A' I would only say that in this matter also the same principle should be followed so that those also should be 'recognised' who have actually long experience but possess no degree or diploma.

I beg to state that the type of persons in Registers 'A' and 'B' will be same but those in 'A' could be employed in Government hospitals, whereas those in 'B' could not be employed. If they are employed in the hospital and are not experts they will be dangerous to the public. Therefore, at the time of registering them very great care should be taken. In List 'A' those persons only should be registered who have thorough knowledge of dentistry.

I have read the qualifications given in the schedule and I am very sorry to say that I am not satisfied with the principle laid down there, nor I am prepared to accept such a principle as given in the schedule. Here, it is said that only that person who has 'diploma' and 'high qualifications' will be recognised and considered as qualified dentists. It is essential that persons who have long experience and have been practising for long will also be considered as qualified in dentistry.

I submit that even those who are dentists and are experts and members of the Dentists Board do not agree to the conditions mentioned in the schedule.

I therefore say that in addition to persons possessing high degrees and diploma, persons with long experience also may be registered. As for the future, persons will be available who will have 'high qualifications' in dentistry. It is also necessary to consider the present circumstances in the country. I don't know personally but it is said that there are eight to nine thousand such persons who have no 'high qualifications' and there are from three hundred to eight hundred persons who have such qualifications. Besides these there are in our country persons who have been making dentures and practising dentistry for the last 20 or 30 years, and are so able and expert in their art that highly qualified men cannot compete with them since they have acquired practical knowledge in this art. It is a fact that a practical man does his job with greater facility than a person who has only theoretical knowledge. For these reasons great dissatisfaction prevails among these men who fear that inspite of their long practice they will not be placed on List 'A'.

According to a condition laid down in the Schedule if a person has obtained a diploma before first January 1940 from the Calcutta College, he will be 'recognised' and considered as 'highly qualified'. It means that a person who has passed any examination after staying at a college for any period will be considered as a person of 'high qualification'. One difficulty is this and the other difficulty is that it is provided in the Bill that persons with less than two years practice will not be registered. I fail to understand what will be the fate of those people who have been studying a two year course in a college for the last two years. There is no provision in the Bill for such people.

I would like to draw the attention of the House and of the Honourable Minister to these two or three points. Firstly none excepting men of 'high qualifications' shall be registered in this list. Secondly the Bill does not provide for those who have been in the line for the last 20 years and whose practice is excellent and who are capable in their art in every respect. These persons can be put on List 'B' only, whereas they ought to be on List 'A'. And the third point is regarding the future of those people who have been practising for the last two years and have been at college for two years.

I offer a solution for all the three points. So far as those who have been practising for more than 10 years and have very good practical knowledge and about whom Shri Ramnarayan Singh has put an amendment, are concerned, they may be examined after three months and those who pass the test may be registered in list 'A'. I submit that if I were asked to take the B.A. examination I would also fail in the theoretical part. Therefore, a formal and an oral test may be set up for such people and those who pass may be registered in List 'A'. But this is possible for those people only who have been doing this work for a long time because they have good practice and practical knowledge. Besides these, a test similar to that laid down for general recognition may be set up for those people whose practice is under two years or those who have spent two years at college. All these people should be registered in 'B' List. It may be laid down that the names of successful persons be entered in the 'B' List and the unsuccessful ones should be removed even from this list. Besides this the course of study for qualification in college should be at least four years. Now as regards the question of 'special qualification', I would submit that whatever is given in parts 1,2,3 of the Schedule a Committee of experts be appointed to examine whether these institutions whose names are given in the schedule are competent enough to impart high education or not and since how long they have been competent to turn out duly qualified dentists.

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Since the Honourable Minister tried her best to amend this Bill and agreed with me on a few points therefore I do not want to move all of my amendments; but I shall move some of them because I think them proper enough to be brought to the notice of the House.

Regarding the recognition of foreign qualification. I would request the Honourable Minister to appoint a Board of experts and with their consultation only those dentists should be recognised who have passed and have obtained degrees or diplomas from those institutions which had proper and suitable arrangements for education and practical training. Because if this matter is not decided by such a Board then later on it will be difficult to remove from the register the names of such persons about whom it be held that they studied in institutions which did not possess proper arrangements for instructions in dental science. On examining pages 8 and 13 of opinions on the Dental Bill it will appear that many of the foreign qualifications contained in the schedule are bogus and useless.

Now remains the question whether the Calcutta Dental College and Hospital mentioned on page 2 and the Karachi College and the Bombay College have adequate arrangements for imparting dental training to students or not? I have in my hands the prospectus of the Karachi College. In the last 4 lines of page 38 of the prospectus it is stated that:

"The College of Dentistry has now been recognized by the Government of Sind. This consideration applies to the sessions commencing from 15th January 1942 and onward."

"The College was first inaugurated in 1926 with meagre accommodation, with only three and scantly equipped rooms, and having only five students on the roll. In 1932 the College was restarted and only three students joined. With the session commencing from July 1933 the College had on its roll 10 students coming from all parts of India. Better facilities were then provided, and a fairly commodious building was reserved. The increased number of students compelled us to shift into larger premises where clinics, lecture rooms, technical laboratories, etc., were added. The number of students rapidly increased till in January 1936, there were 45 students studying at the College....."

Sir, this college was first started in 1926 and was not recognised by the Government of Sind till 1942 and then it was closed in 1943. These points stated by me are incorporated in the prospectus drawn up by the organisers of this college themselves. therefore there should be no hesitation in accepting them and can be believed with certainty.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I say that the Sind Government came into existence in the year 1937 and that the delay in recognition was due to that fact!

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, you may look into page 96 where you will find these words (Listed according to the Sessions attended):

Under "Past and Present Students of the college" it gives the following figures. For 1926-27 only five names are given. Then the next session is 1932—from 1926 to 1931 there is no mention of any session or students whatsoever. And then in 1932 one student, in 1933 two students, and in the year 1933-34 there are another ten students.

Sir, I do not know the cause of the delay in recognition. I know only this much that this college was recognised in 1942 and not before, as the prospectus shows. Still if in the opinion of the House this college is eligible to be declared as competent enough to impart high education, the House is authorised to do so. But I am saying this on the basis of the prospectus I have got. From the study of the list on page 96 it is clear that this college had neither any student during the period from 1927 to 1931 nor any suitable arrangement for education could be made for a long time. Obviously those students who

studied at such times when there was no proper arrangement for their education and were declared successful can not be said to possess 'dental qualifications'. The speech delivered on one occasion by its founder appears on page 106 of the prospectus. I do not want to take much of your time by reading the whole of it. I am reading only a few extracts out of it. At the same time I admire the founder of this College. I acknowledge him to be the pioneer of Dentistry in this country. Still I am not prepared to declare those students of this college who have not got complete mastery of the subject as people of 'high dental qualifications'. I am strongly opposed to the students of such a College to be declared as 'highly qualified in dentistry' for no reason whatever.

Sir, on page 106 of the prospectus the following is given.

"This College (the opening ceremony of the new premises of which will be presently performed by His Excellency the Governor), had a humble beginning. In 1926 we had only four students and two rooms were placed at their disposal. In 1932, but three students joined ....."

After the year 1926 the first mention that we have of this college is in 1932 when only three students joined.

"..... with the session commencing from July 1933, the College had ten students on the roll, and they came from all parts of the country ....."

As if coming from all parts of the country also is a good basis of recognition.

".....this increased number of students prompted us to move into larger premises, and clinics, laboratory and lecture rooms were added. The number of students swelled till in January 1936, there were 45 students regularly attending the College." etc., etc.

I would respectfully submit that it was only in 1936 that the first course of study in this College was prepared and regular education was started. Its students would have obtained the degree or diploma after four years' study. How can the students before 1940 be declared as of 'high qualifications' when the College could not impart proper education. The students who obtained degree or diploma from this College before 1940 when proper education could not be imparted, cannot be declared as possessing dental qualification *vide* the schedule. For the same reasons the Government of Sind did not recognise this College before 1942. It will be wrong to include in the schedule the students of such a College.

Now, I would like to say something regarding the Calcutta Dental College. Sir, I am reading out to you how this College began. And also I am reading out to you some portion of the letter published by the Government on page 21 of the opinions. This letter was addressed by a Member of the Bengal Dental Board to the Chairman of the Board.

"It is a known fact that the training of the Calcutta Dental College has been raised to a standard only after the commencement of the B. D. Act, 1939. Before this the courses of studies followed in the College were absolutely different, *i.e.*, one or two years course, and at that stage even non-matriculates were admitted in the College, when it was decidedly ill-equipped lacking in staff and teaching facilities. From the past students we know that the first batch of students got the diplomas after practically nine months course. Then the course was raised to two years and after that to 3 years. The course was raised to 4 years only from July 1935, *i.e.*, those who got the the diplomas from 1939 received a four years' training. Therefore any L.D.Sc. diplomas granted privately by the College previously are decidedly of lower standard and cannot be classed or put in the same category with the diplomas of those who passed on completion of training prescribed under Section 25(2)(a), and with matriculation and minimum standard....."

This means that if you look into the old history of this College in its right perspective, you will clearly know what was happening in this College at its beginning. It is obvious that 4 years' course of study was not introduced in this College until 1935 and without 4 years' training how can any person be declared as possessor of 'high dental qualification'? If such students who are not fully qualified were to go to other countries and practice there they will

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defame our country. If they are employed in hospitals they will be a source of danger to the people. As such it is very essential to exercise great caution with respect to the training in old Colleges. On pages 20, 22, 25, and 27 of the opinions published about this College it is obvious that students of this College before 1940 cannot be declared as possessing 'high dental qualification'.

I do not want to take much of the time of the House by reading all the opinions. Consequently I would beg to state that such provisions should be introduced in this Bill which will put an end to such irregularities. It is proper that a Board of experts be appointed in this behalf. I had talked about this matter with several doctors with foreign qualifications. They opined that the procedure of placing 'high qualified' in list 'A' and 'less qualified' in list 'B' should be followed. Keeping in view the facts which I have mentioned I request the Honourable Minister that all qualifications should be scrutinised by a Board of experts. Those who have been practising for over ten years should be registered in Register 'A' after an ordinary test to remove dissatisfaction and to do justice.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this 20th Century after Christ and the 21st after Vikram, a spectre haunts the health of every man and woman—the spectre of pyorrhoea, of halitosis the spectre of bleeding receding, and spongy gums of falling teeth. Dentists, Sir,—may their tribe decrease—are however steadily on the increase. This ungentle art of pulling out teeth is a very very ancient profession, but the professional dentist of today, I dare say, is a phenomenon of modernism. I may even say he is an aberration of civilisation. The importance of teeth has always been *universally recognised* —the well known and the oldest phrases in our language—a tooth for a tooth, then *fighting tooth and nail. Nature red in tooth and claw* then in the teeth of opposition, go to show the importance in which teeth have been widely held all over the world by the human species. The tooth, Sir, is an important piece of apparatus in the human organism. It is much more important than many other pieces of mechanism inside the human body. And, therefore, it is vital that before we proceed to invest anybody with this important and responsible power of pulling out human teeth, we must consider twice, ten times, nay a hundred times.

Time was, Sir, when the ordinary medicine man among the ancient savages, used to pull out an almost moribund tooth, a tooth about to fall. But apart from that mere pulling out teeth for its own sake was not a pastime that was usually indulged in by the ancient world. But the very fact that an Honourable Minister of our free National Government is proceeding to regulate the profession of dentistry shows that there are an inordinate number of uncontrolled dentists among us. If there were not too many dentists, there would have been no need to regulate that profession. It is because there are so many of them and that they are a source of danger and a menace to society that the Bill has been brought forward by the only Lady Minister of our National Government which shows that this ungentle art is being handled by gentle hands. I hope, Sir, *that the outcome would be a very pleasant affair on the whole.*

Now, Sir, it is pertinent to ask why this tribe of dentists is increasing. I think it is a moot point. We should go into this. Why, Sir, in this so-called civilisation dentists are increasing, their profession is paying and they proceed to try their skill, or non-skill, on patients of different types? Here in this Bill that is just before us,—I am referring to Section 2, part (d)—Dentistry includes (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). I need not go into (i), (ii), and (iii) but (iv) is amusing, especially the tail end of it. The tail end of it says "the giving of any such treatment, advice or attendance, as is usually performed or given by dentists." That means to say, "dentistry" is something which is done by dentists. I do not know, Sir,

how this could be understood by the ordinary layman. If "dentistry" is something which is done by dentists, then what is the necessity for defining it at all? I am, Sir, in this connection reminded of the dictionary meanings of certain words in the English language. One word, Sir, is "man." "Man" is defined in certain dictionaries as "a human being not a woman", and a "woman" is defined as "a human being not a man." There is the other word, "beautiful." "Beautiful" is defined as "full of beauty" and "beauty" is defined as "some which makes a thing beautiful." I submit, Sir, the definition of "dentistry" in this Bill is something at a par with these definitions. If "dentistry" is something which is practised by dentists, then "dentist" can be defined as one who practises dentistry.

Then, Sir, there is this (b) and (c) of Clause 2. "dental hygienist" and "dental mechanic." "Dental hygienist" is defined as a person not being a dentist or a medical practitioner, who scales, cleans or polishes teeth or gives instruction in dental hygiene. May I know from the Honourable Minister of Health whether a dentist is precluded from being a dental hygienist or a dental mechanic? Apart from the dental hygienist, is a dentist as such precluded from cleaning, scaling or polishing teeth and giving instruction in dental hygiene or whether this "dentistry" as defined in (d) includes the practice and profession of a dental hygienist plus a dental mechanic? Of course, a dental hygienist cannot be a dental mechanic, but a dentist can be both. I think this is a point.....

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): It includes both.

Shri H. V. Kamath: It may be so, but it is not so here. The definition as such does not make it clear. I would suggest to the Honourable Minister to say that it is so. My Honourable friend Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena says it is so, but I fail to understand it like that. I wish I had as much intelligence as he has to understand that this is so.

Well, then, Sir, I was saying that this civilisation has brought in its trail a number of diseases and among them dental and oral diseases. "Oral" diseases are within the purview of this Bill, because I find section 2, (d) (i) refers to the performance of any operation on, and the treatment of any disease, and the performance of radiographic work in connection with human teeth or jaws or the oral cavity. So the mouth as a whole is included in the dentist's profession. So I suppose, if I am not wrong—I speak subject to correction—I suppose that "oral" is the adjective of "mouth", and as the oral cavity is brought in here I think that mouth diseases are a part of the dentist's jurisdiction.

An Honourable Member: What about your speech?

Shri H. V. Kamath: That is not a disease. But it may become one, even an epidemic!

Well, Sir, I was referring to dental and mouth diseases, this malady of civilisation. Our ancestors—at least our grandfathers—did not suffer very much from tooth troubles. That is admitted on all hands, I think. I have seen many grandfathers—many grandparents—who preserved their teeth in fact right up to the age of 70 and 80, but we Sir, their posterity, their progeny, we have fallen on evil days. I believe that this is mainly due to the fact that our diet, our food, is artificial and our entire life has strayed from Nature. An eminent health expert and medical man, Dr. Charimuthu of Madras, years ago referred to various diseases of civilisation and specially to these oral diseases, dental diseases etc. He said, "all along civilisation man has tampered with Nature's foods. Your wheat is hulled, your rice milled, your maize decorticated. ..... "

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am afraid what the Honourable Member is going to say about the causes and the origin of the decay of teeth and all that may be very instructive and interesting, but it is beyond the scope of this Bill to go into that question. The Bill does take it for granted that there are bad teeth and

tries to seek a remedy for regulating those who profess to treat them. The Honourable Member may now come to the Bill instead of going into the history of bad teeth.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, I am grateful to you. I was coming to the point, when you gave the ruling. I was driving this point home, namely, that a very important aspect namely the prevention of dental diseases has been overlooked in this Bill. In modern times, every Science for instance medicine—has got its preventive side. If only Section 2 (d) (i) had mentioned that "dentistry" includes besides any operation, and the treatment of any disease, deficiency or lesion of human teeth etc. etc. prevention also, then, Sir, that would have been satisfactory, because, as I said, modern science recognises that prevention is better than cure—an old adage of course—and if the Bill recognises that dental diseases are preventible by suitable diet and hygienic measures, many of the dentists will be put out of action. Unfortunately, Sir, there is nowhere any reference to this preventive aspect, although I am sure, Sir, that dentistry includes, just as medicine includes at the present day, the preventive side also. The other day I had the opportunity to state that modern dentistry or dental science recognises that pulling out teeth for its own sake is a pernicious practice and more and more dentists have come to recognise now that teeth, unless they are absolutely hopeless or are about to fall, should not be tampered with and should be treated by other means, because, Sir, it is held that if one tooth is pulled out.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am afraid the Honourable Member is going much beyond the scope of the Bill. If he reads the Bill he will know the scope. If he goes on like this, I shall have to ask him to stop his speech. He will see that the Bill is for the 'regulation of the profession of dentistry and for the purpose of constituting a Dental Council.' That is the scope of the Bill. The whole science of dentistry is not sought to be regulated by this Bill. That is a subject left entirely to the dentists.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Thank you very much, Sir. But am I wrong in suggesting that dentists do not attend to the preventive aspect of dentistry?

Mr. Speaker: It will be entirely out of the scope, as I once said. He may refer to the Bill now.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Well, Sir, the one suggestion that I made in regard to section 2 (b) namely the preventive aspect of dental science should have been emphasized and the prevention of dental diseases and of the oral cavity should have been stressed.

Then, Sir, when we come to the penalties section (Chapter V), my friend, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad told a story. I do not know whether it was fiction or fact, but there are certain facts which I know personally where dentists have been negligent; they have not been merely unsympathetic but have shown callous indifference or negligence. There was among the Meerut Conspiracy prisoners one whose teeth were in a bad condition and he was inside the jail. When the doctor was sent for, he made a chart and left it on the table wherein were marked the teeth which were to be pulled out. When the dentist came, he did not care to enquire which were the good teeth and which were the bad teeth. He pulled out the really healthy teeth, leaving the bad ones behind, not understanding what the marks on the chart were for. The doctor came again and said that the bad teeth were there as before. So the poor patient had to lose both the healthy and bad teeth. It is only one instance to show how dentists can be very unsympathetic and sometimes even callous.

To quote a personnal example, Sir,—the dentist as a rule is more particular about pulling out the teeth whether they are good or bad, because he knows that if one tooth is pulled out, the patient will come to him again for some other

disease because that comes in its train,—I had a slight dental trouble some years ago and I then consulted a dentist, a very good L.D.S. or D.D.S. high qualifications which will perhaps go on top of the Schedule. He sounded the teeth in my mouth with certain instruments and said: "I must pull out this tooth; otherwise you are bound to lose it, in five years' time, if not less.. I said" I am not seriously affected by this tooth; it gives me just ordinary pain and if you want to pull out that tooth, I will refuse to submit to your tender mercies." He replied: "I am afraid I cannot but pull it out." I did not want to have the tooth pulled out. Then I said to myself that I would doctor myself and took proper food, and massaged my gums etc, and ultimately that tooth is alive, perhaps more alive today than it was ten years ago. That shows, Sir, that the regulation of dentistry is very important and the dentists must be taught not merely not to pull out teeth callously but to attend to other diseases of the oral cavity, particularly their prevention.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may bring his remarks to a close by 4 O'clock.

Shri H. V. Kamath: There was a dentist in Europe some 100 years ago, who was at par with some dentists today in India He also was pulling out the teeth and doing nothing else. Once a patient of his developed a gum boil or gum abscess. He was examined by the dentist, who said: "Well, the tooth has got to be pulled out because the gum abscess is in the right jaw; abscesses in the left jaw are curable but not abscesses in the right jaw." Some days later the abscess burst of its own accord and he was hale and hearty. But that dentist wrote a thesis to prove that the patient should have lost his tooth and should not have recovered from the abscess, because it was in the right jaw. This I say just to drive the point home how the dentists can be callous as regards other people's teeth, because they do not recognise the immense value of the teeth in the metabolism of the human body.

I therefore suggest that the penalty clause should be made stricter and more rigorous, and for the first conviction itself there must be imprisonment prescribed. As civilization progresses, the teeth may get worse and worse and dentists should be made not merely to cure the malady of the teeth and oral cavity diseases but also prevent the diseases of the teeth and the oral cavity.

In the end, I will request the Honourable Minister to explain to us what exactly 'dentistry' means. Also I hope this Bill will inaugurate a new dispensation so far as the health of the nation's teeth is concerned and we shall in the near future be able to say to the world that Indians today are as much proud of their teeth as our forefathers were till two generations ago and we shall, when all the world is disarmed, be able to fight each other only 'tooth and nail'.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): Sir, I welcome the measure and thank the Honourable Minister for the steps she had been taking with regard to this measure. Sir, I was a Member of the Select Committee and in spite of all my endeavours to agree to all that was done there, I had to write a minute of dissent.

[At this stage, Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

Sir, in this country the Government of the day took no initiative in this matter; no college was started; nothing was done, but some 10,000 people in their own individual capacity picked up the art and knowledge here and there and began to help the people. Sir, although there was no university, no law, no regulation, many of these dentists have been recognised by the society and the society is being helped by them. After that some of our countrymen went out-

[Shri Ramnarayan Singh]

side and qualified themselves more or less and returned. Their number is something like three to four hundred. But it appears, Sir, that many of them could not compete with the people who had been practising in this profession from before.

Then in a way they began to conspire against the people who were already here. From reports and stories we came to know that they ap-

4 P. M proached the then Government of India and flattered the officials and persuaded them to enact a measure to control this profession. However for good or evil the measure has come and I hope this will prove beneficial for our countrymen. But we shou'd see that by this enactment we do not harm anybody. As I have said in my minute of dissent, this appears to be the result of some conspiracy by some people against others in the same trade. It is said that these people have got no recognised qualifications and so they must be classed in part B of the register. Sir, we are laymen but we know how in foreign countries also degrees and diplomas are obtained by giving dinners or paying some fees. I am not against those people who claim to be qualified dentists here; but you yourself, Sir, have said that everybody knows about the colleges in Sind and Calcutta, etc., from which they claim to have qualified. As regards the Sind college I understand that at the start it was nothing but a shop. With regard to qualification I think we should come to the conclusion that all are of one degree, one class and one qualification.

We have provided for a tribunal which will make inquiries and competent people with sufficient knoweldge, experience and reputation may be registered, and those who are incompetent and new in the field should be chucked out. If they do not know anything of dentistry either by experience or by training they should not be allowed to practise in this line. It is no good now disqualifying those who have been practising in this line for the last 20 or 30 years. There is a dentist in this town of Delhi who, I am told, earns Rs. 10 or 15 thousand a month. We may call them quacks but all great men are quacks. I also value training but at the same time I am not going to say that because a certain gentleman has not got the qualification he is a quack. The person who began any kind of training was a quack because he was without training himself. Therefore all original persons may be regarded as quacks. According to psychology all knowledge is centred in the mind and everything can be developed by itself. My point, however, is that at present we shall not be justified in classifying people in part A and part B; there should be only one register. The Honourable Minister said that if this distinction is not made the result will be that in the election all unqualified people will come and capture the Council. Sir, we know to our cost what separate electorate means. When all people will be regarded as dentists why a separate electorate and separate franchise? Supposing the B class people come and capture the Council will the heavens fall? They will have to work according to the provisions of the Act or according to any regulations made thereunder. In this new enactment we should proceed in a cautious manner. We are not enemies of any one; people with foreign training are as much welcome as those who have been trained through their own efforts. By a competent tribunal their qualifications and reputation may be enquired into and they will all be registered. Hitherto, as you, Sir, said, Government have done nothing in the matter. I think there should be a well-equipped Government college in every province and under every university; the curricula and syllabuses may be prescribed and all people who pass the examination and get a degree will be allowed to practise as dentists. Then there will be no room for quacks. So far nothing has been done, and we have to be careful that by our enactment no one is placed at a disadvantage and that the measure proves beneficial to everybody.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, some of the provisions of this Bill as they have emerged from the Select Committee are really welcome and desirable while others require some little consideration. At the first reading of the Bill we welcomed the principle contained in it because the provincial Governments who were in charge of health have failed in their duties in this direction. We have been told by medical opinion that many a disease in the body is due to teeth trouble. And it is also said that when doctors could not diagnose a disease, they advise extraction of the teeth. I have seen that in some cases these extractions have proved fruitful. But in other instances they have not brought any remedy to the disease that a man was suffering from. But that is a different point.

In the Bill I find a clause about a Dentist Hygienist. Such a person is defined as one not being a dentist or medical practitioner but who scales, cleans or polishes teeth or gives instructions in dental hygiene. This will be the function of the Dental Hygienist. The course will be for two years. You will kindly see that the function is purely cleaning of the teeth and giving instructions with regard to hygiene. And for this the students will be required to undergo a two years' training. I would like to know how every one would wish to keep his teeth clean? How many of us educated people go to Dentists to keep their teeth clean? Teeth cleanliness may have been strongly advanced in the countries of Europe and in America, but I would like to ask how many of the members in this House have their teeth clean. And merely for cleaning the teeth, a student has to take a course of two years. I am driving home this point.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is my friend in order in casting a reflection upon the teeth of Honourable Members here?

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I want to know what are those students going to do after they have taken their degrees or diploma after two years Have the Select Committee or the Honourable Minister considered how they are to earn a living after they leave their training college? They may be opening out shops for cleaning of teeth but will they earn sufficient for their maintenance? That is one point.

The other point is the temptation of this kind to students to open their shops and extract teeth. After all he has gone there for the purpose of earning.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Compulsorily extract!

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: If he cannot get a proper earning, he will say I will clean your teeth and if a tooth has to be extracted he will do it. I therefore feel that this is merely a superfluous clause that has been inserted in this Bill and I therefore do not see any necessity for students being asked to take a two years' course and then be left to themselves for the purpose of their own earning.

There are two other important points relating to registration of students in this Bill. My friends have objected to the two clauses that have been enumerated in this Bill. I also hold the same view. I have come across many dentists who have opened up a practice for a number of years without any degree and they are flourishing. Not only that, but that they are successfully doing their work. I have also seen dentists with university degrees and also those who have specialized in dental surgery fail to make a mark. I am glad that the Select Committee have made a provision that those who have been in practice for five years would automatically come under clause (b). But I fail to understand why this difference has been made between these clauses. If you see the Schedule that has been printed—Part I—it says "The degree and diplomas in dentistry issued by any of the following authorities." In part II it says: "The degrees and diplomas in dentistry issued by the following authorities." The heading is the same. The names are different. There are five categories

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva]

under which this Part I has been assigned for students and one is the University of Bombay in part I, and the Punjab University in Part II. Why is that? Students from the Bombay university will be allowed to register in Part I, and those from the Punjab university in Part II.

Mr. Chairman: The Punjab University is now in Pakistan and thus in a foreign territory. That is the reason.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: If that is the inference of the Select Committee that because due to partition those students who have passed their examinations before 15th, August should be taken and registered in (B), then it is the greater reason they should be included in List—A. If the University of Punjab was equivalent to the University of Bombay, then because of partition the students should be asked to suffer? This is a great anomaly. I cannot understand it and I hope this will be remedied. If it is due to partition then it is wrong because the students are not to suffer on account of partition.

You were referring to the Board of Examiners, College of Dentistry, Karachi. With due respect to you I submit that I have personal knowledge of this college, being originally a resident of Karachi. While it is true that the college was started in 1926 with a few students, you will bear in mind that the college in Calcutta was started in 1920. I was told that it started with six students. The population of Calcutta in 1920 was 13 lakhs. Karachi's population was 2½ lakhs. So even the number of students in proportion of population is certainly much more. But take Bombay. Bombay started a college in 1931. It had a population of 12 lakhs. So because the Government and the medical people here lagged behind in introducing colleges for dentistry the students did not come forward and therefore a city like Bombay did not possess a college till 1931. On the other hand, an ambitious person, passed out from Germany, came to Karachi and thought that a dentistry college should be opened and he made a start with three or four students Because he started with three students, it does not go to prove that the curriculum given there or the degrees or diplomas there were inferior. Nothing of the kind.

On the contrary you Sir made reference to the Governor's speech. I have the said speech here as well—the speech was made by the proprietor of this hospital which was known as the Lakshmimaya Patel Dental Hospital. Sind was annexed to Bombay till 1936. In 1937 the legislature came in. In the interim period a Governor was appointed. So in 1936 the Governor opened this college. These were the remarks made in the public speech by the proprietor. "A striking feature of this is that students come here from all parts of India. The number today is 57 and the group includes students from Kathiawar, Gujerat, Berar, Satara, East Khandesh, Indore, Punjab, Ferozepore, Central India Provinces, South India, the U.P., Baroda, Bombay, Peshawar, Travancore, Baluchistan, Portuguese Goa, Bihar, Orissa, Cutch, Bengal and of course Sind." This is an exhaustive list and I can assure you from my personal experience that really the Sind people did not take as much advantage of this college as outsiders did. The accommodation was so small that ultimately the proprietor had to purchase a new building and he opened a fine dentistry. I can say that this is one of the best, though I cannot say that it is the best, as I have no knowledge of the other colleges elsewhere. I want to make a present of the photograph of the hospital which has been reproduced in this pamphlet when the hospital was opened by the Governor. The professors numbered 17 in 1937. There are 54 figures in this photograph. It was not a college with a small staff. I would certainly put it in the first rank. I do not say that because it existed in Karachi and I came originally from Karachi therefore it should be given prominence. When you made this remark of course you had not the correct information.....

Shri H. V. Kamath: On a point of order, Sir, is my friend referring to the remarks of the Chair or to those of my Honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava?

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: The chair is in a dual capacity and I am perfectly justified in making my remarks. I cannot say that Pandit Bharghava said so. I know the parliamentary practice. Therefore I submit that to state that this college is of no high rank is not correct. It may be that some other colleges have been excluded from this list and I have no objection if they are included. To say that such and such a college is not recognised, therefore the Karachi college does not deserve to be recognised is absolutely inferior.

Then there is the other factor. In this college there were 21 dental chairs. I would like to know from Honourable Members how many chairs exist in the Calcutta college or the Bombay college. These days each chair costs Rs. 2,000, in those days it might have cost Rs. 600 or 700. This Karachi dentistry has the fullest equipment, X-ray and all other paraphernalia which are required in a modern dentistry. Out of the total passed out only three persons are in Karachi and the rest of them are practising in other parts of India.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): What is the number of students turned out?

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: 185 according to my knowledge.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: And they are all carrying on their depredations in India?

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I told you that three of them are in Karachi.

It has been stated that the Board of Examiners was granted on the 1st January 1942. Some of the students passed out in 1943. It was stated that the college was closed down in 1943. I am not fully aware of that. After 1942 most of us were in jail. I however understand, it did close. The reason was that most of these dentists enlisted in war service and the students too took to active service. The college does not exist now, because the proprietor has left Sind. I submit that the arguments advanced against this college are not correct. I do not understand the classification of 1, 2 and 3. One university degrees are given in one class and another university of a sister province gives degrees in the second class. Why this college which is one of the best should have been given classification in No. 2 I do not understand. If it is due to partition it should be rectified. I insist upon it that the Honourable Minister should rectify the mistake. If there are any other reasons I shall be pleased to hear them.

Sir I welcome this Bill. We required a measure of this kind many years ago. Even though late it should be administered in all the provinces to the fullest extent. With these words I strongly support this Bill as conveyed from the Select Committee.

Shri Rohni Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, this Bill deals with human teeth. If there was any doubt in this matter, that has been set at rest by this clause which says:

"the performance of any operation on, and the treatment of any disease, deficiency or lesion of, human teeth or jaws."

We must confine our remarks to the human teeth. Human teeth lose all their value when they come out of their socket. They are quite unlike the tusk of an elephant the value of which is enhanced after it comes out of the jaws of the elephant.

[Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri]

The human teeth are a very good friend as they help you to masticate your food and digest it. It is a very great friend to the woman also, because it helps her to smile freely. But when it begins to give trouble it becomes a terrible enemy. When you have to remove some of your teeth and have to go to the dentist it becomes a terrible misfortune to the man or woman. So it is in the fitness of things that so many Members of this House should be speaking enthusiastically on this subject and that we should all congratulate the Honourable Minister in charge of this Bill for giving an official recognition to the dental troubles of human beings. The rapidity with which human tooth is being removed by expert dentists, as well as by non-expert dentists, is bound to fill everybody with a sense of dismay. I do not wonder that my Honourable friend Mr. Kamath or any other unmarried man should be very nervous about the rapidity with which human teeth are being gradually removed. My Honourable friend Mr. Ramnarayan Singh says that everybody should be allowed to extract teeth—whether he comes from a foreign country or comes from here, whether he is trained or is untrained, he should have a hand in removing teeth.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: I never said that everybody should be allowed.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: What will be the position of men like my friend Mr. Kamath? Certainly he would like to tighten up the legislation a little bit more. I think our salvation lies in having a very strict registration of dentists. Unless we have a very strict registration we run the great danger of being rid of human teeth very soon. From that point of view I welcome this legislation.

My Honourable friend Mr. Sidhva was saying that these dentists were prowling about with a view to find out somebody whose teeth they could extract. He said they were going about like that for want of employment. There are nearly 300 million people,—the population of our Indian Dominion. Out of that number 150 millions, I presume, have teeth and about 75 millions have teeth which should be removed immediately. These 75 million people who have diseased or decayed teeth should be able to give enough occupation for the dentists who would be registered.

But then there are certain points in this Bill which I do not understand. Recognition has been given to three classes of people—one class educated in Bombay and Calcutta, the second class educated in U.K., Punjab, Germany, America and elsewhere and the third class belonging to Vienna or person possessing any other qualifications recognized by the Council. But the most dangerous class has not been brought under registration at all—the class of medical practitioners. They are not affected by this Bill. Any medical practioner can remove anybody's teeth with impunity if he so chooses. This Bill does not apply to the registered medical practitioners. Section 49 lays down:

"Provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to practice of dentistry by a registered medical practitioner."

My Honourable friend Mr. Naziruddin was speaking from fiction. I do not know whether the instance which was given by my Honourable friend Mr. Kamath was true or false, but that related to a dentist. I know of an Honourable Member of this House who was one of the leaders of our Province and he had dental trouble while in jail. It was in 1922. The Civil Surgeon came—they would not allow any outsider to come—and he removed his firmest tooth and not the painful one. He removed the wrong tooth with the result that all his teeth had ultimately to be removed. He was granted leave by the Government. This is a very dangerous class of people—these medical practitioners who have no idea of dentistry but who are supplied by Government with all the implements of dentistry. They get it free. They have not got to purchase it. Every Civil Surgeon has got a set of implements of dentistry. I am not thinking so much of leaders or Members of the Legislature now but I am afraid of the consequences to the ordinary prisoners in jail. If these untrained medical practitioners who indulge in removing the teeth of the prisoners are allowed to do so it means a greater danger than any dentist trained or untrained who has at least learnt it only a few years ago and who has some actual practice in dentistry. So I would submit that this proviso should not have been there. This is really giving them an advantage of practising in competition with qualified dentists and at the same time creating havoc.

So far as the objection of my Honourable friend Mr. Ramnarayan Singh, raised in his minute of dissent, is concerned, I think his objection has been very well met by sub-clause (2) of clause 33, which says:

"A person domiciled in a Province of India shall be entitled on payment of the prescribed fee to temporary registration as a dentist for a period of five years, if he has been engaged in practice as a dentist as his principal means of livelihood in any Province of India for a period of not less than two or more than five years before the date of the commencement of this Act, and a person so registered shall be entitled to permanent registration if within a period of five years after that date he passes an examination which satisfies the requirements of the Council."

So that, under this clause, anybody who has dabbled in dentistry for a couple of years can come and have temporary registration, and he can get permanent recognition afterwards. I should think this Bill has been liberal to untrained people and to people who are not experienced in dentistry—rather than being restrictive. In many parts of India today we have not got qualified dentists and we have got to get treatment from somebody. We have forgotten the old method—I am speaking of people of my age who are no longer young—by which you just tie a string and remove the tooth. That is a much better way. There is no serious consequence. You have not got to apply any tincture of iodine or anything else. It is a simple method. In villages there may be simple cases where untrained dentists must be utilised and therefore I think this law has been very liberal owing to the exigencies of the circumstances in which we are now placed.

Another thing which I fail to understand is the special exemption for British Indian subjects. Why should we have special exemption for British subjects of Indian domicile? Why should there be any distinction between a British subject and a non-British subject? I think the whole object is to give preference to people coming from the United Kingdom and who have been practising here.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: For reciprocity.

Shri K. Santhanam: They are Indian citizens.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I know of some German dentists and some Jews who are excellent dentists and they have been here. They would be excluded from the scope of the Bill while a British subject would be eligible for the benefit. The reference to 'British Indian subject' occurs in several clauses of the Bill and I hope the Honourable Minister will be able to enlighten us on this point. Sir, I support the Bill.

Shri O. V. Alagesan (Madras: General): Mr. Chairman, if the possession of strong and well set teeth is any qualification for speaking on this Bill then I have no doubt that the Honourable Member who spoke sometime ago and gave a dissertation on the science of dentistry to the House is the best qualified in this respect. I cannot boast of any such good fortune nor do I want to speak in any humorous view this evening. Sir, it is common knowledge that there is woeful lack of facilities for dental education in India today.

[Shri O. V. Alagesan]

Our first aim should be to make arrangements as soon as possible to spread dental education. The Bhore Committee has recognized this and the report speaks as follows:

"Unfortunately in India this matter has up to the present received so little attention from universities or from the state that there are only 4 institutions available for the training of dentists."

That is the position. It is not as if this has not been recognized by the Honourable Minister of Health. While addressing the All-India Dental Conference at Bombay she made the following remarks:

"The position today in respect of dental education and of dental service to the people is, as we are all painfully aware, far behind that attained by the medical profession and the leeway to be made up is therefore great."

She again said:

'It will be necessary to establish Dental Colleges at the headquarters of other provinces and the Government of India will do its best to assist in their creation through its existing scheme of Central grants to promote provincial reconstruction programmes."

So it is our good fortune that the Minister in charge is fully alive to this problem and we can hope that she will do everything to spread dental education. If you look into Part I of the Schedule, you will come to know that in the whole of South India there is not one dental educational institution which is fit to be recognized. I do not know whether there is any institution or not, but from the schedule we are not aware that there is any such institution. So we come to the conclusion that the whole of South India is without any facility for imparting dental education. It is not as if there are no dentists in South India, but this Bill will not recognize them. In my opinion there is no use imitating other advanced countries in legislation alone. Dental education should precede dental legislation. This Bill suffers from this limitation, and to that extent I would say that this legislation is premature. I am glad to find that the same opinion is shared by one of the members of the Bhore Committee who went into this question. I shall read the relevant portion.

"Dentistry as a science can make little real progress in this country until it is upheld by suitable legislation directed to compulsory registration, and the prohibition of practice by unregistered persons. One of us (Mr. N. M. Joshi) is, however, of the view that such legislation is premature, but if passed it should not be made applicable to those areas where the free services of a registered dentist are not made available within a reasonable distance from the residence of a patient."

That was his view. Now coming to the relevant portions in the Bill, this Bill seeks to divide dentists into two classes, A and B. We are well aware that only a handful at present will be able to go into the A section. More than 90 per cent. will be relegated only to part B. So we will be creating two castes—one high and the other low. In my opinion without creating facilities for imparting proper education, to go and attack the profession in this manner is not justifiable. It is said that dentists who have been practising dentistry for so many years cannot be included in part A because they will sweep the elections and get their own men into the Provincial and All India Dental Councils. That was what I heard the Honourable Minister say when she made her opening remarks. If that is the fear, then such a result can be avoided by asking them to vote only for candidates who are qualified to be in part A. That can be done. This Bill again smells too much of foreign universities and foreign degrees. If you go through the schedule you will find that there are only 4 Indian institutions recognized, whereas 13 institutions have been recognized, I think, in U.K., 2 in Ireland, 17 in U.S.A., 1 in Canada, 2 in Germany and 2 in France. So it looks as though this Bill has come strongly under the influence of foreign degreed and foreign educated gentlemen. Without sufficient data about all those universities we cannot say that everyone who has graduated in a foreign university is a perfect dentist and that those whose practice may run

even to ten years or twenty years, are not qualified or perfect dentists. Let us examine the justification for this sort of discrimination. The British Dentists Act, which seems to have been the source of inspiration for this Bill, has not made any such distinction. Sir, the relevant section of the British Dentists Act says:

"3. (1) The Board shall admit to the dentists register kept under the principal Act—

(a) any person who makes an application in that behalf within the interim period and satisfies the Board that he—

(i) is of good personal character; and

(ii) was for any five of the seven years immediately preceding the commencement of this Act engaged as his principal means of livelihood in the practice of dentistry in the British Islands, or was admitted to membership of the Incorporated Dental Society not less than one year before the commencement of this Act; and

(iii) had attained the age of twenty-three years before the commencement of this Act."

These are the only restrictions for getting entry into the dentists register of England. That is what this Act says. So the source of inspiration for this Bill does not contemplate any such discrimination as is sought to be created by this Bill. On the other hand, it contemplates only one common register for all dentists. Again let us take the Bhore Committee Report. Even they, though they want early legislation on this matter, in my opinion have not recommended any division of dentists into A and B classes. The report says:

'As in the case of pharmacists provision should be made for the inclusion in the Provincial Registers of persons who, though not properly qualified, have been engaged in the practice of dentistry for a stated number of years. Thereafter the door of entry to the profession should be once and for all be closed to such persons and restricted to the holders of approved dental qualifications."

So even they have not contemplated any such division as A and B and they have also made a reference to pharmacists. The House only a few days ago passed the Pharmacy Bill, and there sub-section (d) of section 31 says:

"A person shall be entitled on payment of the prescribed fee to have his name entered in the first register if he resides, or carries on the business or profession of pharmacy, in the Province and if he—

* * * * * *

(d) has been engaged in the compounding of drugs in a hospital or dispensary or other place in which drugs are regularly dispensed on prescriptions of medical practitioners for a total period of not less than five years prior to the date notified under sub-section (2) of section 30."

Anybody who has read these two Bills will find that this Dentists Bill is exactly of the same pattern as the Pharmacy Bill and when such a distinction has not been made in the Pharmacy Bill, I should like to know why that distinction has been made in this Bill alone? In my opinion, instead of creating such distinctions and creating heart-burning between one section of dentists and another, the Government should concentrate all their energy and attention on providing greater and greater facilities for dental education. They should open colleges in as many places as possible all over the country and try to educate our young men in dentistry. Instead of doing that, to come forward with a legislation like this is, to my mind, like putting the cart before the horse.

The Bhore Committee has gone into this question in a detailed fashion. They are of opinion that taking that one dentist will be necessary per 5,000 of the population, the present need of our country will stand somewhere near 60,000 dentists. How are you going to create all these dentists? This legislation only seeks to prevent dentists without recognised qualifications from carrying on their profession. Of course, its obvious purpose is to save the people from quacks and untrained persons, but by passing this legislation we are not

[Shri O. V. Alagesan]

going to get all of a sudden from out of the vacuum 60,000 dentists. There are two ways of saving the people from untrained persons. One is by passing restrictive legislation as this Bill does. The other is to put more and more trained persons in one field. In my opinion the latter is the better way and I want to lay emphasis on that. So, instead of pursuing this Bill—I do not mean that this Bill should not be passed. I only want the objectionable portions should be taken out and suitable amendments inserted so that the Bill may be made as acceptable to all as possible,—I urge upon the Honourable Minister to get as many existing medical colleges as possible to open special wings for dentistry and thus spread dental education in the country so that we will have the necessary army of dentists to treat the Nation.

Again, in the Proviso to Section 34 of the Bill it is said:

"Further a person registered in Part B of the Register shall be entitled to be registered in Part A thereof if within a period of five years he passes an examination recognised for the purpose by the Council."

I want to know how this is sought to be achieved. There may be about 10,000 dentists in the country who may come under Part B whereas I doubt whether there will be 1,000 dentists under Part A. I want to know whether there will be examinations held or courses open for all these people who have got the misfortune to be placed in Part B, and how that examination will be conducted and how certificates will be issued. Or is it simply a consolation proviso saying that these people will get into Part A provided they pass the examination? Is there any facility for all these people to undergo courses of study if they so want and then pass the examination, or will they be suddenly called upon to sit for an examination and to take their chance of promotion to A Class?

Again, a third class of dentists has been created. They are people who have had a practice of less than five and more than two years. They go into a separate temporary register and they also are asked to pass an examination within 5 years. How are they going to be treated? Are they going to be treated differently from the Part B dentists? How many are expected to come under that temporary register? If it runs to some thousands, are there facilities for courses of study for them and can they sit for examinations and pass the tests?

So, all these anomalies and difficulties arise and we will not be solving the problem by creating a higher caste and a lower caste. On the other hand, I would urge upon the Minister to concentrate on providing more and better facilities for dental education. In my opinion, that is the only way to face the problem and solve it.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, the question may now be put.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Thursday the 26th February 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Thursday, 26th February, 1948

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ORAL ANSWERS

SUPERANNUATED GAZETTED OFFICERS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

477. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of Gazetted Officers now in service with the Government of India who having reached the age of fifty-five were granted extension or were re-employed after retirement?

(b) What are the reasons for continuing the services of superannuated officers?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of terminating their services?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The number of such officers in the various Ministries and their Attached offices is 88.

(b) The officers have been re-employed or granted extensions of service in the public interest and owing to the acute shortage of experienced and suitably qualified officers.

(c) All the Ministries have been asked to examine cases of extension of service already granted with a view to the termination of such services, where continuation of employment is not essential in the interests of public service.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has not the re-employment of such superannuated officers adversely affected the efficiency of the Departments concerned?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, Sir. On the contrary if such people were not employed, it would necessitate employment of raw men with no experience at all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But is it not a fact that when these people retire from service or if they are not re-employed, the next people, their subordinates next in seniority, are generally promoted and therefore efficiency does not suffer?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is bound to suffer because you will see that we have got only one-fourth of personnel of the services and therefore, comparatively the people who are promoted are not experienced and at the lower rung of the services we have a vacuum.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But is care being taken. . . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is going into an argument.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government consider or are they considering the question of the extension of the pensionable age from 55 to 58 or 60 or over?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes, there is that question. It is under consideration.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is any effort being made, Sir, for direct recruitment in filling up the higher posts?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No effort has been made.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How can they do that?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Would it be possible to consider this suggestion?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion for action. Next question.

DEFENCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S.A. AND INDIA

478. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether any agreement regarding the disposition of Defence installations and facilities was concluded between the Governments of the United States of America and India during the period of war?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The question is not clear. If the Honourable Member is referring to the installations and facilities created for the U.S. Forces in India during the war the answer is that these were covered by the Reciprocal Aid agreement with the U.S. Government.

Seth Govinddas: The Honourable Minister has not understood my question. Now, I want to know whether any revision of the Agreement is going to be made because the previous Agreement was made in this respect by a Government which was not ours.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, Sir. No revision is possible This is the final Agreement.

Seth Govinddas: Do Government not propose to emphasise to the United States Government that because India has now become free, a revision ought to be made in this respect?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I see no way out, Sir. The Agreement is final.

SURVEY OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES IN INDIA

479. *Shri H. J. Khandekar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state how many Joint Stock Companies, public as well as private limited, were in existence on 31st December, 1947 both in the Provinces of India and the Indian States?

(b) What is the total amount of capital invested in preference, ordinary and deferred shares?

(c) What is the total number of companies floated during the period 1st September, 1939 to 31st December, 1947 and the total amount of capital subscribed to them?

(d) What is the number of companies floated and the amount of capital subscribed to them since the promulgation of the ordinance for control of issue of capital?

(e) What were the objects of Government in promulgating the ordinance for the control of issue of capital and to what extent have these objects been achieved?

(f) Of the companies that were floated during the War period, how many are on the official list of any of the Stock Exchanges in Delhi, Madras, Bombay or Calcutta?

(g) Of the companies that were floated during the War, how many are there whose shares are considered 'marketable'?

(h) Are Government aware that no schedule bank considers shares of the companies that are 'unmarketable' good security for the purpose of making advances, loans, or overdrafts?

(i) What steps do Government propose to take to improve the liquidity of the share-stock of companies whose shares are totally unmarketable?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) to (d). I regret that the information is not readily available. It will be laid on the table of the House as soon as it has been collected. It will however take some time before this can be done.

(e) The object of introducing control over capital issues was to prevent the development of an excessive demand for materials in short supply, to direct capital away from the manufacture of luxuries and to prevent inflationary tendencies. The extent to which success has been achieved in actual practice is a matter of opinion.

(f), (g) and (h). Government have no information.

(i) Government regret that they can do little to make unmarketable shares saleable.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has this control been found excessive in so far as we have not been able to utilise the amount of sterling balances put into the No. 1 account on account of stringency in allowing capital goods to be imported here?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not, think that is correct. After all, the use of capital depends upon the availability of machinery and plant abroad and that is very limited, and if we have not been able to use more of our exchange it is because goods were not available.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has this control worked to the disadvantage of any particular part of the country? For instance, have there been complaints from South India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That is a matter of opinion, Sir.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: How long is this control on capital going to continue

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: As long as we consider it necessary.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: How long does the Honourable Minister consider it necessary?

(No reply)

CENSUS OF INDIA UNDER NEW CONSTITUTION

480. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take a census earlier than the decennial census due in 1951 with a view to utilising its results in the elections to be held according to the new constitution to be framed by the Constituent Assembly; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of having a special enumeration of the population of East Punjab and West Bengal before the next elections to the Legislatures are held?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) It is proposed to undertake some preliminary operations which are likely to be helpful in the preparation of electoral rolls. The question requires careful consideration in consultation with the Provincial Governments, who are be approached.

POSITION OF PLANE WHICH LEFT AGRA FOR KASHMIR ON 31ST OCTOBER

481. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plane left the air field at Agra on 31st October, 1947 for Kashmir with ammunition, soldiers and engineering staff;

(b) whether it reached its destination or is missing;

(c) if it is missing, whether any enquiry has been made about it, and if so, the result thereof;

(d) who were the occupants of the plane and what are the names of those missing; and

(e) whether Government propose to grant any compensation to the dependants of the missing persons, and if so, how much in each case?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the aircraft which left Ambala for Srinagar on the 31st October 1947. It is a fact that the aircraft did not reach its destination and has been classified as missing.

(c) Air searches have been carried out, but no trace of the missing aircraft has yet been found.

(d) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(e) The dependants of these personnel will be granted family pensions when death is established or presumed. The amount of family pensions in each case will vary according to the rank and length of the service of the deceased. During the period these persons are treated as missing, financial assistance is given to their families, the amount in each case being dependent on the rank, pay, family allotment, etc. of the missing individuals.

Statement

Officers (3)—	
IND/1875 F/Lt. C. J. Menloza	General Duty/Pilot.
IND/3063 F/O T. R. Peters	Ditto.
IND/1931 F/O U. S. Tomes	Navigator.
Warrant Officer (1)—	
IND/21441 W/O P. Hart	Wireless Operator/Air Gunner.
N. C. Os. (6)—	
IND/11375 F/S. H. K. Singh	Fitter Armourer.
IND/12796 SGT. Stephens	Fitter II Engine.
IND/10753 SGT. Kaskar	Ditto.
IND/12802 CPL. H. Srinivas	Ditto.
IND/11565 CPL. Jesudasan	Fitter II Airframe.
IND/20852 CPL. K. Singh	F/Armr.
Other Ranks (15)—	
IND/24554 LAC. Bakshi	Fitter II Airframe.
IND/34476 LAC. Prakash	Flight Mech. Airframe
IND/26285 LAC. Singh	Elect. II.
IND/34739 LAC. M. Singh	Flight Mech. Engine.
IND/33572 LAC. M. Singh	Ditto.
IND/25351 LAC. John	Ditto.
IND/35288 LAC. Namburi	Ditto.
IND/38763 LAC. Jha	Flight Mech. Airframe.
IND/39502 LAC. Dey	Ditto.
IND/23202 LAC. J. P. Singh	Elec. I.
IND/43853 LAC. Srinivasan	Flight Mech. Airframe.
IND/30796 LAC. S. Singh	Armourer.
IND/12174 LAC. Gangorde	F/Armourer.
IND/30552 LAC. R. Singh	Armourer.
IND/38956 AC. Sharma	Flight Mech. Engine.

All these persons are missing.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Are the missing people believed to be dead?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have stated that we have made searches. After they have confirmed the deaths, action will be taken.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many search parties were sent and on what dates?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not give the details of the search parties that were sent out; nor will it be possible for me to do so. But every possible effort has been made to trace these people.

Shri Khurshed Lal: How long do Government propose to wait to presume that these people are dead—the legal period of seven years or less?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Normally, Sir, unless we are absolutely sure, we do not declare these people as dead.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether, as in the case of some railway wagons which went over to Pakistan, there is any suspicion that this plane also might have gone over to Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am afraid, Sir, I have no information but enquiries have been made from Pakistan Government and they say they have no information about this aircraft.

REQUISITION OF LANDS IN AGRA TEHSIL

482. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to his reply to part (b) of my starred question No. 799, asked on 10th December, 1947, regarding the requisitioning of certain lands in Agra Tehsil and state who are the parties between whom difference of opinion exists as to the proper estimate of the value of the land referred to therein?

(b) On what date did the award of the Land Acquisition Officer become final?

(c) How much more time will Government take to make payment of the compensation, the lands having been requisitioned so far back as 1942 and permanently taken over in September or October, 1945?

(d) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a copy of the award of the Land Acquisition Officer?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The valuation made by the Land Acquisition Officer has not been accepted by the parties nor does it seem to the Government of India that the valuation by the Land Acquisition Officer has been correctly made.

(b) No final award has yet been made.

(c) Steps are being taken to expedite the settlement of the case.

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

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: May I know, Sir, when is the final award likely to be made?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have stated in reply to part (c) of the question that steps are being taken to expedite the settlement of the case

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: What is the hitch in the way of the final award being made? The matter has been dragging on for more than two years now?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is also clear from the reply that I have given to part (a) of the question that the valuation made by the Land Acquisition Officer has not been accepted by the parties nor does it seem to the Government of India that the valuation by the Land Acquisition Officer has been correctly made.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Has any appeal been made to the District Judge in this matter either by the Government or by the other party concerned?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have no information, Sir.

FORMULA FOR ACQUISITION OF RESERVE BANK SHARES

483. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the provision in the Reserve Bank Act, Section 57(2), under which, at the time of liquidation, no share-holder was to receive an amount not exceeding the paid up value of the shares held by him more than 1 per cent. for each year, after the commencement of the Act subject to a maximum of 25 per cent;

(b) whether it is a fact that if the Reserve Bank were to be liquidated after 30th September, 1948 the share-holder shall receive only Rs. 100 *plus* Rs. 13 (one rupee per year, for 13 years as the Bank will complete 13 years) *plus* the accrued dividend, *i.e*, Rs. 113 *plus* Rs. 2-12-0 (Rs. 4 less Rs. 1-4-0 income tax);

(c) whether, under the formula given by Government in reply to my short notice question asked on the 4th February, 1948, the shareholder will get about Rs. 118-9-4;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to state the reasons for arriving at the new formula for acquiring the shares;

(e) whether Government are aware that the opening rates on the Bombay and Calcutta Stock Exchanges are different; and

(f) if so, to which Stock Exchange the Government will refer for ascertaining the average price?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes.

(b) This is a hypothetical question and in any case it would not be possible to quote a definite figure where the exact date of liquidation was not known.

(c) The Honourable Member is probably correct but Government have yet to calculate the actual figure in consultation with the Reserve Bank.

(d) The reason is that the Bank is not being put into liquidation but will be taken over as a going concern and the dividends which are at present paid to shareholders will accrue to Government.

(e) Yes.

(f) Government will be guided by the Reserve Bank's advice.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact, Sir, that under the Reserve Bank of India Act, it is open to the Government to order liquidation at any time it chooses irrespective of the fact whether the bank is solvent or insolvent or needs liquidation?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The Government can order a liquidation.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If so, what difference does it make between liquidation proceedings and the Government's taking it over and why should Government give higher rates of profits under those circumstances than when liquidation is ordered?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: My Honourable friend as a lawyer ought to know that there is a difference between the liquidation of a bank and the acquisition of a bank.

Shri B. Das: Is it not expropriation of the suggestion contained in Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's demand being given effect to?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a matter of opinion.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have not heard the reply to part (e) of my question, Sir.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The answer is Yes.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTS IN ACCEDING STATES

484. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister of States please state the number of States which have acceded to the Indian Union and which have introduced, or agreed to introduce, responsible Government in their States?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me to Shri K. Santhanam's question No. 290 during the last session of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative). The information asked for by the Honourable Member will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

Seth Govinddas: When the Honourable Minister made that statement, there was no referendum in Junagadh. Now in view of the fact that there has been a referendum in Junagadh and that State has acceded to Pakistan, what would be the position of that State now?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Accession is determined by a vote of the referendum.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are Government exercising pressure, gentle or otherwise, on recalcitrant and refractory states for the introduction of responsible Government in those states?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question is not admissible.

ROAD ACCIDENTS IN OLD AND NEW DELHI

485. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs please state the number of road accidents that occurred during the year 1947 in Delhi and New Delhi?

(b) What steps have Government taken to minimise the number of such accidents?

(c) Do Government propose to issue strict instructions to the Police to regulate traffic so as to minimise the number of accidents?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) 82 in Old Delhi and 191 in New Delhi.

(b) Substantial improvement in the reduction of traffic accidents despite an increase in the number of cars on the road has already been made. Government, feel, however, that there is scope for further improvement in traffic arrangements and several steps have been taken recently to that end. One-way traffic has been introduced on various congested roads both in New Delhi and Old Delhi. Speed limits have been reduced to the minimum at congested roads and speed checks are held to detect offenders guilty of rash driving, who are suitably dealt with. Municipal authorities have been urged to improve the street lighting near dangerous crossings by providing arc lights and round-abouts. The strength of the traffic police staff is also being increased.

(c) Such instructions have already been issued.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: In view of the larger number of accidents in New Delhi as compared with Delhi, as the Honourable Minister stated, may I know whether this is due to the Military vehicles running very fast and causing accidents and whether the Police authorities are of opinion that 95 per cent. of these accidents are due to that cause?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot say that the Police authorities are of opinion that 95 per cent. are all accidents due to that, but the question will be enquired into.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that the Police authorities are actually in negotiation with the Military authorities in this respect.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If the Honourable Member is informed by the Police authorities, then it must be true.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, the number of prosecutions for rash driving in New Delhi during this year?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot give the number, Sir, without making enquiries. I must ask for notice.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: May I know what is the maximum speed limit permitted in New and Old Delhi?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I am not in a position to say at present. I will enquire and let the Honourable Member know.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: May I know if Government will give instructions to the authorities to ask the motor drivers to dim the lights at night whenever another car is coming in front of them?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That, of course, is the usual rule.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Are Government aware that not even one out of ten cars dim their lights? Even last night I found such to be the case and suitable steps must be taken.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I am not in a position to give the percentage, but generally, it may be true.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether these traffic rules apply to cyclists?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The traffic rules which apply to the motor vehicles do not necessarily apply to the cyclists.

Shri Khurshed Lall: Will Government consider the advisability of altogether prohibiting the use of glaring headlights in the Old and New Delhi, just as in Calcutta?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Well, the suggestion may be considered.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government consider the desirability of notifying certain congested and trafficky roads as out of bounds for Military vehicles?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion for action.

STATE EMBLEM AND SEAL FOR INDIA

486. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs please state whether Government have finally accepted a design for the State Emblem and Seal?

(b) Will this emblem and seal be adopted by all the Provinces?

(c) Will the Crown and the monogram "G.R.I.", wherever they exist, be substituted by a uniform design approved by the Government of India or do Government propose to leave it to each Province to have their own crests etc.?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Provincial Governments have been requested to adopt the new design.

(c) The motto which the seal should bear has not been decided yet. The Crown is not included in the new Seal.

Seth Govinddas: Will Government consider it advisable, Sir, now to have Mahatma Gandhi's portrait on this emblem in as much as we never had a person like him for thousands of years and we are not going to have a person like him for thousand years to come?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a suggestion for action.

APPLICATION OF PAY COMMISSION'S REPORT TO COORG ADMINISTRATION

487. *Shri C. M. Poonacha: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the date when the Coorg Administration forwarded their recommendations on the Pay Commission Report relating to the pay scales of the Government employees in Coorg?

(b) Have those recommendations been approved of by the Government of India? If so, when?

(c) If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The Chief Commissioner's final recommendations received during the first week of December 1947.

(b) and (c). Since uniform rates were to be prescribed for the staff in all the Chief Commissioner's Provinces, the recommendations from all of them had to be considered together. Comments of some of the other Chief Commissioners on Government of India's draft orders referred to in (a) above were received only last month. The proposals are now under detailed examination.

ABOLITION OF EUROPEAN CONSTITUENCY IN COORG

488. *Shri C. M. Poonacha: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state why steps have not been taken to abolish the European Constituency in Coorg, which returns two Members to the Coorg Legislative Council, when such Constituencies all over the Indian Dominion have been abolished under the Government of India Act 1935 as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order 1947?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: According to Section 97 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order 1947, the Constitution of the Coorg Legislative Council shall continue unchanged. Government have therefore no power to change the present constitution of the Council.

DISPARITY IN SALARIES OF LOWER DIVISION CLERKS AND ASSISTANTS

489. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a letter regarding the fixation of pay of "B" Grade Clerks which appeared in the *Indian News Chronicle*, dated the 27th January, 1948 under the heading "B Grade Clerks"?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of removing the disparity in the initial salaries of the lower division clerks and the assistants? If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes.

(b) The duties of lower division clerks and Assistants are in other grades not similar. The disparity in the initial salaries of these grades is justified on the basis of differences in duties and responsibilities, the requisite qualifications and the field of recruitment.

FACT *re* AZAD KASHMIR GOVERNMENTS CLAIM

490. *Shri Lal Mohan Pati: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news published by the *Statesman*, dated the 11th February, 1948 under the head line "Azad Government Spokesman's Claim";

(b) whether there is any truth in the so-called "Azad Kashmir Government spokesman's" claim that 100 lorries full of ammunition, rations, bren-guns, mortars and a large quantity of rifles were captured by the Kashmir raiders; and

(c) if there is any truth in the claim referred to above, whether Government propose to make a statement regarding the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) No. There is absolutely no truth, in this statement.

Shri Mohan Lal: Will Government consider the advisability of taking action against the publication of such false news?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The suggestion will be borne in mind; but as far as news about Kashmir is concerned, I find that every day absolutely false news appears in the press and it is difficult for me to issue contradictions every day.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I was suggesting that some action should be taken by Government regarding the publication of such false news without reference to the Ministry concerned or to some officer of Government.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That suggestion will be passed on to the Home Ministry; but as far as the Defence Ministry is concerned, an authoritative version is issued every day.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if there is a Press Liaison Officer in the Defence Ministry?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, Sir.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if it is not his duty to contact these papers and reporters and correct the news as soon as it appears?

(No reply)

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has Government's attention been drawn to a report in this morning's papers to the effect that the "Azad Government" of Kashmir is being helped by Russia with arms and ammunition?

Mr. Speaker: That does not arise. Next question.

RAIDS FROM PAKISTAN ON EAST PUNJAB BOUNDARIES

491. *Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the total number of raids made since 15th August, 1947 inside the boundaries of East Punjab by raiders coming from the Pakistan territory?

(b) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the names of villages which were raided?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). I lay on the table of the House a statement of the raids so far reported to Army Headquarters. Full information has been called for from the local authorities.

STATEMENT

Names of villages in East Punjab which were raided with dates on which such raids took place.

Name of village	Date
DISTRICT AMRITSAR	
Punkanjri	(1) 7-9-47.
	(2) 8-9-47.
Thathi Jaimal Singh	7-9-47.
Rajkot	Do.
Dauke	(1) 19-9-47.
	(2) 20-9-47.
Wagha	12-9-47.
Near Dhanoa Kalan	Do.
Roranwala	(1) 14-9-47.
	(2) 15/16-12-47.
Dhanoa	(1) 21-9-47.
	(2) 22-9-47.
Mehdipur	(1) 24-9-47.
	(2) 26-9-47.
	(3) 28-9-47.
Near Gujjall	24-9-47.
Near Mohawa	Do.
Mitha	Do.
China Bidhi Chand	Do.
Nowshera	28-9-47.
Dhamoya Khurd	29-9-47.

Name of villages	Date
DISTRICT AMRITSAR	
Rejaal	29—9—47
Near Chhina Bidhi Chand	(1) 29-9-47.
	(2) 9/10-12-47.
Kala	29-9-47.
Near Khem Karan	(1) 1-10-47.
	(2) 25/26-11-47.
Machhike	1-10-47.
Nurwala	3-10-47.
Khem Karan	Do.
Surjamurja	30-10-47.
Police Post near Mahawa	31-10-47.
Mahawa	7-11-47.
Bhurowali, South of Dooke	2-12-47.
Near Neshta	3-12-47.
Dals	7-12-47.
Kalsian-Khurd	12/13-12-47.
Kals	Do.
Chiabilich	12/13-12-47.
Dhanaya Kalan	13-12-47.
Near Border in Amritsar	(1) 14/15-12-47.
	(2) 16-12-47.
	(3) Do.
	(4) 17-12-47.
Near Kohali	11/12-1-48.
Naushera Ialla Station	Do.
Attari	12/13-1-48.
Wan	13/14-1-48.
Naar Chathanwala & Jahaman	Do.
Kamalpur	(1) 14/15-1-48.
	(2) 16/17-1-48.
Jatanwala	17/18-1-48.
Sankhatra	26-1-48.
South west of Sursingh	30-1-48.
West of Sursingh	30/31-1-48.
DISTRICT GURDASPUR	
Sutlaj	15/16-9-47.
Daulat Chak	5-10-47.
Bamial	(1) 14-10-47.
	(2, 2) 1-11-47.
	(3, 7/8-1-48.
Kot Jawahar Dhuide	15/16-10-47.
Hamza & Pharwal	21-10-47.
Makina	16/17-11-47.
Tolur	20/21-11-47.
Datial	Do.
Bandal	Do.
Narot	22-11-47.
North of Banial	22/23-11-47.
Near Ujh river (West of Pathankot)	23-11-47.
Danke	1/3-12-47.
On Border in District Gurdaspu	2/7-12-47.
Salach	4/6-12-47.
Near Mathi	8/9-12-47.
Near Daulat Chak	10/11-12-47.
Near Jhaman Singh (Village in Pakistan)	15/16-12-47.
Balach	Do.
Lasian	Do.
North of Gurdaspur	16-12-47.
Near Ujh river	18-12-47.
Near Nainakot	24-12-47.
Kun i-chak	27-12-47.
Sahotreanchak	1/2-1-48.
Disachak	4/5-1-48.
Ranarpur	13-1-48.
Near Junction of Ravi & Ujh	15-1-48.
On border in District Gurdaspur	19/20-1-48.
Jalala	26-1-48.
In Lagian area	26/27-1-48.

Name of village	Date
DISTRICT FEROZEPORE	
Sulemanke	15/16-9-47.
Area of Lakha SighavalaJalloke	9-11-47.
Ranian	19-11-47.
Chak Allah-Bux	(1) 20-11-47. (2) 21-11-47.
Rania	21-11-47.
Pirake	28-11-47.
Police post in Sadua	20/21-1-48.
DISTRICT PATHANKOT	
And Opposite to Ramial	30-12-47.

Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: May I know what the total number is?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is a long list; I can later on give the information to the Honourable Member.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What steps have Government taken or propose to take to prevent such raids in future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Every possible step is being taken

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Were protests made to the Pakistan Government? If so, with what results?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Protests have been made and the reply we have received is that the matter is under consideration.

Seth Govinddas: Are the raids on the increase or on the decrease?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: They are on the decrease.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know in how many cases compensation has been demanded for these raids?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Compensation is dealt with in the External Affairs Ministry and I could not say off-hand in what cases compensation has been demanded.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government at least tell us a few of the steps that they propose to take to prevent such raids in future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The steps that have been taken or can be taken is to strengthen the Military and police forces on the border.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have any Home Guards been started or established in the provinces or States adjoining Pakistan where such raids have taken place?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: According to the information available the East Punjab Government have raised Home Guards.

گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر : کیا آنریبل ڈیفنس منسٹر میری اس تجویز پر غور کر سکتے ہیں کہ ریڈز (Raids) کو روکنے کا علاج یہ ہے کہ امرتسر کو ایسٹ پنجاب کا کیپیٹل (Capital) بنا دیا جائے ؟

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister for Defence consider my suggestion that the remedy to prevent the raids is to make Amritsar, the Capital of the East Punjab?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has the Honourable Minister's attention been drawn to the news appearing in the papers that people in the border districts of Pakistan have been recently armed?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That may be true, but I cannot interfere in what Pakistan may do. The only alternative open to us is to strengthen our police and military forces in the border areas.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if similar steps are being taken on this side?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, I think so.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know if any of the raiders have been captured or killed?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Some raiders were captured; I think they are in detention now.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if apart from the police and military forces on the border any other special agency has been created for getting information about the activities of the people on the other side?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is not possible for me to give details of the arrangements which exist.

Mr. Speaker: I was wondering whether Honourable Members should insist on disclosures as regards defence measures and details about them. It would not be proper and it is perhaps giving information which the other side will very much appreciate.

MERGER OF DUJANA STATE WITH EAST PUNJAB

492. *Ch. Ranbir Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Ruler of Dujana State (East Punjab) has gone to Pakistan?

(b) Is it also a fact that the administration of the State has been taken over by the Government of India?

(c) Are Government aware that the people of the State want the merger of the State with the East Punjab Province?

(d) If so, do Government propose to take steps in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes, but only temporarily.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

PRINTING OF COMBINED CIVIL LIST OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

493. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state how often is the Combined Civil List of all employees of the Government of India printed in a year? When was it last printed?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Combined Civil List published by the *Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore. It used to be published quarterly. The last issue was for the quarter April-June 1947.

STATES ACCEDED TO THE INDIAN DOMINION

494. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of States, both big and small, before the partition of the country into two Dominions;

(b) how many of them have since acceded to the Indian Dominion; and

(c) how many of the States which have acceded to the Indian Dominion have independent High Courts of their own?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) 624 (This figure includes the frontier States and the small attached units to be found in Western India and Kathiawar.)

(b) I draw the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me to Shri Nagappa's question No. 62 and to Shri Jai Sukh Lal Hathi's question

No. 9 on the 19th November and 10th December 1947 respectively and the statements placed by me on the table of the House on the 19th November 1947.

(c) Government have no information.

R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: How many States may be taken to have joined the Pakistan dominion?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Very few, I think; may be three or four.

R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Are the High Courts of the States efficiently manned? If not, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No one can say that the High Courts in all the States are functioning uniformly or efficiently.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many of these States which have acceded to the Indian Union have merged with the adjoining provinces and how many have merged among themselves to constitute a larger unit on the lines of Sourashtra?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: We will give the House full informations; a statement will be prepared and laid on the table of the House.

STATE ADMINISTERED BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

495. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state the names of the States the administration of which has been taken over by the Government of India, together with the names and emoluments of the Administrators appointed therein?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The information asked for is contained in a statement placed on the table of the House.

Statement

Name of State	Name of Administrator	Emolument
1. Junagadh	Mr. S. W. Shiveshwarkar, M.B.E., I.C.S.	Rs. 2,000/- p.m.
2. Mongrol	Mr. J. M. Shah—Manager	Rs. 562/- p.m.
3. Manavadar	Mr. Y. G. Mitu—Manager	Rs. 487/- p.m.
4. Bantwa	Mr. J. H. Buch—Manager	Rs. 450/- p.m.
5. Sardargadh	Mr. J. K. Oza	Rs. 350/- p.m.
6. Alwar	Mr. K. B. L. Seth, I.C.S.	Not fixed. A pay of Rs. 4,00 p.m. has been proposed.
7. Bharatpur	Mr. S. N. Sapru, P.C.S. (U.P.)	Not fixed. Grade pay *plus* 25% deputation allowance.
8. Rajgarh	Mr. P. J. Shroff	Rs. 1,750/- p.m.
9. Jaora	Sir Hari Lal Gosalia	Rs. 2,000/- p.m.
10. Theogh	Mr. Bhagwan Dass	Rs. 200/- p.m.

R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: What is the highest salary and the lowest salary that are paid to the administrators of these States?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The highest is Rs. 2,000 and the lowest is Rs. 200.

Seth Govinddas: Is the scale of pay of these Administrators the same as obtains in the services of the Indian Union, or is there any difference?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The scale of pay in the States is not necessarily the same as that of the services in India. But many of the Administrators are lent from the Government of India. And although the scale may not be the same, due regard is usually paid, while fixing these salaries, to the scales of pay in the Government of India services.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact that as soon as one goes into State service his pay is automatically increased from what was paid to him in the Indian Union?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is no automatic increase at all.

Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: What is the name of the State where the administrator gets a salary of Rs. 200 per month?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The name of the State is Theogh.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know Sir, in how many of the States the administration was taken over at the request of the Government or Maharaja of that State and in how many cases the Government of India of their own accord took charge of the administration?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The administration of no State has been taken over by the Government of India of its own accord. It is, as a rule, done at the request of the Ruler.

FORMATION OF MALWA PROVINCE

496. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for forming the Malwa Province by the unification of the Central India and Bundelkhand States; and

(b) if so, when the proposal is likely to materialize?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, what is the attitude of Maihar and Rewa towards the Merger scheme?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The question of merger does not arise from this quetion at all.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Sir, may we know whether there is any proposal to form a Malwa province out of the Central India States, excluding Bundelkhand States?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, Sir.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Am I to understand the Honourable Minister to mean that the Bundelkhand States are excluded?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Excluded from what.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Excluded from the proposed Malwa province.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No proposals for forming any Union of the States of either Malwa or Bundelkhand have been officially received by the States Ministry as yet.

JUDGES OF COMMON HIGH COURT OF EASTERN STATES GROUP

497. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Common High Court of the Eastern States was established some years ago with the approval of the then Crown Representative's Department;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Board of Control of that High Court had appointed Judges for a specified period of five years, only half of which has since expired;

(c) whether it is a fact, that in view of the administration of these States having since been taken over by the Government of India, the said High Court has been disbanded without the Judges having been paid compensation for the unexpired term of their agreement; and

(d) if the reply to parts (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to compensate the Judges of that Court for the unexpired term of their appointment?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Government of India has no information, as under the Common High Court Scheme, matters relating to the appointment of Judges for the High Court, fixation of their conditions of service, etc., were left to the Board of Control of Rulers to determine.

(c) and (d). Government propose to make an enquiry in this matter and will determine their attitude in the light of the result of such enquiry.

RENAMING OF NEW DELHI AS 'GANDHI PURI'

498. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the intense feeling of the public that "New Delhi" should be named as "Gandhi Puri"?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to achieve that end?

(c) Have Government considered the question of re-naming the existing roads of New Delhi with a view to remove the vestiges of foreign rule and naming them after Indian partriots, who have worked and fought for Indian Freedom?

(d) If not, will Government appoint a committee to consider the question and make necessary recommendations?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). No such suggestion has been made to Government.

(c) and (d). Under the provisions of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, this is a matter primarily for the New Delhi Municipal Committee to consider.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government take note of the suggestion at this stage at least?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, if the suggestion comes from the proper quarter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What do they mean by proper quarter, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Order, orser.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact, Sir, that suggestions to that effect have been made in serveral papers?

Mr. Speaker: One need not pursue one inadmissible question by another inadmissible one.

FINANCIAL AID TO SMALL BUSSINESS

499. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government have any programme for giving financial aid to small business? If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The Honourable Member is presumably referring to displaced persons. Under the Government's scheme of financial assistance, shopkeepers, traders, artisans, etc., are eligible for loans upto Rs. 5,000 each and those requiring larger amounts will be covered by the proposed Rehabilitation Finance Adiminstration.

ADMISSION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS TO INDIAN TECHNICAL INSTITUTI7

500. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether any applications were received from students in Iraq and Iran for admission to Indian Medical, Engineeing and other Colleges?

(b) What is the number of students from the Middle East who are being trained in India?

(c) What are the rules at present governing the admission of such students in our educational institutions?

(d) To establish better relations with the Middle-East and Far-Eastern countries, do Government propose to relax the rules and regulations which are, at present, preventing their entry into India and to provide the necessary facilities for the admission of a specific number of students in our higher technical institutions?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: (a) گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کو ایران یا عراق کے کسی پرائیویٹ اسٹوڈنٹ کی درخواست اس مطلب کی نہیں ملی ھے -کہ وہ ھندستان کے میڈیکل یا انجیرینگ یا کسی اور کالج کی تعلیم پانے کے لئے آنا چاھتا ھے -

(b) گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے ۱۹۴۵ میں گیارہ اسکالرشپ ایران کے ودیارتھیوں کو دئے تھے جنھیں گورنمنٹ آف ایران نے تکنیکل سبجیکٹس کی تعلیم کے لئے بھیجا تھا جس اسکیم کے اندر وہ لوگ آئے تھے وہ یہ ھے کہ ایران کے اسکالر ھندوستان بھیجے جائیں اور ھندوستان کے ایران - ان گیارہ ودیارتھیوں میں چار ایگریکلچر کیلئے - پانچ انجینرنگ کیلئے - اور دو فارسٹری کیلئے تھے -

(c) ھندوستان کے ایجوکیشنل انسٹی ٹیوشن میں مڈل ایسٹ کے ودیارتھیوں کو لینے کے لئے خاص رول نہیں بنائے گئے ھیں -

(d) ھندوستان تکنیکل انسٹی ٹیوشن عام طور پر پراونشیل گورنمنٹ کے کنٹرول میں ھیں انہوں نے اس بارے میں اپنے اپنے رول بنائے ھیں وھی انکو نرم اور ڈھیلا کر سکتے ھیں - گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا ایسا نہیں کر سکتی کی خود اپنی رائے سے اسکو بدلے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) No applications from private students either from Iran or Iraq have been received by the Government of India for admission to Indian Medical, Engineering and other Colleges.

(b) Under the scheme for exchange of students with Iran, we awarded eleven scholarships in 1945 to Iranian students selected by the Iranian Government for studies in technical subjects in India. The distribution of these 11 candidates according to subjects is as under:

Agriculture	4
Engineering	5
Forestry	2
	11

(c) There are no special rules for the admission of students from the Middle East to educational institutions in India.

(d) The higher technical institutions in India are generally under the control and jurisdiction of the Provincial Governments who have prescribed their own rules for admission. The Provincial Governments or the authorities of the institutions concerned have therefore, to be consulted in the matter of relaxation of those rules as each case arises. The Government of India is not competent to alter those rules.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I have a translation of the answer, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: I think the Hindustani in which the reply was given was so simple and if I were to allow translations of each question, it would mean that the proceedings must be conducted bilingually and Hindustani can never become the language of the House. That is my difficulty. Did the Honourable Member really not understand the answer?

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I request that I may be supplied a translation beforehand.

Mr. Speaker: That question has been disposed of. Did the Honourable Member not really follow the answer?

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Then a translation may be supplied.

(The English translation of the honourable member's answer in Hindustani was then read out by Shri Satyanarain Sinha).

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know, Sir, whether the Middle East Countries have offered any facilities to our students studying in those countries.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ بات میں آنریبل ممبر سے اپنے جواب کے سلسلے میں بتلا چکا ہوں کہ ایران سے کسی پرائیویٹ سٹوڈنٹ (Private Student) کی کوئی درخواست نہیں آئی ہے - جبتک اسطرح کی کوئی چیز سامنے نہیں آئے - کسی چیز پر غور نہیں ہو سکتا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: In continuation of my reply to the Honourable Member I have already said that no application from any private student from Iran has been received; and until such a thing comes before the Government, it cannot be considered.

مسٹر آر - کے - سدھوا : کیا یہ ٹھیک بات ہے کہ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کے ماتحت ایرانیوں کا کلچرل مشن (Cultural Mission) یہاں ہے اور ہے تو اسکا کام کیا ہے ؟

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that the Cultural Mission from Iran under the Government of India is in this country? If that is so, what is its function?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد :- انکا کام یہ ہے کہ ایران سے کلچرل (Cultural Relation) بڑھائے اور اس سلسلے میں سٹوڈنٹس اور ٹیچرز دوسرے ملکوں میں بھیجے جائیں اسکا سمبندھ اِس سے ہے کہ اِس سلسلے میں دو سٹوڈنٹس ایران بھیجے گئے ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Its function is to develop the cultural relations with Iran and in this connection students and teachers should be sent to other countries and, therefore, in furtherance of this scheme two students from India have been sent to Iran.

श्री एच० वी० कामथ :- क्या ईरान या दूसरे मिडिल ईस्ट के मुल्कों में अब तक कोई हिन्दुतानी किसी किस्म की तालीम पाने के लिये भेजा गया है।

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has any Indian until this day been sent for studying anything either to Iran or to other Middle East Countries?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد :- میں نے ابھی کہا ہے کہ دو سٹوڈنٹس (Students) بھیجے گئے ہیں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I have just mentioned that two students have been sent.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I have been authorised to put this short notice question on behalf of Prof. Saksena.

Mr. Speaker: Has the authority come in writing?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Yes, I gave it to the Secretary.

Mr. Speaker: Where is that authority?

But I was just wondering whether, if an Honourable Member puts a short notice question as a matter of urgency why is it that he should not remain present to put the question himself?

Shri H. V. Kamath: I am not aware of that. It is left to you.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Probably something more urgent has happened!

Mr. Speaker: I therefore do not feel inclined to recognise the authority and to grant permission.

The House will now proceed to Legislative business.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: May I request that as the statement promised to be laid on the table in answer to question No. 494 refers to an important matter, it be circulated. It relates to the States.

Mr. Speaker: I will consider that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the short notice question been disallowed or has the authorization not been recognised?

Mr. Speaker: The question is allowed and is before the House. The only thing is that the Honourable Member is not permitted to put it on behalf of Prof. Saksena.

TRANSFER TO INDIA OF SECURITIES HELD IN PAKISTAN

†**Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state if it is a fact that Indian Nationals or Nationals who have come from Pakistan, holding Securities in the Banks in Pakistan, are not being allowed to get them transferred to India?

(b) Is it a fact that the Securities held in the Banks in India by Pakistan Nationals or Nationals who have migrated to Pakistan are being freely transferred to Pakistan on the request of the holders?

(c) What action do Government propose ot take to ensure that Securities of Indian Nationals held in Pakistan are transferred to India as freely as it is being done in India?

(d) Are Government aware that money orders lying in Pakistan in the name of Indian Nationals who have migrated from Pakistan, are not being redirected despite repeated reminders to the postal authorities there?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a), (b) and (c). There is no general ban on the transfer from one Dominion to the other of Securities deposited with the banks in either Dominion. This position has been categorically confirmed by the Pakistan Government in a recent telegram. Securities belonging to evacuees in the possession of banks in the East and West Punjab are evacuee property under enactments relating to evacuee property, the permission of the respective Custodians is required for the transfer of Securities, and this sometimes leads to delay. Government have, however,

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

received some complaints that in practice Securities are not being allowed to be transferred to India and they are receiving attention.

(d) No case of refusal to re-direct money orders has been brought to the notice of the Government of India. A number of complaints regarding non-payment of money orders issued from Post Offices in Pakistan have, however, been received and are under enquiry with the Pakistan authorities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I make a suggestion that early steps should be taken to remove that Crown on the top of your Chair?

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed to Legislative business.

PROVINCIAL INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL

Shrimati G. Durgabai (Madras: General): I am not making any motion in this connection but I would like the Bill to be kept alive.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): If Honourable Members know before-hand that they are not moving their motions, it is better that they inform the Secretary. A great deal of work we do on them is wasted. Courtesy requires that they should tell the Secretary and he could inform us which motions are not being moved.

Seth Govinddas (C.P. and Berar: General): Sometimes we have to decide at the eleventh hour and if such a restriction is placed on us it would raise difficulties.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: I said if the Honourable Members knew before that.....

Mr. Speaker: I think the request is a reasonable one. It is not a matter of insistence on the part of the Honourable Member that they should not be included in the agenda. It is a matter of courtesy to other members to inform the Secretary, even at the eleventh hour, if Honourable Members are not going to move their motions. But that is a matter for mutual adjustment and not for a ruling from the Chair.

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

(AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 16 AND 162)

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): I am not moving my Bill at all, nor do I want it to be kept alive.

Mr. Speaker: All right. But will the Honourable Member make a motion for withdrawal of the Bill?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I beg leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, (Amendment of Sections 161 and 162).

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Amendment of Sections 161 and 162)."

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C.P. and Berar: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, I have read this Bill. It is a very very important Bill. From the provisions which he wants to enact, the Bill is that the police generally does not record statements in the police diary with a view to deprive the accused of the right to contradict them in a court of law. The mover has given absolutely no reasons why permission should be given to withdraw this Bill. Therefore, my submission is that it should be refused.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I had not knownthat I would have as much support in the House as my Honourable friend has promised. You know that statements during the course of investigation are not allowed to be taken in writing by police officers, and if they are at all taken in writing they cannot be used to support the prosecution. But extracts can be taken for the purpose of contradicting those witnesses. I wanted to have every statement to be recorded. I have discussed this matter with friends and I find that the first time a police officer might coerce a man, or for various motives a man may make a statement which is not true. Once committed to writing there is no going behind it and it may influence the Judge. Whatever may be in writing at the earliest possible time stands unless contradicted. It may be absolutely injurious to the accused. I wanted to safeguard the interest of the accused. I thought the balance of inconvenience was against the accused and therefore I wanted to withdraw this. My Honourable friend will agree with me that we do not want to injure the cause of the accused and to make it easier for the accused.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): I think I would rather like that the Bill should be presented before the House. The reason is extremely important. The basic law is that when a police officer goes to investigate a crime he is free to record the statement of witnesses or not. He may record a statement of the gist of such evidence or record the statement in full. If he records facts, it is doubtful whether copies of the statements can be used at all. My learned and Honourable friend's position is that if a witness under coercion tells something before the police and then later on he withdraws, the effect of his amendment would be injurious to the accused. But I should submit that it would not be injurious to the accused at all. If a witness says under coercion or otherwise that he saw the accused doing an act and later on if the witness says that he did not see the act, the entire advantage go to the accused. What is very important is that the accused has the sole option to use any of the statements according to his sweet will. The prosecution cannot use it. So if contradictory statements are made by witnesses before the police officer, then the Bill which he wanted to introduce would not be against the accused. On the other hand it would be helpful to the accused. I think the Honourable Member is going to withdraw a very valuable Bill and I will ask him to reconsider the matter.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I will then withdraw my motion for withdrawal.

Mr. Speaker: I was wondering whether any further discussion was necessary. Assuming the Bill to be a very important matter, I was just asking myself a question as to what would happen if the leave to withdraw is refused and the Honourable Member still persists in not making any further motion?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: That is another matter.

Mr. Speaker: The result is the same.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: He may change his mind

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The House in any case expresses its opinion.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think any further discussion on the point is necessary.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Amendment of Sections 161 and 162)."

The motion was adopted.

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

(AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 4, 29a, ETC.)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, I have been authorised by Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour to move this motion on his behalf as he is unable to be present here on account of unavoidable reasons. Probably he has also sent a copy of the letter to the Department.

Mr. Speaker: I have received a copy of the letter and I accept the authority.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Amendment of Sections 4, 29A, etc.).

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): On a point of order, Sir may I know what would be the further course with regard to this Bill? Does it mean that my Honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava will move all the other motions of D. Gour in connection with this Bill? Once a Bill is introduced by a Member it will be he who will move the further motions.

Mr. Speaker: This question was considered. I refused permission to the Honourable Member last time. I considered the question thereafter and I thought that there was no objection to leave being granted as introduction of a Bill was a purely formal matter. But if the letter of authority expressly states that all future motions in respect of the Bill would be made by the person to whom the authority is delegated, I thought that was a reasonable thing and therefore I said that I would grant permission only if the authority was in this form. Dr. Gour has sent the authority in that form and therefore it will follow that the subsequent motions in respect of this Bill will be made only by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava.

I shall also make one more point clear. Under the rules the maximum number of Bills that can be brought in for discussion by one member is only three and this Bill will be considered as one of Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava's and not that of some other member. That will be the position.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Amendment of Sections 4, 29A, etc.)."

The motion was adopted.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

DELHI SIKH GURDWARAS AND RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS BILL

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar (East Punjab: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the better administration of the Sikh Gurdwaras in the Delhi Province and their properties wheresoever situate.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the better administration of the Sikh Gurdwaras in the Delhi Province and their properties wheresoever situate."

The motion was adopted.

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

CRIMINAL TRIBES (REPEAL) BILL

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Criminal Tribes Act, 1924.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Criminal Tribes Act, 1924."

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL

(AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 53, 121, 152, ETC.)

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code (Amendment of Section 53, 121, 132, etc.)

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code (Amendment of Sections 53, 121, 132, etc.)."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN BAR COUNCILS AND LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, and the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, and the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879."

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN JUDICIAL PROCEDURE BILL

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to clarify and modify the law in practice hitherto followed in criminal applications for special leave to appeal to His Majesty in Council for criminal cases decided by the Indian Courts.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to clarify and modify the law in practice hitherto followed in criminal applications for special leave to appeal to His Majesty in Council for criminal cases decided by the Indian Courts."

The motion was adopted.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

PREVENTION OF FREE OR FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR, BILL

Mr. R. K. Sidhva (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide punishment for free or forced or compulsory labour.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, this Bill will no longer be necessary in view of the contemplated provisions in the constitution.

Mr. Speaker: That is a different matter. This is merely a formal matter of introduction.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide punishment for free or forced or compulsory labour."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MADRAS PORT TRUST (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Madras Port Trust Act, 1905.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Madras Port Trust Act, 1905."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. R. K. Sidhva (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, may I ask what the object of the Bill is because there is another Bill which went through the Select Committee?

Mr. Speaker: That may be discussed later on.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

HINDU MARRIAGES VALIDITY BILL

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide that marriages between Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and their different castes and sub-castes are valid.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide that marriages between Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and their different castes and sub-castes are valid."

The motion was adopted.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN ARMY AND THE INDIAN AIR FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh (Minister of Defence): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911, and the Indian Air Force Act, 1932, for certain purposes and to make certain consequential amendments to the Administrator General's Act, 1913, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Sir, it is a simple Bill and I do not want to detain the House for a long time. In 1911 when the Indian Army Act was passed provision was made for the disposal of the estates of the other ranks and as there were at that

time no Indian Commissioned Officers no provision was made for the Indian Commissioned Officers. Provision has been made in this Bill for the disposal of the estates of the Indian Commissioned Officers and of certain ranks in the Air Force. A lot of trouble and inconvenience is caused to the relatives of the deceased persons, and the purpose of the present amending Bill is to remove all this inconvenience.

Secondly, Sir, many difficulties were experienced in the disposal of the estates of these officers. In 1911 there was no Indian Air Force and one of the provisions in the amending Bill is to include in its scope the Royal Indian Air Force officers and also Warrant Officers.

As the House will remember, this Bill was referred to the Select Committee and the Seelct Committee has made certain changes which have been accepted, and a unanimous report is before the House. I am glad to see, Sir, that there are no amendments proposed by the Honourable Members of this Huose and I think that it has the general approval of the House. With these words, Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911, and the Indian Air Force Act, 1932, for certain purposes and to make certain consequential amendments to the Administrator General's Act, 1913, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, I do not want to take up the time of the House on a comparatively non-controversial Bill. But there is one matter of general importance for the House which I want to bring to the notice of the House. I think the Defence Department did not deal very fairly with the Select Committee. The Honourable Minister himself was unable to be present and competent advisers who prepared the Bill were not there to explain why certain provisions were there. We had a great difficulty in dealing with many of the clauses. We did not quite understand why certain changes were made. I think that steps should be taken by Government to see that when they bring in Bills and these Bills are referred to Select Committee they provide as efficient and expert an assistance to the Select Committee as possible. I think this is a matter of great importance for the efficient working of the Assembly. I therefore thought it was my duty to bring it to the notice of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Minister anything to say with reference to this?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, I am sorry to hear this from my Honourable friend, but I can assure the House that this omission was not at all intentional. I will bear the suggestion in mind and try to give every possible assistance when any Bill is brought forward in the House or sent to the Select Committee in the future.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911, and the Indian Air Force Act, 1932, for certain purposes and to make certain consequential amendments to the Administrator General's Act, 1913, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: We will now take the Bill clause by clause. Clause 2

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I beg to move:

"(1) That after sub-clause (v) of clause 2, the following shall be inserted as sub-clause (vi):

'In sub-section (5) of section 114 of the Indian Army Act, 1911, for the word "twelve", the word "three", shall be substituted';" and

"(2) After sub-clause (v) of clause 6, the following shall be inserted as sub-clause (vi):

'In sub-section (5) of section 126 of the Indian Air Force Act, 1932, for the word "twelve", the word "three", shall be substituted'."

[Sardar Baldev Singh]

Sir, I am sorry to move this amendment at short notice. As Honourable Members might have noticed, the period for settling the claims of the officers has been fixed at three months. In the original Act of 1911 the period fixed for the other ranks is 12 months. The intention of the amendment is to have a uniform period for officers as well as other ranks. If the House will agree I would suggest that this amendment may be accepted as it wil facilitate matters and will also have a uniform period for officers and other ranks.

Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister kindly inform the House whether the change of three months was made by the Select Committee? Can he kindly point out the section concerned?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As far as I remember, the original proposal was to reduce it to six months. The relevant sections are 114 and 126.

Shri K. Santhanam: I was asking the particular clause in the amending Bill as I want to be sure whether it came before the Se'ect Committee.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: This one did not go before the Sele.t Committee.

Shri K. Santhanam: Then it is absolutely a new clause. How can we introduce an absolutely new clause at this stage? I think, Sir, it is not proper.

Mr. Speaker: There is no objection to introducing any clause. It must only be within the scope of the original Bill. That is the rule.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): All that Mr. Santhanam means is that the benefit of the Se'ect Committee's investigation is denied and not that there is any legal objection.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I quite realize that and I have apologized for this. This has been pointed out to me only a few days ago. This is simply to have a uniform practice as far as officers and other ranks are concerned. That is why, while I was introducing this amendment, I clearly stated that if the House will accept this it may be considered.

Shri K. Santhanam: What was the difficulty in giving notice to us two days back?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: This was omitted as I said, and it was brought to my notice only the day before yesterday and I did not know my Bill was coming up today.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): I submit that in a small Bill like this, there should have been a considerable amount of care and caution in bringing it before this House. It has become a habit to introduce Bills without much consideration and then amend them on the floor of the House without any notice. Perhaps nothing of a mischievous kind will come out of this, but it is a pernicious practice. It puts us to a disadvantage and shows that members are not taken very seriously.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: If there is any objecton to this amendment, I am not pressing it. It is only with the agreement of the House that I want to move this amendment, but I am not pressing it.

Mr. Speaker: I wanted to be clear myself as to what the substance of the amendment is, and if it is really of a very minor nature and improves the provisions, there is no reason why the House should not accept it. The only point is they must know what the amendment actually is.

Shri K. Santhanam: My point of order was not any objection to introducing a new clause in the Bill but it seeks to amend another clause of the original Bill which did not come before the Select Committee. That was my objection.

Mr. Speaker: I did not understand the Honourable Member's point of order in that light. I will just look into it.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U.P.: General): Sir, if the Honourable Minister of Defence wants to proceed with his amendment only if we do not object to it, let me tell him that I for my part do object to it. In the first place, whatever the character of the amendment, he has had ample time to place it before the House earlier. In the second place, I am not much impressed by the argument of uniformity which he has urged. It may be right to allow the relatives of a deceased officer only three months to put forward their claims but a longer period may well be allowed in the case of the other ranks whose relatives will be uneducated and wil not be conversant with the Army Rules and Regulations. No harm will be done if the periods relating to the disposal of claims with regard to property for the Commissioned Officers and other ranks are left as they are in the Bill. I do not see why the period allowed in the case of the other ranks should be reduced even by a day. On the other hand, I feel it is desirable to allow a longer time to the relatives of the other ranks to put forward their claims. I hope therefore that the House will not permit my Honourable friend to put forward his amendment and that if it is allowed to be put forward, it will be rejected.

Mr. Speaker: I find that section 126, which this amendment seeks to amend, is already the subject matter of an amendment in clause 4 of the present Bill. Any way, as the Honourable Minister is not pressing his amendment, I do not think the question arises for decision as to whether the amendment is in order or not. If he wishes to press it, I must, of course, rule that it is in order. As to whether he should press it and the House should accept it, it is for the House to consider. The point that was raised by the Honourab'e Mr. Santhanam was that when we have, an amending Act, you cannot as a general principle, touch, by way of further amendment, any sections which the Bill itself does not cover. I here find that clause 4 seeks to amend section 126 of the Air Force Act which this amendment touches. Therefore technically speaking, it cannot be said to be out of order on the ground that the amending Bill does not touch the original section of the Act. Of course these are general remarks. There are various other considerations for deciding on a particular motion. Sometimes a particular section includes various matters. For example where you give rule-making power, that section includes so many items and so many matters, but because that particular section is touched, it wil not be permissible to move an amendment with reference to powers which are not dealt with in the particular amending Bill. I am making only a general proposition. Any way I understand, the Honourable Minister is not pressing his amendment.

12 Noon

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have already stated that if the House has serious objection, I do not press my amendment, but my only point in putting forward this amendment was to reduce the period in the case of the other ranks also. My Honourable friend Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru has pointed out that it is necessary to give a longer period for the other ranks. I think personally that it will be appreciated by the other ranks if the period is cut down because 12 months is too long a period. It is from that point of view that I have put forward this amendment before this House and I still maintain that if the House has not got any serious objection, this amendment will be appreciated by the other ranks, but in case there is objection, as I have already stated, I would not press my amendment.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): After all this is a Government Bill and it need not be confined to a non-official day. He can call a meeting of the Select Committee and then proceed with the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: That is for the House and the Honourable Minister to decide. Personally, I do not think all that is necessary. He can as well bring forward another small amending Bill, but it appears from the discussion that the implications of sub-clause (5) of section 126 are not quite clear or understood. However, I will not go into the merits of the thing. I will not put this motion before the House now, as the Honourable Minister is not pressing his amendment.

The question is:

"That clause 2, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: I will put all the clauses together. I find they are not controversial.

The question is:

"That clauses 3 to 6, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 3 to 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed"

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

DENTISTS BILL—*concld.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion by the Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur namely:

"That the Bill to regulate the profession of dentistry, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

I understand discussion on the Bill was over by a closure motion yesterday.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): Sir, I am grateful to the House for the favourable reception that they have given to this measure. There were three or four points raised during the debate to which I think I ought to reply.

There were some Members who objected to there being two Registers—Part A and Part B. In presenting the Bill before the House, I have already given my reasons for this very essential measure because it is impossible for us to raise the standards of this profession if those who are not fully qualified are allowed to go on one Register. There were others who wanted not to have Register B at all, for the reason that none of those who had not got the requisite qualifications should practise. That also, in my opinion, would be an injustice. Therefore I think that the method that we have adopted in this Bill of having two Registers—Parts A and B—is the best course that we could possibly have adopted; it does injustice to nobody and it does allow us to proceed with raising the standards of the profession, regulating it and providing training etc. straightaway, and will also enable us in the future for arrangements for reciprocal recognition with foreign countries.

There is also some measure of confusion in regard to Parts I, II and III of the Schedule. I would like to turn the attention of the Members to Section 10 of the Bill in which it is made perfectly clear why the Schedule has been divided into three sections. It does not for one moment mean that those who come under Part I only shall be put on to the Register A; the division had to be made simply because of foreign countries.

Then one Honourable Member objected to the fact that in the Schedule there are names of many more foreign Dental Universities and very few of India. The real fact of the matter is that we have not got these Colleges in India, and the recognition that has been given to all these in this Schedule has been carefully looked into—many of the dentists practising in India today have actually got qualifications from these institutions. Moreover, it will be within the powers of the Dental Council, if the present institutions do not come up to standard in the future, to delete them from the Schedule and to put in any others that may come up to standard—as for example, two of which have been mentioned by members in their speeches, namely the City Dental College of Calcutta and the American Dental College in Madras. These two have not been included in the Schedule simply because the Provincial Governments have not recognised them and objected to their recognition and it would not be right to go against the opinion of the Provincial Governments in this matter. As far as the Karachi Dental College is concerned, I have made further enquiries and find that it has been recognised from its inception; so also the Calcutta Dental College.

I want to assure Honourable Members that the Health Department will do all in its power to provide for schemes for the institution of Dental Colleges everywhere. It is a very necessary thing and until we do have proper training facilities for our students, we will not be able to have the requisite number of dentists in our country.

I do not think that there were any more points that were raised which need any answer. I am glad that the Bill has been favourably received and I hope that it will be passed now as amended.

One thing I would like to ask you, Sir, before we take up the amendments, and that is in order to save the time of the House. There are several amendments which refer simply to spelling errors, or just "and's", or other conjunctions, prepositions or commas. Those might be referred to the draftsmen so that the time of the House might not be wasted.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): May I submit, Sir, that the doubt which I expressed with regard to Section 2 has not been cleared? That section as it stands precludes a dentist.....

Mr. Speaker: There is no further opportunity now. When clause 2 is put to the House the Honourable Member may ask that question.

The question is:

"That the Bill to regulate the profession of dentistry, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Before we proceed with the clause-by-clause stage, we must clarify the ground as regards the large number of amendments some of which are tabled by our friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad—perhaps the largest number, from the point of view of corrections of mistakes in punctuation and amendments of a verbal character. I find that more than 240 amendments are included in all these three lists and even if we are to take half a minute to dispose of as to whether a particular amendment should or should not be there, it would mean a lot of time. So I was just considering as to whether the Chair should exercise its power of selecting amendments. As far as possible, I do not propose to exercise that power but I think we can come to some conclusion by agreement. We will refer to them as and when the amendments are reached.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad has got a number of amendments. Which particular one would he like to move? As I stated, so far as punctuation or spelling mistakes are concerned, it will be a matter which will go to the draftsmen as

[Mr. Speaker]

it ought to go. Even during discussion of the last Bill, I said that and I did carry out the promise and send to the draftsmen those amendments for scrutiny and acceptance wherever necessary, because these will be matters which will be patent on the face of the Bill. And I have informed him and also the House that so far as there remain any patent mistakes, the Chair has got the authority of correcting those mistakes even when the final copy of the Bill comes to him for signing for assent. The power is something like,—if I may use an analogy—the power of a judge, who after having signed even a judgment is competent to correct patent mistakes. If the judgment says two and two is three, the judge can as well strike it out and say it is four. So mistakes of that type need not be brought in here by way of amendments. That power is there and I shall exercise it. With this background in mind, let us examine all the amendments before the House.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, may I suggest that as the amendments have been for some time before the House and before the Department, it would save time if we are told which amendments the Departments consider to be acceptable. Agreed amendments can then be moved. As regards punctuations, as you have already pointed out, much depends upon some punctuations. Some punctuations may alter the sense unconsciously. There are some amendments of that type, but in regard to patent mistakes, they can be corrected by you. But I beg to submit that in view of the large number of mistakes that occasionally occur in Bills, it is better that the House should have some knowledge of the extent to which mistakes are committed. The difficulty really is that these mistakes at all come before the members.

Mr. Speaker: That will defeat the very object of the suggestion I was making. If all these little things are to come before the House, then of course it means that the House has to waste its time. To my mind, it is a definite waste of time to go into these mistakes, because, as I said last time, I am not quite sure whether the printer will not again repeat those mistakes. If therefore, there is a change in the wording, say, for example, 'and' to be substituted for 'or', or a changed word should be added, or something like that, in those cases, amendments may be moved but any changes of punctuation or of spelling corrections or conversion of small letters into capital letters or capital letters into small ones—all these, I do not propose to allow. That is my reaction and with a view to achieve the common object of the Honourable Member and the House, I made the suggestion that such amendment should be dealt with outside the House. While inside the House, we shall only deal with substantial amendments. That is the general line. I cannot rule for each and every amendment, because each will have to be judged on its own merits and facts.

Now, as far as the Honourable Member, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad's amendments are concerned, he has supplied me with a list of amendments which are not of a substantial character and which fall in the category of correction of patent mistakes.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I do not move them, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Then there are amendments with reference to the words "punished" and "punishable".

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: These, Sir, will have to be considered because the House has changed its mind.

Mr. Speaker: In that case, we shall do one thing. We shall take up one amendment, have a debate on that and then that will decide the fate of the other amendments.

Then there are other amendments relating to punctuation which are not of a purely drafting nature. They need not be taken up.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: But the difficulty there, Sir, is as you have pointed out on previous occasions, with regard to a comma, the effect may not be exactly punctuation but it may alter the sense.

Mr. Speaker: If there are any punctuation amendments of that type, we shall take them up and omit the rest.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): May I just interrupt for a minute, Sir? The Chair's ruling is perfectly all right, that in such small matters the time of the House must not be taken up. But may I ask why is it that mistakes either of punctuation or of any kind at all is allowed to creep in into the draft?

Mr. Speaker: As I said, I do not propose to allow any mistakes. If I could get accurate work of the type the Honourable Member means, I am not going to say "No, you should not be accurate", but in the situation in which we are today we find that we are practically helpless. That is the whole difficulty. We must face realities. That is the point.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, may I make a suggestion? The Honourable Minister should give us an idea of the amendments which she would be prepared to accept. That would save time.

Mr. Speaker: Has she got such a list? If so, and if a copy is given to me, I shall call upon the Honourable Member to move only those which she is willing to accept.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in part (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, for the inverted commas and the words 'the Council', the inverted commas and the word 'Council', be substituted."

Sir, with regard to this amendment I have some submissions to make. In fact, the Honourable Minister proposes to accept it, but probably in view of certain considerations, it may be necessary to reconsider the matter and have a wider amendment.

Sir, the point that I wish to make with regard to this amendment is this. In the Bill, there are a large number of words with the common word "Council". There is the "Medical Council of India" in Clause 3(b); there is the "Council of Medical Registration" in Clause 21(b); there is again the "Dental Council of India" in Clause 4; then there is the "Provincial Council" in Clause 21; then there is the "Joint Provincial Council" in Clause 22(a). Thus we have got so many "Councils". The Bill makes a reference to the Provincial Council as the "Provincial Council", but with regard to the Dental Council of India, the nomenclature proposed in the Bill is "the Council". I wanted to make it merely "Council". "The" cannot be part of the name; it is an article.

But, Sir, I beg to submit that even the word "Council" will create confusion. We have so many Councils that there is a confusion in certain clauses where it is said, for instance, that "the Provincial will refer a matter to the Council", *i.e.* to the "All-India Council". My submission is that this should be described as the "Central Council".

Mr. Speaker: The point is that the Honourable Minister states that she is accepting this amendment. The Honourable Member wishes her to accept No. 3.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I will not accept No. 3, because, in my opinion the Council is already given here as meaning the Dental Council of India and I do not think that the Central Council would be adequate.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Let us take an example: In sub-clause (2) of clause 16 it is stated:

"On receipt of the explanation, or where no explanation is submitted within the period fixed, then on the expiry of the period, the Provincial Government shall after consulting the Provincial Council, forward its recommendations and those of the Provincial Council, if any, to the Council."

This is inartistic. If you say 'Central Council,' I think it will look much better. Could we say the 'Provincial Government' refers to the 'Government', meaning the 'Central Government'. Why do we say 'Central Government' at all if the word 'Government' would suit our purpose. It seems to be grossly tautological to use words in this way. I think the word 'Council' and 'Provincial Council' and 'other councils' may lead to inconvenience, if not to actual confusion.

There lived a couple and there was some noise outside; the husband wanted to know what the noise was about. The wife said: "My dear, your children and my children are quarelling with our children." So the word 'Council' is used like that and I therefore beg to submit that the word 'Central Council' would be better.

Shri K. Santhanam (Maddas: General): I do not think the point raised by the Honourable Member is relevant. It is only a making of definition. The Council is an All India Council. I do not see why the Honourable Member wishes to add one hundred words to this Bill.

Mr. Speaker: He has made his statement. I do not think there need be any long arguments over such points now.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, the amendment of the Honourable Member if accepted, would require extensive alteration of the Bill. The 'Council' referred to is the All India Dental Council, and therefore, I think this is not a proper amendment, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member does not know that I am proceeding on the assumption that such of the amendments as are of a verbal character which are accepted by the Honourable Minister should be placed before this House. This amendment I am told, is accepted by the Honourable Minister. What is the position?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I consulted the draftsman about it and he said I could accept this amendment. If there are consequential changes we will make the necessary alterations.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, this is not a question between the Honourable Mover and the Honourable Member who moves the amendment. The whole thing is before the House and I think that this amendment is quite unnecessary and would defeat the very object of the Mover of the amendment and I fear if it is accepted, the whole Bill shall have to be altered. Sub-clause 2 of clause 16 is absolutely clear. The 'provincial Council' as opposed to 'the council' has got a different meaning and the amendment has not made the meaning clear. I do not understand how tautology comes in. The definition given here has got an exact meaning.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I withdraw my acceptance of the amendment as the majority opinion seems to be that the clause should remain as it is.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: This places me in a very difficult position. I had given certain amendments and there was an agreement.

Mr. Speaker: So far as this particular amendment is concerned, I shall put it to the House.

The question is:

"That in part (a) of clause 2, of the Bill, for the inverted commas and the words 'the Council', the inverted commas and the word 'Council', be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I am sorry, Sir. I was called by the Defence Minister. I apologize to you and to the House for my absence. The point that I made out yesterday was that sub-clause (d) of clause 2 seemed defective and I find from the list of amendments that my Honourable friend, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava had given notice of an amendment, which I think has since been withdrawn. This refers to the tail end of clause 2(d) (iv) which reads: "and the performance of any such operation and the giving of any such treatment, advice or attendance, as is usually performed or given by dentist". Sir, it is not defined what advice and what treatment is given by dentists. I consider that this tail end had better be deleted, because it does not make any addition to the meaning of the definition of dentistry. The other point was that a dentist can be a 'dental hygienist' and a 'dental mechanic' but not *vice versa*. Hygienists and mechanics cannot be dentists. So if we would define dentistry, it would be that it includes the following, besides what is in sub-clauses (b) and (c). Then it would be clearly defined and not partially as is sought to be done in clause 2(d). I would therefore request the Honourable Minister to tell us what is exactly meant by dentistry and why these words at the tail-end of 2(d) (iv) have been inserted.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I had tabled an amendment in the belief that these words "and the performance of any such operation" etc. were vague, but when these words were explained to me by the Honourable Minister and a very distinguished authority for whom I have great respect, I came to the conclusion that my amendment was not justified. If the Honourable member reads sub-clause (iv) with some attention he will find that the speech which he made yesterday is answered by these last words which appear here read with the previous three lines. Besides the things mentioned here there are many other matters which a practitioner of dentistry has to do. For instance, he has to give advice as regards the prevention of disease in future. That will have nothing to do with "fitting, inserting," etc. Therefore my humble submission is that the definition, though it would appear vague in the last three lines, would not be inclusive of all matters which are dealt with by dentists as such, if these words are not included.

As regards the other objection, the word "includes" in sub-clause (d) shows that dentistry is not confined to these three or four matters alone which are mentioned under the definition of dentistry. A practitioner of dentistry would certainly be able to act as dental hygienist or dental mechanic. Therefore I think the words as they are in the definition are quite right.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That for part (c) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following be substituted:
'(c) not more than four members elected from among themselves, by the heads of dental colleges in the Provinces of India which grant recognised dental qualifications'."

I have attempted to recast the language and I understand this is acceptable to the Honourable Minister. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That for part (c) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'(c) not more than four members elected from among themselves, by the heads of dental colleges in the Provinces of India which grant recognised dental qualifications'."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in part (e) of clause 3 of the Bill, for the words 'who is', the words 'from persons', be substituted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (e) of clause 3 of the Bill, for the words 'who is', the words 'from persons', be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in part (f) of clause 3 of the Bill, before each of the words 'one' and 'two', the words 'at least', be inserted."

This is necessary to make it clear that the Governments are not bound to nominate only one of such persons.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (f) of clause 3 of the Bill, before each of the words 'one' and 'two', the words 'at least', be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in part (f) of clause 3 of the Bill, for the word 'practising', the words 'practising as a dentist', be substituted."

The word "practising" in the third line of sub-clause (f) does not state what he is supposed to be practising,—law or medicine or dentistry or anything else. He should obviously be practising as a dentist; the point should be made clear. Sir, I move.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I submit that in this clause it can mean nothing except the practice of dentistry.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I do not press the amendment.

Sir, I move:

"That in part (f) of clause 3 of the Bill, the commas occurring after the words 'practising' in line three and 'dentists' in line four, be omitted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (f) of clause 3 of the Bill, the commas occurring after the words 'practising' in line three and 'dentists' in line four, be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That to clause 3 of the Bill, the following proviso be added :

'Provided that pending the preparation of registers the Provincial Governments may nominate to the first Council members referred to in parts (a) and (e) and the Central Government members referred to in part (f) out of persons who are eligible for registration in the respective registers and such persons shall hold office for such period as the Provincial or Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette specify'."

The object of this amendment is to be enable the Central and Provincial Governments to bring into being the Dental Councils without waiting for the procedure for filling up the registers. It will take some time to prepare the registers as there may be complaints, there may be tribunals of all kinds and disputes, and it may take six months or one or two years. It is not desirable that the Act should wait for the preparation of registers before the Councils are brought into being. My amendment gives powers for this.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That to clause 3 of the Bill, the following proviso be added :

'Provided that pending the preparation of registers the Provincial Governments may nominate to the first Council members referred to in parts (a) and (e) and the Central Government members referred to in part (f) out of persons who are eligible for registration in the respective registers and such persons shall hold office for such period as the Provincial or Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette specify'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, the words and figure 'constituted under section 3', be omitted."

The passage is: "The Council constituted under section 3 shall be a body corporate by the name of the Dental Council of India,.....". It is a Council which is constituted under Section 3 and from its very definition this is implied. The words are unnecessary.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, the words and figure 'constituted under section 3', be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, for the words 'acquire and hold property', the words 'acquire, hold and transfer property', be substituted."

The power to transfer property should be given. That has not been given in the Bill. I want to make it clear that they can acquire and hold as well as transfer property subject to conditions. But the power to transfer is not given. It cannot be implied. It may be necessary that some properties moveable and immoveable may have to be sold or transferred or disposed of in some way.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would beg to point out that even as the clause stands, the Council will be competent to transfer property. Therefore, the amendment is not necessary.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: In that case I do not press for it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 5, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I do not wish to move my amendment but I wish to point out that sub-clause (3) of clause 6 is very roundabout in expression. I had no time to consider its redrafting and that is why I gave notice for its deletion just to draw attention to it. I hope the Honourable Minister will read it and just satisfy herself that it is rendered in plain English.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have considered it and it is necessary to retain the provision contained in sub-clause (3).

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The wording!

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: You mean "longer"? Any change here would be completely wrong.

Mr. Speaker: He merely wishes to invite the Honourable Minister's attention to sub-clause (3) of Clause 6.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It is necessary to retain these provisions in sub-clause (3).

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 6, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in the second proviso to sub-clause (1) of clause 7 of the Bill, for the words 'at the pleasure' the words 'during the pleasure', be substituted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in the second proviso to sub-clause (1) of clause 7 of the Bill, for the words 'at the pleasure' the words 'during the pleasure', be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 8 of the Bill, for the words 'if deemed expedient', the words 'if so decided by the Council', be substituted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 8 of the Bill, for the words 'if deemed expedient', the words 'if so decided by the Council', be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 8 of the Bill, the comma occurring after the word 'Secretary', be omitted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 8 of the Bill, the comma occurring after the word 'Secretary', be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That to part (c) of sub-clause (1) of clause 8 of the Bill, the word 'and' be added at the end."

It is only a drafting amendment.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That to part (c) of sub-clause (1) of clause 8 of the Bill, the word 'and' be added at the end."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (d) of sub-clause (1) of clause 8 of the Bill, for the words 'and members', the words 'and other members', be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (d) of sub-clause (1) of clause 8 of the Bill, for the words 'and members', the words 'and other members', be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

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

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I beg to move:

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 10, of the Bill, the following be added at the end :

'but shall not entitle persons other than British subjects of Indian domicile to registration unless by the law and practice of the State or country to which such persons belong, persons of Indian origin holding dental qualifications registrable in that State or country are permitted to enter and practise the profession of dentistry in such State or country'."

Sir, this is merely to stop people, other than Indians, from coming and taking qualifications here and practising, regardless of the fact whether we have reciprocal recognition with their State or not.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 10, of the Bill, the following be added at the end :

'but shall not entitle persons other than British subjects of Indian domicile to registration unless by the law and practice of the State or country to which such persons belong, persons of Indian origin holding dental qualifications registrable in that State or country are permitted to enter and practise the profession of dentistry in such State or country'."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 10 of the Bill, after the word 'Government', the words 'and the Provincial Council', be inserted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 10 of the Bill, after the word 'Government', the words 'and the Provincial Council', be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I move:

"That in sub-clause (5) of clause 10 of the Bill, for the words 'any State' in line 6, the words 'any such State', be substituted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (5) of clause 10 of the Bill, for the words 'any State' in line 6, the words 'any such State', be substituted."

The motion was adopted

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I move:

"That in sub-clause (5) of clause 10 of the Bill, the words 'outside India', be omitted."

They are implied already.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The amendment is acceptable.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (5) of clause 10 of the Bill, the words 'outside India', be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 10, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10 as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: I move:

"That in clause 11 of the Bill, after the word 'Government' the words 'and the Provincial Council', be inserted."

The wording "*or* the Provincial Council" in the printed list is a mistake. It should be "and the Provincial Council".

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 11 of the Bill, after the word 'Government' the words 'and the Provincial Council', be inserted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept that.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 11 of the Bill, after the word 'Government' the words 'and the Provincial Council', be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: With regard to clause 12 I only desire to draw the attention of the House to the rather indiscriminate use of the word "prescribe". It has been a custom to use it for all possible purposes and the tendency was pronounced in recent Bills. I simply register my protest against the free use of this word, but I do not wish to move my amendment.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: May I bring to the notice of the Honourable Member that the word has been defined in clause 2(g)?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: It has been rather too freely defined. That is my point.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 12, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I beg to move:

"That in clause 13 of the Bill, the word 'other', occurring in line 2, be omitted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept that.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 13 of the Bill, the word 'other', occurring in line 2, be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 13, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I beg to move:

"That in clause 14 of the Bill, the words 'from time to time' be omitted."

Under the General Clauses Act, if any power or authority is given to anybody, whoever he might be, he may exercise power from time to time as occasion may arise. This is the explanation in the General Clauses Act. We have already accepted deletion of these words in the consideration of other Bills and in order to maintain uniformity I suggest that these words be deleted. They are not necessary.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: May I say that 'from time to time' makes it quite clear that the Council can call for information at any time?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I do not deny that. The only reason for my amendment is it is not necessary to use those words by reason of the General Clauses Act.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am not accepting it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 14, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14 was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: I request your permission, Sir, to move my two amendments together. I beg to move:

"(1) That in sub-clause (1) of clause 15 of the Bill, after the word 'attend', the word 'at', be inserted"; and

"(2) That in sub-clause (2) of clause 15 of the Bill, after the word 'examination', where it occurs for the second time, the word 'at', be inserted."

There was a dispute as to the meaning of the words 'attending an examination' and 'attending at an examination' in the Pharmacy Bill and it was decided that "attend at" does not actually mean attending an examination, and inspectors are not expected to attend examinations.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"(1) That in sub-clause (1) of clause 15 of the Bill, after the word 'attend', the word 'at', be inserted"; and

"(2) That in sub-clause (2) of clause 15 of the Bill, after the word 'examination', where it occurs for the second time, the word 'at', be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 15, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 15, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri C. Subramaniam (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this clause relates to the withdrawal of recognition, that is an authority or institution is already recognized to grant qualifications in dentistry or dental hygiene, and subsequently if it is found that the institution or authority does not maintain

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

a certain standard, or if it does not satisfy the requirements of the Council, this clause empowers the Council to withdraw the recognition, and the procedure is laid down in clause 16. What I want to impress upon the House is this. Once having been recognized, if subsequently any deficiency or defects are found in the standard maintained by the institution or authority an opportunity should be given to the institution or authority to remedy the defects so that it can either raise the standard or if there is any defect pointed out, it can be rectified. So I want that an opportunity should be given to the institution so that it may rectify defects if there are any, and if within a specified time those defects are not remedied to the satisfaction of the Council, then alone recognition should be withdrawn. It is only with that object in view that I gave notice of an amendment. But even under the clause as it stands I feel, the Council may call upon an institution to remedy defects, and grant time for that purpose but it is not obligatory upon the Council to do so. So in framing the rules this may be kept in view, that whenever recognition is to be withdrawn, an institution or authority should be given an opportunity to rectify those defects, and if it is not done within a prescribed time, then alone recognition should be withdrawn. It is only for that purpose I wanted to move my amendment, but it could be done even by the rules or regulations to be framed under the Act.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I do not think the Honourable Member need have any fear in regard to that because it is obvious that those from whom the Council would wish to withdraw recognition will have ample time and opportunity to put their house in order.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 16, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 17, 18 and 19 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move.

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 20 of the Bill, for the words 'consistent with this Act', the words 'not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act', be substituted."

Sir, the amendment which I seek to introduce is the ordinary way and, I submit, the universal way of putting it. A thing "not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act" is wider, and a thing which is "consistent with the Act" is not so wide. That is why I wanted to move this amendment. The clause appears like this:

"The Council may, with the approval of the Central Government, make regulations consistent with this Act to carry out the purposes of this Chapter."

The usual term is "not inconsistent with this Act". So far as I know this has been the universal practice—in fact it makes a difference, it is not a drafting change only. In fact, with the amendment which I have submitted, the power would be wider: without the amendment and with the clause as it stands, the power would be restricted. In these circumstances I submit this amendment should be accepted.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 20 of the Bill, for the words 'consistent with this Act', the words 'not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act' be substituted."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, here we are giving power to make rules under this Act. There may be many things which may not be inconsistent, that is they may be irrelevant—directly they may not be in conflict but they may not be appropriate to the subject matter on hand. Therefore you must not only be not inconsistent but consistent to the provisions of this Act. You may bring in provisions for the dental surgery of animals. What is all this? That may be "not inconsistent",—you must have something relevant, you are giving power into the hands of the authority. He must do things relevant to the subject matter of this Bill. Therefore I do not understand why you should change the word "consistent" into a negative aspect of "not inconsistent".

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I think in this point Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad is correct and inspite of the legal knowledge of Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad's amendment is wider. Sometimes it may be difficult to know whether it is exactly consistent or slightly outside the scope of consistency, but so long as it is not inconsistent it should be possible to bring them in.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): Sir, I think the way in which Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad has put this amendment is quite in consonance with such provisions in other legislative measures. It is the usual practice in legislation to put such a thing in the negative—we have got plenty of instances. I think that the amendment serves the purpose better than the original draft.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I had not accepted the amendment in the first instance because I thought the change was unnecessary. If the majority opinion in the House is in favour of it I would waive my opposition and accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think I am expected to express my opinion. Ordinarily the phraseology used is "not inconsistent with" and not "consistent with". I do not know why in this particular Act, it has been used like this. If nothing more, the better phraseology will be, with due deference to our friend Mr. Ayyangar, "not inconsistent with".

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We have been doing negative things in the previous Government, let us do something positive now.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 20 of the Bill, for the words 'consistent with this Act', the words 'not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 20, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 20, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That after part (d) of clause 21 of the Bill, the word 'and' be added."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I accept it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That after part (d) of clause 21 of the Bill, the word 'and' be added."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 21, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 21, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 22 of the Bill, for the words 'a Provincial Council', the words 'the Provincial Council' be substituted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I would accept this amendment. "The Provincial Council" is better than "a Provincial Council" because each Province can only have one Council.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 22 of the Bill, for the words 'a Provincial Council', the words 'the Provincial Council' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 22, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 22, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 23, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 24 of the Bill, the words 'both movable and immovable', be omitted."

The reason why I move this is not that I do not agree that there should be power with regard to movables and immovables, but if we use the word "property" movables and immovables are implied. In fact the words "movable and immovable" have not been used in a similar context in other Bills, where power has been taken for disposal of property etc. That would exclude also incorporial rights. "Property" is quite enough.

3 P.M.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not know what the feeling of the House is, but I was told that the deletion of these words was unnecessary and that similar wording is used in other Acts.

Mr. Speaker: Are not similar words used in this Act itself?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I shall tell you in a minute, Sir. Yes, Sir. It is used in Clause 4.

Mr. Speaker: So let the expression remain there. I am not putting the amendment to the House.

The question is:

"That clause 24, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 24 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in the proviso to sub-clause (1) of clause 25 of the Bill, for the words 'at the pleasure', the words 'during the pleasure' be substituted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept that, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in the proviso to sub-clause (1) of clause 25 of the Bill, for the words 'at the pleasure', the words 'during the pleasure' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 25, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 25, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 26 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 27 of the Bill, for the words 'the seat of such member', the words 'his seat' be substituted."

The text says: "the seat of such member shall thereupon become vacant" I may explain, Sir. If we say "his seat" it means the "seat of such member". I want to effect some economy of words.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not think it is necessary, Sir.

The present wording is clearer.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Then I do not press. I have another amendment, which is going to be accepted. Sir, I beg to move:

"That for sub-clause (3) of clause 27 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'(3) An elected or nominated member shall be deemed to have vacated his seat—

(a) if he is absent without excuse, sufficient in the opinion of the Provincial Council, from three consecutive ordinary meetings of the Provincial Council, or

(b) in the case of a member whose name is required to be included in any Provincial register, if his name is removed from the register, or

(c) where he has been elected under clause (d) of section 21 or under clause (d) of section 23, if he ceases to be a member of the Medical Council or the Council of Medical Registration of the Province as the case may be'."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept this amendment, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That for sub-clause (3) of clause 27 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'(3) An elected or nominated member shall be deemed to have vacated his seat—

(a) if he is absent without excuse, sufficient in the opinion of the Provincial Council, from three consecutive ordinary meetings of the Provincial Council, or

(b) in the case of a member whose name is required to be included in any Provincial register, if his name is removed from the register, or

(c) where he has been elected under clause (d) of section 21 or under clause (d) of section 23, if he ceases to be a member of the Medical Council or the Council of Medical Registration of the Province as the case may be'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 27, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 27, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 28 of the Bill, for the words 'if deemed expedient', the words 'if so decided by the Provincial Council' be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 28 of the Bill, for the words 'if deemed expedient', the words 'if so decided by the Provincial Council' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Might I just say one thing, Sir? Now that 124 is adopted, if (a) is recast as follows, that would meet amendment No. 125 also:

"appoint a Registrar who shall act as its Secretary, and if so directed by the Provincial Council, also as its Treasurer."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: That is my amendment No. 125. This recasting will satisfy me, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Both are practically the same?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The point strikes me as a procedural point. I think in view of form of the amendment will have to be a little different. I think in view of the fact that Item 124 is already accepted by the House, we shall have to make an amendment of the subsequent portions only, *i.e.*, instead of the words "treasurer of the Provincial Council" substitute the words "also as its treasurer".

The difficulty which I was experiencing was that amendment No. 124 having been carried by the House, I could not change it. So that amendment

[Mr. Speaker]

stands as it is, and the subsequent amendment deals with further points which are not covered by the first amendment, so that when the subsequent amendment as changed by me is accepted by the House, the clause will read as follows:

"28. (a) appoint a Registrar who shall act as its Secretary, and if so decided by the Provincial Council, also as its Treasurer.'

The Honourable Minister will see that the phraseology "if so decided by the Provincial Council" has already been accepted by the House in the previous amendment.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 28 of the Bill, for the words 'Treasurer, of the Provincial Council', the words 'also as its treasurer' be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 28 of the Bill, for the words 'Treasurer, of the Provincial Council', the words 'also as its treasurer' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in parts (c) and (d) of sub-clause (1) of clause 28 of the Bill, for the word 'Secretary', the word 'Registrar' be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in parts (c) and (d) of sub-clause (1) of clause 28 of the Bill, for the word 'Secretary', the word 'Registrar' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move that in part (e) of sub-clause

. . . . .

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: May I point out that there must be a printing mistake here. It should really read: "fix the rate of allowances payable to members" instead of "rates and allowances". It is just a printing error.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: If it is a printing mistake it is within your jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker: It is not in my jurisdiction in that way.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It soundbe "fix the rate of allowances payable to members".

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 28 of the Bill, for the words 'fix the rates and allowances', the words 'fix the rate of allowances' be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 28 of the Bill, for the words 'fix the rates and allowances', the words 'fix the rate of allowances' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 28 of the Bill, the words 'who shall hold office during the pleasure of the Provincial Government' be omitted."

These words are not necessary in view of the General Clauses Act.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I cannot accept this amendment.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Under the General Clauses Act many words which should be written out have been held by virtue of the said Act to the deemed to have been incorporated in the text. This is a drafting device. They are unnecessary in view of the General Clauses Act. In fact if there is any power of appointment the power of dismissal and suspension is implied and therefore that is not necessary.

Section 16 of the General Clauses Act upon which I rely reads thus.

"Where by any Central Act or Regulation a power to make any appointment is conferred then, unless a different intention appears, the authority having for the time being the power to make the appointment shall also have the power to suspend or dismiss a person appointed by itself or by any other authority in exercise of that power."

The power of removal is given along with the power of appointment. In this view of the matter these words are not necessary.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I think the deletion of the words is unnecessary.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I do not press the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 28, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 28, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 29 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 30 of the Bill, the words 'from time to time' be omitted."

Section 14 of the General Clauses Act says:

"Where by any Central Act or Regulation made after the commencement of this Act any power is conferred then, unless a different intention appears, that power may be exercised from time to time as occasion requires."

This section has been cited before in connection with other Bills and the point was accepted. Although we have retained these words here in certain places it is not necessary that they should be retained here for the sake of consistency. I think the General Clauses Act should be respected and I find that the framers of our draft Constitution have also accepted it. So in view of the recognition of the efficacy and impportance of this Act I think we may delete these words as being unnecessary. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: If in the same measure, the same words have been retained in some places and they are not used in other places, there is likelihood of confusion and enough material for lawyers to argue. So I need not put it to the House.

The question is:

"That clause 30, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 30 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move.

"That in sub-clause (4) (d) of clause 31 of the Bill, after the words 'professional address', and the semicolon, the word 'and' be inserted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (4) (d) of clause 31 of the Bill, after the words 'professional address', and the semicolon, the word 'and' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 31 as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 31, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 32 was added to the Bill.

Shri Khurshed Lal (U.P.: General): Sir, I move.

"That the words 'in any Province of India', occurring in part (b) of sub-clause (1) and in sub-clause (2), of clause 33 of the Bill, be omitted."

The object of the amendment is that at present we have got a large number of people who have come here from West Punjab and other portions of Pakistan, among whom there are some who have been practising dentistry. And if we have those words "in any province of India" they will be excluded because

they have not practised for five years in any province of India as it exists today. The intention therefore is that refugee dentists should be allowed to practise and be put on the register. Sir, I move.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the words 'in any Province of India', occurring in part (b) of sub-clause (1) and in sub-clause (2), of clause 33 of the Bill, be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I beg to move:

"That for the first Proviso to sub-clause (1) of clause 33 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'Provided that no person other than a British subject of Indian domicile shall be entitled to registration by virtue of a qualification :

(a) specified in Part I of the Schedule unless by the law and practice of the State or Country to which such person belongs persons of Indian origin holding dental qualifications registrable in that State or Country are permitted to enter and practise the profession of dentistry in such State or Country, or

(b) specified in Part II of the Schedule unless the Council has, in pursuance of a scheme of reciprocity, declared that qualification to be a recognized dental qualification'."

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That for the first Proviso to sub-clause (1) of clause 33 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'Provided that no person other than a British subject of Indian domicile shall be entitled to registration by virtue of a qualification :

(a) specified in Part I of the Schedule unless by the law and practice of the State or Country to which such person belongs persons of Indian origin holding dental qualifications registrable in that State or Country are permitted to enter and practise the profession of dentistry in such State or Country, or

(b) specified in Part II of the Schedule unless the Council has, in pursuance of a scheme of reciprocity, declared that qualification to be a recognized dental qualification'."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, with regard to this amendment I have a suggestion to make, if you will permit me to do so. There are three provisos to this sub-clause. While at the end of the first proviso you find a full-stop, at the end of the second proviso there is a colon. I suggest that there should be a colon after the first proviso, because the sentence runs on. However, as this is a matter of punctuation, I leave it to you.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That for the first Proviso to sub-clause (1) of clause 33 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'Provided that no person other than a British subject of Indian domicile shall be entitled to registration by virtue of a qualification :

(a) specified in Part I of the Schedule unless by the law and practice of the State or Country to which such person belongs persons of Indian origin holding dental qualifications registrable in that State or Country are permitted to enter and practise the profession of dentistry in such State or Country, or

(b) specified in Part II of the Schedule unless the Council has, in pursuance of a scheme of reciprocity, declared that qualification to be a recognized dental qualification'."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in the third Proviso to sub-clause (1) of clause 33 of the Bill, the following be added at the end :

'if he had been registered on or before 31st December 1947'."

Sir, as a result of this amendment persons who are registered under the Bengal Dentists Act have to pay fees to the Dental Council for registration, if they are registered after the 31st December 1947. If the amendment were not there such people will not contribute at all to the Dental Council.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in the third Proviso to sub-clause (1) of clause 33 of the Bill, the following be added at the end :

'if he had been registered on or before 31st December 1947'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 33 of the Bill, the words 'or more than five' be omitted."

Sir, the words "for a period of five years" is already provided in line two. I shall read that sentence. "A person domiciled in a Province of India shall be entitled on payment of the prescribed fee to temporary registration as a dentist for a period of five years,....."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am not accepting this amendment. You will see that in the amendment immediately following I am agreeing to the substitution of the words "or more than five years before" by the words "years during the five years prior to".

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Then I am not pressing my amendment.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 33 of the Bill, for the words 'or more than five years before', the words 'years during the five years prior to' be substituted."

The idea of my amendment is, to make it obligatory that those people who are asking for temporary registration should have worked for not only two years, but also two years within the previous five years. It is not enough if they had practised two years a generation before the date of registration. They would have forgotten all knowledge of dentistry.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 33 of the Bill, for the words 'or more than five years before', the words 'years during the five years prior to' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 33, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 33, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (ii) of clause 34 of the Bill, the words 'in any Province of India', be omitted."

Sir, this is a consequential amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (ii) of clause 34 of the Bill, the words 'in any Province of India', be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I beg to move:

"That for the first Proviso to clause 34 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'Provided that no person other than a British subject of Indian domicile shall be entitled to registration by virtue of a qualification :

(a) specified in Part I of the Schedule unless by the law and practice of the State or Country to which such person belongs persons of Indian origin holding dental qualifications registrable in that State or Country are permitted to enter and practise the profession of dentistry in such State or Country, or

(b) specified in Part II of the Schedule unless the Council has, in pursuance of a scheme of reciprocity, declared that qualification to be a recognized dental qualification'."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That for the first Proviso to clause 34 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'Provided that no person other than a British subject of Indian domicile shall be entitled to registration by virtue of a qualification :

(a) specified in Part I of the Schedule unless by the law and practice of the State or Country to which such person belongs persons of Indian origin holding dental qualifications registrable in that State or Country are permitted to enter and practise the profession of dentistry in such State or Country, or

(b) specified in Part II of the Schedule unless the Council has, in pursuance of a scheme of reciprocity, declared that qualification to be a recognized dental qualification'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 34, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 34, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That to sub-clause (2) of clause 35 of the Bill, for the existing proviso the following proviso be substituted :

'Provided that no person, whose name has under the provisions of this Act been removed from the register of any Province, shall be entitled to have his name entered on the register except with the approval of the Provincial Council from whose register his name was removed'."

This is necessary so that one person debarred in one province may not go to another province and be registered there.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That to sub-clause (2) of clause 35 of the Bill, for the existing proviso the following proviso be substituted :

'Provided that no person, whose name has under the provisions of this Act been removed from the register of any Province, shall be entitled to have his name entered on the register except with the approval of the Provincial Council from whose register his name was removed'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 35, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 35, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 36, 37 and 38 were added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in the Proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 39 of the Bill, for all the words occurring after the words 'on payment' to the end, the words 'in such manner as may be prescribed' be substituted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in the Proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 39 of the Bill, for all the words occurring after the words 'on payment' to the end, the words 'in such manner as may be prescribed' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That sub-clause (4) of clause 39 of the Bill, be omitted."

This is consequential to my other amendment, which has already been accepted.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That sub-clause (4) of clause 39 of the Bill, be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 39, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 39, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 40 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in part (ii) of sub-clause (1) of clause 41 of the Bill, for the word 'offence', the words 'offence involving moral turpitude', be substituted."

We are going to penalise certain registered persons for their being convicted of any offence. The word 'offence' means anything which is made punishable by law. There may be many offences, *e.g.*, a case of simple assault which does not involve any moral turpitude. In principle it is good to penalise a man by removing him from a registered list if he is guilty of any offence involving moral turpitude. Even in the case of Government officers, any and every conviction does not require removal from service. The question of involving moral turpitude is essential. It will save many innocent persons of having been convicted for merely technical offences such as electrical offences motoring offences not involving moral turpitude.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in part (ii) of sub-clause (1) of clause 41 of the Bill, for the word 'offence', the words 'offence involving moral turpitude', be substituted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I cannot accept this amendment. As the clause stands the offence will have to be one which in the opinion of the Provincial Council renders the person unfit to be kept on the register, and this is adequate.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: We have inserted these words in other cases too.

Mr. Speaker: But there can be incompetency without moral turpitude?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: There might for example, be professional misconduct.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (ii) of sub-clause (1) of clause 41 of the Bill, for the word 'offence', the words 'offence involving moral turpitude', be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

Shri Brajeshwar Prashad (Bihar: General): Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 41 of the Bill, for the word 'the', occurring before the word 'person', the word 'any' be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 41 of the Bill, for the word 'the', occurring before the word 'person', the word 'any' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 41, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 41, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 42 to 45 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 46 of the Bill, for the word 'institution', the words 'similar institutions' be substituted."

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

The text of the Bill is to this effect: "In any dispensary, hospital or other institution....." The question is whether 'other institution' includes all other institutions—even institutions not similar to dispensaries and hospitals. I want to make it come into line with the context by saying "similar institutions"—institutions similar to dispensaries, hospitals and other things. It can be argued that the words are to be understood as being similar to these institutions on the principle of *ejusdem generis* but its application is doubtful. It is better to make it absolutely clear I think the word "similar" would remove all doubts and arguments.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not think the amendment is necessary. I think it is quite clear what "other institutions" in the Province mean. They can only be institutions where dentistry is being practised.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 46 of the Bill, for the word 'institution', the words 'similar institutions' be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I beg to move:

"That after sub-clause (4) of clause 46 of the Bill, the following new sub-clause be added:

'(5) Any person who is a registered dentist, registered dental hygienist, or registered dental mechanic in a Province may practise as such in any other Province'."

It is quite obvious why this clause is added.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That after sub-clause (4) of clause 46 of the Bill, the following new sub-clause be added:

'(5) Any person who is a registered dentist, registered dental hygienist, or registered dental mechanic in a Province may practise as such in any other Province'."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I want to say a word about this clause. I have tabled an amendment to give the right to a dentist registered in Part A to give a death certificate, in case of death occurring during his professional service. The definition of dentistry includes the giving of anaesthetic in connection with any operation or treatment. In that case, the dentist must be held responsible for all the consequences of such an operation and if death occurs, then it is but right that he should be allowed to give a death certificate. At the same time the authorities should keep a watch over any death that occurs at the hands of the dentist. It is said that he is not a competent medical practitioner and it is better that he called another medical practitioner to give a death certificate. This will mean that he will escape from the responsibility and somebody else will be responsible I think that the All India Dental Conference should as early as possible consider whether this right should be given to him or not so that the necessary amendment may be inserted.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I also rise to support my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam. Under the law the dentist will be recognised as an expert on the diseases in teeth. It is only fair that while administering anæsthetics if death occurs, he is the only competent person to certify that death has occurred on account of chloroform being given. A medical man who has no knowledge or experience of dentistry will be asked to come and certify in the event of death. The man will be taken to a hospital and asked how the death occurred. In other countries where a similar act exists the dentist is allowed to give a certificate of this nature. I hope the Dental Council when it comes into existence will consider this matter.

I do not understand why the Honourable Minister has not accepted Mr. Santhanam's amendment, which has not been moved. There is likely to be difference of opinion between the medical officer and the dentist. A medical officer who has no experience in dentistry may give an opinion which may be adverse to the opinion of one who knows what he is talking about. Therefore I support the arguments advanced by my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would like to assure Honourable Members that the question will be looked into. I could not possibly accept the amendment just now because it is a matter on which we should consult the provincial governments. The matter can always come up before the Dental Council and can be brought in as an amendment later if necessary.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 46, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 46, as amended was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 47 of the Bill, for the words 'on a register', the words 'in a register', be substituted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 47 of the Bill, for the words 'on a register', the words 'in a register', be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 47 of the Bill, the words 'of the Province' occurring in line 2, and the Proviso to the clause be omitted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 47 of the Bill, the words 'of the Province' occurring in line 2, and the Proviso to the clause be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 47 of the Bill, for the word 'pretends', the word 'represents' be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 47 of the Bill, for the word 'pretends', the word 'represents' be substituted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I have another amendment with regard to the text of this clause. I have suggested the word "declares" in place of the word "pretends". It is for the House to consider whether the word "declares" or "represents" would be more appropriate.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, we have accepted the word "represents" in place of the word "pretends". So this amendment is superfluous.

Mr. Speaker: Both the amendments aim at the same thing. Since the Honourable Minister prefers the word "represents" I shall put that amendment to the House.

The question is:

"That in clause 47 of the Bill, for the word 'pretends', the word 'represents' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 47 of the Bill, for the word 'punishable', the word 'punished', be substituted."

The idea is that if a man is found guilty, he shall be punished. If we say that he shall be punishable it means that he is liable to be punished, which implies in reason and logic that he may or may not be punished. I know that there is discretion on the evidence to find a man guilty or not guilty. But having found a man guilty, the question of punishment comes in automatically, as a matter of course. There is a choice of punishment and the amount of punishment but that is a different matter. I was told on a previous occasion that there is a section in the Criminal Procedure Code which provides that if a convicted man is a first offender, his punishment or rather its execution may be suspended. That does not affect the question whether he shall be punished or may be punished. In fact that is an exception to the Penal Code. But the fact that it is an exception does not affect the general draftsmanship relating to this clause. In addition to that I may say that in the last Bill we have used the word 'punished'. I think the House unconsciously adopted the right word. In the original clause of that Bill the word was "punished". There was an amendment moved by the Honourable Minister himself and the word 'punished' also appeared there. My Honourable friend Kazi Syed Karimuddin also unconsciously put the word 'punished' in his amendment. Sir, I think the word is so proper and fitting that it unconsciously entered competent minds thrice in connection with the same clause. I submit that on principle 'punished' should be the word. Having accepted it in the last Bill there is no reason why we should depart from it.

4 P.M.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 47 of the Bill, for the word 'punishable', the word 'punished', be substituted."

Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava: My Honourable friend has referred to the substitute of the word 'punished' for 'punishable' and he has referred to the Indian Penal Code. May I submit for his consideration that in many of the sections of the Indian Penal Code the wording is "punishable with" as in Chapter III. According to my friend the man should be liable to punishment if the word punishable is used. If he is guilty he is certainly liable to punishment. What does my Honourable friend want to imply by the word 'punished' when warning alone can be given? In my humble opinion the more acceptable wording should be "shall be punishable with". It is used in many other Acts. But here my Honourable friend says that certain friends unconsciously put the word, etc. If it was an unconscious thing he cannot surely rely upon it. He should rely on the conscious thing. The framers of the Indian Penal Code also used the words "punishable with" and this word is used in many other acts and thus this is the right wording.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: It is there always "punished".

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi (Madras: General): I am afraid my friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava is wrong. The word used in the Penal Code is only "punished". I have got the Indian Penal Code in my hand.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is not of much importance now. I have been hearing arguments over this word "punished" and "punishable". I really do not understand what the substantial difference between the two expressions is. The section defines an offence and also states what the punishment should be. If a magistrate or other person who tries an offence comes to the conclusion that the person is guilty, he knows that it is his duty to punish him whether the word "punishable" or "punished" is there. It really makes no difference and I do not think the point is of such an importance that we need take more time on it.

I may just mention at this stage—I wanted to mention it after having finished clause 47—that if we are able to finish this Bill today, which it seems we shall be doing within ten or fifteen minutes' time at the rate at which we have been proceeding, there will be no business for tomorrow. As soon as this Bill is finished the House will adjourn and meet again at 5 p.m. on Saturday, the 28th.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I want my Honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava to see the Penal Code.

Mr. Speaker: That may be done outside the House.

[*At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen)*].

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I find myself in a rather awkward position. You now occupy a very exalted position as Chairman. But only a minute before you had expressed an opinion contrary to the opinion which I had canvassed in the House.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I thought the discussion was over on that point.

Mr. Chairman: May I ask the Honourable Member if he wishes to pursue the matter further?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in clause 47 of the Bill, for the word 'punishable', the word 'punished', be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I move:

"That in clause 47 of the Bill, for the words 'extending to', the words 'which may extend to' be substituted."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in clause 47 of the Bill, for the words 'extending to', the words 'which may extend to' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I move:

"That in clause 47 of the Bill, for the words 'not exceeding', the words 'which may extend to' be substituted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have to oppose this amendment. I think this change is unnecessary.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Then I am not pressing it.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 47, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 47, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I move:

"That in clause 48 of the Bill, for the words 'extending to', the words 'which may extend to' be substituted."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in clause 48 of the Bill, for the words 'extending to', the words 'which may extend to', be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I move:

"That in clause 48 of the Bill, for the words 'not exceeding', the words 'which may extend to', be substituted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I oppose it on the same ground as before.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Then I am not pressing it.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 48, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 48, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I beg to move:

"That in the Proviso to sub-clause (1) of clause 49 of the Bill, parts (c) and (e) be omitted and part (d) be relettered as part (c)."

Parts (c) and (e) are unnecessary.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in the Proviso to sub-clause (1) of clause 49 of the Bill, parts (c) and (e) be omitted and part (d) be relettered as part (c)."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 49 of the Bill, for the words 'extending to', the words 'which may extend to' be substituted.'

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 49 of the Bill, for the words 'extending to', the words 'which may extend to' be substituted.'

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 49, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 49, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 50 of the Bill, for the words 'per month of such failure' be added at the end."

Now the clause provides for punishment for a person who has been removed from a register and fails without sufficient cause to surrender his certificate. The punishment is only a fine of Rs. 50 and the offender can go on using his certificate. So I have provided some further deterrent.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept the principle of the amendment that for continuing the offence, the penalty shall continually increase, but the actual amendment might read as follows, Sir, I move:

"That in clause 50 of the Bill, the following be added at the end :

'and in the case of a continuing offence with an additional fine which may extend to two rupees per day after the first day during which the offence continues'."

Shri K. Santhanam: I accept the amendment. I do not press my amendment.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 50 of the Bill, the following be added at the end :

'and in the case of a continuing offence with an additional fine which may extend to two rupees per day after the first day during which the offence continues'."

Dr. V. Subramaniam (Madras: General): I suggest an amendment such as "after he receives notice of removal from the register", since he may be living at Cape Comorin or some distant place.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I think "sufficient cause" surely covers it.

Mr. Chairman: This amendment deals with cases in which the offence is a continuing one so that it is a case of more than one infraction, and if he does not surrender the certificate, it is clear no question of notice arises.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in clause 50 of the Bill, the following be added at the end :

'and in the case of a continuing offence with an additional fine which may extend to two rupees per day after the first day during which the offence continues'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 50, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 50, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I ask your permission, Sir, to move the amendment which stands in your name, amendment No. 211. I have in addition your written authority to me to submit this amendment.

I beg to move:

"That in part (b) of sub-clause (2) of clause 51 of the Bill, after the word 'employees' the words 'by registered dentists' be inserted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in part (b) of sub-clause (2) of clause 51 of the Bill, after the word 'employees' the words 'by registered dentists' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I beg to move:

"That in the proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 51 of the Bill, the word 'further', be omitted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in the proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 51 of the Bill, the word 'further', be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 51 of the Bill, for the words 'extending to', the words 'which may extend to', be sustituted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 51 of the Bill, for the words 'extending to', the words 'which may extend to', be sustituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 51, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 51, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, in clause 52 I had tabled two amendments which, however, I am not moving. I simply want to draw attention to the fact that there are two printing mistakes. In the word "order" the letter "r" is missing, and in the word "Provincial" the letter "i" after "c" is missing. They are obvious printing mistakes and should be attended to by the office.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 52, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 52 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 53 to 55 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, with regard to the Schedule, I have one thing to point out. In part II, item (30), there is the expression "Dental Council of

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

India". By definition under clause 2, the word "Council" represents the Dental Council of India. I therefore suggest that for the words "Dental Council of India", the word "Council" be substituted.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not think we can omit the word "Dental" in the Schedule. After all it has to be there in full the 'Dental Council of India'.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: All right.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Schedule, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, my amendments are there to the Schedule.

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry nothing can be done now.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I think it was an oversight; perhaps Mr. Sidhva was not looking at the list but his amendment to the Schedule should be accepted because it is only a matter of dates—the figure "1942" and the months have to be substituted in item (3) of Part II of the Schedule. It does make a difference.

Mr. Chairman: Apart from that when the question was called the Honourable Member never got up to move his amendment.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: But the amendment is printed on the list.

Mr. Chairman: But unless the Honourable Member rises up in his seat to move the amendment.....

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, but the practice has been that the Chair calls the member in whose name the amendment stands.

Mr. Chairman: It is not obligatory on the Chair to call every member—he has to take the chance and stand up himself.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I submit with due deference, to you, Sir, that when you called the Schedule I thought you asked for Schedule I, Schedule II etc.

Mr. Chairman: There are no three Schedules, there are only three parts—the Schedule is not put to the House in parts and the Honourable Member should have taken care to see that and should have risen in his seat. He himself was careless and he accuses the Chair.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I am not accusing the Chair.

Mr. Chairman: The only question is: was the Question called or not? When it was, the Honourable Member should have risen in his seat.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): With regard to the change of dates, if the Honourable Minister wants it she can have it at the third reading.

Mr. Chairman: Yes; there is no difficulty about it. The amendment which the Honourable Member wanted to move is not a matter of substance—it is only formal and can be moved if necessary, at the third reading.

The question is:

"That the title and the Preamble, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, before the third reading is called, I beg to draw attention to certain errors which may be corrected at the third reading or by the draftsmen later on. They are of a formal nature. I beg to draw

attention to clause 49. At the end of the proviso the sentence is complete but there is a colon. There was another proviso which has apparently been omitted by the Select Committee and that is the reason why there was a colon. But the Select Committee while omitting the second proviso did not revise the punctuation after the first proviso. I suggest there should be a full-stop. That should be attended to by the draftsman at the proper time.

Then with regard to clause 55, sub-clause (2), at the end of item (b) there is a full-stop—there should be a semicolon instead. It may have been a printing mistake.

Then there is another thing. After clause (i) of sub-clause (2) of clause 55, there should be the word "and". This is also a formal change.

Mr. Chairman: It is better if all these matters which the Honourable Member has referred to are given in writing to the Secretary.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I be permitted to move my amendment, Sir?

Mr. Chairman: As a matter of fact the Honourable Minister has already indicated that it is a very formal amendment and she has already said that she is going to accept it and the thing will be corrected. So the amendment may be taken as having been carried by the House because it is only a formal amendment—only the word "1942" to be substituted by "1943".

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, the change proposed is "31st day of December 1943" instead of "1st January 1942".

Mr. Chairman: If the Honourable Minister is accepting it, it can be moved by her at the third reading.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in Part II of the Schedule to the Bill, in item (3), for the words and figures, 'the 1st day of January 1942', the words and figures 'the 31st day of December 1943', be substituted."

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

"That in Part II of the Schedule to the Bill, in item (3), for the words and figures, 'the 1st day of January 1942', the words and figures 'the 31st day of December 1943', be substituted."

Shri K. Santhanam: This is certainly not a formal amendment. You are changing two years.

Mr. Chairman: May I know what is the objection?

Shri K. Santhanam: I said this is not a formal amendment.

Mr. Chairman: It has been ruled many a time in this House that formal amendments of this character can be moved at this stage. This is not the first occasion.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: But Mr. Santhanam's contention is that this is not a formal amendment at all.

Mr. Chairman: This has been held to be one and the Honourable Minister has accepted it. So the House can also treat it as such.

The question is:

"That in Part II of the Schedule to the Bill, in item (3), for the words and figures, 'the 1st day of January 1942', the words and figures 'the 31st day of December 1943', be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I have also, Sir, a formal amendment, namely;

"That in clause 55 of the Bill, at the end of item (i), the word 'and', be inserted."

Mr. Chairman: This is a formal amendment and has been noted by the Honourable Minister and therefore there is no need to put it to the House.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Sir, this Bill was a long pending one. It gives great relief to dental practitioners to know that they will now have State aid and encouragement and that proper arrangements will be made for their education in dentistry.

As regards the Schedules and other things, they are just a beginning. Our Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam's amendment gives powers to the Provinces to nominate a temporary Board until such time as they prepare electoral rolls. In the meanwhile, it would have been much better if the Schedule had been more liberal and included more institutions. There are not many colleges in our country. There are only four—one or two in Bengal, one in Sind which is not in our Dominion and one in Madras. I have to express my sincere sorrow that the American Dental College at Madras which has been doing well for the past 18 years or so, although they have made representations, has not been included in the Schedule. I.

My own feeling is that the Central Government should have been more generous. Some institutions might have written to the Provincial Governments for inclusion and they might not have obtained recognition. The Provincial Governments are very slow. Now the Central Government while writing to the Provincial Governments to form immediately Provincial Boards should press them for inclusion of all colleges which teach regular courses and contain proper equipment and apparatus. Otherwise the students of Madras would be put to much trouble. Students have to go to Bombay or Bengal and even at the expense of Rs. 2000 or more they are not able to obtain recognised degrees in their own provinces. Therefore, I request the Honourable Minister to speed up the matter and induce all Provinces to form Provincial Boards immediately.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I think it is but fitting that I should offer my congratulations to the Honourable Minister. This is the first enactment that has been passed by this House by her for the systematisation and better regulation of the medical profession in all its Branches. Sir, this Bill appeared to be extremely contentious in the beginning, and it was also threatened at one time by a very considerable number of amendments—indeed larger in number than any Bill which we have seen so far. And yet to our great surprise and delight the whole Bill has been passed in a very short time. This by itself is a great compliment to the Honourable Minister's tact and ability.

My learned friend Mr. Kamath entertained us to quite a treat by speaking on the philosophy of teeth and stated the various enemies that the teeth had to contend with these days. He feared the hygienists would be probably after him to extricate the fine teeth he has got, which he makes it a point to show to us every now and again. Although his speech was not perhaps appreciated by some Honourable Members, I personally felt that he treated us to a very fine and humorous speech and he deserves our thanks for the same.

I hope, Sir, as one of my Honourable friends has expressed before, that along with the systematisation and regulation of the art of dental science, we shall have more dentists and better facilities for education in this science.

Once again, Sir, I offer my hearty congratulations to the Honourable Minister.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I also suggest that the House do record its sense of gratitude to my Honourable friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, who has taken immense pains over language, drafting, syntax and grammar, and that we should therefore confer on him a popular title—the title of *Bil Navis* . . .?

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member may speak on the Bill and not devote himself to paying encomiums to other Honourable Members?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I would like to say only a few words. Certainly this Bill has evoked a lot of criticism and ultimately it has come out in a very improved form. I join my friend Mr. Kamath in paying our tribute to both Mr. Santhanam and Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad. More than both of them, it is our duty to pay our respects and record our sense of appreciation for the able manner in which the Honourable Lady Minister has moved and piloted this Bill. I am sure with some more motions and amendments, she will become a lawyer ere long, especially as she has been able to withstand successfully all the attacks from lawyers of the calibre of Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad.

Sir, it was only recently that the westerners thought that teeth were an important part of the body and that cleaning of teeth was an essential and most important function in our daily routine and health. But this has been recognised long ago in the *Puranas* and in the *Shastras*, where it is said, that as soon as you rise from bed you must clean your teeth, wash your face and then attend to other business. They have also suggested a number of ways in which to preserve the teeth and the gums. I do not know if all the dentistry, all the dental science, of the modern world is only for the purpose of extracting even such good teeth as still remain. The extraction of the teeth is the last weapon with a doctor. They examine, they say something and then if they are not able to diagnose the disease they at once start saying "Something is wrong with your teeth". Once some teeth are extracted, the others also become prematurely old. I hope that this is in a direction in which research is necessary. Some people merely copy. Others on account of climatic and other conditions lose their teeth. Let us not merely learn from the westerners that as soon as a tooth gives some trouble it should be at once pulled out. I do want, Sir, research institutions should be started which will bring harmonious relations between the ancient and the present practices. The extraction of teeth must be the last resort of any dentist or any surgeon and all other avenues for rectifying the teeth must be exhausted. I hope research institutions will be started and adequate funds provided by the Honourable Lady Minister for making researches in the improvement of dentistry. With these few remarks, I congratulate both the Honourable the Lady Minister and the two members who have taken so much pains to make this a perfect Bill. I hope dentistry hereafter will become perfect in this country.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Such a useful measure I really do not know why should have been contentious, but I am very glad it has passed through. This measure is really a boon to the public as far as health is concerned and our thanks and congratulations are certainly due to the Honourable Minister who piloted this Bill so ably and successfully. We only desire, Sir, that the provisions of this Bill would be useful in the rural areas. In the villages there is really no relief for this kind of disease and I hope immediately the Councils will be formed in the various provinces and also in the Centre and instructions will be issued by the Honourable Minister that efforts should be made to see that measures are taken to create a kind of dentistry in the villages where they are very necessary. Just now the quacks are really playing havoc in the rural area. We know of so many instances. Of course in the cities, in the urban areas, there are people who have been practising on the foot-paths

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva]

their dentistry. I have seen that both in Karachi and Bombay. This measure will put a stop to it in the urban area immediately. There is no doubt about that. I do not know how far it will really be effective in the villages, but I am sure the Honourable Minister who is so very eager in this matter and conscientious about the relief measures to be given to that class of people, will take immediate steps to see that this measure is really applied successfully in the rural areas. With these few words, Sir, I again congratulate her for the measure initiated by her. Some of the amendments, useful reasonable and desirable, she has accepted and a number of others she has rejected and at the end the Bill has come out in such a way that the country should as proud of it.

Shri B. Shiva Rao (Madras: General): May I say a word of appreciation of the work of the Health Minister in placing this Bill on the Statute Book? I speak not only as a member of the House, but also as a member of the Bhore Committee, whose attention was drawn to the grossly neglected condition in which dentistry has been all these many years. Tributes have been paid by previous speakers not only to the Minister but to members of the House who have taken part in shaping this Bill.

I should like to add, Sir, as a member of the Bhore Committee a word of sincere praise for the persistence and the ability with which members of the All-India Dental Association have helped at all stages of the Bill. In fact, Sir, the members of the Bhore Committee were impressed by those who are the organizers of this Association that their report would not be complete without some positive recommendation on this neglected subject of dentistry. It was they who drew our attention to the effect that there was hardly any university in India which had any degree or even a diploma in dentistry except two or three institutions, and I think I am not revealing any secret in saying that the chapter in the Bhore Committee's report on dentistry was very largely influenced by the advice which we received from leading members of that Association.

Now that the Bill is about to become law, I would like to say a word to the Health Minister herself. I think her labours are not over. In fact, so far as dentistry is concerned, her labours are just beginning, and I hope she will see to it that this Bill is brought into force with the least avoidable delay; and also during her term of office, that she will try to impress on the various provincial Governments and the universities that they should establish with as little delay as possible degrees and diplomas in dentistry. She should herself set an example by trying to bring into existence either in Delhi or near Delhi an All-India Dental College which would impart dental education of the highest quality. At the present moment, Sir, those of our students who want to do dental research are compelled for lack of facilities in this country to go abroad. That I think is an extremely unsatisfactory state of things. In very recent years, we have made a very modest and cursory beginning with medical inspection of schools. Now, in most countries of the world which have established medical inspection, the periodical examination of the teeth of children and adolescents is a very important feature, and if we want to make a reality of medical inspection in our country, I think we should see to it that there are an adequate number of dentists who would look after the teeth of our children and adolescents. From that point of view, I think, it is of the utmost importance that the Health Minister should take almost immediate steps for the establishment of a dental college, with facilities for dental research in this country.

Shri K. Santhanam: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have got only one point to make. I congratulate the Minister cordially for this Bill, but there is one danger, which, I hope, she will guard against. Dentistry must be treated as

part of the medical profession. For the moment it may be essential to treat it as a little separate, but in course of time, we must so evolve that the dentist is also a doctor and a doctor a dentist. Especially this is particularly important for the rural areas. Our villages cannot afford to have a rural doctor and a rural dentist. What should be done is that all the rural doctors should be trained in dentistry. Our dental institutions should provide special classes and special diplomas for practising doctors, so that they may become qualified dentists also. In this way the integration of the medical profession as a whole with dentistry should be encouraged, so much so, that after 20 or 30 years, we should cease to have dentists as a separate category altogether. There are various sections in the medical profession. We do not have doctors for one disease and another kind of doctor for another disease. (*An Honourable Member*: "They are specialists".) They are specialists in a particular medicine. But we have not got non-doctors who are specialists in other branches of medicine. It is only, for example, in X-ray and other things that we have got non-doctors who are ancillary workers in the medical profession. I want all dentists to become part and parcel of the medical profession and I hope some measures will be taken to integrate the two. This objective should be held in view and the two should not be allowed to separate further and further. Sir, that is my only point.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I express my gratitude to three distinguished Members of this House who spoke kindly about the efforts that I have been able to make in this House. It is due more to the charitable nature of the members themselves than to their forbearance that I have been able to do so. Sir, the fact that the Bill has been disposed of in record time while no less than 60 technical amendments have been carried is due to the forbearance of the Honourable Minister herself. She not only represents the fair sex but is fairness personified. It is her conciliatory attitude which enabled us to carry through difficult amendments in such a short time. Sir, I congratulate the Honourable Minister on this.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Five of the Clock in the Afternoon on Saturday, the 28th February, 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Saturday, 28th February, 1948.

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

THE BUDGET FOR 1948-49

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Mr. Speaker, when I presented my Interim Budget to Free India's first Parliament a few months back, our nation had been shaken to its very foundations by the great Punjab tragedy. Thousands of our people had been brutally butchered, and millions of innocent men, women and children driven out of their ancestral homes and forced to make a dusty, deadly trek in search of a new home. Our crying concern then was to dress the wounds of uprooted humanity, and to mobilise all our financial resources to set aright an unhinged economy. Our new found freedom, however, weathered the storm, and as the eve of my first annual Budget approached, I could see a silver lining around the cloud. Then, suddenly, like a thunderbolt that rends the sky and spins the globe, calamity struck us once more and orphaned our infant State and enveloped the country with a darkness even more complete. The hand that nailed Jesus to the Cross reached out of the evil recesses of history once again and slew the latest in the line of Prophets. Along with Bernard Shaw one wonders: "Must then a Christ perish in torment in every age to save those that have no imagination?" In Mahatma Gandhi the world has lost an uplifting standard, our nation its Founding Father, and each one of us his friend, philosopher and guide. Many ran up to him in times of stress, national or personal, and came back with renewed confidence. Our fledgling freedom felt warm and secure under the protective wing of Gandhiji. The way ill fortune has dogged our heels makes one doubt whether our people had made a tryst with disaster rather than with destiny. But that is a most un-Gandhian mood; for he remained cheerful and buoyant and hopeful even in the darkest hour. Indeed I rise to-day under a shadow, but I know it is the shadow of his Cross, and so I feel confident that our nation will be prepared to meet the great challenge of the situation. In the faith that looks through death we shall shape the destiny of our nation on the pattern which he cherished and lead it from the dark abyss of hatred and despair to the sunlit pastures of eternal life.

Review of Economic Conditions

2. The third year after war finds the world still in the meshes of those economic maladjustments which are the inevitable aftermath of total war—the nemesis that inexorably pursues the victor and the vanquished alike. Western Europe is still in a sad plight and intolerable economic conditions prevail in many of the devastated areas. The efforts at rehabilitation by the United Nations Organisation and the United States Government have so far borne little fruit. All hope is now centred round the Marshall Plan. But its gestation is unduly delayed, and it has worsened the already strained relations between the Big Three. The United Kingdom is making a heroic effort to rehabilitate her wartorn economy and shattered trade. There has been serious economic dislocation in many Asian countries owing to violent internal struggles or fight for freedom from foreign domination. Thus, over a large part of the world, economic

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conditions are still worse than in war time; production has fallen, even below pre-war levels in some cases, and prices have been soaring to new heights. The world food situation is still a cause for serious anxiety, while the world's population has increased by about 200 millions since 1939, the total food production has fallen by 7 per cent. At the same time, there has been a tremendous increase in the money in circulation. The many high-powered international bodies lately set up for rectifying the world's currency and food troubles have so far made little headway. In the result, inflation is still holding the world in its firm grip and the standards of living of the great majority of the world's population remain at depressingly low levels. Especially in Asian countries, the economic situation has greatly deteriorated owing to violent internal struggles and the consequent dislocation of normal economic activity.

3. There has been no material change in the general economic conditions in our own country since I reviewed them last when presenting the budget for the current year last November. The dislocation caused by the mass migration of people between Western Pakistan and India still remains to be surmounted and only the fringe of the problem of rehabilitating the millions of people who have crossed over to India has so far been touched. While active steps are being taken to provide the necessary financial assistance to the refugees to enable them to start on useful careers in their new surroundings, the process of rehabilitation is necessarily bound to take some time. The budget for next year provides a substantial amount for relief and rehabilitation and the House may rest assured that everything possible will be done to place these refugees in useful occupations as early as possible. It is not merely a matter of humanitarian relief but one of economic investment, for the sooner these people, many of whom are skilled workers and agriculturists with experience, are placed in occupations in which their productive capacity would add to the wealth of the community the better for the country. In this task of rehabilitation the Government of India are working in close co-operation with the neighbouring States and Provinces and the plans for their relief and rehabilitation are being drawn up in co-ordination with them.

4. The food position still continues to cause anxiety and conditions have definitely become worse in large parts of the Madras Presidency following the failure of the monsoon. Steps are being taken to make additional supplies available but the position is bound to be difficult until the new harvest comes on the market. It is not necessary for me to explain in detail the reasons which led to the policy of gradual decontrol of food which was approved by this House. The effects of this policy on the internal sources of supply still remain to be seen but if the expectation behind this policy that it would bring more supplies to the market and, to that extent, reduce our dependence on foreign imports is realised, it would be completely justified.

5. In my speech last November I mentioned the rising trend of prices as the most unwholesome feature in our economic situation. This, as I explained then, was the result of a number of factors some of which, like the accumulation of surplus purchasing power in the hands of the community, have been in operation for some time while the all round fall in production, both industrial and agricultural, was of more recent origin. I stressed then the need for increasing production in every possible way and I gave details of the steps taken to promote the increase of textile production as an example of what the Government are striving to do. But the House must realise that any substantial increase in production is impossible until the shortage of materials the bottleneck in transport and other impediments are removed. If the increase in production requires the import of equipment from overseas, this again takes time to obtain and is also limited by considerations of foreign exchange on which the more urgent requirements of food have necessarily the first claim. These

difficulties are inherent in the situation but it does not necessarily follow that Government are doing nothing in the matter. One serious hindrance in the way of production, even with the available resources, has been the frequent disputes between capital and labour, resulting in strikes and other interruptions of work. If the recent truce agreed upon between capital and labour for a period of three years in the recent Industries Conference can be implemented in letter and spirit, the way would be clear for a considerable increase in production.

6. A view that has in recent years become almost unanimous among economists and financiers is that each year a Government's financial policy should be so planned as to rectify the economic maladjustments of the time, and to serve as a compensatory device to offset fluctuations in the private sector of economy. In a time of inflation, budgets should not only be balanced but there should be a comfortable surplus for mopping up the excess purchasing power and to encourage economy in private spending. On the other hand, when a depression is on, Goverment should launch bold schemes of public expenditure and should boldly budget for a deficit if necessary.

7. An inflationary pressure resulting from too much money chasing too few goods has been the key-note of our present economy, and there is no indication that a reversal of this trend is in sight. At such a juncture, we should exert every nerve to budget for a surplus, if possible, by increasing revenue and curtailing expenditure. The methods by which these aims are achieved are important, because as the present phase of inflation is due to an abundance of spending power without the goods to spend on, we must see that a surplus is achieved in such a way as to curtail spending and create suitable incentives for increasing production. In other words, the tax-burdens laid must be met by cutting down expenditure on consumption and not by saving less. Similarly, the borrowing made must be from genuine savings and not from inflated bank credit. The practical application of these principles is indeed difficult, but we must bear them in mind in shaping our financial policy.

Balance of Payments

8. I should like to draw the attention of the House to a matter which has been causing some concern to Government, namely, the emergence, in recent times, of a substantial adverse balance in India's external payments. India's balance of trade has in the past always been substantially in her favour, the surplus of exports over imports being used by her to meet the interest and amortisation charges on her sterling debt, to pay the pensions and leave salaries of British officers and to make other invisible payments such as the remittance of the profits of foreign investments in India and banking, insurance and shipping charges. During the war years India's balance of trade became even more favourable than before, due not only to restrictions on her imports on account of war time conditions but to the large payments which accrued to her on account of supplies and services to the allied nations and the Defence Expenditure Plan. The result of India's earnings, both visible and invisible, being vastly in excess of her expenditure, was the rapid accumulation of our sterling balances. Part of these balances was used to purchase the Indian railways and to repatriate compulsorily almost the whole of the Indian sterling debt; part was used through Indian nationals acquiring British investments in India. All these measures served greatly to lessen the annual drain on India while the interest earned on the sterling balances added in some measure to our income. If, therefore, all the other factors in the situation had remained the same, India, should have had now a substantially more favourable balance of payments than she had before the war.

9. Far from having a favourable balance, however, India had in the first post-war year, 1946-47, a substantial deficit in her balance of payments on

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current account. The tendency which then manifested itself for the first time still continues and had it not been for the restrictive import policy which was introduced in June 1947 the deficits we have had would have been substantially greater. The reasons for this are two-fold. Firstly, it is the inevitable result of the absence of imports during the many years of war that the long pent up demand should seek to satisfy itself as soon as goods become available. This is true not only of consumer goods but also of producer goods and plant and equipment, the arrears and maintenance of which have to be made good as soon as possible if production is not to be interfered with. The second, and by far the more important reason for this deficit is, as is well known, our imports of foodgrains. India has of course been a regular importer of food for many years but quantities and prices have both been recently going up. In 1944-45 and 1945-46 the value of foodgrains imported into India was Rs. 14 crores and Rs. 24 crores respectively. In 1946-47 the figure was Rs. 89 crores. These figures are in addition to the import of supplementary food articles which cost a further Rs. 15 crores in 1946-47. In 1947-48 the amount expected to be spent on the import of food-grains is Rs. 110 crores.

10. The money required for the purchase of food is of course a first charge on our available foreign exchange resources. These consist of our export earnings and of our sterling balances but on the latter we have necessarily to draw in moderation. These resources are not sufficient to finance both the heavy drain caused by food imports as well as to pay for all the other imports we should like to purchase. As food must have the highest priority, we have necessarily to restrict the import of other commodities. It is undesirable that this should be so, particularly at a time when inflationary tendencies persist in the country. It is therefore, imperative for us to take all the steps in our power, not only to increase the production of food in this country so as to reduce imports, but to increase production in every other field of economic activity so that it may be possible to increase our export income without reducing home consumption. I fear, however, that in spite of all the action that may be taken in this direction it will take a few years before it will be possible for India to bring her foreign payments into equilibrium and that, therefore, it will be necessary to continue with our present restrictions on imports.

11. It will be appreciated that, with India's limited resources of hard currencies, it would have been impossible to continue the policy of non-discrimination regarding the source from which Indian imports came, which was a feature of Indian import policy during the last half year. Honourable Members will remember that I indicated to them in my last Budget Speech that the doller shortage would cause us to reimpose discrimination and I fear we have had, in framing the import policy for the present half year, to make the most drastic cuts in imports from the hard currency areas. It is unfortunate that this has to be so, for we are being compelled either to do without a large number of useful articles which are obtainable only in the hard currency area or to pay for them a higher price in the soft currencies. As long, however, as the world doller shortage caused by the disequilibrium in world trade continues, I fear we have no alternative but to proceed on the basis which has been in force ever since the war broke out and to which we have now had to revert. I am, however, glad to be able to report to the House that we have been able slightly to decrease the rigour of the import control from the sterling and other soft currency areas which we had imposed during the last half year. It was neither desirable nor indeed possible to continue import control from all over the world with that degree of restriction which we had introduced, for not only would it have led, if it continued for any length of time, to an increase in the inflationary potential but would also have interfered with production.

12. One other recent trend in our external financial position is deserving of special mention. Till 1945-46 not only did we have an overall favourable balance of payments but we were in substantial surplus with the U.S.A. Since 1946-47 that situation has also changed, both because goods have become much more freely available in that country and because we have to purchase there a substantial portion of our food requirements. In 1946-47 our deficit with the U.S.A. was Rs. 15 crores. In the subsequent months it increased substantially, being Rs. 13½ crores and Rs. 22 crores respectively for the second and third quarters of 1947. Preliminary figures for the two months October and November disclose a deficit of Rs. 14 crores. With the other hard currency countries the position is no better and during the period April to November 1947 our deficit with them has been Rs. 5½ crores. Our total net earnings of hard currencies during the period September 1939 to November 1947 were about Rs. 37 crores.

13. The most important lesson to be drawn from a study of our external financial position is that so long as food imports continue on the present scale we would be confronted with the problem of an adverse balance of payments and the disequilibrium in our economy will persist. Such a state of affairs will be a source of anxiety and even danger. The only way to redress the balance is to increase the internal production of food. While an expansion of our export trade will go a long way mitigate the seriousness of the problem, it will be impossible to bridge the gap by exports alone. It will be observed that, though I have indicated the trends in our external financial position, I have not given any figures for our overall deficits in the balance of payments. This is for the simple reason that such figures have so far not existed, though steps have now been taken to see that they are collected in future. I would, nevertheless, like to give the House some idea of our position as it is likely to be during the first half of 1948 and propose to mention certain figures on the clear understanding that these are to be taken more as an indication of the magnitude of the figures involved than of the actual figures as they are likely to be. Forecasts of balance of payments are notoriously liable to be inaccurate because of the uncertainties of the factors involved; but in preparing the forecast for the first six months of 1948 we have suffered from the additional handicap that it is impossible to say what effect the partition of the country will have on its external trade and that there are no past actuals to guide us. The figures I shall mention relate to the balance of payments on current account of the Dominion of India with the rest of the world excluding Pakistan. For our balance of payments with Pakistan, I fear it is not possible to make even the roughest of estimates. In the half year January to June 1948 we hope to earn through our exports and other sources Rs. 208 crores. We expect to spend during the same period Rs. 260 crores. We therefore anticipate an overall deficit of Rs. 52 crores. Out of our total expenditure during the half year, no less than Rs. 61 crores will be spent on the purchase of food.

14. Honourable Members will appreciate more fully in the light of what I have stated above the significance of the second interim agreement on the sterling balances which has been concluded between the Government of India and the Government of the United Kingdom by an exchange of letters. In brief, the effect of the exchange of letters is that the financial agreement dated 14th August 1947, which expired on the 31st December 1947, has been extended upto 30th June 1948 with some modifications. The first agreement was on behalf of both India and Pakistan but the present extension is on behalf of the Dominion of India alone. Honourable Members will remember that in December last, when an agreement was reached between Pakistan and ourselves on all outstanding financial issues including the division of the sterling balances, it was agreed that from the 1st of January 1948 the exchange accounts

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of the two countries should be kept separately. As a consequence of this separation, it was also agreed that negotiations for a further interim settlement between the United Kingdom and the two Dominions should be carried on separately by each. Hence Pakistan was not a party to our recent negotiations.

15. The object that we kept in view in our recent discussions with the representatives of the United Kingdom Government was to make available to us sufficient foreign exchange resources to meet our estimated overall deficit in the balance of payments during the first half of 1948. As I have indicated earlier, we estimate our overall deficit for this period at £ 39 million or Rs. 52 crores. It has now been agreed that a further £ 18 million (or Rs. 24 crores) will be transferred from Account No. 2 to Account No. 1, the existing balance in which will, of course, be carried forward at our disposal except for a certain amount to be transferred to Pakistan under the Indo-Pakistan Agreement of December last. This fresh transfer, together with the balances that we have at our disposal under various accounts and some borrowing from the International Monetary Fund, will enable us to meet our anticipated deficit. As our Account No. 1 would now stand, I have no anxiety on account of the external financial position of the country so far as currencies other than the hard currencies are concerned.

16. One important feature of the new agreement is the limit on convertibility. Under the original agreement the whole of our sterling in Account No. 1, whether it arose by transfer from Account No. 2 or through the proceeds of current earnings, was fully convertible for current transactions into any currency including that of the U.S.A. In other words, the whole of the sterling that we held in Account No. 1 was multilaterally convertible. Under the present agreement, however, we have been put to the necessary of limiting our right to multilateral convertibility to the extent of only £ 10 million or Rs. 13.33 crores. This restriction will necessitate our borrowing to some extent from the International Monetary Fund. I am, however, satisfied that the extent of our borrowing from the Fund during the current half-year will be well within the limits of our rights of borrowing from that Fund. Honourable Members are entitled to know why we agreed to limit the right to full multilateral convertibility which is possessed by every member of the sterling area. The answer is that, like all international agreements, this agreement was a compromise, and in the light of the circumstances that faced us I consider it in the best interests of the country to accept this condition. I am not unmindful of the great difficulties under which the United Kingdom is labouring today, nor am I unappreciative of the valiant efforts being made by that great country to restore equilibrium in her economy and to discharge her international obligations. I am fully aware that the gold and doller resources of the sterling area are small, are rapidly being exhausted and require to be husbanded with the greatest care. It is for this reason that we agreed last September, soon after our first interim agreement was concluded and when the United Kingdom was forced to suspend the convertibility clause in the Anglo-American Loan Agreement, to co-operate by restricting doller expenditure as far as possible. For the half year in question our expenditure in hard currency has been severely limited to essentials. Nevertheless, I cannot help feeling that it should have been possible to avoid introducing this very undesirable and harmful principle of a limit on the convertibility of sterling for members of the sterling area who are pledged to hold sterling without limit of amount. We have honoured that pledge perhaps even beyond the bounds of prudence. Even from the point of view of the necessity for safeguarding the central reserves of the sterling area, I cannot feel happy about the low limit of convertibility forced upon us. After all, our proposed drawings on the central reserves were the merest fraction of what the United Kingdom herself

proposed to draw therefrom. Undesirable as this feature of the agreement is, we accept it in the hope that it would be possible to remove this condition at the earliest possible moment. We have decided in fact to make a long term settlement with the United Kingdom on this vexed question as soon as possible. I feel that it is unsatisfactory that there should be negotiations every six months on this subject for the element of uncertainty as to the results of these periodical negotiations makes it impossible for any long term co-ordinated trade policies to be formulated. I have, therefore, conveyed to the Leader of the British Delegation my desire that steps should be taken for initiating talks for a long term settlement.

Financial Settlement with Pakistan

17. When I gave a brief account to the House in my last Budget Speech of the details of the partition and its financial and economic results, I mentioned that a number of important points connected with the partition still remained unsettled and were likely to be referred to arbitration. As the House is aware, these outstanding questions have been the subject of further consultations between the two Governments and all of them have been settled so that so far as the two dominions are concerned, it became unnecessary to resort to arbitration on any issue. Now that a final settlement has been arrived at, although the details would necessarily take some time to work out, I propose to give the House a short account of these decisions.

18. The position of the undivided Government as on the date of partition was that its outstanding liabilities exceeded its assets so that ultimately it is the debt that is being divided between the two Governments. On a rough estimate the outstanding debt of the Central Government as on the 14th August 1947, including in this not merely the outstanding public debt but all its obligations to outside parties such as deposits in Postal Savings Banks, outstanding balances of Post Office Cash and National Savings Certificates, Provident Fund Deposits of Government servants, the amounts likely to be paid to the British Government for surplus stores and other property acquired by the Defence Services and the capitalised value of the liability for pensions in payment on the date of partition and pensions earned by serving officers upto that date, is likely to be of the order of Rs. 3,300 crores. The Government of India's assets on that date are represented by the capital spent on the great Commercial Departments like the Railways and the Posts and Telegraphs, the Security Printing Press, the Irrigation works in the Centrally Administered areas, the Port of Vizagapatam and New Delhi; the buildings, stores and equipment of the Defence Services and the various branches of the Civil Administration; the cash balance with the Reserve Bank and investments such as the Silver Redemption Reserve and the subscriptions to the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank; and the miscellaneous debts due to it such as the outstanding loans made to Provincial Governments and local bodies and institutions. The total value of these assets is of the order of Rs. 2,800 crores leaving a net excess of liabilities over assets of about Rs. 500 crores. As I said earlier, it will be some time before the final figures are available and the machinery for obtaining them as early as possible is being set in motion. The arrangement with Pakistan is that for all assets located in her territory such as the Railways and the Posts and Telegraphs system operating in Pakistan, the stores and other movable equipment allocated to her, the administrative buildings and installations taken over, by her in her territory she takes a debt equal to the book value of all these assets. An exception has been made in the case of strategic railways the book value of which for purposes of the settlement, will be written down from a little over Rs. 32 crores to Rs. 14.45 crores. In addition, Pakistan will take over a debt equal to the amount of the cash balance of Rs. 75 crores allocated to her out of the cash balances of the undivided Government and also 17½ per cent. of the net excess of the

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Central Government's liabilities over assets which, as I mentioned earlier, is likely to be of the order of Rs. 500 crores. The total of Pakistan's debt as calculated above will be reduced by the liability she takes over direct in regard to Postal Savings Banks, Postal Cash and National Savings Certificates outstanding in her area, the pensions of the undivided Government paid in Pakistan and the liability for pensions earned by officers who have opted for service in that Dominion. For purposes of the financial settlement the outstanding debt of the Central Government will be valued after taking into account the interest payments, discounts, the date of redemption and so on. Similarly the actuarial value of the pensionary liability will have to be calculated. The closing of the accounts for the pre-partition period, without which the outstanding assets and liabilities cannot be determined, will also take some time to complete. It is not therefore possible to give anything more than a very rough indication of the amounts involved in the settlement or the share of Pakistan in the outstanding debt. Pakistan's share will take the form of an inter-state debt to India. On a very rough estimate this debt is likely to be of the order of Rs. 300 crores. and the rate of interest may be near about 3 per cent. Pakistan's total debt is to be repaid in Indian rupees in fifty annual equated instalments for principal and interest. As a measure of assistance to the new Dominion in its earlier years it has been agreed that the first payment should commence only in 1952. In addition to the Rs. 75 crores given to her out of the cash balance of the undivided Government it has also been agreed that India would make available to Pakistan a further sum of. Rs. 6 crores for meeting the expenditure on the setting up of Ordnance factories and similar special institutions required by her. This amount will also be added to Pakistan's debt. With this settlement, the terms of which, as the Deputy Prime Minister has already told the House, are generous and conceived in a real spirit of assistance to Pakistan, the purely financial problems arising out of the partition may be said to have been satisfactorily solved.

19. The allocation of the sterling reserves that the Reserve Bank will hold when it ceases to be the currency authority and banker to the Pakistan Government on the 30th September next also raised difficult issues and I am glad to say that a satisfactory solution has been reached here also. It has been agreed that out of the sterling assets in the Issue Department, Pakistan would receive a share in the proportion of the notes in circulation in Pakistan. In addition she would also be entitled to 17½ per cent. of the excess of the sterling held by the Reserve Bank on the 30th September 1948 in both the Banking and Issue Departments after allowing for the payments to be made to the British Government for surplus military stores and fixed assets and the capitalised value of pensions paid in sterling and for the retention of a reserve in the Issue Department which, together with the gold, would be equal to 70 per cent. of the liabilities. This additional sterling will be released to Pakistan by India, as and when required, till the 31st December 1967, against payment in Indian rupees.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1947-48

Revenue

20. I shall now proceed to give a brief review of the financial position in the current and the ensuing years.

In my interim Budget I estimated the deficit for the current year covering 7½ months at Rs. 24.59 crores. The House will be glad to know that I now estimate the deficit at only Rs. 6.52 crores. The improvement is due to some increase in the anticipated revenue and a decrease in expenditure.

21. The revenue receipts during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948 are now estimated at Rs. 178.77 crores against Rs. 172.8 crores in the Budget passed by this House last November. The improvement of nearly Rs. 6 crores is mainly due to an increase of Rs. 2.35 crores under Customs and a windfall of Rs. 3 crores from the levy on old stocks of cloth released for sale at increased prices following the recent decontrol of textiles. The estimates also include Rs. 2.25 crores on account of Government's share in the increased price of sugar, stocks of which were frozen by Government when sugar was decontrolled last December, and Rs. 2 crores on account of the receipts of the Cotton Textiles Equalisation Fund. The revenue under Central Excise Duties is now estimated to show a reduction of Rs. 1.36 crores compared with the budget, mainly under Sugar and Tobacco. The total revenue from Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax is now estimated at Rs. 115 crores, a reduction of Rs. 3 crores in the original estimate. The divisible pool of income-tax is now estimated at Rs. 65.49 crores of which the Provincial share would amount to Rs. 29.74 crores. The credit of Rs. 2.25 crores on account of the increase in sugar prices mentioned above will however be set off by a corresponding provision in the expenditure estimates as the intention is to fund these receipts for the benefit of the industry and the sugar producing Provinces. Similarly the receipts of the Cotton Textiles Equalisation Fund will be transferred to it by provision in the expenditure estimates.

Expenditure

22. The total expenditure this year is now estimated at Rs. 185.29 crores showing a reduction of Rs. 12.1 crores in the original estimate. The expenditure on Defence Services is expected to show, a saving of Rs. 6.11 crores, Civil estimates accounting for the balance of Rs. 5.99 crores.

23. The current year's budget for Defence Services included a substantial provision for new schemes and for the acquisition of land but owing to changes in the plans on strategic and other considerations and the pre-occupation of the Defence authorities with matters such as the operations in Kashmir to repel the invaders from that State, it is expected that a saving of Rs. 5.75 crores is likely to be effected this year. The budget also included a provision of Rs. 1:68 crores for payment to an Equalisation Fund for the replacement of certain vessels of the Royal Indian Navy and aircraft of the Royal Indian Air Force. On further consideration it has been decided that this contribution should wait until conditions become more stable and the provision on this account will accordingly lapse.

24. The saving of Rs. 5.99 crores in Civil expenditure is mainly due to a reduction in the provision for expenditure on the relief and rehabilitation of refugees. The House will remember that a lump sum of Rs. 22 crores was provided for this purpose in my budget. At that time when the large scale movements of population were still taking place it was impossible to frame a close estimate of the expenditure likely to be involved. On the indications then available, I considered it advisable to provide a substantial figure. The position has since been reviewed and although it is difficult, in view of the constant changes in the position and the fluid nature of the relief plans, to make a close estimate it is now expected that the expenditure this year may not amount to more than Rs. 14.89 crores. A saving of Rs. 2.36 crores is also expected in the provision of Rs. 22.52 crores for subsidies on imported foodgrains. Interest charges are also expected to show a saving of Rs. 1.29 crores. These savings are partly set off by the provision of Rs. 2.25 crores for funding the special receipts following the decontrol of sugar and the provision of Rs. 2 crores for the transfer to the Cotton Textiles Equalisation Fund of the receipts realised for it, both of which I have mentioned earlier.

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FINANCIAL YEAR, 1948-49

25. I now turn to the estimates for the year 1948-49. At the existing level of taxation, I place the total revenue for the year at Rs. 230.52 crores and the expenditure charged to revenue at Rs. 257.37 crores leaving a deficit of Rs. 26.85 crores. Before I deal with the detailed estimates, I must warn the House that the revised estimate for the current year does not provide a basis for comparison when considering the estimates for next year, because the estimates for the current year cover only 7½ months while the provision in the budget for next year covers a full year.

Revenue

26. The total receipts from customs have been placed at Rs. 81.75 crores. This provides for a full year's revenue from the enhanced duty on exports of cotton cloth and yarn imposed in the current year's budget. The effect on our revenue of the restriction on imports so as to conserve foreign exchange has been taken into account as also the restrictions on the exports of raw cotton. Central excises are expected to bring in Rs. 34 crores and receipts from income tax, which include Rs. 12 crores of Excess Profits Tax and Rs. 17 crores on account of the Business Profits Tax, have been placed at Rs. 130 crores. The divisible pool of income tax is estimated at Rs. 80.24 crores of which the Centre will retain Rs. 42.37 crores leaving Rs. 37.87 crores as the Provincial share. The profits from Currency and Mint, after allowing for the share of Pakistan under the arrangement for the management of the currency of both the Dominions by the Reserve Bank upto the 30th September 1948, are estimated at Rs. 9.4 crores.

The revenue of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is expected to amount to Rs. 26.2 crores and working expenses and interest to Rs. 25.82 crores leaving a small surplus of Rs. 38 lakhs. In the current year, the surplus will be shared between general revenues and the Department in the ratio of three to one while next year only half the surplus will accrue outright to general revenues. The Department will get a rebate of interest on its share of the accumulated profits in the past which at the end of the budget year are expected to amount to about Rs. 8 crores.

Expenditure

27. The total expenditure for next year is estimated at Rs. 257.37 crores of which Defence Services will account for Rs. 121.08 crores and Civil expenditure for Rs. 136.29 crores. Following the customary procedure, I shall first deal with the Defence estimates.

28. *Defence Services.*—The reconstitution of the Armed Forces of the undivided Government of India into separate forces for the two dominions is now virtually complete. It was envisaged at an earlier stage that the reorganisation of the Armed Forces would be largely completed in the financial year, 1948-49. With the alteration in the role of the Armed Forces as a result of the partition a redistribution of the available financial resources between the three services to allow for a more balanced development was contemplated. Unfortunately, however, the recrudescence of communal disturbances and the necessity in present circumstances of having to retain substantial forces till normal conditions return have made it impossible to undertake the long term planning of the Armed Forces so as to keep the expenditure on them at a level appropriate to the financial resources of the country.

29. As the House is already aware, the process of demobilisation of the Armed Forces was arrested by the partition of the country in order to facilitate the division of the forces between the two dominions and to enable them independently to determine the size and composition of their respective Armed Forces. In the altered strategic situation following the partition and also in view of the recent disturbances in the country, it has not been possible to resume demobilisation in the Armed Forces of the Indian Dominion. The future strength and composition of these forces still remain to be decided and it may be some time before a decision is taken. Meanwhile, the Army is expected to be maintained at its present level.

30. Certain decisions for the expansion of the Naval and Air Forces have been taken and a delegation was sent to the United Kingdom last November to discuss with the British Government the question of acquiring certain Naval vessels and aircraft and the provision of training and other facilities for officers and men of the Indian Forces. These discussions were successfully completed and arrangements have been made for the acquisition of certain assets and for the training of Indian personnel. Honourable Members are aware of the decision by Government to strengthen the Navy with new types of ships, notably a cruiser and three destroyers. A party of officers and men of the Royal Indian Navy has already been despatched to the United Kingdom to undergo the necessary specialised training in order to ensure that these ships are manned as far as possible by Indian nationals. The Royal Indian Air Force is also being expanded.

31. The budget estimate for Defence Services for 1948-49 is, as I have mentioned Rs. 121.08 crores. This is exclusive of expenditure of a capital nature amounting to Rs. 14.99 crores to be incurred on the acquisition of land, the construction of training institutions, the provision of accommodation for personnel, the acquisition of new naval vessels, aircraft and connected equipment for the expansion of the Navy and the Air Forces which I have mentioned earlier. Provision for this expenditure has been included in the Capital Budget. As the House is aware, this practice of providing for capital expenditure outside the revenue account was introduced during the last War, and was discontinued only in 1947-48. I trust the House will agree with me that in the present abnormal conditions the decision to charge to capital the expenditure on the acquisition of permanent assets is unobjectionable.

32. The partition of the country placed heavy responsibilities on the Armed Forces of this Dominion when they were in the process of reconstitution both in the matter of maintenance of law and order and in assisting the Civil authorities in the evacuation and relief of the minorities in the Punjab. A Military Evacuation Organisation was set up during September 1947 with its headquarters at Amritsar and an advance headquarter at Lahore and this organisation succeeded in evacuating over 4 million non-muslims from Western Pakistan and about 5 million muslims from India within a period of 3 months. This stupendous task had to be performed under the most trying conditions and the troops which took part in it have responded most magnificently to our call. While the energy and resources of the army were mobilised for this humanitarian work further calls were made on them for the defence of Kashmir. The fighting in Kashmir is being carried on in difficult terrain and severe climatic conditions. I am sure the House will join me in paying a tribute to the Army and the Royal Indian Air Force for the magnificent way in which they have responded to the call made on them.

33. *Civil Estimates.*—Details of the estimates under individual heads are, as usual, given in the Explanatory Memorandum circulated with the Budget papers and I do not propose to weary the House by repeating them here. I should like however to refer briefly to the provision included in these estimates for certain special items like the expenditure on refugees and the subsidy for

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food. The expenditure on the relief and rehabilitation of refugees next year is estimated at Rs. 10.04 crores. The expenditure next year will be largely on relief and rehabilitation as the evacuation of refugees has now been nearly completed, except from Sind and to some extent from the N.-W.F.P. This estimate is necessarily tentative because in the rapidly changing conditions, it has not been possible to frame a close estimate. In addition to direct relief and grants for rehabilitation a comprehensive scheme for granting advances to the refugees to enable them to settle down in various walks of life has also been drawn up. A Rehabilitation Finance Administration to which Government will advance Rs. 10 crores is also being set up. I hope that the facilities provided by the Industrial Finance Corporation will also be available for the assistance of industries which have had to be transferred to India on account of the communal disturbances. In addition to the provision of Rs. 10.04 crores in the revenue budget a sum of Rs. 10 crores has been included in the capital budget for the Rehabilitation Finance Administration and Rs. 5 crores for loans and advances for rehabilitation, including loans to Provinces for this purpose. The expenditure on food subsidies, including the bonus to Provinces on the internal procurement of grain under the new food policy announced recently, is estimated at Rs. 19.91 crores. The estimates also include a total provision of Rs. 10¼ crores under various heads for expenditure upon development schemes and resettlement.

34. The House would doubtless wish to know if in framing the budget for next year any allowance has been made for the implementation of the recommendations of the Economy Committee the appointment of which under the Chairmanship of Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai was announced by me. The House will realise that it is obviously impossible to forecast the directions in which the Committee may suggest economies and the total amount that could be expected to be saved. I have however made a lump cut of Rs. 2½ crores under the various heads of civil expenditure in order to ensure that some economy is effected pending the report of the Committee. If the Committee's report suggests economies on a larger scale I propose to take steps during the course of the year to see that they are realised. I wish to make it clear however that this lump sum cut is mainly in the nature of a token and should not be taken as giving any indication of the size of the economy which I consider could be effected. This must necessarily depend on the considered judgment of the Committee after they have examined the various departmental authorities and I do not wish in any way to anticipate their findings.

35. Of the total expenditure of Rs. 136.29 crores provided in the budget for next year Rs. 29.95 crores are accounted for by the expenditure on refugees and the payment of subsidies and bonus for foodgrains, leaving Rs. 106.34 crores for normal expenditure. This includes Rs. 8.98 crores for tax collection, Rs. 2·95 crores for grants-in-aid to Provincial Governments and Rs. 20·93 crores, and provision for debt redemption, Rs. 3.15 crores for Planning and Resettlement, Rs. 2·2 crores for expenditure on the Mints and the Nasik Press, Rs. 2·95 crores for grants-in-aid to Provincial Governments and Rs. 20·93 crores for expenditure in the nation-building sphere such as Education, Medical, Public Health, Broadcasting, Aviation and the conduct of scientific surveys and institutions in which the Central Government supplement the work of the Provincial Governments and provide valuable technical assistance and research. The balance of Rs. 24.27 crores represents the provision for ordinary administration, Civil Works, etc. and this constitutes only 18 per cent. of the total civil expenditure. In addition to Rs. 20.93 crores in the nation-building sphere mentioned above, provision has been made in the capital budget for a grant of Rs. 30 crores to Provincial Governments for development and Rs. 34 crores for loans.

36. On the basis of the estimates of revenue and expenditure that I have so far explained, the anticipated deficit in the Budget for 1948-49 is Rs. 26.85 crores. In a later part of my speech I shall revert to the question of how I propose to deal with this deficit.

Post-War Planning and Development

37. When I addressed this House last November I mentioned that the question of re-examining the development schemes of the Provincial Governments with reference to the reduced resources likely to be available to the Centre for financing development and the changes resulting from the partition will be taken up. I have since had this further examined and it has been decided that so far as the Centre is concerned there should be no reduction in the extent of assistance promised by it to the Provinces when the Provinces were asked to draw up their plans for development. The House will remember that the Provinces were informed in 1945 that they could draw up their plans of Post-war development on the assumption that in the five years beginning with 1947-48 they could expect assistance by way of grants of the order of Rs. 250 crores. This amount was provisionally distributed among the Provinces in the ratio of their population. But some special weightage was given to the backward provinces of Assam, the N.-W.F.P. and Orissa and to Bengal, which with Assam, had been affected by the impact of war in the north-east frontier. With this weightage the Centre's promised contribution in five years rose to Rs. 273·88 crores. The Provinces were given advance grants to cover the expenditure incurred by them on development schemes in 1945-46 and 1946-47 to be taken against their share of the grant for the five year period. The progress of expenditure on the development schemes has been somewhat slower than anticipated mainly due to the shortage of material and man-power and the time taken to formulate detailed schemes. In the current year a provision of Rs. 20.39 crores was included in the budget for the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948 but it is unlikely that the whole of it will be spent. After allowing for the expenditure incurred up to the partition and for the areas now in Pakistan and reallocating the balance to the Provinces in the Indian Dominion the outstanding balance of the assistance from the Centre to the Provinces at the end of the current year, on approximately the same scale as was promised by the then Government of India in 1945, is estimated roughly at between Rs. 170 and Rs. 180 crores. I have carefully considered whether in the altered circumstances the Centre should reduce its assistance to the Provinces but I have come to the conclusion that in the larger interests of the development of the country as a whole it would be unwise to do so, particularly as the Provinces have framed their plans on the assumption that the promised assistance would be forthcoming. In reaching this decision I have been influenced by the fact that in actual practice the grants are likely to be spread over a somewhat longer period than the four years that remain out of the original five year period fixed for this assistance. This, to some extent, will relieve the strain on the resources of the Centre. But it is being made clear to the Provinces that in future the grants from the Centre upto the maximum agreed to will be contingent on the Provinces spending from their own resources at least an equal amount and that the whole scheme of assistance should be subject to readjustment if in the new constitution there is any substantial transfer of resources from the Centre to the units. I trust that with this assurance the Provinces will now be in a position to go ahead with their schemes of development and that they will conserve and exploit all the available resources for this purpose. The budget for the next year includes a provision of Rs. 30 crores for grants to Provinces for development and Rs. 34 crores for loans to them.

38. For Central schemes of development including resettlement a provision of Rs. 10¾ crores has been made in the revenue budget and Rs. 25¼ crores in the capital budget. Details of the provision are given in the Explanatory

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Memorandum circulated with the Budget papers and I do not propose to dilate at length on the individual schemes for which provision has been included in the budget. But they cover a very wide field and among the important schemes I would mention the expansion of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, the development of the valuable forests in the Andamans, the preliminary work on the Kosi, Sone Valley, Ghandak and Assam Valley projects, all of which form part of the large scale schemes of river development, the reorganisation of the Central Waterways Navigation and Irrigation Research Stations, the setting up of a Tractor Testing Station, the establishment of a Central Agricultural College, the expansion of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, the loan of Rs. 2 crores to the Damodar Valley Corporation and the investment of Rs. 1 crore in the Industrial Finance Corporation. In addition to provision for expenditure on the individual schemes just mentioned the budget also provides for an expenditure of over Rs. 2 crores for buildings for development schemes, Rs. 6¼ crores for the construction and improvement of our National Highways, Rs. 6½ crores for the Fertiliser Factory under construction at Sindri, Rs. 4 crores for the expansion of Civil Aviation and Rs. 70 lakhs for the expansion of broadcasting facilities.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

39. Before I pass on to deal with the ways and means position I shall give the House a brief account of the provision included in the budget for normal capital expenditure. The revised estimate for this year includes a provision of Rs. 26¼ crores of which the Railways account for Rs. 16¾ crores, Posts and Telegraphs for Rs. 2½ crores and schemes of State Trading for Rs. 4¾ crores. For next year the provision amounts to Rs. 76 crores of which Rs. 24½ crores are for Railways, Rs. 3¼ crores for Posts and Telegraphs, Rs. 15 crores for Defence, to cover expenditure on the purchase of naval vessels, aircraft and spares for the expansion of the Navy and Air Forces, the acquisition of land and the construction of accommodation for Defence Services personnel, Rs. 3¼ crores on the provision of additional accommodation in New Delhi, Rs. 2¾ crores for administrative buildings and communications costing over a lakh of rupees, the cost of which is now met from capital, and Rs. 27 crores for the building-up of the central reserve of 6 lakhs tons of foodgrains in accordance with the recently announced food policy of Government. The total provision in the Capital Budget for normal requirements and for financing the development schemes both of the Centre and the Provinces comes to the impressive figure of Rs. 70 crores this year and Rs. 165½ crores next year.

Ways and Means

40. I now turn to a brief consideration of the ways and means position. During this year owing to the uncertain political conditions in the earlier months, the partition of the country and the widespread communal disturbances in certain parts of the country it was not possible to borrow from the market the substantial amount which it was originally planned. Next year in addition to the interest-free prize bonds, with an outstanding of a little over Rs. 5 crores, which mature in January 1949, Government have the option of repaying the outstanding balance of the 2½ per cent. Loan 1948-52 and the 4 per cent. Loan 1948-53. A decision on the exercise of this option will be taken in the course of the year with reference to the conditions then prevailing. The market borrowings next year have been taken at Rs. 150 crores but if circumstances are propitious the scale of borrowing will be stepped up. I would in this connection reiterate the appeal I made on the floor of this House last November for the utmost co-operation from the public in the borrowing operations of the Government. Apart from the need which still remains for withdrawing surplus purchasing power from the hands of the community as a measure of anti-inflation, the requirement of funds for financing the large scale plans of development which the Government have in view and for assistance to the Provinces for implementing their schemes is as great as ever and unless the public co-operate whole-heatedly with the Government by lending their savings it will be impossible to undertake all the schemes of development necessary for raising the standard of life of our people.

41. I shall now pass on to the consideration of the all-important problem of how to deal with the deficit of Rs. 26.85 crores.

42. I just mentioned a deficit of Rs. 26.85 crores. This is exclusive of any contribution from the railway surplus. As Hon'ble Members are aware, it has now been decided that out of the railway surplus a contribution of Rs. 4.5 crores should be made to general revenues during the next year. The estimated deficit is therefore reduced to Rs. 22.35 crores.

Reliefs in Taxation

43. The House will remember that in my Budget Speech last November I referred to the widespread criticism that the level of taxation in the 1947-48 Budget had seriously affected the incentive for saving and investment and I undertook to make a careful examination of the consequences of our taxation policy before I presented my annual Budget. Since then I have given very anxious thought to the question and I have reached the conclusion that there is a considerable measure of justification in that criticism. As I have emphasised elsewhere, the paramount need in present conditions is to stimulate production and any fiscal or administrative measure which restricts or curtails the expansion of industry will stunt our development and add to our future difficulties. While industry should be called upon to pay its just contribution to the common exchequer, the burden placed upon it must be such as to allow business to expand. At the same time the aim of our policy should be to secure that, while the level of taxation is reasonably high so that the wealthier sections of the community are placed under an equitable contribution for the common needs of the State, a genuine margin is left for savings which would flow back into investment and thereby add to the productive wealth of the community, which the State itself could subsequently tap. It is also necessary so to adjust our taxation as to provide a real incentive to the ploughing back of profits into fresh business. In making my proposals in the field of direct taxation, I have kept these considerations prominently in mind.

44. I shall pass on to deal first with the various measures of relief which I propose to give.

My first proposal is with reference to the Business Profits Tax. This measure gave room for a good deal of controversy when it was introduced for the first time in the budget for 1947-48. The sudden withdrawal of the Excess Profits Tax gave this tax a considerable measure of justification. During the discussions on the floor of the House the then Finance Member stated that this tax would be in operation for one year, leaving it to his successor to decide whether it should be continued or not. In view of the criticisms levelled against this measure, both inside this House and outside, I gave a good deal of thought to this matter. I have come to the conclusion that, in the present circumstances, there is no justification for the complete withdrawal of this tax. Hon'ble Members might know that in the United Kingdom a tax of this kind was introduced some time back as a National Defence Contribution. This tax is retained though its nomenclature has been subsequently changed to Profits Tax. The need for additional funds for reconstruction and especially for the rehabilitation of refugees would justify the continuance of this measure in India

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for some time. I have, therefore, decided to retain this source of revenue but to reduce the burden of this tax considerably. The abatement allowed at present is Rs. 1 lakh or 6 per cent. of the Capital employed, whichever is larger. The rate of the tax is 16 2/3 per cent. I propose that the abatement should be Rs. 2 lakhs or 6 per cent, of the capital employed, whichever is larger, and that the rate of the tax should be reduced to 10 per cent. I hope this reduction will be welcomed by the business community. The result of this proposal will be a gross loss of Rs. 2 crores. Rs. 1 crore of this loss will, however, be recovered by the increase in income-tax receipts and the net result will therefore be a loss of Rs. 1 crore.

My second proposal is to reduce the existing rate of super-tax. The House will remember that last year the limit of income at which the maximum rate of 10½ annas is attracted was reduced in the case of earned income from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 1½ lakhs and in the case of unearned income from Rs. 3½ lakhs to Rs. 1,20,000. The effect of this was to take away from any person with an income of over Rs. 1,20,000 nearly the whole of the income beyond this amount. This hardly left any incentive to save and I have no doubt myself that such severe taxation at this level would seriously hamper the growth of savings and retard our industrial development. I have accordingly raised the limit at which the maximum rate of tax will be attracted to Rs. 3½ lakhs for both earned and unearned income. I trust the House will agree with me that this measure of relief is justified. I have also rearranged the rate of the tax within the slabs and the rates as they now stand seem to me to fulfil the double purpose of keeping the level of taxation sufficiently high while leaving at the same time a margin for saving. The changes in supertax are estimated to cost Rs. 1 crore.

In the budget for 1946-47 a complicated system of levying supertax at steeply graded rates on dividends above a datum line was introduced and last year these rates were further stiffened. The object of this was to deter the distribution of large dividends and to secure the ploughing back of profits into business. In actual practice very little revenue was collected from this source and the purpose with which it was introduced does not appear to have been realised. I feel that something more positive is required to induce industrialists to return more of their profits into investment than taxing those who distribute large dividends. My proposal to secure this end is to reduce the tax on the undistributed profits of a company by one anna. The effect of my proposal will be that on distributed profits the present rate of 5 annas will remain, while the tax on undistributed profits will be at the rate of 4 annas. I trust that this concession will produce better results than the present complicated system. The cost of this concession is estimated at Rs. 2 crores.

My next proposal is to reduce the income-tax on companies with an income of Rs. 25,000 and below to half the usual rates. Among the dangers to be avoided in the rapid industrialisation of this country is the one of concentrating too many businesses in the hands of large companies, and I feel that every encouragement should be given to the growth of smaller companies. This will broadbase our economy and will also be in line with our general pattern of industrial development with its constant emphasis on the development of cottage industries and a fair distribution of industry over the various Provinces. My contribution towards such a development is to allow this concession in favour of small companies with moderate incomes. The loss of revenue from this is estimated at Rs. 12 lakhs.

There is a widespread feeling that with the heavy taxation to which incomes are now subject there is very little scope left for assistance by the public to deserving institutions and charities. I have received a number of representations on this subject and after careful consideration of the matter I feel that a measure of relief on contributions made to recognised institutions and charities

would be justified. In this country there is a far too general a tendency for charitable and other institutions to look to the State for assistance and not to the public. To the extent to which there is a larger flow of private benefaction to such institutions, the burden on the State for supporting them will be reduced. I accordingly propose that donations to approved institutions and charities should be exempted from taxation so long as they do not exceed 5 per cent. of the net taxable income in the case of companies and 10 per cent. in the case of individuals, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2½ lakhs in both cases. I trust the House will welcome this concession and I hope it will encourage our industrialists and the public to subscribe more generously to deserving institutions and purposes. It is my intention to have a list of approved institutions and bodies drawn up in consultation with the Provincial Governments. It is difficult to estimate the loss of revenue involved in this concession and I have taken a rough figure of Rs. 75 lakhs.

I also propose to give a further measure of relief, in regard to the payment of municipal taxes on house property. I have felt that the absence of such an exemption is an anomaly in our tax system and that there is a justifiable claim for relief here. I accordingly propose to exempt these payments from taxation. The cost of this concession is estimated at Rs. 75 lakhs.

45. Before I pass on to deal with reliefs in indirect taxation, I should like to mention briefly a point in which it seems necessary to readjust our Corporation Tax. Hon'ble Members are aware that under the law as it stands we are entitled to recover supertax on dividends paid by companies incorporated outside this country to their shareholders abroad in respect of their Indian business. For this purpose it is necessary to ascertain from the companies particulars about their shareholders abroad and the dividends distributed to them. This information is rarely available in full with the result that very little of the tax is collected. It is necessary that some effective arrangement should be made to protect our revenue against this leakage and I think that this can best be done by raising the general rate of Corporation Tax and giving an appropriate rebate on their income to those companies which declare and pay their dividends in India. I accordingly propose that the rate of Corporation Tax be raised from 2 annas to 3 annas and a rebate of one anna allowed to the companies which declare and distribute their dividends in India. The effect of this proposal will be that companies in India will pay the present rate of Corporation Tax of 2 annas while foreign companies having business in India will have to pay a Corporation Tax of 3 annas on their profits earned in this country. This change is expected to bring an additional revenue of Rs. 2 crores.

46. I may now summarise the net effect of the reliefs in income-tax and the proposed change in the Corporation Tax. The various concessions I have just detailed will result in a loss in revenue of Rs. 6.62 crores, of which the Provincial share will amount to Rs. 2.41 crores. This will, however, be partly set off by the additional revenue of Rs. 2 crores from the change in the Corporation Tax and Rs. 1 crore from the ordinary collection of tax resulting from the reduction in the Business Profits Tax, of which the Provincial share will amount to Rs. 45 lakhs. The net effect of my proposals on the Centre is a reduction in revenue of Rs. 1·66 crores.

47. I shall now turn to the reliefs in the field of indirect taxation.

During the debate on the interim Budget there was some criticism about the increase in the export duty on cloth and I promised to consider the suggestion that the duty should be converted into an *ad valorem* duty. I have received a number of representations that the present specific duty is pressing too heavily on handloom cloth and on certain categories of mill-made cloth. The duty of 6 annas a pound on cotton yarn has also proved burdensome and on a

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careful review of the matter in all its aspects I have decided to convert the export duty into an *ad valorem* duty of 25 per cent., to exempt handloom cloth from the duty and to withdraw the duty on exports of cotton yarn. These concessions will involve a loss of revenue of Rs. 4·5 crores.

I also propose to withdraw the present excise duty on betelnuts. The administration of this excise has always been difficult and it has been a prolific source of complaint from the areca-growing Provinces. I trust the House would welcome this concession which I hope will mean a cheapening of this article to the poor man. The loss of revenue involved is Rs. 30 lakhs.

48. The net effect of all the reliefs mentioned so far and the changes in income-tax is a reduction in revenue of Rs. 6·46 crores, raising the prospective deficit to Rs. 28·81 crores.

New and Additional Taxes.

49. In an earlier part of this speech I expressed the view that in the present inflationary conditions it is necessary to reduce, as far as possible, the gap between revenue and expenditure and if it is at all possible to have a surplus budget. I am sure the House will agree with me that the prospective deficit is too large to be left uncovered and that in a transitional time like this we should take every step possible to strengthen our revenue position. In raising additional taxation it is, in my view, necessary to secure that as little of the burden as possible falls on the poor man.

50. Before I deal with my proposals for raising additional revenue I shall briefly digress to mention a change in the accounting which will reduce the prospective deficit by Rs. 10 crores. Advance payments of income-tax under Section 18-A of the Income Tax Act are not credited as revenue but held in deposit till the complicated process of assessing the tax is completed. These advance payments of tax are not really refundable deposits and there is no reason why they should not be credited to revenue straightaway. I propose to introduce this change with effect from next year. But the change will be made in stages so that the budgetary position is not violently disturbed. The advance payments will be credited to a separate minor head within the major head and transferred to the final heads on completion of the assessments. The change in procedure will be given effect to next year in respect of advance payments of Corporation Tax and will be extended to advance payments of income-tax in the subsequent years. I need hardly mention that this change in procedure will not in any way affect the provincial share of income-tax. The result of this change will be to divert to revenue next year Rs. 10 crores which would have otherwise been credited as the deposit. This will reduce the deficit to Rs. 18·81 crores.

51. I shall now address myself to the problem of covering this deficit by new taxes. The House will appreciate that with the existing shortage in the foreign exchange resources of the country and the need to conserve them as far as possible to meet our heavy commitments in respect of our food purchases, it is not possible to expect any substantial relief from the expansion of customs revenue from import duties, although the country could absorb all the imports likely to flow in if the restrictions on imports are relaxed. For a considerable time we shall have to rely on Central Excises and, to some extent, on the yield of export duties. In framing my taxation proposals I have turned as much as possible to the field of export duties, which do not involve any additional burden on our people, and to such of the excises as do not affect the poorer classes.

My first proposal is to levy an export duty of Rs. 80 per ton on oilseeds and Rs. 200 per ton on vegetable oils. There is a wide disparity between the internal prices of these commodities and their export prices and I am satisfied that the imposition of this duty will not affect our export market. The yield from this duty is estimated at Rs. 2·5 crores.

My next proposal is to levy an export duty of Rs. 20 per ton on Manganese to yield Rs. 80 lakhs.

I propose to make only two minor changes in the import duties. The duty on motor cars will be raised from 45 per cent. to 50 per cent., with a preference of 7½ per cent. in favour of the United Kingdom. The yield from this increase is estimated at Rs. 50 lakhs. The import duty on cigars, cigarettes and manufactured tobacco will also be slightly raised following the changes in the excise duty, to which I shall presently refer. The increase in revenue from this change is estimated at Rs. 12 lakhs.

In the field of Central Excises my main proposals concern Tobacco. It is only in recent years that the Tobacco excise has been developed and the system of taxation could, in my opinion, be rationalised so as to increase the revenue from this source. But this will take some time. Meanwhile, I propose to levy an excise duty on cigarettes amounting to roughly 25 per cent. on the *ex-factory prices*. I estimate the yield from this change at Rs. 7 crores. Simultaneously the duty on certain categories of unmanufactured tobacco will be raised from 9 annas per lb. to 12 annas per lb. in some cases and from 3 annas per lb. to 4 annas per lb. in others in order to secure that there is no diversion from the consumption of cigarettes to the cheaper varieties. This increase is estimated to yield Rs. 2 crores.

The excise duty on Tea will be raised from 2 annas per lb. to 4 annas per lb. to bring it to the same level as the export duty. The additional revenue from this increase is estimated at Rs. 1·8 crores.

The duty on Coffee will be similarly raised to 4 annas per lb. to yield Rs. 30 lakhs.

The duty on Vegetable Products will be raised by 50 per cent. to Rs. 7-8-0 per cwt. to yield Rs. 40 lakhs.

The duty on Tyres will also be raised by 50 per cent. The additional revenue is estimated at Rs. 40 lakhs.

The House will remember that in the budget for 1946-47 the excise duty on Matches was reduced from Rs. 2-8-0 per gross to Rs. 1-12-0 per gross for boxes containing between 40 and 50 matches. In actual practice this reduction has not been passed on to the consumer and I propose that this should be withdrawn and the minimum duty fixed at Rs. 2-8-0 per gross on all boxes containing up to 50 matches. The additional revenue from this will amount to Rs. 150 lakhs.

I also propose to make two minor changes in the Postal and Telephone rates. The registration fee will be raised from 3 to 4 annas while the surcharge on trunk telephone calls will be raised from 40 to 60 per cent. and amalgamated with the basic rate. These changes, which will be introduced by executive orders, will bring in an additional revenue of Rs. 40 lakhs.

Net result of proposals.

52. I may now summarise the net effect of all the proposals that I have made. The reliefs and the changes that I have proposed in income-tax, super-tax and Corporation Tax will result in a loss of Rs. 1.66 crores. The abolition of the export duty on handloom cloth and yarn and the reduction of the export duty on mill-made cloth will mean a loss of Rs. 4·5 crores. The abolition of the

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duty on betelnuts will cost Rs. 30 lakhs. The total loss to revenue on account of relief and rejustments of these taxes will be Rs. 6:46 crores. On the basis of this loss the original deficit of Rs. 22.35 crores will be increased to Rs. 28.81 crores. This deficit will again be reduced to Rs. 18.81 crores by taking the advance payments of Corporation Tax next year direct to revenue. With regard to the additional taxes, the proposed export duties will bring in Rs. 3·3 crores. The increase in the import duties will bring in Rs. 62 lakhs. The increase in excises will bring in Rs. 13·4 crores. The changes made in the Postal and Telephone charges will bring in Rs. 40 lakhs. The total net revenue resulting from these new taxes and the enhancement of certain existing taxes will thus bring in an additional revenue of Rs. 17.72 crores. The final deficit for this year will therefore stand at Rs. 1.09 crores. In the present circumstances, I feel fully justified in leaving this small deficit uncovered. In considering this deficit the House must remember that the estimates do not include any credit on account of the interest due from Pakistan on its partition debt which, but for the moratorium, would be available to the credit of our revenues. Though it is not possible to know accurately at present the amount of the interest due from Pakistan, it may be assumed on a very rough calculation that it would be of the order of Rs. 9 crores. If this amount, which is legitimately due to us and the payment of which is only postponed, was available to me in the next year, this small deficit would really be converted into a substantial surplus.

Direct and Indirect Taxes.

53. Much has been said in the past on the floor of this House and elsewhere regarding the maintenance of a proper balance between direct and indirect taxes in our tax structure. The House will appreciate that this is not a matter which could be regulated by any set principles and that, in the ultimate analysis, it is merely a question of arranging the taxation to the best advantage of the community and with reference to the economic conditions of each country. Thus, while in an industrially advanced country it may be possible to raise a substantial revenue by direct taxation it will obviously be unwise to pitch the direct taxes too high in a country in the process of development as the inevitable effect of high direct taxation is to retard the formation of capital without which industrial development is not possible. Similarly, when the main consideration is to curtail consumption, as during a period of shortage of goods and inflation, it may be necessary to raise the level of indirect taxation to secure a reduction in consumption. There is also a common fallacy that the larger the amount of indirect taxation the heavier the burden on the ordinary man. While it is of course true that over a considerable field consumption taxes reach a wider section of the population than direct taxation consumption taxes on such luxuries as motor cars, the costlier varieties of tabacco, cigarettes, duties on wines and spirits and export duties which do not affect the internal consumer, all of which go to swell the total of indirect taxation do not touch the life of the ordinary man. In this connection I am sure the House will be interested to know the pattern of our tax structure. In 1937-38 out of a total revenue of Rs. 75.8 crores direct taxation accounted for only 21 per cent. while the bulk of the revenue came from indirect taxation. This proportion has naturally varied during the war when there was a steep rise in direct taxation due to the large increase in income-tax and the levy of the Excess Profits Tax. In the budget for next year which I am now presenting to this House the proportion of direct to indirect taxation will be about equal. It would be interesting to compare our position in this respect with the United Kingdom. In a highly industrialised country like the United Kingdom the scope for raising large revenues from direct taxation is greater. The United

Kingdom budget for 1947-48 discloses that in that country the percentage of direct taxes to the total revenue is only 52. This compares very favourably with our tax structure in which, with a comparatively poor industrial economy, we collect about 51 per cent. of our taxes from direct taxes. Another interesting feature of our economy is that, as compared with 1937-38, the direct taxes would have increased eight and half times in 1948-49 while the indirect taxes would have increased only by a little over twice. Considering the relatively undeveloped state of our country, I do not think that any one could say that the burden of direct taxation in this country is unduly light or that there has been any shifting of the burden on the shoulders of the ordinary man.

Future Prospects.

54. On the estimates as they finally emerge, the total revenue next year will stand at Rs. 256.28 crores and the expenditure at Rs. 257.37 crores leaving an uncovered deficit of Rs. 1.09 crores. I must, however, warn the House that this cannot by any means be regarded as the normal figure of revenue and expenditure for the subsequent years. The estimated income-tax receipts for 1948-49 include collections relating to the Excess Profits Tax which will practically disappear in the subsequent years. The Business Profits Tax in subsequent years will also be less and other factors being equal, the net proceeds of income-tax accruing to the Central Government for 1949-50 will be approximately Rs. 20 crores less than the corresponding receipts for 1948-49. The total revenue for 1949-50 will therefore be at least Rs. 20 crores less than for 1948-49. As against this it should be borne in mind that certain items of expenditure appearing in the budget for 1948-49 may reasonably be expected to show a considerable decrease. The expenditure provided for next year under relief and rehabilitation and food subsidies amounts to Rs. 29.95 crores. It may reasonably be anticipated that the expenditure under these two items will go down considerably during the subsequent years. If normal conditions are restored, a reduction in the defence expenditure may also be anticipated. Taking all the factors into consideration, it is not unreasonable to hope for a balanced budget in the future. The House will realise that in the transitional phase through which we are passing, it is difficult to make any precise estimate of our financial position for the next two or three years. On any reasonable view of the situation, I feel it is the path of prudence to strengthen our revenue position and keep down our expenditure as much as possible. As a precautionary measure, in tapping new sources of revenue I have decided to re-introduce in the current session the Estate Duty Bill. Even though the proceeds of this duty will go to the benefit of the Provinces any augmentation of the revenues of the Provinces would, to some extent, reduce the strain on Central finances. Apart from this, it is possible under the proposed measure to levy surcharges for purely Central purposes.

55. Although I have not been able to present a balanced or a surplus budget much as I wish to, the size of the deficit next year which I propose to leave uncovered is very small in relation to the total expenditure. This may be considered an index of the efforts that we are making to close the era of war-time deficits and bridge the gap between revenue and expenditure. In my interim Budget I ventured to express the view that the financial possition of the country was intrinsically sound and that we were not living beyond our means or heading towards bankruptcy. The Budget that I am now presenting fully supports this view. While it will be folly to ignore the difficulties ahead, I feel that we can face the future in a spirit of sober confidence.

Public Debt.

56. The debt position of a country is a sure index of its financial strength and here again I think our position is inherently sound. At the end of the current year the total outstanding public debt is expected to stand at Rs. 1,795

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crores and to rise by a further Rs. 56 crores duing next year to Rs. 1,851 crores. The total of the interest bearing obligations is estimated at Rs. 2,182 crores at the end of this year and Rs. 2,231 crores at the end of the budget year. Against these obligations, we expect to have at the end of this year roughly Rs. 1,161 crores and at the end of next year Rs. 1,237 crores by way of interest yielding assets representing the investments in the two great commercial departments of Government, namely the Railways and Posts and Telegraphs, outstanding amounts due to us from the Provincial Governments, Indian States, Burma and others, and the probable debt due from Pakistan to us. In addition, we shall be holding cash and other investments on treasury account amounting to Rs. 246 crores at the end of this year and Rs. 130 crores at the end of next year. The total interest bearing obligations not covered by interest bearing assets and our cash and intertst yielding investments would thus amount to no more than Rs. 775 crores at the end of the current year and Rs. 864 crores at the and of the next year. The House will realise that these figures are to some extent approximate and it is not possible to give precise figures until Pakistan's share of the obligations which she would assume direct and her debt to India have been fully worked out. Allowances has however been made for this on the best guess that could be made and I think the House may accept these figures as giving a broad indication of the position.

57. The debt burden is to be judged primarily by the size of the deadweight debt. The amount of deadweight debt which I estimate at Rs. 864 crores is indeed very small when compared with the resources of the country and our national income. The debt position may be compared with the national income for assessing whether the debt is one which the country can afford to carry. For this purpose, we may take the whole of the interest bearing obligations of the Government of India which are expected to stand at Rs. 2,231 crores at the end of next year. Unfortunately, we have no accurate data regarding the national income of our country. Various estimates have been made from time to time, but none of them has been made on a really accurate and scientific basis and I do not think we shall be far wrong if we assume that our national income is of the order of 4,500 crores of rupees. Our public debt is less than half of our national income. It is interesting to compare our position with that of more advanced countries like the United Kingdom and the United States. The national debt in the United States is more than 1½ times its national income and the national debt of the United Kingdom is nearly three times its national income. The burden of the debt may also be assessed in another manner by studying the interest charges in relation to the annual revenue. For the year 1948-49 our gross payment of interest charges will amount to Rs. 61·82 crores. From our Commercial Departments like Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, etc., and by way of interest receipts from Provincial Governments and other sources we get Rs. 25.66 crores. The net interest payment therefore is only Rs. 36·16 crores. From this must again be deducted the interest due to us from Pakistan which I have estimated at approximately 9 crores of rupees. Our net interest burden is therefore about Rs. 27 crores. The anticipated revenue is Rs. 256·28 crores. Our net interest payment therefore represents only about 10½ per cent of our revenue. The inference that may legitimately be drawn from these figures is that we could carry even a larger volume of debt and that there is still a large source available here for financing the development of our country. The savings of the community could be mobilised on a very much larger scale for financing productive schemes of development. I appealed earlier in my speech for public co-operation in the borrowing programme of Government. The picture of our financial position which I have unfolded before this House will, I hope have a reassuring effect on the public and instil a spirit of confidence all round.

Conclusion.

58. Mr. Speaker, I have completed my survey of the economic condition of our country, my estimate of our income and expenditure and my proposals for the coming year. I must apologise to the House for the length of my statement. In the first annual Budget, I thought it my duty to give the House a fairly full picture of our financial position. In my interim Budget I struck a note of subdued optimism and ventured to express my opinion that our financial position was intrinsically sound. A more detailed examination over a longer period has confirmed that opinion. In spite of all the trials to which our infant State has been subjected, we have the solid foundations on which we can confidently build the superstructure of our economic and social edifice. The pattern of that structure is entirely in our hands to draw. While fighting the uphill battle of freedom we dreamt the dream of an India free from want and insecurity, a land in which our people would have in abundance the material and moral contents of a good life. But then our hands were tied and so we merely made plans which would improve our agriculture and industrialise our country, and thus provide a higher standard of living to our masses. From August 15th, 1947 the chains of our bondage have been broken and we are free to translate our dreams into reality. The plans are there, but we find that our freedom was born in an era so fluid and fast changing that any pre-determined step other than the next became obsolete before it could be taken. We feel like the pilgrim who drags his weary limbs finally to the mountain top, only to find higher peaks stretching before his eyes. It is by no means the journey's end and the night falls and engulfs him in darkness. And like him we are inspired to pray in the spirit of the favourite hymn of Mahatma Gandhi—Lead Kindly Light. The next step is enough for us if it is illuminated by the star of our ambition and fortified by the faith in our destiny.

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATES

Revenue

(In lakhs of Rs.)

	Revised 1947-48	Budget 1948-49
Customs	54,50	81,75 —58*
Central Excise Duties	20,72	24,90 13,10*
Corporation Tax	40,43	39,50 10,30*
Taxes on Income	74,57	90,56 —3,92*
Salt	90	...
Opium	68	1,40
Interest	46	1,17
Civil Administration	7,28	5,12
Currency and Mint	1,25	9,40
Civil Works	47	81
Other sources of revenue	5,11	4,36
Contribution from Posts and Telegraphs	2,14	38 40*
Contribution from Railways		4,50
Deduct—Share of income-tax revenue payable to Provinces	—29,74	—37,37 1,96*
TOTAL REVENUE	1,78,77	2,56,28

*Budget proposals.

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Expenditure

	(In lakhs of Rs.) Revised 1947-48	Budget 1948-49
Direct demands on revenue	5,45	8,98
Irrigation	8	13
Debt Services	19,24	21,16
Civil Administration	23,75	24,56
Currency and Mint	1,14	2,20
Civil Works	6,28	7,21
Pensions	1,57	2,70
Miscellaneous—		
Expenditure on refugees	14,89	10,04
Subsidy on foodgrains	20,16	19,91
Other expenditure	2,36	3,28
Grants to provinces	1,85	2,96
Extraordinary items	1,89	3,16
Defence Services (net)	86,63	121,08
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	185,29	257,37
NET DEFICIT	6,52	1,09

Mr. Speaker : Honourable Members will now get their Budget papers and thereafter I shall call upon the Honourable the Finance Minister to move for leave to introduce the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning 1st April 1948.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): Before you call upon the Honourable the Finance Minister to introduce the Bill, may I just seek information as to whether it was by an oversight that this was not mentioned in the List of Business, or is it some new precedent that you, Sir, want to set up.?

Mr. Speaker: It is not a new precedent. The Bill will be introduced and a copy of the Bill is being circulated.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth :That is not the point I am referring to. In the List of Business it is usually entered that the Honourable the Finance Minister will move for leave to introduce the Bill, but it is not entered in the list circulated to us.

Mr. Speaker : That will not be a precedent for the next session. There were some circumstances which it is not necessary to disclose to the House.

INDIAN FINANCE BILL, 1948.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty : (Minister for Finance): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1948.

Mr. Speaker : The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April 1948."

The motion was **adopted.**

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty : Sir, in introducing the Bill I just want to give an information. In view of the many proposals contained in the Finance Bill, it is my intention at the appropriate stage to move that the Bill should be examined by a Select Committee.

Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned till Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Monday the 1st March, 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Monday, 1st March, 1948

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.†

ORAL ANSWER

[501*—515*]†

TROUBLE OVER DISARMING AN R.I.A.S.C. BATTALION IN ALLAHABAD CANTONMENT

516. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state whether it is a fact that some trouble occurred in Allahabad cantonment when the local military authorities attempted to disarm an R.I.A.S.C. Battalion which had arrived there from Bombay?

(b) Is it a fact that some soldiers of the said Battalion resorted to firing and refused to surrender their arms?

(c) Is it a fact that six Battalions of the Kumaon Regiment at Allahabad exchanged fire with the mutineers, disarmed them and put them under arrest?

(d) Do Government propose to make a detailed statement regarding the cause of this mutiny?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The 6th Battalion of the Kumaon Regiment was employed in this connection but they did not resort to firing.

(d) No. The persons mainly responsible for this incident are being tried by Court Martial and the matter is therefore *sub judice*.

LEASES OF CANTONMENT LANDS

517. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state whether it is a fact that Cantonment land is being given in various Cantonment limits in India by Executives of Cantonments to selected persons, at a nominal rate?

(b) Is it a fact that in some cases lands have been given on 25 to 50 years' leases at a nominal rate of rupees 1 to 3 per square yard, whereas the rate for the adjoining lands in Civil limits is ten times as much?

(c) Is it a fact that there are various kinds of leases of lands, existing at present?

(d) Do Government propose to review the whole Cantonment land problem with the object of avoiding loss in Government revenues?

(e) If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). No.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). These questions do not arise in view of the answers to parts (a) and (b).

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the term of the lease if the answer to parts (a) and (b) are in the negative? I would like to know how many years' lease is given in this Cantonment Area?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Buildings leased are of three kinds: those granted in perpetuity: 30 years' lease not renewable: and 30 years lease renewable up to 90 years.

†For answers to these questions, *see* pages 1378-88 of these Debates.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: In view of this long-term lease which has been given to them, do Government reconsider the terms of these leases?

Mr. Speaker: Which leases? Existing or future?

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Future.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As regards the question of giving leases in future, we are not ordinarily giving for more than 30 years. As regards the leases already given for more than 30 years, it is difficult for us to do anything about them.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the rate generally charged per square yard for a 30 years' lease?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I would require notice of that

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is not it a fact that the price of land for 30 years is ten times more than the area adjoining the civil authorities?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I do not think that is in order

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: May I know on what principle lessees are selected for these leases?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The recommendations are received from the Local Authorities and considered by the Department.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: What is the principle on which the Local Authorities are expected to make recommendations as regards these leases?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The principles have been already laid down.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I have some idea as to how many such leases have been issued in the Cantonments?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could give the reply to this question if the Honourable Member will put a question.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: Where are these principles laid down?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The principles laid down are available from every Cantonment Officer.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES BEFORE AND AFTER WAR

518. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance please state the number of officials both gazetted and non-gazetted and also the number of subordinate staff which existed before the War (September 1939) and the number in 1946 and 1947?

(b) Do Government intend to retrench the staff employed during the War?

(c) If not, what are the reasons for retaining them?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to his Starred Question No. 333, dated the 19th February, 1948 in which it was stated that the information when available will be placed on the table of the House.

(b) and (c). Considerable reduction in the staff recruited in connection with purely War Time activities has already been effected. The Economy Committee, which has been recently constituted, has been requested to scrutinise the matter further and to make suitable recommendations.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Can I have an idea as to what is the total number retrenched so far?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The information is being collected. But I can give the Honourable Member some idea, though I should warn him that these figures should not be taken as very accurate:

	Gazetted officers	Non-gazetted officers
Ministry of Finance	18	152
Military Accounts Dept.	67	9,935
Ministry of Supply and Industry	1,361	27,510
Ministry of Labour	358	29,140
Ministry of Commerce	21	167

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: When were they retrenched?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Since the termination of the war.

Shri H. V. Kamath: As against the retrenchment in these Ministries has the staff in other Ministries been expanded?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Whether there has been any expansion in any particular Ministry, I would like notice of that question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there any departmental committee in each department to gather material as to the personnel and how economy may be effected for material for the Economic Committee?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That is being done departmentally.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the matter be placed before the several Standing Committees of the Assembly before they are finalised and placed before the Economic Committee?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I cannot say what is to be done about them.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: So far as the Finance Standing Committee is concerned, will the Finance Minister see to it that whatever material is gathered, is placed before the Finance Committee before it goes to the Economic Committee?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I shall consider that.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: May I know whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table of the House the report of the Committee on Retrenchment?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: When it is ready, yes.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has any of the retrenched staff been absorbed by Government or other Departments?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: It is the general policy of the Government to see that as far as possible men who are retrenched are absorbed in some other useful occupation, including Government service. A special machinery has been set up for this purpose.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Can the Honourable Minister give a rough idea of the number of people so set off?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No I cannot give it

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I wanted the same answer to a similar question: Could the Honourable Minister give an idea of the percentage of the "set-offs".

Mr. Speaker: He wants notice of that.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How far has the Economic Committee progressed?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I think they really had their first meeting two or three weeks back.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are any of the members finding it difficult to spend their time for the legitimate purpose of the Committee and want to be relieved?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am not aware of it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the kind of machinery to absorb these retrenched staff in other departments?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: When there is any proposal for a large-scale retrenchment in any particular department, then the other departments are informed about it and a very detailed examination is made to see whether it is possible to absorb them in any other manner.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Honourable Minister given any time limit within which the Committee should conclude its deliberations and recommendations?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I have not given any particular time-limit to the Committee because I know that the Committee is fully alive to the urgency of the problem. But I have told them that as they finish their enquiry into each Ministry's affairs, they should send a report so that we may take action.

PENSIONS TO DESCENDANTS OF EX-RULERS OF INDIAN STATES

519. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States please refer to the statement given in reply to Mr. Mohanlal Saksena's starred question No. 580 asked on 3rd December, 1947 showing the nature of pensions and amounts involved in the provision made for the descendants, relatives and dependants of the former Rulers of territories in India and state whether Government propose to review the question of the payment of these pensions to the descendants etc. of the former Rulers under the new set up and conditions in this country?

(b) Are there any agreements between the States and the Rulers for the payment of these pensions?

(c) If so, are they to continue in perpetuity?

(d) What are the advantages to Government, at present, in the payment of these annual pensions?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (d). Full information in regard to the nature and amounts of the political pensions is now being collected and on receipt of this information the question of continuance of these pensions will be examined. Each case will have to be considered on its merits.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the pensions allowed to the dependents of these persons include some in the Pakistan Area?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no information. The information is being gathered.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that the dependents of Loharu . . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question is not relevant. The Minister has said that the information is being collected.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I know that it includes Rs. 30,000 to the Raja of Loharu. May I know if that will be continued here?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: We have not examined any individual case.

Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister see that the following information is also collected? Certain pensions were given to those rulers who helped the British Government during the War of Independence of 1857. Will the Honourable Minister see that those pensions are reduced? Will he also see that the pensions of those persons are enhanced who helped in the Movement of 1857?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think the question need be answered. It is a problematical question and contains suggestion for action.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: I was not quite clear about the answer which the Honourable Minister gave. May I know what provision under the new agreements Government has made regarding allowances to members of the families of ruling princes which were given to them by the States? Is Government making any provision for them at all?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The question under reply does not refer to the arrangements with regard to the new States that have been merged into the Indian Union. The question refers to old pensions.

APPOINTMENTS ON PROGRAMME STAFF OF A. I. R.

520. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Staff Selection Board exists for making appointments on the Programme Staff of the All India Radio?

(b) How may appointments have been made on permanent or temporary basis since January 1947?

(c) Was the Board consulted before making these appointments? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Regional Selection Boards exist for the recruitment to permanent posts of Junior Programme Staff.

(b) No appointments have been made on a permanent basis; 24 Programme Assistants and 8 Transmission Assistants have been appointed at various Stations of All-India Radio since January, 1947 in a purely temporary capacity.

(c) Since the appointments were temporary it was not necessary to consult the Boards.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Are these temporary appointments brought before the Selection Boards for confirmation?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not think temporary appointments require any consultation with the Board. The Boards were constituted for the purpose of consultation regarding permanent appointments.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that these temporary appointments have been there for many months?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: As I have said in my answer, these temporary appointments have been made since January 1947.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: That means more than a year. Is the Honourable Minister aware that it has become a practice that temporary appointments are being made and they are not being brought before the Board for confirmation as permanent appointments?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is no such practice. But the Honourable Member must be aware that 70 per cent. of these appointments were reserved for war service candidates and 30 per cent. for others. These temporary appointments have been made because as soon as certain new stations have been opened in Assam and Orissa we had to make temporary appointments for those stations. But there is no such practice as has been suggested by the Honourable Member.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister please tell us whether recruitment for these temporary appointments is being made as a sort of first step towards the persons being made permanent?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Not in these cases.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the Selection Board takes the place of the Public Service Commission so far as this recruitment is concerned?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, Sir. These Selection Boards recruit only for minor appointments such as junior programme staff.

Shri H. V. Kamath: The Honourable Minister stated, if I heard him aright, that Regional Selection Boards have been set up. May I know into how many regions India has been split up for this purpose and how many such Boards are there?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There are as many Boards as there are regions. The Regional Boards have been constituted in accordance with the regional division of the country on a linguistic basis.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what steps have been taken by Government to see that these Selection Boards act as carefully as the Public Service Commission does in its own sphere?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Public Service Commission cannot be entrusted with the work of recruiting for these minor appointments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Just as in regard to major appointments the Public Service Commission is expected to do its work very carefully, are steps being taken to see that these Selection Boards act equally carefully in regard to these minor appointments?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Selection Board has not yet disposed of a single case of recruitment. No reference has been made to the Selection Board yet.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: May I know whether any time limit has been fixed for these appointments to be kept as temporary?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No time limit has been fixed. Temporary appointment means that according to the spirit of temporary appointments they will not be for a longer period than is necessary.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know whether it is a fact that the Selection Board has not been called into action even once during the last year?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That is because, as I have said, 70 per cent. of the appointments are to be made from candidates with war service and 30 per cent. are reserved for temporary government servants. Pending the selection of these people these appointments are made. If selections are made up to 70 per cent. from war service candidates and up to 30 per cent. from temporary government servants, then these temporary candidates will have to give place to these people.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is there any time limit for the appointment of a temporary hand? Or is it called temporary and can continue almost indefinitely?

Mr. Speaker: That question has already been asked by Mr. Poker Sahib and answered.

Shree Krishna Chandra Sharma: May I know if permanent appointments are made without reference to the Board?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No such permanent appointment has been made.

POPULARISATION OF HINDI THROUGH RADIO

521. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government are considering the possibilities of popularising Hindi through the medium of Radio?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is no proposal at present under Government consideration to popularise Hindi through Radio.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: Is not Hindi popular enough?

Mr. Speaker: That is asking for opinion.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will Government consider the desirability of taking recourse to these methods so that our South Indian friends can easily learn the language?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The matter is under consideration.

REPLACEMENT OF ENGLISH BY HINDI IN INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

522. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state what are the various measures taken by the Government of India to replace English by Hindi in the Indian Universities within its jurisdiction?

(b) Did Government consult the various Universities regarding this question?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of fixing a date by which time this replacement may be completed?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) جہانتک پرائمری اور سکنڈری تعلیم کا لگاؤ ہے تمام صوبوں کی حکومتوں نے یہ بات مان لی ہے کہ میڈیم آف انسٹرکشن (medium of instruction) مادری زبان میں ہونا چاہئے - اور اسکی کارروائی پوری طرح عمل میں لائی جائے - باقی یہ بات رہی کہ یونیورسٹی کے پڑھائی کے درجہ کا کیا تھنگ ہونا چاہئے تو یہ معاملہ بھی صاف ہوچکا ہے - سنٹرل ایجوکیشن ایڈوائزری بورڈ (Central Advisory Board Education) نے اپنی پچھلی بیٹھک میں یہ بات مان لی ہے کہ یونیورسٹی کے درجہ میں بھی میڈیم آف انسٹرکشن (medium of instruction) انگریزی زبان میں رکھا جائیگا - اسکی جگہ ماکی زبان کو مانی چاہئے یقینی ملکی زبان تمام ماک کیائے ایک ہو - اور تمام صوبوں میں راشٹر بھاشا اختیار کیجائے - اسکے لئے ایک سوال پیدا ہوتا ہے - جسپر سوچ وچار کرنیکی ضرورت ہے - بورڈ نے اس کام کیلئے ایک کمیٹی بنادی ہے - وہ سوچ وچار کرکے اپنی سفارش گورنمنٹ کے سامنے رکھے گی -

(b) ہاں گورنمنٹ آف اِنڈیا نے اس بات کیائے ایک آل انڈیا ایجوکیشنل کانفرنس بلائی تھی - اسمیں تمام ایجوکیشن منسٹر اور ریاستوں کے نمائیندے اور ماک کے مانے ہوئے ایجوکیشنسٹ شریک ہوئے تھے (a) کے جواب میں جو بات کہی گئی ہے اس سے اس کانفرنس نے اتفاق کیا -

(c) سنٹرل ایڈوائزری بورڈ (Central Advisory Board) اور ایجوکیشنل کانفرنس (Educational Conference) دونوں اس نتیجہ پر

[آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد]

پہونچے کہ یونیورسٹی کے درجہ کی پڑھائی میں یہ تبدیلی اچانک نہیں کرنی چاہئے - یہ تبدیلی پانچ برس کے اندر بڑھا کر اسطرح کیجائے کہ چھٹے برس انگریزی کی ضرورت باقی نہ رہے - اسطرح سے ملکی زبان ایک راشٹر بھاشا ہو جائیگی اور انگریزی زبان صرف سکنڈری رہ جائیگی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) As far as Primary and Secondary Education is concerned all Provincial Governments have accepted the principle that the medium of instruction should be the mother tongue. Every effort is being made to put this into practice.

As regards the University Education, the Central Advisory Board of Education, which met recently, has accepted that in future in place of English an Indian language or languages, as the case may be, should be the medium of instruction. A committee has been appointed to consider whether one Indian language should be the medium of instruction at the University stage throughout India or whether it should be the regional languages.

(b) Yes. Government had convened the Educational Conference which was attended by Provincial Ministers of Education, the Vice-Chancellors, representatives of Indian States and eminent educationists. The Conference agreed with (a) above.

(c) The Central Advisory Board of Education and the Educational Conference both came to the conclusion that this change in the University Education should be by stages so that the standard of education does not suffer. It was agreed that the changeover should be spread over five years and in the sixth year all education should be in the Indian language or languages which will be the medium of instruction. English language will, however, continue to be a second language and a subject for post-graduate studies.

सेठ गोविन्ददास : जहां तक अंग्रेजी के जानने का सवाल है वहां अलग अलग यूनिवर्सिटियों ने अलग अलग समय नियुक्त किया है । किसी ने तीन वर्ष और किसी ने पांच वर्ष से अधिक एसी हालत में क्या गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया (Government of India) इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि सब यूनिवर्सिटियों का एक ही समय हो जाना चाहिये । और इस समय के अन्दर अंग्रेजी के स्थान पर हिन्दी होनी चाहिये ।

Seth Govinddas: So far as the question of English is concerned, Universities have fixed their own time-limits in this respect; some of them have fixed three years while others have fixed even over five years for this purpose. In such circumstances will the Government of India consider to have a uniform period fixed by all the Universities, during which English should be replaced by Hindi?

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: On a point of order, Sir, may I know whether it is not practicable to interpret the answer of the Honourable Minister and also the supplementary question which are put by other members in languages other than English, into English so that members who do not know that language may be able to follow the proceedings, particularly having regard to the great importance of the question?

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that the Pakistan Constituent Assembly has declared Urdu to be the national language?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That question does not arise. The Honourable Member, Mr. Poker Sahib Bahadur, was absent when this question was raised in the House last week. I had, at that time, stated that everyone here is at liberty to speak either in English or in Hindustani.

House last week. I had, at that time, stated that everyone here is at liberty to speak either in English or in Hindustani.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Or in his own language.

Mr. Speaker: And in his own language also, if he may so like. I cannot prevent that, but I cannot undertake to have English translations of Hindustani. I stated that, specially for the benefit of a few members, who really do not understand the language, and if the question is of importance *in my opinion* in that case, I would help them to understand it. But I am not going to hold that every question is of importance. I also expressed the view that, unless these facilities are withheld even for some time, I do not see any chances of members trying to pick up Hindustani. That is my reaction. There need not be any arguments over this.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Does the Honourable Member, Mr. Poker Sahib, mean that he does not understand a word of Hindustani?

Mr. Speaker: He was raising the question perhaps for the benefit of other people.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: By way of personal explanation, Sir, may I say that I do not understand not only Hindustani but also Urdu? Having regard to the very great importance of the subject I make a special request to the Honourable Speaker to exercise his discretion in favour of allowing the question and the answer to be interpreted in English.

Mr. Speaker: I will bear that request in mind, but so far as this question is concerned, I am calling upon the Education Minister to reply.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: May I invite your attention, Mr. Speaker, to Rule 14 of the Assembly Rules which, as I interpret, means that a member can speak in English or Hindustani; and he can speak in a language other than English or Hindustani only if he does not know these two languages.

Mr. Speaker: I had that Rule in mind. But the question for me is who is to sit in judgment, whether the Honourable Member understands these two languages sufficiently enough to put a particular question or to explain matters on a particular subject. So it is no use discussing that subject. The whole position is very clear and I will request Maulana Saheb to answer.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: If a member has already spoken in this House on a number of occasions in English or Hindustani, you can know.

Mr. Speaker: That is hypothetical. When the question arises, I will decide.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: About this particular question . . . . .

Mr. Speaker: I am asking the Education Minister to reply.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ایجوکیشنل کانفرنس نے جو رائے قائم کی تھی وہ یہ تھی کہ پانچ برس کی مدت ٹھہرائی جائے اور تمام یونیورسٹیاں اس مدت کو اپنے سامنے رکھیں-

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The opinion expressed by the Educational Conference was that a period of five years be fixed for this purpose, and all Universities should keep that period in view.

सेठ गोविन्ददास : मैं मिनिस्टर साहिब से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि एजूकेशनल कानफरेन्स (Educational Conference) की इस राय के बावजूद भी कई यूनिवर्सिटी (University) ऐसी हैं जिन्होंने टाईम लिमिट (Time-limit) पांच वर्ष के अन्दर रखा है । एसी हालत में गवर्नमेंट इस मामले में क्या करना चाहती है ।

Seth Govinddas: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether inspite of the opinion of the Educational Conference are there Universities which have fixed this limit under five years? If that is so, what action do Government propose to take in this matter?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (اب یہ مشکل ہےکہ اگر یونیورسٹیاں یہ مدت نہ اختیار کریں) - یہ مدت اس خیال سے رکھی گئی تھی کہ پس پانچ برس کے اندر اس تبدیلی کا کام تھیک طرح سے کیا جا سکے - اگر ایک پرآنت کی یونیورسٹی ہے جو تین برس کے اندر اپنے اس کام کو اچھی طرح سے پورا کرلیتی ہے تو میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ آنریبل ممبر اتفاق کرینگے کہ اس کو کیوں مجبور کیا جائے کہ وہ دو برس کا اور انتظار کرے ؟

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (Then the difficulty is if the Universities do not adopt this time-limit). The time-limit was fixed with a view to bring about the change satisfactorily, within five years. If a University in a province completes this work in three years then I hope the Honourable Member would agree there is no point why it should be compelled to wait for two years more?

सेठ गोविन्ददास : क्या मैं पूछ सकता हूं .....

Seth Govinddas. May I ask . . . . .

Mr. Speaker: I do not propose to allow any supplementary question. The matter is all argumentative. Next question.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: With reference to Delhi University I want to put a supplementary question, Sir. It is relevant to the question and not argumentative.

Mr. Speaker: I have already called the next question.

STUDENTS FROM INDIA TO CHINA AND VICE VRERSA.

523. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the students selected in the beginning of 1947 for studies in China have not yet been sent to China;

(b) whether the students from China have come to India or not; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to send Indian students to China as early as possible?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) نہیں جناب ! اصل واقعہ جو ہے وہ یہ ہے کہ دسمبر سنہ ۴۶ع میں گورنمنٹ نے گیارہ ہندوستانی ودیارتھیوں کو اس غرض سے چنا تھا کہ انہیں چین کی یونیورسٹیوں میں تعلیم کیلئے بھیجا جائے اور اسطرح سے دونوں ملکوں میں کلچرل کواپریشن (Cultural co-operation) بڑھایا جائے- ان گیارہ میں سے ۱۰ ودیارتھی جولائی سنہ ۴۷ع میں چین چلے گئے- ۱۵ اگست سنہ ۴۷ کے بعد ان میں سے ایک ودیارتھی نے پاکستان کے حصہ میں جانے کو پسند کیا- اب ۹ انڈین یونین کے حصہ میں رہے اب تک جو ایک طالبعلم نہیں گیا ہے اسکے نہ جانے کی وجہ اسکی پرائویٹ رکاوٹ ہے گورنمنٹ کیطرف سے دیر نہیں ہوئی ہے -

(b) ۱۹۴۳ع میں دس چینی ودیارتھی تعلیم کیلئے ہندوستان آئے تھے جنکےخرچہ کا انتظام گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے کیا تھا - مگر حال میں کوئی ودیارتھی نہیں آئے ہیں

یہ معلوم ہوا ہے کہ چین کی حکومت ارادہ کر رہی ہے کہ کچھ ودیارتھیوں کو ہندوستان بھیجے -

(c) یہ سوال پیدا نہیں ہوتا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) No, Sir. Eleven students were selected in December 1946 for award of scholarships in Chinese Universities offered by the Government of India with a view to promoting cultural co-operation between this country and China. Ten of the selected students, including one who later opted for Pakistan, were sent to China in July 1947. The remaining one student has not yet been able to leave for China on account of private reasons.

(b) Ten Chinese students came in 1943 under the auspices of the Government of India, but no other students have come recently. It is understood, however, that the Chinese Government have been considering the sending of some more students to India.

(c) Does not arise.

सेठ गोविन्ददास: चीन से जो विद्यार्थी हिन्दुस्तान में आये हैं क्या वह मुख्तलिफ यूनिवर्सिटीयों में हैं या किसी खास में हैं ?

Seth Govinddas: Have all the students from China been put in one particular University, or are they in different Universities?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اسکے لئے نوٹس کی ضرورت ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This requires notice.

श्री ऐच० वी० कामथ : हिन्दुस्तान के विद्यार्थी जो चीन में गये हैं वह किस युनिवर्सिटी में पढ़ रहे है और किस किसम की तालीम पा रहे हैं।

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the name of the University in China in which students from India are studying and what kind of training they are receiving?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اسکے لئے بھی نوٹس کی ضرورت ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It also requires notice.

ڈاکٹر بی- پٹا بھی سیتارامیا : کیا محترم جناب وزیر تعلیم بتا سکتے ہیں کہ چین کی موجودہ حالت کے لحاظ سے جہاں امن و امان بالکل نہیں ہے ہمارے طلبا وہاں جا کر دارالعلوم میں علوم و فنون حاصل کر سکتے ہیں -

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state whether under the present disturbed conditions in China our students are in a position to learn any arts and crafts in the Universities?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : لیکن یہ معاملہ طلبا کے جانے سے پہلے کا ہے اسوقت نہیں بھیجے جا رہے ہیں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This relates to a period before the students were sent. At present Government is not sending any.

SALARIES OF PROMOTED STAFF OF GUN CARRIAGE FACTORY, JUBBULPORE.

524. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 44 members of the staff of the Gun

Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore have been promoted to higher posts since May, 1945 and that they have not been granted the pay and other emoluments of their respective higher posts till now?

(b) Are Government aware that 41 reminders and telegrams have been sent to the Director of Ordnance Factories in this connection by the staff association?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). The matter is being enquired into. I shall inform the House as soon as I get all the information.

DISCRIMINATORY ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS TO EMPLOYEES OF GUN CARRIAGE FACTORY, JUBBULPORE.

525. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state why all the European, Anglo-Indian and Christian staff of the Gun Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore have been allotted staff quarters irrespective of their seniority and length of service and why the majority of Indians, who are senior men in service, have not been given this privilege although the service conditions of both the categories provide for free unfurnished quarters?

(b) Why have these Indian members not been paid compensation in lieu of quarters since 1st April 1945, although it is one of their service conditions, in spite of several representations?

(c) Are Government aware that out of a total of 93 staff quarters, 48 best one in the better locality have been reserved for occupation by 52 Europeans, irrespective of their status and seniority, while only the remaining 45 quarters, including 14 temporary hutted accommodation, have been allotted to the Indians, including seniormost staff and Gazetted Officers, although the total strength of the Indian Staff is 110?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a), (b) and (c). Particulars have been called for and the information required will be laid on the table of the House when received.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that even now racial discrimination exists in these factories of Jubbulpore?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As I have stated in reply to the question, the information has been asked for. As soon as it is received I will be able to give a reply.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether the principle of racial discrimination is going to be discarded by the Department?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is quite clear. There is no racial discrimination. But as far as this particular question is concerned it is difficult for me to give any information unless I get the information from the factory.

RENAMING OF CURZON ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, MUTHURA AFTER PANDIT RADHA KRISHNA.

526. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Curzon Archæological Museum at Mathura was founded by Randit Radha Krishna;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is a strong feeling among the people of Mathura that the said museum should be renamed as Radha Krishna Archæological Museum; and

(c) whether Government propose to rename the said museum as above in deference to the wishes of the people of Mathura?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : کرزن آرکیولاجیکل میوزیم متھرا کا کنٹرول سنٹرل گورنمنٹ کے ھاتھ میں نہیں ھے - بلکہ اسکا کنٹرول یو - پی گورنمنٹ کے کنٹرول میں ھے - اس سوال کی کاپی یو - پی - گورنمنٹ کو بھیجی جایگی تاکہ وہ اس پر غور کریں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) to (c). The Curzon Archæological Museum at Mathura is under the administrative control of the Government of the United Provinces to whom a copy of the question and of the answer will be forwarded for such action as they consider necessary.

श्री जसपत राय कपूर : क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि लार्ड करजन हिन्दुस्तान में एक बहुत बदनाम वाईसराये रहा है ?

Shri Jaspat Rai Kapoor: Are Government aware of the fact that Lord Curzon was a very unpopular Viceroy of India?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a provincial subject.

CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES IN INDIA ON PATTERN OF U.K.

527. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health please state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report from London appearing in the *Hindustan Times* of November 26th, 1947, stating that more than 17,000 houses were completed in Britain during the year 1947 and that 12,426 permanent houses were built in July 1947?

(b) Is it also a fact that the number of houses provided in Britain since the end of war is 2,76,000?

(c) If this information is correct, do Government propose to get into communication with the Government of the United Kingdom and enquire as to the type of such houses built by them?

(d) In view of the shortage of houses almost in all the cities of India, do Government propose to consider the advisability of adopting a similar plan for constructing houses in India with the object of relieving the congestion in housing accommodation?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). I have seen the press report referred to by the Honourable Member. I am not aware if the figures mentioned in the report are correct.

(c) and (d). I shall arrange to get the information from the United Kingdom and consider whether it will be possible to make use of the plan in India.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if the Honourable Minister has considered the desirability of making it the job of somebody in the Health Ministry to keep all this information available so that we may benefit by it?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not know whether it is necessary to have a special person to attend to it. But any information that we get will be kept.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Does the Honourable Minister feel that the information supplied—that there are 17,000 houses completed in Britain during 1947 and 2,76,000 houses provided since the end of the war—is not authentic, or are the figures correct?

Mr. Speaker: I believe the question has been replied to.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Do Government have any such information in the Honourable Minister's Department?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know, Sir, whether Government is keeping in touch with newer and cheaper methods of construction?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The question is under consideration.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Minister, whether apart from gathering information from the United Kingdom and proceeding on their model, any schemes have been undertaken by the Central and Provincial Governments for putting up a number of houses during the course of the next year?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: There are different schemes under the Delhi Improvement Trust.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the Chief Architect to the French Government is in India at the present moment and has Government tried to get into touch with him, with a view to exploring the possibilities of constructing cheaper houses in India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I shall consider the desirability of doing that.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister said that there are schemes under the Delhi Improvement Trust. May I know what type of schemes these are?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I should have notice of that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government considering any plans for the construction of houses for citizens as apart from their officers and employees?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Minister what in all are the number of houses that are expected to be constructed during the course of the next year in India as a whole?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I cannot give the exact number off hand. It all depends on the quantity of building material available.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, will Government bear in mind the fact that Indian housewives require different type of houses from that needed by British housewives?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that the house building industry in India, and particularly in the centrally administered area of Delhi is practically at a standstill and there are no house-building operations going on at the present moment?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The question of the availability of building materials is a definite factor in house building operations.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Are Government taking any steps to get over that difficulty?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: We are trying our best.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What are those building materials, which are not available? Are they steel and cement?

Mr. Speaker: Let there be no argument.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: My question was whether Government is considering the possibility of constructing houses without cement and steel?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware of the fact that in Madras a Co-operative Building Society has been organised by Government which is going to put up 344 houses and that the foundation one of which was laid on the 23rd of last month by the Premier? Why cannot similar arrangements be made in a city like Delhi?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Some co-operative societies are already in existence in Delhi and in reply to a supplementary question the other day, I have already stated that Government is willing to encourage such societies.

K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur: The co-operative societies referred to in the supplementary question put by the Honourable Member were organised by the Government of Madras and the initiative was taken by the Provincial Government. Is it possible for the Government of India also to do likewise?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That matter will be considered.

SPY-ACTIVITIES IN INDIAN DOMINION.

528. *Shri Lal Mohan Pati: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any spy-ring working in the Indian Dominion with headquarters in Delhi;

(b) whether this spy-ring is collecting information about the plan of the air-activity of the Military Department of India;

(c) whether Government have taken adequate measures to round up the spies; and

(d) whether Government have got information that some citizens of the Indian Dominion are working in India as spies?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) to (d). It would not be in the public interest to answer this question, but I would assure the House that Government are fully alive to their responsibilities in this regard and have taken and will take all necessary precautions.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are Government satisfied with the efficiency of their Intelligence Department?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of opinion.

HIGHER SECRETARIAT APPOINTMENTS.

529. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government propose to throw open higher Secretariat appointments to properly qualified members of services other than the I.C.S. and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Higher Secretariat appointments are already open to Services other than the Indian Civil Service.

R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Do Government propose to throw open a percentage of these higher appointments to officers of the Provincial Civil Service?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is not reserved for the I.C.S. as it was some years ago. It has been thrown open to others.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Has any non-I.C.S. officer been appointed as Secretary to the Government of India now?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Minister continuing the practice of sending the I.C.S. officers to their respective provinces after their tenure of three years is over, or have they got a tendency of sticking on here permanently?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: At present there is a great shortage of trained officers both in the Centre and in the provinces. There is so much pressure that we find it difficult to send back officers who have completed their period of tenure, as the provinces are reluctant to give substitutes in their place.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact Sir, that there is a bar to the promotion of the Provincial Civil Service men to the post of Secretaries? They may be appointed Assistant Secretaries or Deputy Secretaries, but not as Secretaries.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is no bar as such.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: May I know, Sir, what is the qualification prescribed in the matter of selection of men to fill posts at present held by the I.C.S. people?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Merit.

PREPARATIONS FOR NEXT DECENNIAL CENSUS.

530. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state when it is proposed to start the preliminary work in connection with the next decennial census?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Preparations for the next census have already started.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: May I ask, Sir, whether in view of the fact that adult suffrage is going to be introduced shortly, the preparation of the electoral rolls and the taking of the census cannot be combined so that economy may be effected?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is not possible to alter the census programme which is fixed for a particular and definite period. Whether the preparation of electoral rolls has been undertaken or not I do not know.

K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur: May I know, Sir, whether in view of the widespread complaints about grave omissions during the last census, Government will take serious steps to avoid such omissions in the ensuing census?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Apart from complaints there have been such vast changes and such vast fluctuations of population that the census operations have to be undertaken very carefully.

VACANCIES IN INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE.

531. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state how many vacancies there are in the Indian Administrative Service and how and when it is proposed to fill them?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: 221. Some of these vacancies will be filled as a result of the competitive examination for Indian Administrative Service and other services held in July 1947, the results of which are not yet available. About the remaining vacancies various proposals including those contained in the report of the Gorwala Committee are under consideration. Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my answer given on the 19th February 1948 to question No. 348.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many, Sir, will be filled by competitive examination and how many otherwise?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That will depend upon the results.

Shri H. V. Kamath: When are the results expected?

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Why is the result not available yet?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Well, I cannot say. But it is with the Public Service Commission.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is the Honourable Minister aware that there is a great deal of discontent because of the delay on the part of the Public Service Commission in announcing the results?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The number of candidates is so large that it has taken some time for the Commission to announce the results.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know, Sir, whether the terms of service and employment and pay of the men of the Indian Administrative Service are the same as those of the Indian Civil Service?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The terms of employment are different from those of the I.C.S.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether those posts which are not filled by nominees of the Public Service Commission will be made available to those officers who are now working in the different Ministries and have put in four or five years' service?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: As I have already said, the deficit has to be filled up from other sources.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Would preference be given to those who are already in service, instead of their being asked to sit for another examination now?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: One of the sources from which people are selected are persons who are already in temporary employment, but they also are to pass through a certain test.

RESEARCH IN VEGETARIAN AND NON-VEGETARIAN DIETS.

532. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been undertaken in the country during recent years in order to ascertain whether vegetarian diet is more conducive to the promotion of physical strength and longevity than meat diet or *vice versa;*

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what was the result of such research;

(c) whether there is any reliable data in the possession of Government to show what proportion of the country's population prefers vegetarian diet to meat diet and if so, what the comparative figures of the two categories are; and

(d) if no reliable data on the subject is available, whether Government propose to consider the feasibility of making enquiries into the matter when the next decennial census is taken?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No data is available.

(d) The question will be considered.

Diwan Chaman Lall: In considering this question, will the Minister please keep in view the fact that vegetarians are generally more pugnacious than meat eaters?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are milk and eggs both included in vegetarian diet or are they excluded?

CONVICTS OF R.I.N. MUTINY, 1946 IN DETENTION.

†533. *Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state how many Ratings of the R.I.N. convicted in the R.I.N. Mutiny of 1946 are still undergoing imprisonment or are under detention?

(b) What are the reasons for not releasing them after the attainment of freedom, and what is the policy of Government in regard to their release?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of releasing them and reinstating them in their original posts?

(d) In which jails are these men imprisoned and what classification and treatment are being given to them?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) None.

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

(c) The question of release does not now arise. Government do not propose to reinstate persons imprisoned in connection with R.I.N. Mutiny.

UTILISATION OF FUNDS OF DELHI ASSOCIATION FOR DESTITUTES.

534. *Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Delhi Association for the welfare of the destitutes was formed in the year 1945 and that about Rs. 7,50,000 were collected and that an annual grant of Rs. 90,000 was sanctioned by Government and the Municipality for the purpose of:

(i) providing relief to and maintenance and rehabilitation of the destitute persons in Delhi Province;

(ii) administering colonies or settlements, for beggars, destitutes, lepers, and blind persons; and

(iii) to provide, endow, furnish, maintain, manage, collect funds and spend them for the above objects?

(b) Are Government aware that, though there is a large number of destitutes and beggars present in Delhi as a result of the disturbance in the Punjab, the resources of the Association and the Delhi Poor House have not been utilized?

(c) Are Government aware that the buildings and roads in the Poor House at King's Way, which were built at considerable cost from public funds only a year and a half ago, are already in a state of decay?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Government agreed to provide a sum of Rs. 55,900 for running the Poor House in Delhi but no payment has yet been made as the institution has not yet been opened.

(b) The building is at present used by the Women's Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation as a house for refugee women and children and is therefore not available for use as a Poor House.

(c) The buildings suffered some damage from the floods last September but necessary repairs are being carried out.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Is it a fact that it was known before the buildings were constructed that the site was liable to be flooded? If so, may I know why necessary precautions were not taken?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That was before my time. I can make enquiries about it.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How is it that the Poor House has not been brought into existence and what steps are Government taking to bring it into existence as early as possible?

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

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am making enquiries into the matter and steps are going to be taken to bring the institution into being. Because there was no electricity and no pipes to put in water supply, the Poor House could not come into existence earlier.

DEFENCE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BY INDIAN FORCES

535. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(i) the date on which the Indian Dominion Forces entered Jammu and Kashmir State to defend it against raiders;

(ii) the date on which the Mirpur District fell into the hands of the raiders; and

(iii) whether the Indian Dominion Forces reached Mirpur to defend it?

(b) What is the estimate of casualties, abductions etc., of non-Muslims during or after the raid in Mirpur District, and what is the estimate of the total number of non-Muslims, who were living in the district when it was raided?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) (i) 27th October 1947.

(ii) 26th November 1947.

(iii) No.

(b) I regret, Sir, that information in the detail required by the Honourable Member is not readily available.

PERSONS PARTICIPATING IN CONGRESS MOVEMENTS DEBARRED FROM SERVICE

†536. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to my starred question No. 78 asked on 2nd February, 1948, regarding the black lists of persons debarred from entering Government service and state whether Government have ascertained whether action on the instructions issued to them in October, 1946 has been taken by the Ministries?

(b) How many persons are debarred from entering Government service, on the ground that they took part in the Indian National Congress movements?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). I am satisfied from information received from the Ministries that action has been taken on the revised instructions issued by Government. It is unlikely that there is any case of a person included in the list during the preceding five years still being under a ban on account purely of having participated in Congress activities. Specific information is being collected on this point and will be placed on the table of the House as soon as it is ready.

PROGRAMME ASSISTANTS AND ARTISTS IN A. I. R.

†537. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Programme Assistants in the various All India Radio Stations;

(b) the number of Programme Assistants who (i) write Scripts, dramas and features; (ii) appear as "voice" in dramas and features; (iii) broadcast Indian music; and (iv) broadcast Western Music:

(c) the grades of pay of the Programme Assistants;

(d) the total number of Artists permanently employed;

(e) the average salary of the Artists permanently employed:

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

(f) the allowances admissible to Artists;

(g) whether the Artists are entitled to residential accommodation; and

(h) in case of the transfer of an Artist from one station to another, whether travelling allowance is admissible to him?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) 92.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(c) Rs. 250—15—340—20—400. Selection Grade Rs. 400—20—500.

(d) Artists are not employed on a permanent basis, but on contract for specific periods.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Interim relief, Grain compensation allowance, and Conveyance allowance where admissible.

(g) No.

(h) Yes.

EXPULSION OF INDIAN STUDENTS FROM INTER NATIONAL LANGUAGE CLUB, CROYDON

†533. ***Shri Damodar Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Language Club at Croydon has expelled a number of Indian students on the ground of their having taken part in communist activities; and

(b) whether Government have any information that the expulsion was based on racial discrimination?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Government have seen a Press report to the effect that a certain number of Indian students have been expelled from the International Language Club, Croydon, on the ground of their alleged Communist activities. Government, however, have not yet received any report regarding this matter from the High Commissioner in London or from any other authoritative source.

(b) From the information which Government possess regarding this Club, they have no reason to suppose that the action of the Club authorities in this case is due to any racial or colour prejudices. Government, however, propose to look into the matter.

MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR INDIAN STATES

539. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to prepare a model constitution for the States?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is anything being done to advise any of these Princes to see that they will not tamper with the ordinary well-known fundamental democratic principles when they constitute their Constituent Assemblies and fix their franchise?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is not necessary to advise the Princes. Once they have established Constituent Assemblies, if advice needs to be given, it is to be given to the Constituent Assembly concerned.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are the Government aware of the fact that even when they constitute these Constituent Assemblies, they do not base these Assemblies on the adult franchise?

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

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No. There is no such trouble anywhere because wherever Constituent Assemblies are formed, they are based on our model, that is on adult franchise.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact that in different States, different kinds of constitution are being introduced, and in these circumstances what is the Government going to do to see that uniformity is kept throughout the country?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Time and circumstances will bring about uniformity.

BRITISH PERSONNEL IN INDIAN ARMY AND CIVIL SERVICES.

540. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of British Officers who have voluntarily agreed to serve in the Indian Army and their classifications such as Technicians, Junior Staff and Administrative Officers?

(b) Are there any British personnel in the Indian Army who hold permanent civilian posts in India or have opted for civilian posts in Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(b) No, Sir.

Statement

Out of about 600 British Officers who volunteered for continued service in the Indian Army a total of about 418 have been accepted. Of these, 235 have been accepted for a period of 3 months from 1st January 1948, while the rest have been accepted for periods ranging from 1 to 3 years.

2. A break-down of these figures by technical, etc. appointments is given below :—

	For 3 months	For 1 year	For 2 years	For 3 years
Technicians	124	85	28	5
Staff & Administrative Officers	111	63	2	...
Total	235	148	30	5

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS IN INDIA.

541. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the names of Scientific Research Societies and Associations in India and what is the financial assistance, if any, given to them by Government?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the question of advising these bodies to amalgamate into a central body in order to co-ordinate and direct scientific researches in the country?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) پرنسپل سائنٹیفک سوسائٹیوں کی ایک لسٹ ہاؤس کے ٹیبل پر رکھ لی جاتی ہے - ایک دوسری لسٹ سائنٹیفک اور ریسرچ سوسائٹیوں (Research societies) کی جنہیں منسٹری آف ایجوکیشن سے گرانٹ مل رہی ہے بھی ہاؤس کے ٹیبل پر رکھ لی جاتی ہے -

(b) یہ ہونا مشکل ہے کہ تمام مختلف سوسائٹیاں مل کر ایک سوسائٹی بن جایں کیونکہ ہر ایک سوسائٹی الگ الگ subject سے تعلق رکھتی ہے اور الگ کام کرتی ہے لیکن میں آنریبل ممبر کی توجہ نیشنل انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف سائنس آف انڈیا کے

کانسٹی ٹیوشن کی طرف دلاؤنگا - اس کے کانسٹی ٹیوشن میں یہ بات بتلائی گئی ہے کہ اس کا ایک بڑا object یہ ہے

"to effect co-ordination between different scientific academic societies, institutions and Government scientific departments and Services."

گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے اس انسٹی ٹیوشن کو پرائمری انسٹی ٹیوشن کی جگہ دی ہے اور ایسی سائنٹیفک سوسائٹیوں سے co-ordination کا کام لیا جا رہا ہے

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) A list of Principal, Scientific Societies is laid on the table of the House, and also of Scientific and Research Societies which received grants from the Ministry of Education.

(b) It is unlikely that the various societies will agree to amalgamate into one Society as such societies deal with different subjects, but I would refer the Honourable Member to the constitution of the National Institute of Sciences of India which clearly lays down that one of the objects of this Institute is "to effect co-ordination between different scientific academies, societies, institutions and Government scientific departments and services." The Government has recognised it as the premier institute representing all branches of sciences in the country.

Scientific Organizations in India

1. The Anthropological Society of Bombay, Bombay.
2. Archæological Survey of India, New Delhi.
3. Banares Mathematical Society, Banares.
4. The Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay.
5. Bose Institute, Calcutta.
6. Botanical Survey of India, Sibapur.
7. Calcutta Mathematical Society, Calcutta.
8. Central Research Institute, Kasauli.
9. The Committee of PalaeoBotany in India, Lucknow.
10. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Delhi.
11. Drug Research Laboratory, Jammu.
12. Entomological Society of India, New Delhi.
13. Fazil-Omar Research Institute, Qadian.
14. Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.
15. Forest Research Laboratory, Bangalore.
16. Geological, Mining and Metellurgical Society of India, Calcutta.
17. Haffkine Institute, Bombay.
18. Immunity Scientific Association, Calcutta.
19. Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
20. Imperial Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore.
21. Imperial Surgarcane Breeding Station, Coimbatore.
22. Imperial Veterinary Research Institute Mukteshwar.
23. The Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore.
24. Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Calcutta.
25. The Indian Botanical Society. Lucknow.
26. The Indian Ceramic Society, Banares.
27. Indian Chemical Society, Calcutta.
28. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
29. Indian Lac. Research Institute, Ranchi.
30. The Indian Mathematical Society.
31. Indian Research Fund Association, New Delhi.
32. Indian Science Congress Association, Calcutta.
33. Indian Science News Association, Calcutta.
34. King Edward VII Memorial Pasteur Institute and Medical Research Institute, Shillong.
35. Malaria Institute of India, Delhi.
36. Museum Association of India, Bombay.
37. The National Academy of Sciences (India), Allahabad.
38. National Institute of Science of India, Calcutta.
39. Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor.
40. The Pasteur Institute of Southern India, Coonoor.
41. The Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India, Calcutta.
42. Society of Biological Chemists (India) Bangalore.
43. Zoological Survey of India, Banares Cantt.

Statement showing the names of the Scientific and Research Institutions and the grants to be given to them in 1947-48 by the Ministry of Education.

Name of Institute	Amount
National Institute of Science of India, Calcutta	1,17,000
Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal	25,000
Indian Statistical Institute Calcutta	2,15,000
Indian Science Congress Association, Calcutta	15,000
Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Calcutta	4,39,000
Dharmakosh Mandal	2,000
Ramakrishana Mission Institute of Culture, Calcutta	10,000
Vishveshwaranand Vedic Research Institute, Simla	5,500
Indian History Congress	10,000
Botanical Society, Calcutta	1,000
Bharata Itihasa Sanshodhaka Mandal, Poona	1,000
Numismatic Society of India	1,000
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	63,52,000
Grant to Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore	6,000
Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona	10,000
Bose Research Institute, Calcutta	66,000
Grant to Association of Principals of Technical Institutions (India)	12,000
Building grant to Institution of Engineers (India)	10,000

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: May I know whether the Honourable Minister himself can be requested to give the answer in English?

Mr. Speaker: I have restricted that right to myself. The Secretary will read the translation.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if at present there is any report on the administration of these various societies for which grants are being given and whether their work is being reviewed from time to time?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ تقریباً گیارہ سوسٹیاں ہیں اور نیشنل سائیٹفک انسٹی ٹیوٹ کے ذریعہ سے ہم ان سے کوآرڈینیشن (Co-ordination) کرتے ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: These societies number eleven in all. We co-ordinate with them through the National Scientific Institute.

Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister issue a brochure giving details of the work of these societies in a compendious form so that people may know about them?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ اسکی کوشش کریگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government will try to do so.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will Government also consider if it is advisable to include in that pamphlet the researches, if any, made by these societies which have been of any practical importance to the country?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اسکا خیال رکھا جائیگا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: That will also be kept in view.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: May I know what is the amount of the total grant given to all these institutes?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس کے لئے نوٹس چاہئیے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It requires notice.

TREATMENT OF INDIANS IN HOSPITALS FOR EUROPEANS

542. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether there are any hospitals in India for treatment of Europeans only?

(b) Do Government propose to admit Indian patients also in such hospitals and if not, why not?

(c) What is the annual expenditure incurred by the Ranchi European Mental Hospital and what is the ratio of expenditure incurred per patient in this hospital to the expenditure incurred per patient in the other mental hospitals intended for treatment of Indians?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). As far as Government are aware, there is no hospital in India reserved exclusively for the treatment of Europeans.

(c) The average annual expenditure for the four years ending 1946-47 on the European Mental Hospital, Ranchi, which name has already been proposed to be changed to Inter-Provincial Hospital, Ranchi, was Rs. 6,88,315. The daily per capita expenditure in this hospital was Rs. 5-14 while in the other mental hospitals it varied from Rs. 1-1 to Rs. 1-13-6.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether in this Ranchi Hospital the special wing for Europeans which previously existed has now been amalgamated with the main building or whether the European wing still remains?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The hospital is open to Indians and Europeans alike. There is no difference now.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: My question was whether the two wings for Europeans which existed before have now been closed down or amalgamated with the other wing, or whether preference for Europeans still exists?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: There is no preference given to Europeans.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many European lunatics are to-day accommodated in Indian mental hospitals?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I shall require notice of that question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether there are no wards in various hospitals still reserved for Europeans as in the Lady Hardinge Hospital?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: There are no wards in the Lady Hardinge Hospital reserved exclusively for Europeans.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Minister in a position to say that there are no such reservations in any hospitals, for Europeans or for any particular community?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: As I have already said, as far as Government are aware there are no such reservations for anybody.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact, Sir, that in the Willingdon Nursing Home in New Delhi preference is given to European patients even today?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am not aware of that.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister make enquiries?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, Sir.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Minister make enquiries immediately and remove all those differentiations or preferences or reservations which exist anywhere in India?

Mr. Speaker: This question has been answered so many times.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government consider the desirability of sending all European lunatics out of India?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: Is it not a fact, Sir, that in the wards reserved for Europeans in certain hospitals special rights are given to them and on that account certain Indians prefer to go to those wards rather than to Indians' wards?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The question has already been answered.

ASSESSMENT OF ASSETS OF PERSONS FROM PAKISTAN

†**543. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government propose to:

(a) allow a set off of all losses in Pakistan without asking for strict proof in assessment in India for the year 1948-49, provided the assessees agree to be assessed as and when they are able to realise any part of these assets hereafter in the year of realisation;

(b) allow as a revenue expense all expenses incurred in transporting all assets of whatever description from Pakistan areas into India; and

(c) grant relief from double taxation on income assessed in Pakistan and again in India even though according to the interpretation by Indian authorities, the assessment by Pakistan of any part thereof is illegal and wrong?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Such losses as are admissible under the Income-tax Act will be allowed without asking for strict proof but on production of reasonable evidence.

(b) Such transportation expenses as are not of the nature of capital expenditure or personal expenses of the assessee, and have been laid out wholly and exclusively for the purposes of business profession or vocation, will be allowed.

(c) Under the agreement made between India and Pakistan for the avoidance of double taxation, the question of granting relief from the tax wrongly charged in either Dominion does not arise. Where an illegal assessment is made by any Dominion it is for the assessee to pursue the remedies open to him under the laws of that Dominion. Each Dominion determines for itself the total world income of the assessee under its own laws.

INCOME-TAX FROM DOLLAR AND STERLING COMPANIES IN INDIA.

544. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the answer to the short notice question, asked by Shri Mohan Lal Saksena on the 11th April, 1947, regarding the realisation of income-tax from Dollar and Sterling Companies which have been carrying on business in India and state what further steps have since been taken by Government in the matter?

(b) Have all the companies filed their returns? If not, what steps have been taken against such companies as have not done so?

(c) What is the amount of income-tax so realised and what is the amount of arrears remaining to be realised?

(d) Has any arrear of such income-tax been barred by limitation? If so, how much and why could not timely steps be taken?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (b). The Dollar and Sterling companies referred to are already being assessed to income-tax. Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the returns under section 19A of the Income-tax Act. Only a few companies have submitted these returns. No penal action has been taken against those companies who have not sent the returns as none is legally possible. In this connection, I refer the Honourable Member to para. 45 of my Budget Speech for 1948-49.

(c) and (d). The amount of income-tax realised during 1946-47 is not readily available. In the absence of any information as to the number of shareholders and the extent of their income, it is not possible to estimate the total

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

amount of tax payable by them, the arrears left to be realised or the amount barred by limitation.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Can the Honourable Minister give an idea as to when the information will be available?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, as I explained in my Budget Speech, this provision in our Income-Tax Act, of asking for the list of shareholders from foreign companies operating in India has proved to be absolutely ineffective. It is with a view to protect our revenue that I have now proposed that such companies will have to pay an extra one anna Corporation tax.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: In the last Budget Session, the Honourable Minister has given an assurance that the law will be so amended that there will be no difficulty in getting those returns and if they are delayed, they will be penalised.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: In the light of the new procedure that I am adopting, I propose to move an amendment to delete the old provisions relating to the calling of those returns.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does the Honourable Minister feel that this will be a sufficient deterrent or inducement for those people to disclose their shareholders and whether it will not be helpful if there is an option given to them that in case they disclose the information they will be entitled to a decrease of one anna?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am unable to accept that suggestion for this reason: even if a foreign company gives a complete list of the shareholders, the recovery of super-tax from those shareholders, who may be living in the United Kingdom or the United States, is an impossibility.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What does the Honourable Minister expect to result from this increase of one anna?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I have estimated the additional revenue at Rs. 2 crores.

INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES WITH BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

545. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the total amount of Sterling Balances received from the British Government, during the financial years 1945-46 and 1946-47 and during the periods 1st April, 1947 to 14th August, 1947, and from 15th August, 1947 to 10th February, 1948?

(b) How much of it was received in the form of Sterling Currency and how much in the form of Dollars?

(c) How were these Sterling and Dollar currencies utilised? If they were used for purchase of goods, how much was used for purchase of capital goods and how much for consumer goods?

(d) How much of the Sterling Balance is still due from the British Government and how have Government decided to realise it?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) On the assumption that the Honourable Member wishes to know the net transactions relating to the Sterling Balances, the information is as follows:

	£ million
1945–46	+ 271
1946–47	– 91·5
1st April 1947 to 14th August 1947	–64·64
15th August 1947 to 6th February 1948	– 4·70
Total	+110·16
or Rs.	146·88 crores

(b) If the Honourable Member wishes to know by this question India's balance of payments with the U.S.A., the answer is that in 1946 India had a surplus of Rs. 36·6 crores while between April, 1946 and November, 1947 (which is the last date for which figures are available) India had a deficit amounting to Rs. 65 crores. The remaining increases or decreases in the sterling balances are due to India's balance of payments with sterling and non-sterling countries other than the U.S.A.

(c) For the purchase of goods and services. For details of purchases of goods I would refer the Honourable Member to the Accounts relating to the Seaborne Trade and Navigation of India. As the Honourable Member is perhaps aware, the Trade Account is not maintained according to 'consumer' and 'capital' goods.

(d) The sterling assets of the Reserve Bank stood at £1,134·34 million (Rs. 1,512·45 crores) on the 13th February, 1948. As the Honourable Member is aware, two agreements relating to the utilisation of India's sterling balance have already been concluded and it is proposed to conduct further negotiations in due course.

Seth Govinddas: Will the Government make a further list of "consumer" goods which are imported into this country, and stop them so that our sterling balances may not be further dwindled?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Am I to understand that the Honourable Member suggests a further restriction of the imports?

Seth Govinddas: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That point is constantly kept in mind; we are allowing what is absolutely essential.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps, if any, have Government taken to see that "capital" goods are imported in a greater extent and in preference to the "consumer" goods and other goods?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: As a matter of fact, we are giving free licences for the import of "capital" goods; it is purely a question of availability in foreign countries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government take an early opportunity of bringing before this House their recent agreement which they have concluded with the U.K. Government, and give the House an opportunity of discussing it?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I propose to lay on the table tomorrow, copies of the letters that were exchanged.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know, Sir, when Government intends to enter into a more permanent arrangement with the United Kingdom regarding the sterling balances?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: As I said in my Budget Speech I have already sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer a message through the Leader of the British Delegation that I am anxious that at least some time in May they must be ready to have negotiations with us for a more permanent settlement of the sterling balances.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The other part of my supplementary question was not answered. Will the Honourable Minister seek an opportunity of getting these agreements discussed in this House?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Tomorrow I will be placing on the table copies of the letters relating to the extension of the Agreement up till the 30th June, 1948. I suggest to the Honourable Member that the General

Discussion on the Budget which is fixed for the 3rd and 4th would serve as an opportunity for having a discussion on this point, and if in addition to that the Honourable Member wants a day for that, that is a matter for the Leader of the House to consider.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if there is any difficulty in managing all the sterling balances and dollar balances accruing to India directly by the Reserve Bank of India instead of through the Bank of England?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: We are directly operating these through our Reserve Bank, but the Reserve Bank has got the agency of the Bank of England for that purpose in London.

TRANSFERRED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†

DEVELOPMENT OF PORT KUNDLA IN CUTCH STATE

501. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government propose to develop the Port of Kundla Cutch State?

(b) What is the estimated expenditure for developing this port and what portion of it will be contributed by the Cutch State?

(c) Is any share of the revenue derived from this port proposed to be given to the Cutch State?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Attention is invited to the Government of India Resolution No. 19-P(53)/47, published in the ‡*Gazette of India, Extraordinary* on the 17th February 1948, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(b) and (c). Do not arise at present.

DECONTROL OF PETROL

502. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government have reconsidered the question of decontrol of petrol?

(b) If not, what are the reasons?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). The question of the decontrol of petrol was reviewed recently. It is not possible at present to abolish petrol rationing in view of the product supply position, dollar scarcity, inland transportation capacity and, in the event of emergencies, the need for controlling distribution to desired ends. The position is constantly under review with a view to lifting the control as soon as conditions permit.

POSITION *re* MOVEMENT OF WAGONS

503. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the latest position of the movement of wagons from one place to another?

(b) Is there any response to the request of the Government of India to consignees, from time to time, to unload goods promptly so as to release the wagons for quick movement?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The question is not quite clear. If the Honourable Member will let me know in greater detail the information he requires I shall see that it is made available.

(b) There has been some response to the request of the Government of India to consignees to load and unload wagons promptly, but as this is not considered adequate, the free time of 9 hours previously allowed for these operations has been reduced to 6 hours with effect from 20th January, 1948.

†The meeting of the Assembly fixed for 27th February, 1948, having been cancelled, the answers to Starred Questions for that day were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House today.—*Ed. of D.*

‡Not printed in these Debates. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed. of D.*

SUPPLY OF CASH TO HUNTERGANJ, JORI AND DANTOR BRANCH POST OFFICES

504. *Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Hunterganj, the Jori, the Dantor and other Branch Post Offices do not get regular supply of cash from their Sub-Post Office at Chatra along with the money orders sent to them for payment and that payments of these money orders to the payees are made very late, and if so, what steps have been taken by the Government to set matters right?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: No such complaints were received in regard to payments from the Branch Post Offices named. Government is, however, thankful to the Honourable Member for drawing attention to this complaint and an enquiry will now be made. Two complaints were received in October, 1947, concerning two other Branch Post Offices in account with Chatra Sub-Post Office. Effective steps were taken by the Divisional Superintendent to regulate the supply of funds to the Branch Offices for prompt payment of money orders and notice was taken of the Sub-Postmaster's failure in this respect in the instances mentioned. Suitable action will be taken against those responsible in regard to the complaints referred to by the Honourable Member if enquiry reveals that these complaints relate to recent dates.

NEW VILLAGE POST OFFICES IN BIHAR

505. *Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of new village Post Offices opened in the year 1947-48 in the Province of Bihar, district-wise?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: A statement showing district-wise the number of new village post offices opened in the province of Bihar up to the 16th February, 1948, during the year 1947-48 is placed on the table of the House.

Statement showing, districtwise, the number of village post offices opened in the province of Bihar up to the 16th February 1948, during the year 1947-48

Districts	Number of village post offices opened
Bhagalpur	11
Champaran	13
Darbhanga	8
Gaya	13
Hazaribagh	3
Manbhum	2
Monghyr	6
Muzaffarpur	10
Palamau	1
Patna	13
Purnea	6
Ranchi	2
Santhal Parganas	1
Saran	25
Shahabad	15
Singhbhum	3
Total	132

QUICK DELIVERY OF 'EXPRESS DELIVERY' LETTERS

506. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that letters marked 'Express Delivery' are at the place of destination first sent by the Post Office to the Telegraph Office and thence they are sent to the addressee through the Telegraph-peon with the result that such letters take longer time to reach the addressees than the ordinary letters; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to discontinue this system, and devise some other arrangement so that letters marked 'Express Delivery' may be delivered more quickly than the ordinary letters?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) It is true of offices which do not deliver telegrams. Combined Posts and Telegraph offices transfer *Express Delivery Letters* to the Telegraph Branch which is situated in the same building. In the larger offices, a special staff for delivery of *Express Delivery Letters* is entertained.

(b) The question of speeding up of delivery of *Express Delivery Letters* is under consideration.

TELEPHONE ADVISORY COMMITTEES IN U.P.

507. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) in which towns in the United Provinces, Telephone Advisory Committees have been formed;

(b) what is the constitution of such committees;

(c) what are the functions of such committees;

(d) whether the decisions of such committees with regard to priority in the matter of installation of telephones are implemented by the Telephone Department;

(e) whether any principles or rules have been laid down for the guidance of these committees in the matter of sanctioning installations, and if so, what they are; and

(f) whether Government propose to form such committees at an early date in such towns where they have not yet been formed?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Lucknow and Cawnpore.

(b) Each Committee consists of:

(1) Chairman—An official of P. & T. Department.

(2) Secretary—An official of P. & T. Department.

(3) Three members:

(i) A nominee of the Provincial Government.

(ii) A nominee of the Chambers of Commerce if they locally exist or a representative of other commercial or industrial associations.

(iii) A member of the Constituent Assembly to be nominated by the Central Government.

(c) (i) bringing the public and the P. & T. Department into better relationship, over the work of the telephone service.

(ii) giving the public confidence that their grievances were being properly represented and attended to,

(iii) giving more publicity to the action being taken by the department to improve the telephone service,

(iv) advising this Department in opening new connections on a fair and equitable basis by assessing merits and claims of individual applicants and the comparative nature of importance of their activities.

(v) advising on the betterment of the local exchange and trunk service,

(vi) assisting this Department to tide over the present situation by invoking co-operation and patience from the public.

(d) Yes; as far as practicable.

(e) Yes; the Heads of the various P. & T. Circles and Districts were duly instructed to bring to the notice of members of the Advisory Committees the various orders of priority issued from time to time by the P. & T. Department on the subject of allotment of new telephone connections. As regards the details of these orders, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to part (d) of the Starred Question No. 136 on the 6th February 1948.

(f) Yes; the matter is under consideration.

AERODROME IN PURNEA DISTRICT, BIHAR AND AIR SERVICE FOR ASSAM

508. *Mr. Mohd. Tahir: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether there is any aerodrome in the district of Purnea (Bihar)?

(b) Is there any air service from Delhi to Assam direct through the territories of the Government of India?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (b). No, Sir.

IMPORTED SPINDLES AND TEXTILES LOOMS FOR PROVINCES DURING 1947-48

509. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the number of spindles and textile looms imported for allocation to the various provinces during the years 1946-47 and 1947-48?

(b) Have the Provincial Governments any power to reject or reduce quotas allotted to them?

(c) Is it a fact that re-conditioned textile plants are available in the Sterling area for immediate shipment and that Government have not been favouring the purchase of these plants?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) There were no imports of spinning machinery in 1946. A statement is tabled showing imports of spindles during 1947 and their distribution. It is expected that about 350,000 spindles will be imported in 1948. Figures of imports of looms are not available.

(b) Provincial Governments would have to approach the Government of India, who are the authority issuing import licences, for such rejections or reductions.

(c) It is not correct that Government have not been favouring the purchase of such plants. On the contrary, Government's policy is to permit the import of reconditioned machinery provided it is capable of economic production. Import licences for reconditioned machinery covering 100,028 spindles have already been issued for import from the U. K., and covering 47,000 spindles for import from the U. S. A.

STATEMENT

Madras Province	49,456 spindles
Mysore State	5,000 "
Pudukkottah State	14,000 "
Travancore	5,000 "
Delhi Province	25,000 "
Mayurbhanj State	10,212 "
Bombay Province	5,000 "
Bhavnagar State	3,500 "
West Bengal	2,132 "

In addition, 48,016 spindles were imported into areas which now form part of Pakistan

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POSITION *re.* AMERICAN CAMPS AND MILITARY SUPPLY DEPOTS IN INDIA

510. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Americans had built camps and military supply depots in various parts of this country during the war?

(b) If so, do Government propose to state the location and the quality and quantity of the stores held in such camps and depots and the steps Government propose to take to obtain possession of these depots for the use of the Defence Services?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the names and location of American stores depots at which surplus materials are still lying awaiting disposal is laid on the table. The statement gives a broad description of unsold stores lying at each Depot. The quality of the stores ranges from good to poor. The total quantity of stores awaiting disposal on 31st December 1947 was about 170,000 tons. The total value of surplus American stores is about Rs. 69·29 crores.

Under an agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the U. S. A., all stores depots left by the Americans were taken over by the Government of India. The Ministry of Defence can take over any surplus stores or depots they want.

STATEMENT

Showing location, description and book value of unsold American surpluses referred to in answer to Part (b) of question No. 510

Serial No.	Name and Location of depots	Description of stores	S.P.B. value or estimated value
	1. *Calcutta*—		
1	Taratola	Road making machineries, etc.	60,49,000
2	H. E. yard and Grave Mill Siding	Ditto	89,95,000
3	Lothian Depot	Used and unused Miscellaneous stores such as Stationery Sports Gear, Tarpaulins, Transport and Camp Equipment Iron Safes, Iron beds, Cooking Ranges, etc.	36,00,000
4	Albion Depot	Misc. Stores such as Stationery, Iron beds, Salvage, Chemicals, Spares, Harness and Saddlery Boots and Grindary, etc.	61,00,000
5	Bhagwati Depot	Medical Stores	1,97,39,500
6	Brooklyn	Echelon Repair Units—	
		Tool Set General	30,60,000
		Machine Tools	10,69,000
		Oil Paints, acid, chemicals, painters stores	12,39,000
		Electrodes rods, rods welding and fire fighting equipment	34,95,000
		Celluloid Sheets Nitrogen Cylinder	3,22,000
		Compound Vapour Cleaning Solvents, etc.	82,000
		Paper Asbestos, Yarn-Asbestos, Dark minerals, paints enamels, hydraulic brake fluid, Glass bottle, etc.	5,000
		Target Materials	1,18,15,000
		Miscellaneous Tools Chains Tow, Lubricating Guns, Jacks, et	5,06,000
		Sacks Gas resisting, Tarpaulins, hoists, Tool, Sets for Trucks, Store abrasive, Tool Set G. M. C. etc.	22,000
		Salvage, Tyre repair materials	2,000
		Typewriters & Adding Machines	6,62,000
		Miscellaneous	1,90,000
7	Lybian	Non-edible PX stores	6,50,000
8	Kalighat Tanks	Tanks, Tank fittings, oil pumps, etc.	68,33,000
9	Paharpur Timber Yard	Timbers	60,000
10	Landslowne	Aluminium Tanks, Bridges, Boats assault, Pontoon Culverts, etc.	60,00,000
11	Belgurriah G.E.S.	Bridges, Assault Boats Culverts Misc. Engg. Stores	53,67,000
12	Hobokon G. E. S.	Pumps, Electric fittings, general maintenance Spares and Engg. Stores	1,55,83,000
13	Kalai Kunda	General Engg. Stores Kitchen wares, Generating Sets, Typewriters, Stationery, Shoes, etc.	16,12,000
14	Kamarhatty Warehouse	Transmitters (complete sets)	40,00,000
		Transmitters (incomplete sets)	46,67,000
		Transmitters Spares and Valves	13,33,000
		Switch Boards, Exchange Phone & Spares	20,00,000
		Telegraph, Teleprinters Paper, etc.	6,67,000

Serial No.	Name and Location of depots	Description of stores	S.P.B. value or estimated value
14	Kamarhatty Warehouse—*contd.*	Radio Receiving Sets	20,00,000
		Torches Hand	1,33,000
		Power Units	18,00,000
		Films & Printing Paper	13,00,000
		Tool Sets	2,50,000
		Empty Tools Chests	8,000
		Cinematographic Equipments	27,000
		Misc. Signal Stores	16,87,000
		Wire and Cables	14,67,000
15	Kamarhatty Hangar	Transmitters (complete sets)	50,00,000
		Transmitters (incomplete sets)	76,67,000
		Transmitter Spares and Valves	10,00,000
		Switch Boards, Exchange Phones & spares	3,33,000
		Radio Receiving Sets	5,00,000
		Power Units (Petrol & Diesel)	8,00,000
		Tools Sets	2,00,000
		Empty Tool Chests	2,000
		Misc. Signal Stores	14,33,000
		Wire and Cables	3,33,000
		Vehicles and 41-Trailers	11,33,000
16	Cossipore Signal	Transmitters (complete sets)	50,00,000
		Transmitters (incomplete sets)	16,67,000
		Transmitter Spares & Valves	23,33,000
		Switch Boards, Exchange Phones & Spares	53,33,000
		Telegraph, Teleprinters Paper etc.	53,33,000
		Radio Receiving Sets	30,00,000
		Torches Hand	2,00,000
		Power Units (petrol and Diesel)	12,00,000
		Films and Printing Paper	15,000
		Tool Sets	5,00,000
		Empty Tool Chests	7,000
		Cinematographic Equipments	6,67,000
		Misc. Signal Stores	6,67,000
		Wire & Cables	14,00,000
17	Paharpur Signals	Wire & Cables	1,06,67,000
		Misc. Stores	8,33,000
18	Alipore Airstrip Brooklyn Depot, Calcutta.	Motor Vehicles and Trailers	66,18,000
19	National Jute Mills	Steel Pipes	18,38,613
20	Upper Union Docks	Ditto.	
21	Belgurriah	Ditto.	
22	Kalighat	Ditto	
	II. *Assam*—		
23	Lekhapani, Margherita, Tinsukia, Titabar and Nakachari	Ditto.	35,70,000
24	Makum	Machine Tools	3,00,000
25	Ditto.	II Echelon Repair Sets	9,51,000
26	Ditto.	Special Iron and Steel items	38,65,000
	III. *Delhi*—		
27	U.S.A.S.S. Depot, Factory Road, New Delhi.	*Signal stores including*— Projectors, Cables, Generating Sets, Radio Valves & Photographic Stores	3,07,09,613
		Salvage— Ferrous metal, Steel drums, Cylinders, Timber scrap, Paints	
		Q. M. Stores— Air Conditioners, Rugs Wool and Cotton, Paper, Chairs, Desks and Tools	42,00,000
		Motor Vehicles—	
28	IV DEPOTS IN THE DISPOSAL AGENCY OF TATA AIR-CRAFT Tezghur, Panagarh, Ranaghat, Agra, Allahabad, Jodhpur and Salawas.	Aircraft and American Air Corps Stores.	49,00,00,000

Total page (1) 6,60,99,000
page (2) 56,8,31,000
page (3) 4,51,23,000
page (4) 4,48,74,000
page (5) 49,42,00,000

Grand Total 69,29,62,613

DISPOSAL OF AMERICAN ARMY STORES IN BHOPAL STATE

511. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the American forces built a depot for war materials somewhere in the Bhopal State?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make enquiries from the American Government regarding the disposal of the stores in the said depot?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to secure it for the use of the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) My Ministry has no knowledge of American forces having built a depot in Bhopal State.

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

CHARTERED PLANES FLYING BETWEEN DELHI, KARACHI AND LAHORE IN JANUARY, 1948

512. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many chartered planes flew between Delhi-Lahore and Delhi-Karachi and *vice versa* in the month of January 1948?

(b) What is the difference between the fare for ordinary service on these lines and that collected from each passenger travelling on these chartered planes?

(c) Is there any proposal to have duplicate services on these two lines, in view of the many chartered services that were found necessary?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) 12 charter flights took place between Delhi and Lahore and 3 between Delhi and Karachi during January 1948.

(b) The scheduled single fare between Delhi and Lahore is Rs. 66 and between Delhi and Karachi Rs. 165. Charter flights are generally paid for at a rate for the whole aircraft for both the outward and the return journeys, as the aircraft is chartered by one party. In cases where an aircraft is chartered by a number of passengers, the total amount payable for the aircraft is distributed equally amongst the passengers.

(c) The operating company concerned is examining the possibilities of running duplicate services on these two routes.

WORKING OF GOVERNMENT DAIRY FARMS DURING 1946-47

513. *Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the income from and expenditure on each of the Government Dairy Farms during the year 1946-47;

(b) the number of bulls, bullocks and other animals sold by each of the Government Dairy Farms to the public;

(c) whether the Government Dairy Farms do any propaganda work or hold exhibitions for the benefit of the agriculturist and if so, what; and

(d) whether it is the policy of Government to encourage private dairy farms and if so, in what manner?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). A statement giving the information so far available is placed on the table of the House. Further information is being collected and will be supplied to the House.

(c) The Government dairy farms serve as demonstrative units in respect of feeding, breeding and management of dairy cattle, production of fodder crops and silage and clean production and handling of milk. The dairy farms do not hold cattle exhibitions but participate in exhibitions like the All-India Cattle Show. Government intend to consider the proposal to utilise the dairy farms for propaganda work and holding exhibitions if the necessary finances are available.

(d) The Government of India are in favour of encouraging the establishment of private dairy farms. Technical advice and assistance in the procurement of cattle feed and equipment is being given to private dairy farms. The Government of India have also advised the Provincial Governments to encourage the establishment of dairy farms, and have offered to give financial assistance to approved schemes (including development of dairy farms) designed to bring about increased production of milk. But a great deal more remains to be done.

STATEMENT

Serial No.	Name of Dairy Farm	Income during 1946-47	Expenditure during 1946-47	Number of Bullocks & other Animals sold to the Public
1.	*Bombay—*			
	1. Government Cattle Breeding Farm, Bankipur (District Dharwar).	4,103	26,069	Bulls . . 6 Cows . . 7 Heifers . 7 Bullocks . *Nil*
	2. Government Cattle Breeding Farm Tegur (District Dharwar).	2,747	18,100	Bulls . . 8 Cows . 6 Heifers . *Nil* Bullocks . *Nil*
2.	*C. P. and Berar—*			
	1. Telenkherm Farm Nagpur . . .	44,600	61,000	Bulls . . 4
3.	*Coorg—*			
	1. Government Dairy Farm	3,972	14,626	Bull/calves . 2
4.	*Orissa—*			
	1. Civil Dairy Farm	14,425	70,099	*Nil.*
	2. Military Dairy Farm	90,672	94,753	*Nil.*

BRIDGE OVER RIVER CHAMBAL ON BOMBAY-DELHI TRUNK ROAD

514. *Dr. B. V. Keskar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there is no bridge on the river Chambal between Gwalior and Dholpur on the Bombay-Delhi Trunk Road and, that therefore, traffic on this important link is practically at a standstill during the monsoon?

(b) Are Government aware that the railway bridge at Dholpur was converted during the war for use as a road-bridge and that this bridge was used by the military authorities or by those who got a permit from them?

(c) Are Government aware that even now, when the pontoon bridge is broken up during the monsoon, a permit is necessary from the military authorities to use the railway bridge?

(d) Do Government propose to have this railway bridge opened at least during the monsoon for civilian traffic?

(e) Do Government propose to construct a permanent road bridge over the Chambal and remove this lacuna on the Bombay-Delhi trunk road and if so, when?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes. Ordinary civil traffic cannot cross the river in periods of high flood during the monsoons.

(b) and (c). Yes.

(d) No. Free use of the bridge by civil traffic would, owing to railway signalling difficulties which cannot be overcome, involve the risk of serious interruption to the G. I. P. main line traffic and of accidents to human life and property.

(e) A road bridge over the Chambal at this point is high in the priority list of development works but, even in the most favourable circumstances, it is not likely that this very big bridge project will be completed before 1950.

BOILERS IMPORTED INTO INDIA DURING 1947

515. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the number of boilers imported into India in the year 1947?

(b) Is there any plan to manufacture boilers in India in the immediate future?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(b) Messrs. Tata Locomotive and Engineering Co. Ltd., Tatanagar, are already manufacturing boilers for locomotives. At a later stage they will manufacture boilers for road rollers also.

Messrs. Textile Machinery Corporation Ltd., Calcutta are setting up a factory for the manufacture of industrial boilers.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جناب ! میں یہ تجویز پیش کرتا ہوں یہ اسمبلی اس طریقہ سے جیسا کہ آنریبل سپیکر ٹھہرا دیں ایک ممبر کے چناؤ کی کاروائی اختیار کرے یہ ممبر اس مطلب سے چنا جائیگا کہ منسٹری آف ایجوکیشن کی سٹنڈنگ کمیٹی میں سنہ ۴۹ - ۱۹۴۸ کے آخیر تک کام کرے جسمیں کہ شری ایس رادھا کرشنن کے مستعفی ہونے سے ایک ممبر کی جگہ خالی ہوگی۔

نومبر میں سٹنڈنگ کمیٹی منسٹری آف ایجوکیشن کی چنی گئی تھی - شری ایس رادھا کرشنن بھی اس کےایک ممبر تھے اُنہوں نے اب استعفیٰ دے دیا ھےاور یہ لکھا ھے کہ اُنکی engagements ایسی ھیں کہ وہ سمجھتے ھیں کہ جتنا وقت سٹنڈنگ کمیٹی میں دینا چاھیئے وہ نہیں دے سکینگے اسلئے ایک جگہ خالی ہو گئی ھے اور وہ دوبارہ بھرنی چاھیئے

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Minister for Education): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects dealt with in the Ministry of Education, until the end of the financial year 1948-49, *vice* Shri S. Radhakrishnan resigned."

The Standing Committee of the Ministry of Education was eletced in November last. Shri S. Radhakrishnan was also one of its members. He has now tendered his resignation; saying that his engagements are such that it would not be possible for him to devote sufficient time to the Standing Committee. A vacancy has therefore occurred and it should be filled up.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects dealt with in the Ministry of Education, until the end of the financial year 1948-49, *vice* Shri S. Radhakrishnan resigned."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): May I request the Honourable Minister to inform us if there have been any meetings of the Standing Committee for Education till now?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : نہیں ابھی تک نہیں ہوئی اس کے لئے ممبروں سے مشورہ کرنے کے بعد یہی رائے قرار پائی کہ مارچ میں ہو اور اِس لئے اب مارچ کے آخر میں ہوگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No, not yet. After consultation with the members it was decided to hold the meeting in March, and so it will be held at the end of March.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that Prof. Radha Krishnan continues to be a member of this Constituent Assembly and he is one of the eminent scholars, cannot the Honourable Minister persuade him to be a member of this Committee, especially in view of the fact that a number of meetings of this Committee have not been held till now, so that he can attend one or two of its meetings?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اب یہ اس ھاؤس کی رائے پر موقوف ھے اگر ھاؤس کی رائے ہوگی تو میں پھر اُنہیں لکھونگا حالانکہ وہ اپنا resignation بھیج چکے ھیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It depends upon the opinion of the House. If the House desires, I will again write to him, though he has submitted his resignation.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects dealt with in the Ministry of Education, until the end of the financial year 1948-49, *vice* Shri S. Radhakrishnan resigned."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election, by means of the single transferable vote, of a member to the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Education the programme of dates will be as follows:

Nomination to be filled in the Notice Office upto 12 noon on Wednesday, the 3rd March.

Election, if necessary, will be held on Friday, the 5th March, in the Assistant Secretary's room (No.21) in the Council House between the hours of 10.30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Mr. Speaker: I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 noon on Friday the 27th February, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the purpose of election of a member to serve on the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Transport (Other than Roads), in place of Shri Mukunda Behary Mallick, resigned, only one nomination was received. As there is only one candidate for the vacancy, I declare Shri Mohan Lal Saksena to be duly elected to the Committee.

DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA LAND DEVELOPMENT BILL

(EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE)

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha (Minister for Commerce): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the preparation and execution of land development schemes, the reclamation of waste-land and the control of private forests and grass-land, in the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara be extended up to Monday, the 15th March, 1948."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill, to provide for the preparation and execution of land development schemes, the reclamation of waste-land and the control of private forests and grass-land, in the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara be extended up to Monday, the 15th March, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN POWER ALCOHOL BILL

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha (Minister for Commerce): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the development of the power alcohol industry.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the development of the power alcohol industry."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

TAXATION ON INCOME (INVESTIGATION COMMISSION) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to amend the Taxation on Income (Investigation Commission) Act, 1947, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Diwan Chaman Lall, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri Arun Chandra Guha, and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before the 8th March, 1948, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, Honourable Members are aware of the genesis of the Income-Tax Investigation Commission. It formed part of the Budget proposals for the last year's Budget. When the then Finance Member announced his intention to appoint such an Investigation Commission, he followed up his announcement by introducing in this House the necessary legislative measure to set up a Commission and to enable the Commission to work. Unfortunately, mainly due to the context in which this proposal was made, the measure introduced then underwent very considerable changes in the Select Committee and as it finally emerged from the Legislature, it was found that the provisions of the Act were not considered to be sufficient to make the work of the Investigation Commission effective. Soon after this measure was passed, on account of the political changes that came over the country, the Government then decided to postpone the consideration of the question as to when this Investigation Commission should be appointed. Soon after I assumed office, I took up the question of the setting up of this Investigation Commission and the Government decided that we must go ahead. When, however, I examined the provisions of the Act under which this Commission was to work, I found that the Act did not give sufficient powers to the Commission to enable it either to work effectively or to produce any effective results as a result of the investigation. Before making up my mind about the amendments that were considered necessary to rectify this defect, I thought it would be worth while to ask the advice of the Commissioners themselves on this subject. I therefore asked the Commission as soon as it was appointed to examine the Act and to advise me whether the provisions of the Act were sufficient for the purpose that was intended and what amendments they would suggest if such amendments are found necessary. After a very careful examination of the whole Act, the Commission came to the unanimous conclusion that the provisions of the Act were really not sufficient to enable the Commission to function effectively and they sent a report to the Government, suggesting what they considered to be

the absolutely minimum powers that were necessary if the work of that Commission was to be effective at all.

I may inform the House that the amending Bill that is now before the House was drafted in the light of the recommendations made by the Commissioners themselves. It is my intention, Sir, to place before the members of the Select Committee a complete copy of the report of the Commission on this matter, and I have no doubt that when the members of the Select Committee examine this report, they would be convinced that the amendments that I am now seeking to move in this Bill are absolutely necessary.

In considering these amendments, I would invite the Honourable Members to bear in mind one very fundamental fact, and it is this: The Commission that we have set up is only an investigating body. It is not, in any case, intended to play the role of an adjudicator in a dispute between the Government and the assessees. What the Government intends to do is to place before the Commission certain papers relating to certain assessees, who, in the opinion of the Income-tax authorities, have not paid to the State all the taxes due by them. Once these papers are placed before the Commission, it will be entirely open to the Commission to conduct the investigation in any manner that it may choose and send a report to Government in the light of the investigations that they may conduct. In considering these amendments which at first sight might appear to be drastic, I would invite the House to another consideration also. I would ask them to take into account the personnel of this Commission. It consists of three members: The Chairman is a very eminent ex-judge of the Federal Court. Another Member is a very distinguished Judge of the Bombay High Court, and the third Member was a Member of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal. I would suggest to the Honourable Members, Sir, that in considering these amendments, they should be rest assured that a Commission of this kind can certainly be trusted to exercise these powers in a judicious and equitable manner. After all, when you are considering the scope of powers which might be abused, you must take into account what the body is that will exercise these powers. As I said, if you take into account the composition of the personnel of this Commission, the House must be satisfied that a body of this kind can be trusted to exercise these powers judiciously, without causing harassment to any one. One of the amendments that we have put down in the Bill aims at giving power to the Commission to call upon any person or individual to produce any information which the Commission may consider to be relevant for its purpose. There is no doubt that under this amendment any one whose case is not before the Investigation Commission might be called upon to produce certain documents or to furnish certain evidence. At first sight, this might appear to be rather wide. But on a moment's reflection, it will be found that without such a power the Commission cannot really function effectively. In investigating the case of an assessee, cases might occur, and in fact cases will occur, in which the assessee, has hidden a part of his income by various devices in collusion with other parties. So unless the Commission is in a position to call upon such parties to produce their account books, the Commission will not have a full picture of the assessee's case before it. Or, take even a simpler case. Assessees would carry on their transactions to banks, and if the Commission is not in a position to call upon the banks to produce the accounts relating to these assessees, the Commission cannot really have a full disclosure of the state of affairs of the assessee. I consider, therefore, that this power is very essential if the Commission is to work effectively.

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The second amendment is intended to deal with the obstructive tactics of the assessees When a case is before the Commission for investigation, it is possible that an assessee might resort to obstructive tactics and thereby nullify the work of the Commission. Under such circumstances, the Com-

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty]

mission is empowered to proceed with the investigation notwithstanding these obstructive tactics and to send its report to the Government on the facts available to the Commission.

Another amendment seems to authorise the Commission to appoint any person to go and inspect the accounts of any assessee. This is only an exercise of agency powers. When the Commission has to deal with a number of cases, you cannot expect that the members of the Commission will personally look into the account books and other documents of every one of the assessees. Naturally they will have to delegate the powers to someone else—to some specified official or person—and the amendment is intended to enable the Commission to specify certain officers or other individuals to go and examine the accounts books of assessees, if necessary. A Commission of this kind can certainly be entrusted to choose with care the persons to whom it will delegate such agency functions.

The most important amendment, Sir, is that the findings of the Commission on question of fact should be final and not be open to any further appeal in any court. This I consider to be the most vital amendment that I am proposing, and I must say that without this amendment you may as well not have the Commission. After appointing such a high-powered Commission, if you cannot accept their findings on facts as final, then there will be no end to the re-opening of these cases. I, therefore, consider this, Sir, as probably the most fundamental of the amendments that I am proposing.

These are the main features of the Bill now before the House, and I feel confident that when the Select Committee and later on the House examines these provisions in detail, they will be convinced that—if it is really the intention of this House that these tax-dodgers must be bocked and a really effective method is to be adopted for recovering taxes due to the State,—these minimum powers are necessary for the Commission to work. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Taxation on Income (Investigation Commission) Act, 1947, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Diwan Chaman Lall, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri Arun Chandra Guha, and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before the 8th March, 1948, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, after this Bill was introduced and referred to Select Committee and after the Bill came out of the Select Committee for being considered by this House I submitted on 11-4-47 certain objections to it. I am glad that two of those objections have been met by the present measure. The first related to the question of sanction of prosecution by this Commission or by the Central Government; I am glad that the anomally of the previous Bill has been removed and now the Commission itself will be armed with the power of sanctioning prosecutions. Secondly, I submitted then that the powers given to the Commission to find out from the assessee his sources of revenue were not wide enough, and in practice the proposed measure would not succeed in the object. I find from the present proposed amendments that that remark of mine has also proved to be true. I do not know and we did not know then what materials were then in the possession of Government on the basis of which they wanted these wide powers. Even now the Finance Minister has not been pleased to place before the House the materials on the basis of which he wants these wide powers; nor do we know whether within the last year anything has been done in this respect. The first part of the Bill as it then existed provided that the Commission should go into the question as to how tax evasion could be tackled; to that aspect of the case now also we have got no objection. And I submit that if any report has been made by

any Commission or suggestions have been made that ought to have been placed before the House for its consideration. As regards the other portion —the appointment of a Commission for the purpose of catching tax-evaders— we do not know how far Government have succeeded, whether they have taken any steps and how far any attempts that they made have met with success. The present Bill is in my view a great improvement on the previous Bill in so far as its provisions are calculated to go against the tax-evaders. But at the same time though they possess this merit that there is no lacuna in them so far as powers are concerned, I am afraid the powers now granted are too wide and may in practice in some cases mean great hardship and harassment to those against whom they will be exercised. Now, Sir, if a person evades a law he is liable to be dealt with harshly as well as leniently. A law which allows the authorities to have a free hand in all matters connected with delinquents will not be a good law. A law which at the same time is not calculated to succeed in its object, that is, catching tax-evaders, will also be equally bad. We have to adopt a course which may be called a *via media*. We must not arm those who are in charge of the administration of the law with too wide powers. What this Bill proposes to do is to give a *carte blanche* to the income-tax authorities and invest them with such large powers that they will have the assessees in the hollow of their hands; and if there is a corrupt official or one who wants to harass those suspected of evasion of tax or to extort money even from innocent persons can do whatever he likes.

Now, Sir, as I submitted on the last occasion—and with your permission I will repeat it—in my humble opinion the present powers of the Income-tax Officers are fairly wide and they have not been properly used in the past. Tax evasions take place not because the powers are not there but because the powers are not exercised well and with discrimination. After all the present procedure of the Income-tax Act and the Excess Profits Act and similar other Acts makes it quite clear that every assessee has to submit a return. If he fails to do so the powers under section 23(4) are there and they can be used against him. If an improper return is made then also the powers are there. Even the provisions of Sec. 177 I.P.C. can be used against him. I will therefore request the Honourable the Finance Minister to let the House know in how many cases they have taken action under Section 177 I.P.C. Under Section 51 and other Sections of the Income-tax Act a person can be proceeded against if he files a wrong return. If these provisions were fully utilised I have no doubt that there would have been no reason to enact a law of this kind. Barring that there are also other provisions in the Indian Penal Code which can be utilized against the tax dodgers. If a person is asked to submit a correct return or to make certain disclosures, and if he does not perform his part of the duty he can be criminally proceeded against. Similarly the powers of the civil court that are possessed by the Income-tax Officers are sufficient to coerce the assessees to file the right returns and to tax them rightly. I understand that unless the public cooperates with the income-tax authorities it is very difficult for them to proceed against the assessees and recover income-tax dues.

Now supposing the present Bill is enforced, what would happen. In the first instance the Finance Minister has been pleased to say that here is a Commission in which there is a High Court Judge. Now Section 4 of the 1947 Act provides that the Commission shall consist of a Chairman who is or has been a Judge of a High Court and two other Commissioners. The powers bestowed on the Commission now have practically been widened to a very great extent, but still a person may not take serious objection to this widening of powers. But these powers have been made usable by Income-tax Officers also. In the proposed amendment of Section 6(3) it is provided that any income-tax authority or "authorised official" may be authorised by the Commission to examine accounts and documents and make investigations and then

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

report to the Commission. Then Section 6(6) gives powers to the Commission and any "authorised official" to make inquiries and obtain statements of persons, etc., and gives such official all the powers conferred on the Commission by sub-Sections (1), (2), (3) and (4) of Section 6.

My humble submission is that these powers are extremely wide. This Commission has all the powers of the Civil Court and much more. The powers of the police are there: the powers of the Civil Court are there: the Commission can report to the Government to have a reference to itself. Under Section 3(3) it says:

".....the Commission has reason to believe—

(a) that some person other than the person whose case is being investigated has evaded payment of taxation on income, or"

It may make a report and the Central Government may refer the case for interpretation to the Commission. So this Commission can make a report. Then the Government can refer back certain points on the case of the person against whom it reports. The Commission is the report-making authority: then the Commission is the authority which can take *ex-parte* evidence—call any person, examine him and see his books, even at the back of the person against whom the case is reported: then it can call and ask that man to make statements and to present evaluations of his wealth and no lawyer shall be allowed on those occasions.

Further on, where the question of procedure comes in, Section 5(3) says:

"Any person whose case is being investigated by the Commission may be represented by a pleader duly authorised to act on his behalf, provided that no person shall be entitled to be present or to be represented in the course of an enquiry under sub-sections (3) and (6) of section 6 or a proceeding under sub-section (8) of section 6."

Besides that man may either be a real culprit or may be absolutely innocent. What would happen? You will see his entire accounts: you will proceed against him as a police officer, as a Civil Judge, as a Mentor, as an accuser and everything else and then it may be found that as a matter of fact the Commission has made a mistake. If the Commission is not there, that authorized official shall exercise all the powers under Sections 1, 2, 3 & 4. Then why say that a High Court Judge shall do it when any officer of the Income-tax Department can have all these powers.

My submission is that too great powers have been vested in the official who shall be a hardened income-tax official—representative of a department interested in getting more and more money from the assessees—and as such hardly the proper person to proceed against assessees in this manner, because it is the Income-tax officers whose report gives occasion for the appointment of a Commission, and those very officials are being granted these powers, which smack of the Star Chamber method of inquisition. An enquiry according to Section 6(6) can be made in any manner and 'in such manner' and 'such enquiries' as he pleases and from any person on earth. I have never seen such wide powers being given. It is a police officer and Court combined and perhaps much more.

What are the rights of the assessee? It is said in Section 5 that when the evidence has been collected then all the evidence shall be flung in his face and he will be given opportunities to rebut that evidence. At the same time in Clause 7 of Section 4 the words are:

"All materials gathered by the Commission or the authorised official and materials accompanying the reference under sub-section (1) of section 5 may be brought on record at such stage as the Commission may think fit."

There again, the Commission can keep back all the information from him, examine him, not give him an opportunity even as an accused to explain: he may not even be asked a question. It is at the discretion of the Commission

to put this evidence at any stage it pleases.

Therefore my submission is that in regard to these matters such powers have been given as can be abused. I am not in favour of tax-evaders. I wish all possible steps can be taken against them and in all reasonable ways he may be coerced to make a statement. This was my complaint when the last Bill was brought up that the Commission, or whoever he may be, may not be able to extort all the information he requires from the assessee and whereas I complained then that the powers were not adequate enough, I have now to complain that the powers are extremely wide and so wide that an innocent man, once enmeshed, cannot get out of the difficulty. When the powers for which the Honourable the Finance Minister has claimed the effect of a panacea are fully realized in their import, I think one should shudder before he gives assent to this Bill. Then again the findings of this authorised official of the Income-tax Department will practically be final. The words of Section 6(4) read:

"In all assessment or reassessment proceedings taken in pursuance of a direction under sub-section (2), the findings recorded by the Commission on the case or on the points referred to it shall, subject to the provisions of sub-sections (5) and (6), be final: . . . . . ."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That is not the finding of an Income-tax Officer: it is the finding of the Commission.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I know that. The authorised official has been given as full powers as the Commission in Section 6 sub-clause (6) and then the report is to be made by the Commission. In effect, in many cases the report of the Commission will virtually be the report of the authorised official. And what is the effect of the report? That is final. Even the reopening authority, the Central Government, or any person on earth, cannot touch those findings. If the authorised official takes it into his head that he has to ruin an assessee, the assessee who has in some manner prejudiced him or taken an independent attitude, he can proceed under provisions of Section 6 clause (5) and close the proceedings and then record a finding that becomes practically final. It is not subject to appeal. It cannot be complained against in Court of Law or before any officer or authority. Previously, if there was a refusal on the part of an assessee to submit his accounts, to present himself or behave in a particular way, the provisions of Section 23 Clause 4 came into operation and he could be assessed according to the discretion of the Income-tax officer. Now, the assessee does not go before the assessing authority under Section 6 of this Bill. But under Section 4 if he behaves in any manner which is not liked by the authorised official, he can close the enquiry and for all times that person is doomed. What is the point on which he can take this action? The words are:

"If he refuses or fails to attend in person in compliance with the notice on this behalf and to give evidence or to answer questions or to produce documents or to prepare and furnish statements."

Suppose a person has replied to 20 questions but he is reticent in respect of one matter which he does not wish to disclose. Out of ten items there may be one which he chooses not to answer and the amount involved may be small: yet that authorised official has the right to close the investigation of the case and proceed to draw up the report.

An Honourable Member: High Court Judges are not fools.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I do not think that High Court Judges are fools. At the same time I do think that they are human beings and as such can behave in a particular manner. Why do you provide in law that arbitrary powers shall not be given to Courts or officers? The presiding officers are not fools but at the same time such arbitrary powers should not be put into the hands of a person howsoever big or high he might be, as those powers are liable to be abused. I do want that if necessary a commission may be appointed but at the same time I do not want the Commission or at least the

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

authorised official should be given such powers that ultimately we may have to rue the day on which these powers were given.

In the previous act the provisions were that the Commission should delegate certain authorities in certain contingencies. Here no such safeguard has been provided. On the other hand the powers are too wide. The words used then in 6(2) were:

"If in the course of any investigation it appears to the Commission to be necessary to examine any accounts or documents which it cannot itself conveniently examine the Commission may authorise . . . . . "

Now all the powers can be given to an authorised person, who shall be none other than an officer of the Income-tax Department. That man will be armed with all the powers of the Commission and he will make a report to the Commission. Supposing an Income-tax official makes out a report and submits it to the Commission, after examining the accounts or documents interrogating the person or obtaining his statements, etc. The assessee will not be there to say a word before the Commission. The assessee may have been reported against and he will have absolutely no other remedy. The report is final and even the income-tax officials of the Central Government have no power. The assessee may be ruined but the report is treated as final, though it in effect be the report of an official appointed by the Commission. My submission is that the Bill should be so amended that whereas the Commission itself may have wide powers to enmesh all the income-tax evaders, the powers of the authorised official should not be so large as to coincide with the powers of the Commission in regard to all things except making the report.

Secondly, I do not like the wording in this Bill in so far as the principles governing investigation are concerned. The words in 7(2) are "in accordance with the principles of natural justice". I do not understand what is natural justice. Under Roman Imperialism slavery was considered to be natural justice.

This is an investigation pure and simple. This Commission is appointed to investigate and not to decide matters, as my Honourable friend has said. Why should all the principles of the Indian Evidence Act be made applicable to investigation by the Commission. Like the police the Commission may investigate at the back of the assessee. We are not concerned with the principles of the Indian Evidence Act so far as investigation is concerned. When the Commission has to make its report it shall have to and can only rely upon the materials placed regularly before itself and make use only of such evidence as has been tested according to the principles of the Indian Evidence Act. For all other matters during investigation stage the Indian Evidence Act should not be there. Hearsay may be admissible and I do not agree that in so far as investigation is concerned the principles of the Indian Evidence Act have got anything to do with them. In all matters in which investigations are done we should have recourse to all those methods to arrive at a particular result. I quite realise that the Commission is not a court of law. It is like a court of law, as well as investigating authority and also investigation commission. Therefore we should not detract from the powers of the Commission for purposes of investigation. For investigation it should be armed with more powers than we give to the courts. The courts are bound by the principles of the Evidence Act. In so far as these powers are concerned I submit that after ten long years it would be very difficult to proceed against the tax-evaders. I do not know the kind of evasion that has taken place. I do not know about the tactics of those who have been evading the law. All that I can visualise is that after these ten years during which the Government has been neglectful, supine and indifferent, many persons who had made their fortunes in 1939 or even 1942 may have lost every thing by this

time. After these ten years to rescusitate all these investigations, to restart them and reopen closed questions is to my mind not fair. The war was over a few years ago and I do not know what the Government has been doing since. They have not taken any steps so far. The Government is to blame for this. If the Government did not behave properly they should not take these wide powers and adopt these star chamber methods to go into affairs of 1939 and 1940. The principle of Section 34 and other principles of law require that after a certain time all acts which are not in the nature of crimes are condoned and there is a limitation placed on executive powers. If you have certain allegations against a man, and all the evidence has been lost by lapse of time it is beyond his powers to meet your allegations. After ten years if you rake up all the past things in respect of which all evidence has been destroyed which was in favour of the assessee, you place him in such a position in which he cannot meet you.

Therefore in my humble opinion there is no case for a Bill like this. I do not know if tax evasion is so very large. If a Bill like this is necessary the provisions of it should be such that whereas the law may be able to reach the tax-evader, it will not be able to do harm to the innocent person. I submit that the points I have made may be considered by the Select Committee.

Shri B. Das: (Orissa: General): Sir, I support the Bill. The Bill has been postponed a long time. It should have come last November, when the Honourable the Finance Minister took charge of his Department. He should have then taken stock of the situation and brought a Bill like this or even a stronger measure. The Bill is a misnomer. It ought to be called "The tax-dodgers catching Bill".

My Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava discussed the legal aspect of the Bill. One of the sad things which the British Government has left behind in this country is the large number of lawyers and their aptitude to interminable arguments in every field of life by the process of law. (*Interruption.*) I do not wish to stir a hornet's nest by talking about the lawyer's profession. I have my friendship with them. In the free India of today we want to have speedy justice and not interminable legal arguments. We have seen that the tax-dodger has evaded crores and crores of rupees. He made money through the help and with the connivance of the Supply Department and the Defence Department. Those Departments did not ask the Income-tax Department to collect the necessary dues to the Government of India. Why did the Supply Department and the Defence Department pay off the last Bills and why did they not keep a percentage for the legitimate taxes of the Government? That has not been done. The Honourable the Finance Minister is working on the old tradition and so he wants a Commission to assess evasion of taxes. In regard to the Commission I am not very much enamoured of High Court Judges or the legal profession. What we want is an experienced Commission, a practical Commission that will dispose of cases expeditiously. On the 7th February 1948 the Government passed an Ordinance (No. III of 1948). It is just to help the Income-tax Department. What did it legislate? That in case of transfer of property no registration of documents will be recognized until an Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax had certified that no tax is due from that man. I have tried to read that Ordinance and I do not know whether it comes into operation from 7th February only or whether it can have action for the past, or rather whether any transaction that took place from 15th August 1947 will also come under its operation. Many people have left this country and have gone to Pakistan Dominion. They have transferred their property to the nationals of this country. If they have not paid income-tax, not only on that transaction but on certain previous transactions as well—most of them were Army contractors or Supply Department contractors—if they have evaded taxation, then the property which

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has been transferred from 15th August to any Indian national is liable to the tax that is due from those people who have left this country and gone to Pakistan without paying taxes. I do not think even my Honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava will advise that we will ask the Pakistan Government to collect our taxes from these tax-dodgers now living in Pakistan. He has not advised that. Therefore any property that belongs to these gentlemen and which has been purchased by Indian nationals, is liable *ipso facto* to pay all the taxes that is due to the Government. It is common talk that many buildings have been purchased in Delhi for a song. Whether it is a fact that they have been purchased for a song or at high prices, that property should pay all the taxes that are due to Government from the previous owner of the property. If the Government wants a Validating Act, this House would, I think, certainly pass such an Act and empower the Honourable the Finance Minister to collect such taxes from such sources. I think the Ordinance of 7th February 1948 does not give much power, or rather it will not give much money to the Government of India from those tax-dodgers.

I would have liked to know from the Honourable the Finance Minister whether the Act of last year (Act XXX of 1947) did bring some amount of money to the Government. Of course the Government was preoccupied with various other difficulties. But the Act was so framed that it left so many loopholes and so much lacunae that lawyers must have argued before the Commission and frustrated the objective of the Act, and the Government of India did not derive much benefit. Hence they have brought, I think, the present Bill—the Tax-dodgers Catching Bill as I have named it. What will be the fate of this Commission? Similar arguments like those which my Honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava advocated here will be brought interminably before the Commission. I think the Bill should be so amended —and I hope the Select Committee will see—that no lawyer is allowed to appear before this Income-tax Commission. Tax-paying is one's obligatory duty to the State. Anybody who is a dodger and does not pay taxes is a traitor. We know the tradition under the British Government and how it worked in the time of war. Everybody became a traitor and dodged taxes. The black-marketeers and the profiteers corrupted the whole Government of India in the Defence Department and in the Supply Department and they evaded legitimate taxes. The income-tax hounds of the Finance Minister tried their utmost. Unfortunately the process of submitting income-tax assessment by the assessees one year or two years after did not help the Income-tax Commissioner or the income-tax officers to collect the real dues. Most of us have heard of how firms began to change their names every three months and how partners of firms went underground as soon as certain amount of profit was made. I think even God Almighty will not be able to catch those tax-dodgers—what to say of the poor income-tax officer who is the most dreaded creature on earth who tries to mulct the tax-payer and the income-tax payee? I will go so far as to say that the Finance Minister should take more drastic powers and should see that with respect to those tax-dodgers who have left this country, the purchasers of their property in this country pay the tax that is due to them for, I think, nearly three or four years in many cases. The income-tax law should also be made more stringent so that taxes that are to be paid due to war or war conditions are executed and collected within a year or so. Otherwise the arguments of my Honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava will prevent such execution—namely that there is no property, that there is no man hence no collection. It is no use appointing a costly Commission and paying them high salaries. It is our misfortune that every Committee, Commission or Board goes on enlarging the Departments. I would like the Honourable the Finance Minister to say why the

Income-tax Department—the Central Board of Revenue—did not introduce a method by which tax-dodgers could have been made to pay at least the minimum taxes that will fall due during the year. Although there is a process of advance payments in practice, my view is they did not pay; most of them evaded taxes on their black-market profit. The Government did not devise any method by which black-marketeers could pay their due quota to the State. If that had happened there would have been no enhancement of excise duties on tea and coffee and other primary commodities on which a poor man like me lives. I would like my colleagues in the Select Committee to see the justice of this Bill and not to fall into the trap of the lawyer colleagues of theirs, but to so legislate that Government could have a machinery by which they can quickly recover the dues from the tax-dodgers of the past seven years. For the future the question will not arise. There is no huge profit to be left to the black marketeer or profiteer unless Government reintroduces control and allow these people to profiteer again.

With these few observations I wholeheartedly support the Bill, and I would again ask the members of the Select Committee to rename the Bill ' Tax Dodgers Catching Bill'.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, I shall be very brief in my remarks. I congratulate the Honourable Minister in his attempt to tighten the process of the law against tax-dodgers. The problem is really to get at the root of the problem. It is notorious that the war brought in a large number of new problems. People made enormous profits by black-marketing and profiteering, and as Mr. Das has pointed out, as soon as the men began to make good profits, they all went underground and the problem of realising taxes from them is extremely baffling. Pandit Bhargava has spoken against the Bill. He is a great lawyer, especially appearing in criminal cases, and his sympathies must naturally be with the formalities of the law. But I think he has carried his sympathies for the routine principles of law in this case a bit too far. Here we are dealing with a class of people who carefully disguise their transactions. In fact they prepare false and faked up accounts. They prepare false documents carefully designed to deceive the tax-gatherers. There are intermediaries, often several in number, and some are often imaginary persons. It is well known that accounts are kept in bogus names and these names are often changed. In order to meet the difficult and baffling problem effectively, the Commission should be armed with drastic powers. The problem is urgent and the Commission should be fully armed. I am almost tempted to give them the power to shoot at sight, but I believe that the powers should be rather liberally given than withheld. Pandit Bhargava has said that there is section 177 of the Indian Penal Code which according to him is enough to deal with persons who give wrong returns. But here the question is not the ordinary crime of giving wrong returns. The question is really of a very complicated nature and I believe that in a problem of this sort, if it is attempted to be dealt with under Section 177 of the Indian Penal Code, many of the real tax-dodgers will escape. So the new baffling problem should require a law which will really baffle the tax-dodgers. The law should overtake criminals. Here they are overtaking the law. The law should be advanced to overtake them. The power sought for, if it errs, errs on the side of mederation.

My Honourable friend Mr. B. Das has referred to the Ordinance. He thinks that the Ordinance should really cover the point. In fact the Ordinance is to the effect that when a man goes to sell property, the registration officer will refuse registration unless the transfer produces a certificate that he has paid his taxes. This is a wholesome provision in view of the fact that large taxes are often due from persons who transfer properties in order to deprive the authorities of the taxes due from them. So when large taxes are due, they often escape through this dodge and it is a necessary power that has been given

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to the registering officer to refuse registration. My Honourable friend has referred to some cases where people have sold their properties here and gone over to Pakistan. This law does not pretend to touch them but really it is a preventive law. My Honourable friend has again expressed a desire that the Pakistan authorities should be asked to collect our taxes. I think that some kind of reciprocal arrangement might be arrived at between the two governments for the benefit of both. It may be that many tax-dodgers have left Pakistan after selling their properties and many tax-dodgers in India have also left India for Pakistan after selling their properties. It would be to the mutual advantage of both Governments if they find out a common means of helping each other and if the process is sufficiently tightened and if it is worked with vigour and with force, much of our financial difficulties will be solved.

Sir, I wholeheartedly support the principles of the Bill, and again repeat my view that if it errs, it errs on the side of moderation.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I rise to support this Bill wholeheartedly, and I expect that almost all the Members of this House will welcome this Bill. It was certainly considerably overdue, and I am sorry, Sir, that though this Bill was passed into law last April, no machinery was set up to bring the Act into operation. The partition came on the 15th of August, but the same government which brought this Bill existed to function up to the 15th of August, and they took no steps to bring the Act into operation. In fact, as the Honourable the Mover of the Bill has stated, in spite of the defects in some of the provisions of the Act, they wanted to postpone its operation. This leads me to believe that some tax-dodgers were probably responsible in approaching the department to see that the Act does not come into operation. That is the reason why my Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava has criticized this Bill. I do not want to argue this from the legal point of view. We have only to consider what is the object of this Bill and whether it is good or bad. No one can say, Sir, that the object of this Bill is in any way bad. On the contrary, the object of the Bill is very good. And the object of the Bill being very good, we must give whole-hearted support to this Government and tell them not only to see but to act swiftly so that the money that is due, which it has all along been deprived of in the past, is not lost again. This Bill, Sir, is not for persons who pay their legitimate tax. This Bill is merely meant for those persons who made huge profits during the war. They piled up money through black-market, through bad methods, through mean methods, they benefited themselves. They taxed the poor consumers, they brought about this kind of hardship in the country, they brought about the high cost of living, they were responsible for the many strikes in the country; they were also responsible for the Government to appoint a pay commission to see that these poor fellows were not hard hit on account of this high cost of living, and they were responsible for this additional expense of crores of rupees to the State. Well, Sir, these are the people who on top of it want to evade payment to the State. These are the people whom the Government wants to catch hold of, and we would be lacking in our duty, I should say so in the mildest term if we come in the way of the Govt. in the least manner or tell them that such and such a provision is really going to affect the poor people, or such and such people, or that there are many loopholes and therefore the Bill requires amendment.

Nothing of that kind. I agree with some of the remarks of Pandit Bhargava that if under the provisions of the Act the Income-tax authorities wanted to recover full tax they could have done it—there is no question about that. I fully realise how the tax has been evaded, and it has been evaded and not paid at the connivance of the Income-tax authoritis. But there also the influence of the big people prevails by loosening the strings of the bag of the money that they have in their possession. In the past many efforts were made to see that

the tax is fully paid to the Government; Government enacted a number of Ordinances and measures like the Excess Profits Tax and Super-tax; Government even went to the length, in the past, of allowing these profiteers to have only 7 or 9 per cent.—I do not exactly remember—and the rest of the profits were to go to the State. Even there they dodged; even there they did not pay the full 93 per cent. which they were supposed to pay to the State. I am speaking from some experience, Sir, and I can tell you that the persons whom I have met, have openly stated, "Government will certainly not get the tax which is due to them. We are competent to see how we evade the tax". With such effrontery those people have made this Act inoperative and unsuccessful.

Sir, I was going through the Debates and I found that in this very House, when this Bill was brought forward last time, one Member actually quoted an instance; the Honourable Minister wanted the people to co-operate with him and one member co-operated and brought the matter to the notice of the Authorities. The result was that that gentleman who went to the member to make a complaint, settles with the Authorities; he comes and tells him, "I am not worried now, I have paid Rs. 5,000 and I have managed". Sir, this is a part of the Proceedings in this House—that has not happened outside. And that Member quotes another instance where by the payment of Rs. 20,000 the matter was settled. Now, this is not something secret. This is known to everybody, how the ordinary income-tax is *paid* by the persons who should legitimately pay it to the State. I can tell you that even if the present income-tax law operated well, we could bring in 50 per cent. more revenue; there is no question that 50 per cent. of our tax is being dodged by those people; and for that, mostly our Department is responsible. But if the Department is responsible.....

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may resume his speech after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half-Past Two of the Clock.

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

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, I was speaking about the fact the British Administration had enacted certain provisions of the Act in such a manner that it was not possible to bring to book those who were really offenders. I will give you an illustration of certain tribunals appointed for the purpose of detecting corrupt practices by the last Government. They did not take this step until there was a hue and cry from the public; even then, they appointed their tribunals in a half-hearted manner, with the object of expediting the proceedings of the cases, which if gone into in the ordinary way, would take a long time. Actually, our experience has shown that those very tribunals, the object of which was to expedite cases, took much more time than what the ordinary court took, although they were special tribunals. I wanted to convey, Sir, thereby that the very object of the Act was frustrated. While the Government brought forward some measures, their intentions were not sincere and those who were interested took the fullest advantage of the situation and frustrated the very object of the Act.

Therefore Sir, while in this Act latitude and extra power has been given to the Department, I do feel that there may be some innocent cases which may probably be unnecessarily harassed. I have no doubt about that. I know that such instances have occurred. And in spite of that, while knowing that systematically and intentionally, by all methods, the taxes have been evaded by certain people, we press for stringent measures. It is only the Government that should see that the innocent are not harassed. They will be harassed, I know; the machinery is such. The old machinery is continuing to function and all the precautions which the Honourable Minister or the Government may take would not be of any avail. The innocent people will suffer. With all that, Sir, we have to look for the greater good of the greater number of people and here the greater number of people in the sense that the State is concerned as far as its legitimate dues are involved.

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva]

Here, the Honourable Minister has stated that he has appointed a Tribunal of High Court Judges. I am glad that he mentioned that, because I did not know what will be the personnel of the Tribunal. I am very glad that they are High Court Judges. Personally, Sir, I feel that High Court Judges will not stoop to any such thing as we expect from ordinary officials. I have very high respect for them but even if the High Court Judges stoop to such things, then, I say "Woe unto ourselves and our character". I do not believe, Sir, for a moment that our High Court Judges will in any way be influenced or in any way be bribed, whosoever may be the people interested in this matter. I am sure, Sir, that they will act justly, impartially and rightly, particularly when we are free and are having a people's Government. If even now, they did, then I do not know, Sir, where we shall be. After all you cannot expect any more honourable and honest persons than the High Court Judges and particularly, as the Honourable Minister said, the Chairman is an ex-Federal Court Judge. So I have every hope. I have every confidence. Although I do not know who the exact personnel are . . . .

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Justice Srinivasa Varadachariar, Justice Rajadyaksha and Mr. Muzumdar.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: With this further information Sir, I get greater satisfaction. I hope it will give immense satisfaction to the Honourable Members. If we cannot trust these great men, men of integrity and honesty, I do not know, Sir, from where we will find honest people in this country. While there are a lot of dishonest people in this country—every where it is so—we are proud that we have a number of honest persons who can discharge this function.

Up to 1943 only big people were involved in this black-marketing and evasion of taxes. They stooped so low that I am ashamed to say that that tendency spread to the smaller people also. It spread to the small shop-keeper and the small trader. They indulged in it because not only it was a pleasure for them to do so, but because the machinery was such. The Government themselves, after enacting many Acts, gave indirect and direct ways and means to black-market for every one and then the small man said, "The big man is black-marketing. He is making money. Nobody is there to detect him." Let me tell you, Sir, nobody actually detected him. Although the officials knew what they were doing, they were conniving, because the Government officials were involved in it. The very fact of the cases, of the Tribunals, I mentioned to you, Sir. The Government officials were involved there also, in that half-hearted measure.

The original Bill said that cases will be investigated up to 31st December 1947. Now the present Bill says up to 31st March of this year. I am very glad that the time is extended. I do not know what are the cases that Government have in their possession which will be sent to this Tribunal for investigation. It may be anybody. I am also prepared to accept my friend Pandit Bhargava's statement that really in one year we have lost very much. These tax-dodgers are so clever that I am sure, that if they knew that this Act was coming, by the time it comes into operation, they may destroy all the books. Then there would be no dispute at all. They not only evade payment, but they are also capable of evading their books and evaporate them somewhere, which would have made it very difficult to find them out. I am sure, Sir, that this Tribunal will call upon the third parties also and also see the account books of banks. I would go further and tell the Select Committee Members that not only they must call upon the banks to produce the books, but they must call upon them to produce the accounts of their relatives and their friends also. I know some of the accounts have been transferred in the name of the families just as the officials have been doing and therefore the Select Committee must go a step forward. I really do not want any kind of leniency to be shown in a measure like this. I therefore think, Sir, much more power than provided

in this Bill should be given for the purpose of getting more money, not for the purpose of harming or harassing innocent people and if this is borne in mind by the members of the Select Committee, they will have done a distinct duty to the country. I therefore feel, Sir, that the Select Committee Members should find out other ways and means and they must keep uppermost in their minds one factor that the material that would have come forth last year may not be possibe now and, therefore, if the present Bill does not give that power, it should be given.

In the Bill it is stated: "The Central Government may at any time . . . . refer to the Commission for investigation and report any case or points in a case in which the Central Government has *prima facie* reason for believing etc." Now, the word *prima facie*, as you know, Sir, is a loose word. According to one man, it may be *prima facie* and according to another it may not be. I would like to amend the bill and give these tribunals full power to investigate wherever the Government have a doubt that these people have defrauded the State, and no matter even if there is a little doubt. I do not say that they must send all the cases where there is no justification. I think *prima facie* cases means you have to prove 50 per cent. of doubt. If that is the standard of *prima facie*, then I do not think it will be possible for any Government to detect those people who have really defrauded the Government. Therefore wherever they have a *bona fide* doubt, let the Tribunal be given the fullest power to investigate it and even if the State does not get the money, we will have done a good moral duty. After all this will be a good check. Unfortunately the standard of some of the people who were black-marketing has gone down; it has been so throughout the world; I do not say it came into India, but it should have been the last thing in India, because morally our standard was very high compared with any people in the world. But this wretched administration of the British had brought down this kind of immoral thing into our everyday life that it has to a great extent spoiled our name. I therefore desire, Sir, that we must give our fullest support to the Government to check such kinds of malpractices which have been continuously and systematically perpetrated by a few people which had had very bad repercussions on others. The standard of our morale had to an extent come down and if this Government were able to restore the morale which we had before the war, they will have done a distinct service. Therefore, with all the emphasis at my command, I support this measure whole-heartedly. I do not think Pandit Bhargava was opposed to the provisions of the Bill and I also do feel that some innocent persons will come into the clutches of this measure, but I am afraid, I cannot help that.

I also suggest that Government should give strict instructions to those concerned that they must see that each case entrusted to them is not only tried by them but the investigation in the matter of details should be conducted by them. In the matter of investigation, the Income-tax officers usually hand over the account books to their subordinate staff with the result that harassment continues; some tips are made and right entries are also defaced. I therefore request that the Honourable Minister will see that no power is entrusted to the small people for this kind of checking even. When we have appointed such a tribunal of the highest character . . .

Mr. Speaker: I have been noticing some loud laughter on some benches. I think the Honourable Member should be allowed to proceed with his speech. To ridicule a Member who is speaking is not very conducive to the dignity of the House. I have noticed the Honourable Members going on doing that and I must express my disapproval of that kind of thing. We are here for serious business and not for ridiculing one another.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I am thankful to you, Sir. I was really speakiking with all seriousness and I did not know that the House was pooh-poohing, but one member should not . . . .

Mr. Speaker: Not the House, I can assure the Honourable Member.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: When such a tribunal of a high credit and honesty is being appointed, I request the Honourable Minister will kindly issue instructions that when cases are sent to them, they must devote their attention to the conduct of the cases and not entrust them to the other ordinary people. In case it is found absolutely necessary to give it to them, they must see that they are really honest men to whom this work can be entrusted.

I again congratulate the Government and I do feel that when this Bill is passed into law, he will not feel discouraged that the evidence may have been destroyed by those people, but without losing one moment, the Tribunal will go into the details of the matter. I am sure, as I said, if some little changes are made here that not only the pass books but the reports and accounts of the relatives and friends are produced from all sources there will be a great deal of exposure, Government will be justified in bringing this measure at the right time and in the interest of the country to catch the tax dodgers who have evaded the payment of the tax for a long time. I hope the Honourable Minister will take the matter quickly and swiftly and as delay is dangerous, there should be no kind of excuses for delaying it and the sooner it becomes a law, the better it will be for the country.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I whole-heartedly support the Bill. This Bill proposes to institute inquiries into the evasion of taxes. These taxes arose out of the immense profits made by businessmen during war. Sir, the war began in 1939 and went on intensely from 1943. Profits have been made during these periods. I think a Commission such as this should have been appointed long ago but that was not done because British commercial interests were involved in the business and they were the people who were making the best of the bargain. A Government subordinate to the British interests could not have done it; necessarily therefore the national Government has to take it up. Sir, when the previous Bill was on the anvil every one applauded Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, the then Finance Minister. The Government which came after the 15th August 1947 could not carry on the investigation that was devised, owing to the special conditions. The critics of the Congress then took up cudgels against the Ministry. Government were then busy with reconstruction and refugee rehabilitation other immense problems that came upon them soon after the partition; but these unsympathetic critics began to damn the Congress and the Congress Government dubbing them as shield-bearers of capitalism. I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Minister on having clearly and lucidly explained the reasons for the delay. It appears that the Ministry was not wanting in any desire or determination to go on pursuing the tax-dodgers but that it wanted more power; it found that the Act devised by the then Ministry was ineffective and as such insufficient. That in a word explains why the Act was not put into operation and why the tax-dodgers were not pursued. Let me hope that the criticisms levelled against the Ministry and the party will now stop; at any rate there will hereafter be no justification for them.

Severe comments have been made by some of our friends against some provisions of the Bill; I have no reason to believe that their criticisms are not sincere. It is time for us to realise that we cannot tolerate any evasion of taxation. As has been said by several Honourable Members, there was a time in this country when no one spoke a lie and it was a heinous crime to tell a lie. Similar is the case in regard to evasion of taxation. But times have changed and there is always a feeling that taxation is being evaded. Having accepted that position it is necessary and desirable that the machinery of law should be widened to enable the authorities to pursue the evader. Having stated that there is evasion or at least suspicion of evasion, it becomes necessary to come before the House to entrust the executive with more powers to bring the tax-dodgers to book. There are therefore two conflicting issues; the first is the charge of evasion and the second is the cry of harassment. I have

no hesitation in believing that the Selecting Committee will examine the Bill thoroughly from this point of view. We do not want that there should be any evasion and at the same time we are equally anxious that there should be no harassment of any individual, however suspicious his movements or his accounts might be. Sir, in this connection I would like to refer to an illustrious example from the *Sreemat Bhagabat*,—the chapter on the loss of the Simantak Mani, wherein the Lord Sree Krishna did his very best to realise it. He took all possible precautions and all the risks of investigating and bringing to book not only the person who was in possession of it but also others connected in this, all of which were realised and restored. That should be the attitude and that, I take it, is to be the attitude of the House today. From that point of view I feel that the House is agreeable to give the Honourable Finance Minister the fullest powers to pursue the delinquent as Lord Sree Krishna did. I would even go further. I think the Select Committee should examine whether the powers given in the Bill are enough for the purpose of examining the accounts of these tax-dodgers or whether there should be power to go into their bank accounts not only in India but also in the Indian States. Today the Indian States and the banks that are operating there have certain privileges and advantages. I do not know how far the operation of Indian law is effective in these Indian States. I appeal to the Honourable Minister to see that this aspect of the question is also considered and necessary provisions are made in the Bill when the Select Committee goes into it. I would also appeal to the members of the Select Committee and Government to see whether they can negotiate with the Pakistan Government for evolving a common formula in this regard so that tax evasions there and here are pursued by the Government machinery in both States, and while justice is being done all possible inquiries are made without let or hindrance. That goes to explain the anxiety of the House in regard to the evasion of taxes.

Having said thus far with regard to tax evasion and the power that we are anxious to give to the executive to carry on this investigation, I would utter a word of caution to the Honourable Minister and the officials connected with this business. Much water has flown down the river during the last four or five months. Not only has India been divided but serious troubles have been brought on persons and firms. There are firms which have been ruined and there are individual businessmen who have been also ruined. I have no hesitation in believing that the Committee presided over by so eminent a person as Sir S. Varadachariar, who is a glory of any country, will do their work in the proper spirit. I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Minister on having secured the services of such an eminent man and jurist from whom one can expect nothing but fairness, justice and independent thinking. In these circumstances I have nothing to object to.

A point has been raised by my Honourable friend, Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava. From what he said I was feeling that he was under the apprehension that tax evaders may be put into inconvenience without the help of *vakils*. If I remember aright the Honourable, the Minister for Finance declared in this House that the number of tax-evaders is over 80. I do not know if he has added to the number. If it is the previous 80 or a few more, they must be men with very high incomes. Therefore there cannot be any difficulty on that score of legal aid.

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Having stated so much about this, I will only bring to the notice of Honourable friends, one fact. In such enquiries there should be a finality. You cannot allow rich men and influential men to take the Government from Court to Court. That will mean extra expense and time which will not be to the interest of the State or to the individual firm concerned. Here you have a committee of experts—at least one or two of them of established reputation not only in this country but of international reputation. Decision of such a committee ought to be final. I think that it is fair and desirable that the Executive

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Government of the day should not interfere in the decision of the tribunal set up by themselves, because in the first place it is a tribunal of experts of eminence: secondly it is a tribunal different from the executive of the day which may be accused of partiality. In the case of such enquiries, it is only the tribunals which have a final say. Even in the case of election tribunals, though the Governor in name is the final authority, in fact, these tribunals are the final authorities. In such circumstances I do not see any reason why the House should object to the Committee's recommendations being final. Under these circumstances I think that this aspect of the question also is bound to be free from objection.

In income-tax assessment, it has been the view of courts that once an assessment is made, if any item or account is left out of assessment it becomes difficult, if not impossible for the income-tax department to catch hold of those very items and bring them under assessment. I think it should be the duty of the Government to refer such cases for the advice of this tribunal, which is not only a special tribunal but one consisting of eminent jurists.

With these words, I wholeheartedly support the motion.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): I may perhaps confess before this House that I am a lawyer but I consider that it will be safe to add that I have practically very little to do with income or income-tax either personally or professionally. With this proviso, I think I may rather take a dispassionate view so far as lawyers are concerned in regard to this legislation.

It reminds me of the old days—the days of the British regime. During those days an I. C. S. officer, particularly an I. C. S. officer of European origin, had the right to be consulted before his transfer as to the place where he would like to go. The bulk of the replies from such officers was that they would like to go to a place where there is no mosquito, and where there is no lawyer, because both the lawyer and the mosquito give them a lot of inconvenience.

My Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das, as far as I could see, is dead against the I. C. S. officer. But he has gladly adopted some of the habits of I. C. S. officers, and one is that he does not like the lawyers. I do not know, Sir, why he has come to that frame of mind. Either he has been wronged to a great extent by his adversary pleader or he has been wronged by his own pleader. We have heard a lot of the tax dodger, and my friend, Mr. Das, will be interested to know that we in our professional world, know persons and clients who dodge the lawyers' fees also. Therefore, Sir, it is not unnatural to suppose that due to the bitter experience of my friend Mr. Das, and some other people of his way of thinking that there is so much objection to the help of lawyers in income-tax proceedings.

It is said that the Commission will be presided over by persons having the status of a High Court Judge or one who has been a High Court Judge himself: so that it can be supposed that he will be able to deal with these things without any assistance of a lawyer. But may I remind the House that no proceeding before a High Court is ever conducted without the assistance of a lawyer, and this dangerous habit, habit of belittling the assistance of a lawyer by any Court or Tribunal, should be discouraged.

I have heard it said that this law has become necessary because its predecessor had failed to bring the desired effect. The desired effect is this. Some of the persons of whom we have heard a good lot: some of the businessmen of whom we have heard that they made enormous fortunes during the war:—our position with regard to them is that since they have made enormous fortunes, they should give a substantial portion of their wealth to enable the Government to carry on their nation-building activities. Now instead of going

in this roundabout way, instead of having this legislation, and an amending legislation later on, why not say: Look here, you have earned enough by foul or fair means. Well, although an honest man would not participate in the gains obtained by foul means, the Government can do it. We are quite prepared to participate in these gains got by foul or fair means. Give us so much. The income-tax may disappear as a source of income soon after the nationalization policy has been adopted by the provinces. It is better to get as much as we can now and the best course would be to get those people. Let us have an investigation of their bank balances. Some of these businessmen who had made fortunes during the war now find that they are unable to pay any income-tax, because they had spent their fortunes. I would advise the Government to take this course. Have some clever detectives to inquire into the big balances of those men who have become suddenly rich. Then draw up a percentage of their bank balances and ask them to pay. Tell them "We want so much money in order to carry on our nation-building activities under the new free Government of the country. Give us this money." That would be better than having so many legislations. There was a piece of legislation before this House but it could not bring as much income as they expected. So it is now desired to remove some of the impediments in the way. One great impediment seems to be our lawyers friends. The previous Bill said that the lawyer would be present at any time during the course of the investigation. Now you are going to add a clause to stop the lawyers from getting a certain percentage of the proceeds. Is it your experience that the lawyer stands in the way of your getting the money that you want? Did he stand in your way illegitimately?.....

Shri B. Das: He gets 50 per cent. of the remission.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: So it is a matter of jealousy because the lawyer is earning through his client more than what the Government is getting. But there is the other method. The lawyer will be subject to income-tax. The only person in all this who will not be subject to income-tax on his earnings during the investigation would be the income-tax official. The income-tax official will be the only person whose additional income during the period of the investigation will not be subject to income-tax.....

Shri B. Das: I may tell my Honourable friend that the income-tax official does not get a chance to assess income-tax on the share that the lawyer gets out of the remission secured to his client.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I have no representative authority so far as lawyers are concerned. If the income-tax official would agree to share his additional income with the lawyer I do not think the latter would have any objection from the financial point of view. The first impediment which my Honourable friend the Finance Minister wants to get rid of is the lawyers' interference during the time of the enquiry. I do not know whether the Honourable Finance Minister has anything to do with the profession of law.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): He was himself a lawyer.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Some people kick off the ladder by which they climb to the top. I have found that some lawyers who have given up the profession of law are very hard on us. There are two classes of people who do so. Those who were disgruntled and find their way into government service and the other are those who had made enough out of the profession that they can afford to dispise us.

I do not find any other provision of law in this Bill which, except in a merely formal way, helps the gathering of a larger income than before. Even under this legislation there is ample scope for tax-dodgers. There is ample scope as a matter of fact for the lawyer to help the tax-dodger. There is some-

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thing like chamber practice and when a lawyer acts behind the scene he can be more effective than when he appears before the court. The mere fact that he is not allowed to take part in the enquiry will not enable the Government to earn more.

My Honourable friend Mr. Biswanath Das objected to the provision of interference by way of revision. There is a provision for revision. When there is any breach of law, an application before the high court would lie.

Shri Biswanath Das: There is a provision always with regard to questions of law but with regard to question of facts, so far as the special tribunal is concerned my Honourable friend will agree with me that there is no provision. The provision here is that there shall be no appeal with regard to questions of facts. With regard to questions of law revision is always there.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: It is a mercy that there is some provision for revision of illegal orders. What I would say is that this provision of law, clause 6, gives all the powers to the officer holding the enquiry which are given under Cr. P. C. Sec. 164 for recording confession. When the enquiry is held the person who is suspected to have dodged the tax would be summoned and he will make his confession. Lest he may be cautioned before hand by a lawyer, the lawyer is put out of the way when you record a confession. On the statement of a person who makes a statement against himself you will have to take certain precautions. Even in an ordinary criminal case the magistrate who is bound to record a statement in a prescribed manner has to give sufficient warning. There is no provision for any such warning. Your official can record any statement and that would be binding. That is much too dangerous. Every thing ought to be done fairly. If you want to ask him any questions he must be given sufficient time to give his answers. Instead of a lawyer you have put in an auditor. You must have recourse to the auditor in every case you make a statement. The lawyer is dispensed with but the auditor has to come in at every step. The Commission may require that the statement will be accompanied by a certificate from the auditor. The statement which an assessee gives before the Commission will have to be certified by the auditor.

That means instead of giving some professional earning to the lawyer you are giving it to the auditor. I suppose it shall not make much difference. Those who have anything to do with conducting a company know very well how an auditor can be made to give opinion in a way the company would like. While the House is committed to the principle of getting as much as possible from those persons whom we suspect, this is only one of the indirect means of achieving that aim. The other method we can very easily follow now that we have attained independence and now that everyone is prepared to shoulder the burden of carrying on the administration and government of this country. If you say "Our necessity is so much: unless I get this money I cannot protect or defend this country or carry on the administration of this country; I want this money" nobody can stand in the way of your getting that money. It is unnecessary to resort to this kind of camouflage at this time of the hour. It was all right for the British Government to do it, because we suspected everything they did and thought they were draining the country. We can have no more suspicion of a Government of which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is the leader. This country will be quite prepared to give any money which is demanded for a better administration or better government of this country. Therefore we should proceed rather on that line, take the entire people of India into confidence and tell them "This is the money we require for a better government of this country" and I can say with confidence that no Indian will fall behind in the matter of giving the money which is necessary for a better administration of this country.

Shri Lal Mohan Pati (Mayurbhanj State): Sir, I congratulate the Honourable Minister for having brought this Bill for the purpose of amending the Income-tax Act so that the Government may not lose the tax which is justly due to them. That is all very good. What I beg to observe is that the very Income-tax law is at the outset an arbitrary measure. But though it is arbitrary, this arbitrary law is not only enforced in India but there is not a country now in the world where this sort of arbitrary legislation is not on the statute book for the purpose of realising what is otherwise said to be the just dues of the Government out of the income which an individual or a group of individuals may earn by their sweat, by their diligence and by their intelligence. When it is admitted that every government, nay our government, should realise all that little money which justly belongs to the government out of the income of individuals or corporations or companies or firms—whatever it may be—the only thing is whether any person is there who has evaded or is trying to evade the payment of that much money which justly belongs to the government. The Income-tax law is there, as there are other laws. But everybody knows that however strict the law may be there are hundred and one ways of evading the law. So far as the matter of income-tax is concerned the majority of the income earners probably belong to that class of people who try to evade —and many of them successfully evade—the payment of the just dues of the government out of their income. In that matter the government have to devise ways and means as to how successfully, or at least to a very great extent, to check that sort of nefarious attempt on the part of the income earner. It is for this purpose that the Commission is proposed to be set up with powers to detect those cases. But my submission is whether this Commission, even if set up, would be quite a sufficiently powerful body to check all those attempts on the part of persons to avoid or evade the payment of income-tax. It has been observed of course by the previous speakers on this subject that this Commission may be given very wide powers. I agree with them in that respect. Unless very wide and sufficient powers are given to this Commission no useful purpose is likely to be served. But it has also been observed that either the Commission or the parties before the Commission may not be given the help of lawyers in the investigation of the matter. This rather appears to me to be something like pleading against law and pleading for the establishment of lawlessness of law. If an enquiry is to be made, let me assume, by very eminent persons they are rather supposed to hold their enquiry in the strictest possible legal way. In order that they may proceed in a legal way and in order that the parties before them could have just and sufficient legal advice as to how he or they should proceed before the Commission, the lawyer's help becomes necessary. It has been observed that there is a distinction between enquiry into the question of fact and enquiry about the point of law applicable in a particular matter. That may be so. But in order to get at the fact it is necessary to adopt a certain procedure, and in order to see that the procedure adopted is followed—which is legal procedure—the help of the lawyer becomes necessary. The Commission itself would require the assistance of a lawyer. If we put a ban on the lawyer in an enquiry like this I submit the House would be legislating with the express declaration that lawyers are a class who would not be believed or who are likely to lead or mislead parties and the Bench in a wrong way. In this view of the matter I am not prepared or cannot persuade myself to accept the suggestions that have been made on the floor of this House by my Honourable friends who have spoken before me on the question of the assistance of lawyers in the matter of an enquiry like this before the Commission.

Another submission I intend to put before the House is this. This Commission should of course be given very wide powers. I agree with all my friends who have spoken in this respect. But the question is whether this

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Commission would be given the powers so that their decision would be a final decision in the matter. If that be so, if you are taking away the restrictions as provided for in the income-tax law, the whole fabric of the income-tax law has to be revised from the start to the finish. What I would respectfully submit is everybody knows that there are very many persons, very many firms and even some companies too, who adopt all sorts of means for the purpose, if possible, of avoiding and evading the income-tax assessment to its fullest extent.

Now when that is so they are very often either helped or encouraged by Government officials themselves; or at least they connive at it. So some ways and means have to be devised as to how best this can be prevented, if not altogether, at least to a very great extent. In order to do that I would rather take this opportunity of suggesting to the Honourable the Finance Minister that when some amendment is going to be made in the law relating to the income-tax it would be better if we go a step further. We may insist by legislation that whenever any person or any groups of persons by whatever name they may be called, start a business, they must give intimation to the Income-tax Department that he or they are doing this or that business at this or that place with branches here and there or no branches anywhere. They should at the same time also apply for supply of certain account books by the Income-tax Department. Those books would at least be a ledger book and a cash book with a number of pages and with the seal of the Income-tax Department. The businessman or firm would be required to write their accounts in those books only and they would be required also to submit their periodical returns to the Income-tax Department regularly. Further more, the officers of the Income-tax Department should pay surprise visits to the business places of those individuals or firms or companies and if they are not able to scrutinise the accounts, they should at least initial the pages of the account books.

Again, every individual, businessman or groups of businessmen or companies, whoever they may be, must be directed that just within one month from the final date of the closing of their accounts, they must submit their income returns and on no plea should they be given any further adjournment, unless and until very sufficient and exceptional circumstances are made out. They should be given no extension of time. I know of very many cases where returns are not submitted for months together even after the service of notice. They ask for extensions after extensions and these are very readily given, with the result that the parties prepare absolutely new sets of account books. In order to prevent this practice, I submit that it will be better if the Income-tax Department insist upon the submission of the income return within, say, one month from the close of the financial year. In case of failure to do so, the Income-tax Department should take this as an opportunity to assess the defaulter arbitrarily and in case of any complaint against this arbitrary or summary assessment, the assessee should satisfy the Income-tax Department within say not more than one month from the date of the assessment. By these means the Income-tax Department may succeed in checking this nefarious practice on the part of tax evaders to a very great extent. What I mean to suggest here is that when an attempt is being made to amend the existing law for setting up a Commission, it would be better if advantage is taken of that opportunity to tighten the law in such a way as to prevent, as far as possible avoidance and evasion of the income-tax. I also feel that the Commission should be given wider powers than appear to have been given by this amending Bill, so that where any grave evasion is suspected without waiting for a pretty long time they may at once seize whatever property the assessee or assessees has or have got at any place, subject to the disposal of the seized property after the final decision of the matter under enquiry. With these words, Sir, I support the Bill.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I am very much gratified to note that this measure has received almost unanimous approval of the House so far. Even my friend Mr. Thakur Das Bhargava only sounded a note of warning from the point of view of a cautious lawyer. I may assure the House, Sir, that no honest man need have any apprehensions when this Act is applied by the investigating Commission. We had to invest the Commission with the power of asking anyone to produce his books or to supply information, because as I said in my opening remarks the actual dealings of a particular man who has evaded a tax can in some cases be fully appreciated only when certain other accounts are examined. When third parties are asked to produce their documents, I think it is their duty to the State to help the Government in booking the tax evaders. I do not think, Sir, that it is a duty which any honest citizen or any institution in the State should shirk.

My friend Mr. Thakur Das Bhargava in referring to some of the wide powers given to officers to go and examine individual's accounts has based his criticism on the assumption that these wide powers will be exercised by officers of the Income-tax Department. I tried to make it clear in my opening remarks that it is the Commission that will nominate and officer of the Income-tax Department to go and act as the agent of the Commission in this matter. The officers so deputed must work under the instructions of the Commission and therefore there is not the slightest cause for apprehension that any harassment would be caused by these officers. We had to specify that the Commission should appoint only some officer of the Income-tax Department for this purpose, because otherwise the accounts of a person are likely to be seen by outsiders and the secrets of his business would be known to outsiders which is very undesirable.

Under the Income-tax Law, the Income-tax officers are not entitled to disclose any information that they get in the course of an assessment to anybody else. It is with a view to preserve that secrecy that we thought it necessary to provide that the officers selected by the Commission should be from amongst the officers of the Income-tax Department, and I may assure the House that if the Commission seeks the advice of the Central Board of Revenue, in selecting these officers I shall give a positive direction to the Central Board to recommend only such officers of the Income-tax Department who are above any suspicion and who can be trusted. We have taken care to provide all possible measures of safety to prevent any unnecessary assessment. We have, for example, provided that the Commission might even make *ex parte* enquiries, but we have provided a very useful safeguard. If the Commission is to act upon the evidence collected in that *ex parte* enquiry, then the party concerned should be given an opportunity of rebutting all the facts collected. Like this we have provided a great many safeguards, and I have no doubt in my own mind that there is no room for any honest person to feel apprehensions about the provisions of this Act and I feel equally certain that without these powers the Commission cannot really function effectively. I hope to be able to convince the Select Committee that every one of the amendments to the Act that I have put forward is a reasonable amendment and is necessitated in the interests of safeguarding the interests of the State. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Taxation on Income (Investigation Commission) Act, 1947, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Diwan Chaman Lall, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri Arun Chandra Guha, and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before the 8th March, 1948, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to establish the Rehabilitation Finance Administration, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Honourable Members will realise that the Select Committee has made only a very few changes and these changes have improved the Bill very considerably. The definition of the expression "displaced person" has been modified to some extent. We have widened the scope of the definition so as to include persons having business in India but who might have lost their assets outside India as a result of these communal disturbances. Now such persons also would be considered as displaced persons for the purpose of this measure. By another amendment the obligation has been placed upon members of the administration and also of the Advisory Board, to disclose their personal interests in any concern to which the administration may grant loans. In the case of the members of the administration, it has been provided that in case they have an interest in these matters, they must either sever their connection with the business or resign from the administration. In the case of the members of the Advisory Board, the provision has not been made so stringent. In their case it has been provided that where a member of the Advisory Board has got an interest, he should disclose the nature of the interest and should not participate in the discussions relating to that particular business. A section has also been added, Sir, to enable the placing of periodical reports of this administration on the table of the legislature. A question was asked in the Select Committee whether members of the legislature will be debarred from getting places as members of the Advisory Board. I made the position plain to the Select Committee and I might repeat it here that it is not the intention of the Government to impose any such disqualification on the members of the legislature. In fact when the time comes to constitute the Advisory Board I am hoping to include in that Board some of the Honourable Members of this House who with their knowledge and experience of refugee problems would no doubt be in a position to render valuable guidance and assistance to the administration. There are certain matters for which provision has not been made in the Bill but about which I indicated I would give directions to the administration in virtue of the power entrusted to the Government of giving directions on questions of policy. For instance a direction will be given that these loans should be given only to Indian nationals. A direction will also be given that if a concern is started even by persons who are not themselves displaced persons but which nevertheless will contain a substantial number of displaced persons, then such a concern also can benefit by the operations of this Act. I have also agreed to give a direction that in the grant of loans to individuals the limit will be Rs. 50,000, and to joint stock companies, the limit will be rupees one lakh. These are some of the main changes made by the Select Committee and these are some of the assurances which I said would be given to the administration in the form of directions. Sir, with these words I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to establish the Rehabilitation Finance administration, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the preamble, it is clear that this Rehabilitation Finance Administration Bill is meant for those who have been displaced in life as the result of the civil disturbances following upon the partition of the country, that is after the 15th August. The definition of "displaced person", according to the provisions of

this Bill, is "a person who is displaced from any area outside India, or a person in India who, having had his business, industry or property, wholly or partially outside India, has lost wholly or partially, such business, industry or property". That is the definition given here. It means that under this category of "displaced person", only those persons will be covered who come from Pakistan, and only those refugees will be helped financially who come from outside India or those who have had their business outside India and who are living in India. Sir, I have absolutely no objection to the assistance that is being offered to those who have been displaced in life for no fault of theirs. They had to leave their home, they had to leave their property, not because they committed any sin but because they belonged to a particular community. It is up to us to see that they are settled in life and they are rehabilitated, and are given an honourable place and self-respect, and something to fall back upon. But that does not mean that sons of the soil should be deprived of the assistance that is to be given. Before the partition, there were thousands of Hindus in the East Punjab who were displaced because of the civil disturbances. I know of many people from Karachi—Hindus—who were living in the East Punjab and carrying on trade and business. They left because there were disturbances in the East Punjab and according to the provisions of this Bill they will not be entitled to financial assistance. Then, take the case of the Muslims—those who have been displaced from East Punjab, those who have been displaced from Alwar, Patiala and Bharatpur, and those who have been displaced from Delhi and Ajmer. These Muslims will not be entitled to any financial assistance according to the provisions of the Bill. It will mean that the provisions of this Bill will be applicable only to Hindus who come from Pakistan and in effect to nobody else. Take another case: if Hindus from Hyderabad State come into the Union according to the provisions of the Bill they will not be entitled to any financial assistance,—in the definition of India the States are also included. Therefore I have given notice of an amendment that words "in or" should be added in part *(d) (i)* of clause 2. I really do not understand why a distinction is made in the case of those who come from outside and those who have suffered and been displaced in India and in States. In my opinion, they are also sons of the soil. This is a secular State and why should they be deprived of the assistance? There are hundreds of thousands of instances where people have left Delhi and Ajmer; they ran for protection to either Bhopal, Hyderabad or Pakistan; as soon as peace is restored they will return. They are also displaced persons. Why financial assistance should not be given to those sons of the soil who have been displaced as a result of civil disturbances, I really fail to understand? Therefore I submit that the amendment which I have given notice of will be acceptable to the Honourable the Finance Minister.

The second thing which I submit is that the provisions of this Bill are not applicable to those agriculturists who come from outside India but who are also displaced persons. The urban people who have come here have, I suppose, something to fall back upon; but those agriculturists who have come from Western Pakistan and from the villages, left their property; they left everything there and have nothing to fall back upon. Their needs are much greater than the needs of those persons who have come from the urban parts. This Bill provides that those who want to engage themselves in business and industry will be financed. The concern of this Government and the concern of this House is not that people should become rich; the concern is that they should be rehabilitated and settled in life. Instead of only financing those who want to engage in trade and commerce, those agriculturists who have been displaced should also have been given financial assistance. In my opinion, this was the best time that the waste lands should have been brought under cultivation, Government farms should have been created and lakhs of those

[Kazi Syed Karimuddin]
people who will not be entitled to loans under the provisions of this Bill settled down, people for whom at present there is absolutely no provision to get them settled down.

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Minister has said that in the case of individuals the extent of the loan will be Rs. 50,000. In my opinion, benefit to the maximum numbers should be the consideration; by starting this Rehabilitation Finance Administration, we do not want to see people worth lakhs and crores; by establishing this Administration we want to see that those who come from the urban area—the maximum number of them—should be settled in trade and industry. Advancement of loans to the extent of Rs. 50,000 is a very excessive amount that is to be advanced to an individual. In my opinion Rs. 25,000 should be the highest extent to which this Rehabilitation Finance Administration should go.

With these few remarks, I welcome the provisions of this Bill; it is the duty of this country to settle and rehabilitate those who have been displaced in life.

Shri Khurshed Lal (U. P.: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Bill as a concrete step towards the rehabilitation of our brethren who have been displaced and who have had to come here on account of civil and communal disturbances. The Bill, to my mind, is good as far as it goes but there are many things which have to be taken into consideration if this Bill is really to serve its object.

The question is: is this Administration going to afford its help to any and every person who chooses to ask for it, without any plan and without any preconceived scheme. My submission is that this Administration will not be able to serve its object unless and until there is alongside it a comprehensive plan for the settlement of the refugees. That plan can only be within the framework of an All-India Plan, in order to have a complete planning of our economy. Our economy today, as is well-known, is lopsided; there are many things which we have to develop, and I submit that this is the time to do it—when we have these refugees here who belong to a virile race, who have experience of business, who have experience of industry—and this is the time when we should utilise them not by giving them haphazard loans, not by allowing them to set up any business here or there which they in their present anxiety may want to do, but I submit that it should be the task of this Administration to prepare an economic plan. Within the framework of that economic plan industries should be started and concerns started and help afforded to these people. If that is done, if we have planning on that basis, and if the refugee problem is made a part of the Economic Plan for the country, then I submit that we can turn this misfortune of these brethren of ours into something good, and we can utilise them for the progress of the country. Instead of being a liability to us, they can become a factor of social strength.

I would therefore suggest that along with this Administration there should be a Board for planning the set up of industries and for going into the entire question of what is to be our economic set up of the future, and the Rehabilitation Administration should give help to those who fit in with that Plan.

As I have said, Sir, in the Minute of Dissent which I have appended to the Report of the Select Committee, I feel that the confining of the aid to those only who have come from outside, who have been displaced from outside India and not giving any aid to those who have been displaced in this country and who have chosen to remain in this country and not go outside it. Sir, to my mind is wrong. After all, we claim to be building up a secular State and

while I am prepared to go as far as possible to help our brethren who have come from Western Punjab and other portions of Pakistan, I submit, Sir, that there is a very strong case for helping those of our brethren who live in this country, who were and are entitled to our protection and who have been uprooted just as these people from Pakistan have been uprooted, for no
4 P.M. fault of theirs, but because there were these communal disturbances in the country, and have lost their all, even these people deserve our consideration and sympathy.

[At this stage, Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shri K. Santhanam (one of the Panel of Chairmen.)]

Let us remember, Sir, that those who have been uprooted and have lost their all, many among those, are people, not necessarily, who had had anything to do with the partition of the country. They are not necessarily those who were spreading the communal poison in the country. So far as I know, those who were putting all this poison into the country, those who were sowing the seeds of hatred, they were the first to leave the country for Pakistan. They have lost nothing. Actually, innocent people who were their dupes, they have suffered, and I submit, Sir, it is our duty because we were unable to protect them to rehabilitate them also. It may be, Sir, that Government have some other plans. It may be, Sir, that Government are restricting the relief to be afforded by this Administration to people coming from outside India because they have an idea of affording relief to our nationals who have not gone out of this country and who have been looted and who have lost their all. If that is so, I will be very glad to hear it. Otherwise, Sir, I submit that it will be proper if the definition of "displaced person" is amended and those who have lost on account of communal strife and who want to start business in India and who are in India, even they may be made eligible for help. If that is done, Sir, it will be not only a great gesture but it will also go a long way towards establishing communal harmony in this country.

Shri C. Subramaniam (Madras: General): Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out certain difficulties which I feel in the application of this Act, especially with regard to the class of persons to whom this Administration will grant loans. For that purpose, I draw the attention of the House to the definition of the word "loan" given in Clause 2(*e*). "Loan" means a sum of money advanced by the Administration to a displaced person. So the first essential for getting a loan is that he should be a displaced person. Then "displaced person" is defined in Clause 2(*d*). "Displaced person" means (*i*) a person who is displaced from any area outside India. I will confine myself to (*d*)(*i*) for the purpose of explaining my difficulty. For the purpose of coming under the definition of a displaced person, that person should have first existed in a place outside India. Then only if that person is displaced he becomes a displaced person under the provisions of the Act. And "person" is defined under the General Clauses Act, as including a Company, individual, or Corporation, incorporated or not. So even a Company will become a displaced person if only it had existed outside India. My Honourable friend the Finance Minister said that it is the intention of the Government to issue directions to give loans to concerns which might be started here even though they may not all be refugees but only a substantial portion of them refugees. If that is the intention of the Government, then, I submit that that Company or concern will not be a "displaced person". Under the Act the Company has got a separate legal entity apart from the shareholders, and the company comes into existence in India and hence it would not be "a displaced person". So under this Act it will not be entitled to get a loan. A Company which is incorporated now in India consisting of refugees, consisting of persons who may come under the detention of "displaced persons", that Company would not certainly be a "displaced

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

person" and would not be entitled to get a loan. So if you want to help a Company which is incorporated now, if you want to help these refugees concerns, then the definition of "displaced person" as it now stands will stand in the way. That is the difficulty that I want to point out to the Honourable Minister. And again, if you will kindly see the definition of "borrower", it means an individual, Company, Association, or body of individuals whether incorporated or not, to whom a loan has been advanced under this Act. As that definition stands, the only persons who will be entitled to aid, is an individual, company or association which had been carrying on business outside India and which gets displaced for any of the reasons mentioned in the Act or a body of individuals; whether incorporated or not, who have been operating outside India and get displaced.

Mr. Chairman: But, there is another clause also which the Honourable Member must take. Both of them should be considered together.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Which Clause, Sir, do you mean?

Mr. Chairman: In the same Clause, "displaced person" is defined in another place.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I know what you mean, Sir. You are referring to the definition, "a person in India having had his business, industry or property, wholly or partially outside India, has, lost, wholly or partially etc. etc." That person should have already existed in India and should have held property outside India and it should have been lost. So even this would not apply to a Company which has come into existence later on at a future date. So the difficulty remains. Whether that legal entity of a Company existed in India or outside, that should have existed and should have carried on business either outside India or should have resided outside India. That is the difficulty. Therefore, *(d)(ii)* also does not solve it. If it is the intention of the Honourable the Finance Minister to grant loans to Companies which might be incorporated later on for the purpose of helping refugees, that would not be possible under the provisions of this Act. Certainly, the rule-making powers cannot be used for going against the provisions of the Act when it has limited that loans could be granted only to displaced persons and when displaced person has been specifically defined. The Government cannot go beyond the scope of the Act and say we would include other persons also. That is the difficulty which I hope the Honourable Minister will explain and if there is any real difficulty, I hope he will make suitable amendments.

Another thing also I wish to point out. You will be pleased to see that in constituting the Advisory Boards, the intention is that the Advisory Board should advise the Administration on matters of policy only. So individual cases would not certainly come up before them. Only matters of policy would come up before them. If that be so, what is the use of saying in sub-clause (2) of Clause 7 that the Advisers who have got any interest in any concern to which a loan might be granted shall immediately disclose it to the Administration and shall not participate in the proceedings of the Advisory Board relating to such assistance. Now, "relating to such assistance" could only mean the matter relating to the individual concern. Only matters of policy will come up before the Advisory Board and no individual cases. So this prohibition is absolutely innocuous. After all Advisory Board members stand in an advantageous position in that they are likely to come to know of certain things which other people would not be able to know. Under those circumstances, they should not take advantage of their position and acquire certain interests in certain properties. That should be prohibited, and that should be the object of the prohibition clause. I can point out a case where in spite of themselves they might come to acquire property. Suppose some distant relation dies, the member happens to be the next legal heir, he might get the property by way of succession. In that case, we need not object. But the voluntary acquiring either by a member of the Administration or by a Member of the Advisory Board subsequent to his being appointed should be definitely barred. Therefore the provision relating to the Members of the Advisory Board not participating in the proceedings of the Advisory Board really does not go to the full extent necessary.

I feel another difficulty in clause 21 (2)—Liquidation of the Administration. It says: "In the event of the Administration being placed in liquidation, the undistributed assets, after meeting the liabilities, if any, shall vest in the Central Government." Why undistributed assets alone? Suppose you have lent the Administration ten crores and five crores alone have been distributed to the refugees. "Undistributed assets" might mean the assets which have not been distributed to the displaced persons. That is the only meaning that could be given under the context. Certainly the Central Government should step into the shoes of the Administration and all the rights and assets should vest in them. Therefore it is not only the undistributed assets, but all the assets of the Administration which should vest in the Central Government. I further feel there must be another clause for clothing the Central Government with all the powers of the administration in collecting the loans which remain unpaid. From the clause as it stands we find that on liquidation only the undistributed assets vest with the Central Government. There is absolutely no provision as to what happens to the loans granted. Another clause should be added to give the power to the Central Government to have all the powers of administration for the purpose of collecting the loans which remain unpaid.

These are some of the difficulties, Sir, which I find. As a matter of fact, I felt the need of some amendments and sent a list of amendments to the Notice Office but it seems to have got lost in transit and now it has been traced in the office and sent to me just now. I suggest that these points may be taken note of and if these are really difficulties which have got to be surmounted I hope the Honourable the Finance Minister will amend the necessary portions of the Act suitably in view of the difficulties I have pointed out.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, I desire to convey my hearty congratulations to the Finance Minister not only for the original Bill as introduced in this House, but also for the shape in which it has ultimately emerged from the Select Committee. Sir, as its very name implies, the Rehabilitation Finance Bill has got a very beneficial purpose to achieve. For one thing it seeks to assist the displaced persons, displaced not by reason of any of their own actions or omissions—but displaced by reason of communal fury or orgies of violence which were beyond their control. For another, instead of allowing such people to continue to be a perpetual burden on the national exchequer it seeks to devise a scheme by which they may be well settled in life. Not only that. Besides solving the question of their settlement in life, it also goes a long way towards giving them a chance in life to compete in trades and industries and thereby helping in the industrialisation of this country. In a sense, it is a multipurpose bill and inasmuch as it has so far received unstinted support from the House, I can only add my own mede of appreciation of the measure and convey the same on the floor of this House to the Honourable the Finance Minister. But Mr. Chairman, speaking on the report of the Select Committee, I feel it my duty to draw the attention of the House and also of the Honourable the Finance Minister to an aspect of the question which has not been ventilated in this House. Sir, whenever we think of rehabilitation or relief, in these

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra]

days, naturally we have in view relief only of those who were unfortunate victims of the terrible upheaval in the Punjab, in the Frontier Province and of those who are being subjected to all manner of tortures and indignities in Sind. But may I, Mr. Chairman, also point out to this House, that there is another class of persons who deserve your sympathy, who demand your attention, I mean the non-Muslims of Eastern Pakistan who seem to be nowhere in the picture today? I regret to have to say that nothing is heard of them here, because their misery is not much publicised. I make this remark not in anger, but in anguish, more in grief than in passion. Mr. Chairman, would it be believed that conditions in Eastern Pakistan today are such that the Hindus find it impossible for them to live there on anything like decent terms, with anything like self-respect? Indeed, there have not been so far large-scale disturbances there as we had in the Western Punjab and other parts of India, but the organised campaign inaugurated in Pakistan against the Hindus and their relentless persecution there have made their normal life in Eastern Pakistan absolutely impossible. Since the transfer of power on the 15th of August, 1947 there has been a steady stream of exodus of Hindus from Eastern Pakistan to West Bengal. The Provincial Government and the public press in Bengal did not perhaps like to embarrass the Government of India by publication of these reports as they were already over-burdened with the problem of refugees from West Punjab, Sind and N.W.F.P. But the matter has now reached a stage when it would be criminal to maintain silence on it any longer. My Honourable friend Mr. Sondhi says that they are also included in this Bill. I hope they are. But reading the Bill as it is, I do not find on the face of it that those people are also included. I want to be absolutely clear on this point. I cannot leave the matter to future interpretation. The definition of 'displaced' as given in clause 2 of the Bill should normally include that category of unfortunate people, but I want to make the assurance doubly sure. Sir, I will crave the indulgence of the House to place very briefly the extremely miserable position in which they now find themselves placed. Sir, in the course of the last few months near about 20 lakhs of Hindus have migrated to Western Bengal from Eastern Pakistan. When I put the figure at twenty lakhs I err on the side of moderation and not of excess. I may tell the House that according to the census of 1941 the population of the city of Calcutta was twenty-one lakhs; today the number of ration cards there have reached the appalling figure of 69 lakhs. It may be said that many of these ration cards are faked; but even allowing a reasonable margin of ten lakhs for false ration cards, you are still faced with the fact that in the city of Calcutta the population is now at least 50 lakhs—*i.e.* about 30 lakhs more than what it was in 1941. The result is that the city is unable to cope with the needs of this huge population. You have only to go to the city of Calcutta now to see how people actually live there. There is no elbow room or breathing space there. The Calcutta Corporation has recently at a special meeting discussed the whole situation and they find their entire services on the point of a crashing,—sanitary, water supply,, drainage and all the rest of it. That is the formidable problem that they are faced with now. I know of other mofussil towns where the conditions are very much the same. In the district that I come from—Nadia—in that tiny district one lakh and ten thousand people have come from East Bengal. Imagine a small municipality in an ordinary moderate-sized town with a normal population of 40,000; if such a town finds itself encumbered with about a lakh of people you can well understand what that means. That is the condition of some towns.

Sir, I want the House to realise that it is not for mere fun that people leave their hearths and homes, their ancestral homes hallowed by the memory of generations of their forefathers. It is only when they find that normal life is absolutely impossible that they leave their ancestral lands to seek shelter

in the Indian Dominion. The House should know that there are about one crore and twenty lakhs of Hindus there. They were with us shoulder to shoulder in the fight for freedom; they made tremendous sacrifices along with the rest of India so that India might achieve independence. Does the House realise the acute feeling of frustration and despair when they find that their former comrades in arms in one part are breathing the free air of freedom whereas in another part they are subjected to all manner of indignities, cruelties, persecutions, which make human life not worth living? Sir, I do not want to embarrass this Government, our own national Government, in any way; I do not ask them here and now to undertake full responsibilty for them. But what I do want is that this House should take serious note of the situation. The House or the Government cannot ignore it any longer. At the moment there is but a patch of cloud which is no bigger than a man's hand; but it grows bigger and bigger, and who can say when it will break into thunderstorms overwhelming the whole country and creating a situation which would be beyond the competence of you all to control? I want the Honourable Finance Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister to ponder over this situation. Almost daily I receive telegrams and letters from my friends and relatives in Eastern Pakistan which melt my heart and which would, I believe, also melt the heart of any sane and reasonable man who has any human feeling. Extortions from Hindus for the Quaide-Azam Fund, exactions in the name of income-tax, fabulous and fantastic amounts charged on Hindus who had been carrying on trade and industry up till now, wholesale seizure and confiscation of firearms of Hindus and delivering them to these newly formed Ansars and the Muslim National Guards, various forms of insult and molestation of their women-folk which cannot be described—these are some of the things which have made their life impossible in Eastern Pakistan. But what is more pertinent to the Bill before the House is that there has been economic strangulation of the entire Hindu community in Eastern Bengal; all trades and industries have been forcibly taken away from them and settled with the Muslims with the result that they are being compelled to flock to Western Bengal. But they cannot come even with their personal effects which are rigorously searched, or rather ruthlessly ransacked by the so-called National Guards and snatched away from them before they can leave their frontiers. So they are coming as destitutes,—destitutes in the sense that while they had enough of wealth and enough of resources when they were inhabitants of undivided India, they have suddenly become paupers by reason of the advent of independence in one part of the country to the exclusion of another. I am asking the Honourable the Finance Minister to categorically state on the floor of this House that the displaced people from Eastern Pakistan would be fully entitled to the benefits of this Governmental measure, that the provisions of this Rehabilitation Finance Bill, could be freely utilised by this unfortunate species of uprooted humanity. I want the Finance Minister to make a clear and unequivocal statement to that effect. Let me assure him that such an assurance will not be a standing invitation to the people in Eastern Pakistan to come here and have the benefits of this. As I said, people will not run after mirages or shadows. It is only when they will have no other alternative, that they will come here and seek some relief at your hands. Let that relief be not denied to them.

Sir, an Honourable Member was making a grievance that the definition of 'displaced' should be so framed as to include those who are also inside India. Owing to my illness I was absent from the House when the Bill was introduced and I am not therefore aware of what discussions took place at the time; nor was I a member of the Select Committee, and I therefore do not know whether this question was discussed or not. But to me it seems that the whole object of defining 'displaced person', in clause 2(*d*)(i), as a person who is displaced from any area outside India, is that it is intended to benefit those

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra]

people who were within the limits of undivided geographical India, but, who, owing to these political cataclysms have been detached from India of today. The Honourable Members would do well to bear in mind that ordinarily the question of resettlement of displaced persons in a particular province or State is the responsibility of that particular province or State, and therefore legislating here in this Federal Legislature, it is not in our competence to legislate for that. This does not mean that the Central Government cannot advance any help to the Provincial Governments or any other units when they demand it and when such relief is desirable. But this Bill is intended to benefit that species of uprooted humanity who have to be settled in trades and industries. Therefore, I do not think there is any need for changing the definition of the word "displaced". We want to see that this Bill, when enacted into Law, is implemented with all reasonable despatch. I would also suggest to the Honourable the Finance Minister that when he appoints the Advisory Board, he might include some from amongst those who have been displaced from Eastern Bengal and who have sought shelter under the protective wings of this Government.

I find that it is going to be a fairly big committee. I want that not a single province of undivided India, is left unrepresented in this Board so that none may feel that it has been left in the lurch. Though we cannot do them anything very substantial—by a measure like this, which envisages an expenditure of rupees ten crores and as such does not touch the fringe of the question—it at least makes a very good beginning; and it will also have a tremendous psychological effect. It will demonstrate that the National Government has not forgotten those who had been with them in their struggle for the freedom of this country.

May I request the Finance Minister to bear these few points in his mind when he comes to implement the provisions of this Bill. I am sure this Bill will go through as it is, and let me hope and trust that the Government will do their best to alleviate the miseries and sufferings of these unfortunate people.

Lastly, I again appeal to the members of the House not to forget their unfortunate brethren—their own kith and kin in East Bengal, who had suffered and sacrificed no less than they in the liberation of this country.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): It is with very great grief that we listened to the tales of woe that our kith and kin in East Bengal are suffering today and under those trying circumstances many of them have left East Bengal for West Bengal and are still leaving. There is ample provision made in this Bill and a displaced person covers those persons who have already left East Bengal for West Bengal, just as it covers those who have left West Punjab for East Punjab. Therefore, my Honourable friend, Mr. Maitra, may be absolutely certain that this administration will stretch its helping hand to those refugees who have gone from East Bengal to West Bengal. As a matter of fact I have tabled a few amendments for suggesting that branches of this administration ought to be established wherever those Branches are necessary. I am sure having regard to the large need of the various refugees that have come from East Bengal to West Bengal, a branch of this administration will be located there, and in addition an advisory regional board, consisting of five or seven persons, competent to give advice regarding relief measures to be adopted in that particular area, may also be constituted. An amendment to that effect has been tabled by me. I am sure having regard to the necessity of the circumstances, the Government will accept the amendment and in due course will implement it by constituting a branch and an advisory council.

As regards our friend's suggestion that those who have been displaced from one part of India and have come to another part should also be helped, because

they come within the ambit of this Bill for purposes of relief, I beg to point out that I differ from him. Not that I have not the sympathy which must go forth to all those persons who are afflicted, who have been forced and compelled by circumstances beyond their control to change their place of residence to other parts of India. They do stand on a different footing altogether. Every effort is being made and it is intended much better effort than our sister Dominion is trying to do is being made to bring back those persons, who have had to leave their places, to their own places in India, and also to rehabilitate those persons to their hearths and homes who have had to shift from one part of this country to another for some reason or another. All steps in that direction will be made by the Government. Their case is on a different footing. If in spite of that if any person still stands in need of relief, I am sure the Provincial Government, or the Central Government will attend to that matter also. It is not as if this Bill seeks to address itself to all these considerations. As a matter of fact some of our friends suggested even at the outset, before the Bill was referred to the Select Committee—and some friends have also appended Minutes of Dissent to the Select Committee's report—that for agricultural purposes also relief ought to be given by this administration from the funds at its disposal. Some suggested that displaced persons might be able to settle in colonies and engage themselves in collective farming. Those are beyond its scope. Many other good things may be done. But the scope of this Bill restricts itself to one class of persons and one kind of relief. Other cases may be deserving and there is time enough for the Government or for the Provincial Governments to come to their rescue or to seek other remedies to help them.

My friend, Mr. Subramaniam raised a very interesting point. I agree with him that in so far as a displaced person is either a partnership or a company, this definition does not cover it. It covers only a partnership or company which was in existence either wholly or partly both in India and outside India. I believe, and I am sure that it is not the intention of the Honourable the Finance Minister or even the Select Committee to ignore those partnerships of displaced persons which partnerships may come into existence here or companies formed of displaced persons. The difficulty can be got over by adding at the end of the definition for "Loan" the words "whether an individual or a partnership or company, whether already in existence or formed of such individuals in India." That is a matter of drafting. I agree with him that there is that lacuna. As regards the other points raised by Mr. Subramaniam I am sorry I am unable to agree with him. As to what happens on the dissolution or liquidation of the administration the term 'assets' is sufficiently wide to include not only assets or the money that is still in reserve but also all the loans that have been advanced.

Shri C. Subramaniam: What about undistributed assets?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I will come to it presently. The term 'assets' is wide enough to include not only money in hand or property in hand but also actionable claim. Whatever might have been advanced by the Administration to various persons also come under the heading 'assets' and as successor in interest to the Administration the Central Government will be competent to realise these loans to various displaced persons.

As regards undistributed assets this term and the language was evidently taken from the Companies Act, where undistributed assets refer to whatever remain after liquidation or paying off of the creditors. If there are no creditors the entire property will belong to the Central Government. Therefore the undistributed assets do not stand in the way of the entire property coming in and I do not agree with Mr. Subramaniam about the interpretation which he has put upon the word undistributed assets: nor is there any necessity to change that terminology.

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

As regards the suggestion that those persons who are members of the Advisory Board ought not to participate where they are interested, I believe that the wording that is used and the provision made are sufficiently wide. We are trying to lend to the extent of ten crores—directly seven crores, by way of re-discounting bills and promissory notes one crore and guaranteeing losses to the extent of two crores. There must be a provision strictly limiting the advance of these loans for the purpose of business or industry. It finds a place in the preamble but not in the body of the Bill. Apart from that whenever any displaced person does not utilise the money or otherwise the object of the loan is not carried out, there is a provision in the Bill to enable the Administration to call forth the money immediately irrespective of the term for which the loan has been advanced. I would urge upon the Government to modify it so as to enable the Administration to call upon the bank about whose loans there is a guarantee to the tune of two crores also to call back immediately those loans that have been granted under circumstances similar to those set out in clause 14, which empowers the Central Government or the Administration to call back or insist upon the payment of these loans.

In the course of the administration various items of property may have to be purchased by the Administration. It may be a couple of years before the ten crores are disposed of. If my Honourable friend Mr. Maitra's suggestion is to be accepted another ten crores would be necessary. We may have to enlarge the scope to rehabilitate people both from the Western Punjab and Eastern Bengal. The work of this Administration may have to go on not for ten but for twenty years. During this period various assets are purchased by the Administration. I want a provision to insist upon the Administration disposing of these assets within a reasonable time. We find similar provisions in the Banking Bill and also in the Industrial Finance Corporation, in the Reserve Bank and all other banks, lest the fluid resources at their command should be locked up in immovable or movable assets. That is another suggestion for the consideration of the Honourable the Finance Minister.

I wish this Rehabilitation Administration good luck and a career of usefulness. I hope the objects of the Bill will be implemented early and that all those persons who have been forced to come here and settle from West Punjab or East Bengal will have nothing to complain about and would even forget all their sufferings and inconveniences.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, I wish to speak on one or two points which have been touched during the debate.

With regard to the question of refugees from East Bengal or West Punjab I think the definition clearly includes both. A displaced person means a person who is displaced from any area outside India. East Bengal is now outside India. Therefore the apprehensions of Mr. Maitra are not really justified.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: A burnt child dreads the fire.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: To my mind the meaning is absolutely clear, and on the case made out by the Honourable Member, I think the Administration that would be set up should look into the matter and in constituting the Advisory Committee, the needs of West Bengal will be considered.

With regard to extending the definition of displaced persons I think it should be extended. In fact it should include persons who do not all come from outside India. If you extend the definition, help might be given to suitable persons according to circumstances. If you do not do it, you may perhaps unconsciously shut out some deserving cases. There is thus no harm in extending the definition. When the Administration is set up, it would look into individual cases and they may be in a position to do justice in suitable cases.

With regard to 'persons', I believe the definition of persons in the General Clauses Act would cover the cases contemplated by the Honourable Member. According to section 3, sub-section (39) of the General Clauses Act, 'persons' include any "company, or association or body of individuals whether incorporated or not." I think partnerships will be sufficiently covered by the definition of 'persons' as interpreted by this Act.

I do not wish to say anything more at this stage except to express my gratification and gratitude to the Honourable Members who have taken to improving the text of the Bill by means of amendment. When I see the number of amendments tabled I feel that I am no longer alone but in happy company.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, this Bill is a most important measure and enough has been said in the House to show how great the need is of a measure of this kind. I somehow feel that the way in which we are going about is like distributing charity to people who deserve much better. We have undoubtedly been faced with a colossal problem the world has not probably been faced with anywhere except in Eastern Prussia where the people were asked to go away when Russia took charge of it. But I do not feel that we are proceeding in the way we ought to proceed. This measure is also conceived in a haphazard manner. On looking into the provisions of this Bill I find that sub-clause (2) of clause 13 lays down that "For the purpose of advancing any loan under sub-section (1) the Administration may call for any report either through its own staff or through the District Officer of the district in which the borrower resides or carries on business or through any provincial or a State Government or through any Bank or any other appropriate agency".' The same trust on the District Officer as the Almighty God of a district is still exhibited in this Bill. What will happen is they will go to the District Officer and influence will be brought to bear on him and he will recommend some who bring such influence. All this will happen, and the same haphazard manner of rehabilitation will continue.i I do not think this is the manner in which we can go about tackling this big problem. I have been on the Standing Committee which advises the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation and I have felt sick at the various resolutions passed by the Committee and the failure to implement them—many pious wishes and yet very few fulfilled—although I know the task has been colossal and a lot has been done. But what I want to press is that the problem is far too big and cannot be solved in this manner. As my friend Mr. Khurshed Lal said only a State planning and a proper place in that plan for those refugees who have to be rehabilitated can solve this big problem. I do not know why it is still delayed. For the last six months, since this House has been converted into a sovereign legislature, we have been asking for an economic plan. We have been promised also and told that we are faced with very many problems which are of great importance and urgency. But I insist that we shall ever be busy; we shall never have too much time. There should be enough men in the Government to look after the problem and to treat it as a matter of urgency. We must have the plan first and then alone can we put everything in its proper place. People will not hear for long the excuse that we are too busy. We are busy undoubtedly. Any Government will have to be busy. And a country freed after two hundred years of foreign rule will be very much busy. But there should be no reason to say that we have still not enough time to prepare the plan. If we had a plan, then these forty or fifty lakhs of people—very fine people, men of high initiative and enterprise, probably the best stock in our country—could be settled in a manner which should have been good for them and which would have also made our nation great and helped in the execution of the great plan which we have to put before our country.

Our friend Pandit Maitra has told us the gruesome tale of Eastern Bengal. I had the occasion to visit Calcutta only four days ago and I can also bear

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

witness to what he has said. It is really a very sad state of affairs. We know our traditions. The traditions of the Congress have been non-communal. We are proud of them. But we cannot blink our eyes to facts. We must take into consideration things that are happening. Unless we stop these things I think we shall have a tragedy far greater than what happened in West Punjab. There are only fifty lakhs of people who were transferred from West Punjab to East Punjab and to other parts of the country. But imagine in East Bengal there are 1½ crores of non-Muslims. If in the manner in which people are running away from that place their coming still continues I do not think this Bill or any Bill of the sort will be able to help even the urban refugees coming from there. Although this Bill includes in its definition those who have come from East Bengal, it will have to be provided with much larger funds if it wants to cater for people who are coming from there. I hope instead of curing the consequences of a disease we shall try to remove the cause of it. We must somehow be able to see that our nationals there are able to live in self-respect. I do not know when we shall be able to achieve that end. But it is sickening and it cannot be tolerated very much longer. My Honourable friend Pandit Maitra was very subdued—and intentionally, purposely and deliberately in the interests of the great cause held by our Great Leader who is no longer with us. But we shall ignore the disease only at our cost. We must try to see that we are able to instil in the minds of the people in the other Dominion that they shall respect our decisions, that they shall not have the liberty that they are trying to have at present and that the nation shall not tolerate it for much longer.

These Bills are a token of our concern for those people. I know they cannot help them. Ten crore of rupees is a drop in the ocean. The people who have come from there have left large properties. Men who were pioneers of industry, who owned large business, are now walking in the streets as beggars. We cannot hope to rehabilitate them with ten crores of rupees or with any amount that we can give them. What we want is that those men must be made safe where they are. I hope that our Government will so arrange matters that those people begin to feel that they have self-respect and that they can live with self-respect there. I remember a time when a British lady was molested in Afghanistan or somewhere there and the whole House of Commons rose in indignation. We have had instances where British people were illtreated in Hong Kong by the Japanese and the whole Commons was enraged. On the floor of this House my friend Mr. Maitra has told us gruesome details of the happenings in East Bengal and yet I am surprised we have not been able to do anything to stop those things. How can we go on in this manner? What will be the national prestige if we allow such things to continue for any length of time?

5 P.M.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member may continue his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday the 2nd March, 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Tuesday, 2nd March, 1948

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(ORAL ANSWERS)

PAINT BLACK FOR BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY WAGONS.

546. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state the name of the firm from whom paint black for wagons of the Bengal and Nagpur Railway is purchased?

(b) Is the purchase made by inviting open tenders or through the Store Department?

(c) Do Government while inviting quotations give opportunity to manufacturers of paint in India to submit tenders?

(d) Is such paint manufactured in India?

(e) If so, which are those firms?

(f) Have they submitted tenders or made any offer for supply of the same?

(g) What is the value of this paint black consumed every year by Railways?

(h) With whom is the latest order for paint placed and was the price the lowest?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Purchases of black paint in the year 1946-47 have been made from Messrs. Murarka Paint and Varnish Works Ltd., Calcutta, and Messrs. East India Paint and Chemical Works Ltd., Calcutta. The 1948 demand is still under consideration.

(b) Black paint is being purchased through the agency of the Directorate General, Ministry of Industry and Supply who call for tenders.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) Messrs. Murarka Paint and Varnish Works Ltd., Messrs. East India Paint and Chemical Works Ltd., and Messrs. Shankar Paint and Oil Mills Ltd., all of Calcutta.

(f) Yes.

(g) 1946—Rs. 3,42,563 (from middle of September).
1947—Rs. 3,94,297 (approximately).
1948—Rs. 7,00,000 (approximately).

(h) Messrs. Murarka Paint and Varnish Works Ltd., and Messrs. East India Paint and Chemical Works Ltd., both of Calcutta.

The price quoted by these firms was not the lowest.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, who was the lowest tenderer and why his tender was not accepted?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That question must be addressed to the Minister for Industry and Supply.

RESUMPTION OF DELHI-AHMEDABAD MAIL TRAIN ON B.B. AND C. RAILWAY

547. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state whether it is a fact that the Delhi-Ahmedabad Mail train of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Line (Meter-gauge) has been stopped? If so, since when?

(b) Do Government intend to re-start this important Mail train? If so, when?

(c) What are the reasons for discontinuing this Mail train?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). The running of the B.B. and C.I. Delhi-Ahmedabad Meter Gauge mail train was suspended with effect from 20th September, 1947. The running of this train was resumed with effect from 25th December, 1947, from Ahmedabad to Delhi, and from 26th December 1947 from Delhi to Ahmedabad.

(c) The train was suspended following civil disturbances in the Delhi area.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Is it going by the same route as before?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as I can say at present, yes.

IMPORT OF STEEL FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

548. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have actually placed orders for the import of certain categories of steel from foreign countries as stated in their Press Note dated 27th January, 1948;

(b) if so, from which country, what kind of steel, what quantity and at what rates it is being imported and when it is due to arrive; and

(c) for which Ministry of the Government of India the said steel is intended and for what purposes?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) and (b). Actual orders for 7,895 tons of steel have been placed on U.S.A. for Period 1/1948 (*i.e.*, from 1st January—31st March 1948). A statement showing the categories of steel and the quantities indented for is laid on the table of the House. The rates and shipment period are not yet known. An order for 70,000 tons of rails at $72 per ton with necessary accessories has also been placed on the Algenia Steel Corporation of Canada. The rails are being rolled from February '48 and delivery is expected to be completed by 15th November, 1948.

(c) All categories of steel, except rails, are meant for the use of Government as well as the public and will be distributed through Controlled Stockholders Associations in the various Provinces. Rails are for the use of Railways.

STATEMENT

Showing the catefories of steel and quantities indented for from U.S.A. for period 1/1948

Serial No.	Category of Steel	Quantity indented for in tons
1	Bars Cold finish 1 inch and under	75
2	Concrete Reinforcement Bars	700
3	Hot Rolled Non-alloy 1 inch and under steel bars	400
4	Boiled plates and other plates Hot and Cold Rolled Non-alloy	1,200
5	Galvanised Iron Sheets	200
6	Black Sheets	1,800
7	Iron Steel Strip Cold Rolled Non-alloy with less then 0.40% carbon	400
8	Iron Steel Strip Hot Rolled Non-alloy with less than 0·40% carbon	100
9	Angles (Strip) except Bulb angles, Channel and Beams 6" and under	800
10	Malleable Iron screwed pipe fittings 150 lbs. pressure and under	170
11	Welded Black Pipes	1,200
12	Welded Galvanised Pipes	200
13	Iron Wire (plain, stainless and Alloy)	450
14	Wire Nails and Miscellaneous Nails	200
	Total	7,895

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Were the quotations invited from various firms or from only one firm?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: There is a very acute shortage of steel, as Honourable Members know, and accordingly the purchase was made by the India Supply Mission in Washington at the best market rates.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, my question was whether competitive rates were obtained.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Yes, Sir.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the prices are less than the rates for Indian steel?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: They are much higher than Indian prices.

Seth Govinddas: By what time is it expected that this steel would be brought into this country?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I am not in a position to make any statement on that, but we are insisting that as early as possible this steel should be delivered to us.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have Government made any attempt to obtain supply of steel from Czechoslovakia or Russia?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: All fields from where steel can be obtained have been explored.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Can I have an idea as to the increased price for this order that has been placed, as compared with our Indian produced steel?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: It is very difficult to give any accurate idea because it varies according to various types of steel.

REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON NUMBER OF GUESTS AND ENTERTAINMENTS IN DELHI.

549. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether Government are aware that some provinces, including the United Provinces have lifted the restrictions on the number of guests at entertainments in view of Government's decontrol policy?

(b) If so, do Government propose to adopt the same procedure in Delhi?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) While the U. P. Government have withdrawn the restriction on the number of guests, such restrictions are still in force in most other Provinces and the whole question of policy regarding this and other austerity measures is under consideration. Government of India has to decide whether continuance of economy would not be a prudent policy until all parts of the country have better supplies than at present.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Minister aware that there is restriction even on fruits in Delhi, and that fruits really are not an article of food in that sense? Will the Honourable Minister please withdraw the restrictions on that?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter will be considered.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Can we expect removal of these restrictions before 4th March?

Is the Honourable Minister aware that some Provinces, like Assam never imposed any such restrictions throughout the last five years?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am calling the next question.

MEASURES FOR ENCOURAGEMENT OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN INDIA.

550. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what steps are being taken to encourage cottage industries in India?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of sending a special Mission to Japan to specialise in cottage industries?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) The development of cottage industries is primarily the responsibility of the Provincial State Governments. The matter was considered at the Industries Conference held in December, 1947 and recommendations made are under examination of Government at present.

(b) Government will consider the suggestion.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Government aware that about five or six years ago, that is before the War, a special mission was sent to Japan to study the cottage industries there and to report? What has happened to that report? Is the Government aware of it?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I do not know which particular report —there have been two or three reports on cottage industries, and I think on more than one occasion have missions gone to Japan.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Will the Government publish those reports?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: They have been published.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the fact that at the moment several nations are trying to benefit from the dislocated industry in Japan, will Government consider the advisability of expediting decision in this matter so that we can also benefit from it?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Yes, Government will take early steps in this matter.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if there is any proposal to establish a Central Cottage Industries Board as was stated by the Honourable Minister for Industry and Supply?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That was one of the Resolutions adopted at the Industries Conference, and that has been accepted by Government.

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, in view of the statement of the Honourable Minister that two or three deputations have been to Japan, studied the conditions, and have submitted their reports, may I know what are their recommendations and what action has been taken by Government in this regard for the development of cottage industries and for linking them with bigger industries?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: As I said in my reply, Sir, the matter of cottage industries is primarily a Provincial/State responsibility. However, Government is trying to accept the recommendation that was made at the last Industries Conference, and early action will be taken on that.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Sir, what are the Governmental activities in the Centrally Administered Areas in this regard?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I should like to have notice of that question.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Are Government aware of an organisation called *All-India Village Industries Association* working at Wardha on an all-India basis?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Government are aware of that.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: If so, may I know if it is possible for Government to take advantage of the experiments that have been made by them?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Government will certainly take advantage of their experience and knowledge.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Have they so far taken any advantage?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: As I said, no particular action has been taken by the Government up till now.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know what is the justification for sending such expensive missions outside India and spending public money if the Central Government does not intend giving effect to the recommendations of such Missions and say that it is a provincial subject?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Well, such recommendations are communicated to the proper authorities and the various Provinces concerned have adopted some of the recommendations.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Arising out of the fact that the Government have decided at the last December Conference to help cottage industries, may I know to what extent the Government of India has taken up responsibility upon itself for helping cottage industries?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: They have, as I said, accepted the recommendation about setting up a Board and through that Board they will function.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: May I know if there is any scheme of co-ordination between cottage industries and other larger industries?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That was one of the recommendations made.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: What action has been taken?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: No action so far.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: In view of what the Honourable Minister has said, namely, that there have been other Missions sent to Japan and they have got reports from those Missions, may I know if there is any necessity to send another Mission? Would not they make use of the reports that have already been published in regard to the other Missions?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is arguing.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: At present there is some restriction about the movement of hand-made paper from one Province to another. In view of the fact that this restriction is creating a good deal of difficulty about the encouragement of cottage industries, will Government please withdraw that restriction?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That restriction is not a Central Government restriction, as the Honourable Member must be aware. However, that Provincial Government will be advised to remove such restriction.

Shri Biswanath Das: In view of the reply given by the Honourable Minister in charge of the Department . . . . . .

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I am not in-charge.

Shri Biswanath Das: Well, in charge at the moment. In view of the reply given that cottage industries is not a concern of the Central Government, may I know whether he is aware of the fact that the Central Government, before the independence and the National Ministry, were allotting money for the development of cottage industries and also undertaking the marketing of cottage industry products for the different Provinces in India?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I am aware of the first thing, and that practice still continues, namely, grants are being given to the Provinces, but about marketing and other arrangements for procuration of raw materials etc. or assisting them with technical knowledge and other things, those are responsibilities which are being carried on by the Provinces themselves.

GOVERNMENT PLANS IN RESPECT OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

551. ***Seth Govinddas:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any definite plan in respect of cottage industries; and

(b) if so, what are the industries which Government have planned and what help and protection Government propose to give them?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) and (b). The development of Cottage Industries is primarily the responsibility of the Provincial State Governments. The matter was considered at the Industries Conference held in December 1947 and the recommendations of the Conference are embodied in Resolution No. IV (copy already placed on the table of the House). These recommendations are under the consideration of Government.

Seth Govinddas: With respect to clause (a) of the question, may I know whether the Government is preparing any all-India plan as far as cottage industries are concerned, and send that plan to the various Provinces so that it may be executed immediately?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That suggestion will be borne in mind.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With a view to giving a fillip to cottage industries, will Government consider the advisability of following Mahatma Gandhi's advice and will Ministers of Government themselves live in cottages instead of in palaces?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that Agriculture, Education, Health etc. are also Provincial subjects and for co-ordination purposes in respect of them Ministries have been established at the Centre, may I ask the Honourable Minister if Government will take steps to have a Centralised organisation for the purpose of co-ordinating the activities of cottage industries in the various Provinces?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That also will be considered.

Seth Govinddas: With respect to clause (b) of the question, may I know what protection the Government proposes to give the cottage industry, in view of the fact that there will be a lot of competition between cottage and other big industries?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: As I said, Sir, the whole question is under the consideration of Government at the moment.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that it is now three months since the Industries Conference met and how long more will it take the Government to consider the question and put forward any plans for cottage industry development?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: If I may correct, it is not three months. It is two months: the Conference met at the end of December. All I can say is very early action will be taken

Shri S. Nijalingappa: Is the Government making any purchases from these cottage industries for its own purposes?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I should like to have notice of that question.

WORKING OF COMPLAINT BRANCH OF RAILWAY BOARD

552. ***Seth Govinddas:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House showing the result of the working of the Complaint Branch of the Railway Board since its inception?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: A statement furnishing the information desired by the Honourable Member is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

regarding the working of the Complaints Section of the Railway Board.

Almost within a month from the date of assumption of office by the Interim Government, a Complaints Section was set up by the Railway Board for ensuring prompt and proper disposal of the complaints made by the public. The Complaints Section, which commenced functioning on 7th October 1946, was empowered to deal with all complaints other than those connected with compensation claims for loss or damage to goods in transit. Similar organisations were also set up in headquarters offices of railways for establishing liaison with the Complaints Section of the Railway Board and for expediting disposal of complaints concerning individual railway administrations.

The enormous volume of work handled by the Complaints Section can be seen from the fact that no less than 16,609 complaints were dealt with by railway administrations during the period October 1946 to December 1947. In the office of the Railway Board itself 2,341 complaints were received and dealt with by this Section. The complaints covered a variety of subjects such as lack of facilities at stations, inadequate train services, lack of punctuality in train running, irregularities in the booking of luggage and allotment of wagons, incivility towards the public, tracing of missing luggage and consignments, and irregular practices by booking and reservation staff. The Complaints Section had to be constantly on its toes to see that all complaints sent for investigation to the railways were properly investigated and that suitable action was taken on genuine complaints. The Complaints Section of the Railway Board has also to watch the progress of the cases and to see that they were dealt with to a satisfactory conclusion. Most of the cases have been satisfactorily closed. In a few cases, however, railways have not been able to pursue the complaints due to the refusal or failure of the complainatns to furnish proof of the charges when confronted with enquiries.

Tabulated below is a statement showing the number of complaints received and dealt withly individual railway administrations :—

G. I. P. Railway	3,009
N. W. Railway (Upto 31-3-47)	1,026
E. P. Railway (1-4-47 to 31-12-47)	840
B. A. Railway (Upto 31-3-47)	1,166
Assam Railway (1-4-47 to 31-12-47)	675
E. I. Railway	2,982
B. N. Railway	1,905
M. & S. M. Railway	1,229
S. I. Railway	502
O. T. Railway	1,068
B. B. & C. I. Railway	2,207
Total	16,609

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: On this question, Sir, may I raise a point of order?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: I wanted to point out that if the Honourable Member who put this question wanted only a statement to be made, then this should really have gone to the unstarred list and not to the starred list. As it is, the Honourable Member asked nothing more when the Statement was made

Mr. Speaker: A similar question was raised, I believe, in the session before last and I had, at that time, requested members to see that they do not put every question as a starred question. Somebody had then suggested that the Chair should have the power of disallowing any question as a starred one and placing it as an unstarred one, but I declined to have the power because I do not know with what motives members are putting questions. I can only appeal to members not to mark as starred ones questions of this type so far as they can.

POLICIES UNDER LIFE INSURANCE SCHEME

553. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many effective policies under the Postal Life Insurance Scheme exist as on 1st January, 1948;

(b) what the total amount of such policies is;

(c) what the total amount under the Postal Insurance Fund is;

(d) whether any profits have accrued to this fund during the quinquennium 1942-47;

(e) if the reply to part (d) above be in the affirmative, when it is proposed to assess and work out the profits and to issue bonus certificates to the policy-holders; and

(f) whether it is proposed to extend the benefits of the Postal Life Insurance Scheme to members of the public?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) to (c). Figures as on 1st January, 1948, are not available; approximate figures as on 30th September 1947 are as follows:

(a) 92,101

(b) Rs. 18,94,01,000

(c) Rs. 11,25,28,000 (exclusive of interest).

(d) Not possible to say before the valuation of the Post Office Insurance Fund is over

(e) It is proposed to conduct the valuation of the Fund as on 15th August 1947 as soon as the required data for such valuation is available and, if sufficient surplus is disclosed, to declare bonus to policy holders. The bonus is payable with the sum assured as an addition to it.

(f) No, as Government's policy hitherto has been that the postal insurance scheme should not compete with private insurance companies.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister why it has not been possible for him to ascertain the profits and why we should wait until the Insurance Fund comes under investigation?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I think the Honourable Member is aware that since August last year there have been disturbances all over the country and people have been shifting from one place to another. Therefore, it has taken time to collect all the information. I understand that the information for the policies of persons who are now in Pakistan is being collected by the Pakistan Government, and when all this is available, the valuation will be made.

RESUMPTION OF THROUGH TRAINS BETWEEN DELHI AND LAHORE

554. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to resume through running of trains from Delhi to Lahore and if so, when this will be started; and

(b) if there is no such proposal, what the reasons for not resuming this traffic are?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No proposal is under consideration at present to resume through running of passenger trains from Delhi to Lahore.

(b) The passenger traffic offering at present does not justify the running of any through passenger train from Delhi to Lahore.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: With reference to reply to part (b) when there is no service running, may I know what is the source of information for the Honourable Minister to say that there is not enough passenger traffic?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, we can only make estimates regarding that and such estimates as we have been able to make us think that the quantum of traffic offering at present does not justify it. As a matter of fact, the Honourable Member knows that at present we are running four trains daily between Delhi and Amritsar and it is possible by the course of traffic along those trains to get a rough idea as to what the traffic towards Lahore might be.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: With reference to that may it not be that because the train is not running to Lahore that the traffic that is offering to Amritsar is so much less.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It becomes an argument:

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: I am sorry.

Shri H. V. Kamath: If trains were not running to Lahore, why did the time-tables show that they did?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, whether Government will make an experiment to run the train from Delhi to Lahore?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should like to have notice of that question.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Has any request been received from the Pakistan Government for any train?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should like to have notice.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: May I ask if the Honourable Minister has seen statements made in newspapers both in India and Pakistan that this service should be started? I saw one such last week.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: All I can say in reply to the Honourable Member's question is that we shall keep a careful watch over the situation, and as soon as we think that the traffic offered is sufficient, we shall certainly consider it.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it possible under the changed circumstances when Lahore belongs to a different Dominion, one-sided action can be taken by this Government without the co-operation of the other Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It necessarily implies that there would be co-operation from the other side.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has there been so far any request from the people of Lahore or West Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I would like to have notice of that question.

PROPOSED NEW WORKS ON BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY IN ORISSA

555. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state when a double line will be constructed on that section of the Bengal Nagpur Railway which runs through Orissa?

(b) When will the Railway Bridges over the Kathjori and the Mahanadi and also several other bridges in the Cuttack District have their side railings completed?

(c) When will the road bridge over the Kathjori river be completed?

(d) What are the new works proposed to be undertaken on the Bengal Nagpur Railway in Orissa?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) There is no proposal for doubling any section of the B. N. Railway line running through Orissa in the near future.

(b) Railway Bridges are not meant to be used by members of the public and there is no proposal for any railings to be put on these bridges.

(c) The target date for completion is September, 1949.

(d) If the Honourable Member will specify the category of works for which he wants the information, necessary data will be collected and furnished to him as far as possible.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Is it not a fact, Sir, so far for want of a double line so many trains are running late and also many accidents take place—how to avoid these accidents and late running of trains?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The policy that we are following at present is that at the heaviest points of congestion, we are trying to double the lines, but we do not consider that this particular section is so important

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Is it not a fact, Sir, that though there are no side railings and though people are not expected to walk over the bridges, they always walk over the bridges and no action is taken to prevent them from doing so?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They ought not to.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: But accidents take place and how to avoid the accidents?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact people who use railway bridges are really trespassers and action should be taken against them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That may be true as a matter of law. In view of the fact that on some bridges these foot-paths are provided, what is it that prevents Government from providing similar foot-paths on almost all these big bridges which are put over these big rivers.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Foot railings are provided along railway bridges, as the Honourable Member knows in consultation and co-operation with the Provincial Government. It is a matter for the Provincial Government to initiate.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the Government of India are not going to take any initiative at all?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member is now arguing this question.

Shri Biswanath Das: With regard to part (d) of the reply, may I know if the Honourable Minister will let us know privately, if he has not got the information in his hand at the moment, as to what lines are going to be constructed immediately in the course of the year as also the lines that are under survey in the B. N. Railway.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As regards the lines which are already under construction, the Honourable Member will find a complete list in the explanatory memorandum that I circulated.

Shri Biswanath Das: I must inform him that that is not clear and we could not make anything out of it.

Mr. Speaker: He will put a question in that case.

REPLACEMENT OF RUPSA BARIPADA RAILWAY LINE BY BROAD GAUGE LINE

556. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there was a proposal in the Post-War Development Scheme to change the Railway line from Rupsa to Baripada into a broad gauge line?

(b) If so, what are the details of the examination of this proposal?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The conversion of the Narrow Gauge line from Rupsa to Baripada into Broad Gauge forms part of the larger project of connecting Rupsa and Rairangpur by a Broad Gauge line.

(b) Traffic and Engineering Surveys of the project are in progress, and the reports are awaited.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable Minister please state when it is likely that this Engineering surveys of the proposed project can be completed.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is dependent on the reports which I am waiting to see.

CONSTRUCTION OF AN OVER BRIDGE AT CUTTACK RAILWAY STATION

557. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many over-bridges there are on that section of the Bengal Nagpur Railway which runs through the Province of Orissa?

(b) Are Government aware that for want of overbridges at Cuttack Railway Crossing, many accidents are caused and the traffic on the road at the crossing is also held up?

(c) Do Government propose to construct an overbridge at Cuttack Railway Station?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) There is no *road overbridge* on the B. N. Railway East Coast line, passing through the Province of Orissa, but there are *foot overbridges* at Rupsa, Balasore and Khurda Road stations for the convenience of passengers.

(b) Some detention to road traffic is inevitable, but there is no record of any accident at the south end level crossing of the Cuttack station. A proposal for constructing a road overbridge at this level crossing is now under consideration

(c) In connection with the remodelling of Cuttack Yard which is under progress, a foot-overbridge will be erected at the station connecting the main platform with the new island platform for the convenience of passengers.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: May I ask when will this overbridge at Cuttack be completed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In a fairly short time. I am not able to give a definite answer.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will it take a year or less than a year?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should not like to be definite on that point.

JUTE FROM PURNEA DISTRICT, BIHAR TO CALCUTTA

558. *Mr. Mohd. Tahir: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amount of jute transported through railways from the District of Purnea in Bihar to Calcutta during the periods from September, 1946 to January, 1947 and from September, 1947 to January, 1948?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The amount of jute transported by rail from District Purnea in Bihar to Calcutta during the periods September 1946 to January 1947 and September 1947 to January 1948 was as follows:

September 1946 to January 1947—649,971 maunds.

September 1947 to January 1948—669,755 maunds.

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN CALCUTTA

559. *Shri Arun Chandra Guha: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state what was the number of telephone subscribers in Calcutta in the year 1935 and what it is at present?

(b) How many applications are now pending for telephone connections in Calcutta?

(c) How many of these applications can be granted?

(d) When is the automatic system going to be introduced in Calcutta?

(e) What is the reason for the delay in introducing the automatic system there?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) 12,760 in 1935 and 20,398 at present.

(b) 17,362.

(c) Upto a maximum of 207. The Department has taken steps to install new Boards and hopes to give 500 telephones after April 1948, and progressively upto 4,000 in a year's time.

(d) When a factory, which it is proposed to set up in India, goes into production.

(e) Setting up of a new factory—which involves considerable negotiations with countries abroad—will necessarily take time.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: May I know how many telephones can be granted immediately—I mean new connections?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: As I said there are available at present 207 new connections.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: May I ask whether in view of the very small number of telephones in an important city like Calcutta the Honourable Minister will consider the question of introducing public booths in all the big cities of India?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: There are such public booths in Calcutta, but I will consider their extension.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Does the Honourable Minister know that there is a great demand for telephone connections at Cuttack?

Mr. Speaker: That will be beyond the scope of the present question.

LEASE FOR MINING OF MATERIAL FOR SHAHABAD CEMENT FACTORY

560. ***Shri Damodar Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the lease for mining of material for the Shahabad Cement Factory is due to lapse in a year or two; and,

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to take up the question of the renewal of the lease for another 30 years with the Nizam's Government?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) It is understood that the lease expires in 1955.

(b) Does not arise at present.

FACTORY FOR MANUFACTURE OF SULPHATE OF AMMONIA

561. ***Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the circumstances that led to the idea of starting a factory in India for the manufacture of Sulphate of Ammonia and when it was conceived by the previous Government? When were the data for the same collected and made ready?

(b) What was the estimated capital to be invested and how much of this was on (i) machinery; (ii) setting up of the machinery, and (iii) buildings for the same?

(c) What was the estimated cost of production per ton and how did it compare with foreign imported manure then?

(d) When was the scheme for starting the factory finally sanctioned by Government and when was the work taken in hand?

(e) What is the total amount spent till now on this? How much of this was spent on actual cost of machinery and on actual cost of buildings?

(f) At what stage is the factory at present, and when will it start functioning?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) India requires imported artificial fertilizers in considerable quantities because its indigenous production falls much short of its needs. Owing, however, to the world shortage of artificial fertilizers, particularly Nitrogenous fertilizers and also owing to the shortage of shipping space, it became necessary to consider the question of increasing the indigenous production. A further reason for starting a fertiliser factory was that it would lay the foundation of a heavy chemical industry in India. Also, in July 1943, the Foodgrains Policy Committee advised that India would, in the future, require at least 2 million tons of artificial fertilizers per annum and recommended that, as a first step, immediate action should be taken to establish production of nitrogenous fertilizers to the tune of 350,000 tons per annum.

The idea of starting a sulphate of ammonia factory at Sindri was conceived in 1944.

The data for the Fertilizer Factory at Sindri were collected and made ready during the period June to November, 1944.

(b) The capital to be invested was originally estimated at Rs. 10·79 crores. Details are as under:

(i) Machinery, Rs. 659·0 lakhs.

(ii) Setting up of machinery, Rs. 229·5 lakhs.

(iii) Buildings, Rs. 190·5 lakhs.

(c) The estimated cost of production of amonium sulphate at Sindri was calculated at Rs. 118·9 per ton as compared with Rs. 236 to Rs. 250 per ton for imported manure.

(d) The scheme for starting the factory was finally sanctioned in September 1945. The work in connection with the planning of the factory was taken in hand in February 1945.

(e) The total amount spent up till now is Rs. 2,64,18,519 out of which payments of Rs. 52·35 lakhs and Rs. 27·6 lakhs have been made on account of machinery and buildings respectively.

(f) Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statement showing progress made in the factory, which was placed on the table of the House on the 8th December, 1947, in reply to Constituent Assembly (Legislative) starred question No. 664 by Shri T. T. Krishnamachari and Shri K. Santhanam.

The forecast for pilot production is the end of 1949 and for full production end of 1950.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Is it not a fact, Sir, that manure worth twice the value of the plant that is going to be erected has been imported since then?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I should like to have notice of that question.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Is it not a fact, Sir, that in 1943 some private firms applied to the Government of India for permission to start factories within two years?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I have no idea of the particular firms to which the Honourable Member is referring, but there are private factories in existence in this country.

Shri B. Das: Has Government revised their original estimates and also their original cost of production, taking into consideration the fact that prices of capital goods and raw materials and also wages of labour have gone up since 1945?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: No revised estimates have been prepared but the points mentioned by the Honourable Member will be borne in mind.

Shri B. Das: Is it not high time, Sir, that the experts at the disposal of the Honourable Minister should revise the estimates and ascertain what will now be the cost of production per ton owing to all these increases.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That will be done, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the factory manned entirely by Indians from top to bottom?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That is our expectation when the factory goes into production. The construction of the factory is not yet complete; so, the question of manning does not arise.

COST OF MANUFACTURED AND IMPORTED SULPHATE OF AMMONIA AND OTHER MANURES

562. ***Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the quantity and cost of chemical manure, especially Sulphate of Ammonia imported and its price per ton after the idea of starting a factory for manufacturing Sulphate of Ammonia in India was conceived and after the scheme for starting the same was finally sanctioned?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The idea of starting a Sulphate of Ammonia Factory in India was conceived in 1944. The project was sanctioned in September 1945. A statement showing the quantities of Sulphate of Ammonia and other chemical fertilizers imported since 1944-45 and its value is placed on the table of the House. Another statement showing the purchase price per ton of the imported fertilisers from time to time during this period is also laid on the table of the House.

Statement

showing the quantity and value of chemical fertilisers imported since the year 1944-45.

Sulphate of Ammonia

Year	Source	Quantity Tons	Total Tons	Value Rs.	Total Value Rs.
1944-45 (July 1944 to June 1945)	U.K.	53,000		1,34,24,900	
	Canada	17,000	70,000	36,74,550	1,70,99,150
1945-46 (July 1945 to June 1946)	U. K.	1,46,000		3,06,60,000	
	Canada	11,000	1,57,000	22,86,900	3,29,46,900
1946-47 July 1946 to June 1947)	U.K.	1,34,000		3,39,42,200	
	Canada	13,000		27,24,150	
	Belgium	9,000		24,00,000	
	Russia	15,939	1,61,939	16,25 100	4,06,91,450

Year	Source	Quantity Tons	Total Tons	Value Rs.	Total Value Rs.
*9947-48 (July 1947 to June 1948)	U.K.	59,600		1,50,96,690	
	Belgium	14,000		37,33,330	
	U. S. A.	17,500		53,35,313	
	Canada	1,740		3,63,552	
	Russia	15,000		45,57,187	
			1,07,840		2,90,86,062
Grand Total			4,96,779		11,98,23,862

*Imports to be completed by the end of June 1948.

Ammonium Phosphate.

1944-45 (July 1944 to June 1945)	Canada	14,000		37,42,200	
1845-46 (July 1945 to June 1946)	Canada	6,634		16,63,807	
1946-47 (July 1946 to June 1947)	Canada	10,150		25,45,620	
1947-48 (July 1947 to June 1948)	(a) Canada	4,464		11,63,765	
	(b) U. S. A.	2,790		8,18,230	
	(c) Belgium	2,000	(Di-ammonium Phosphate)	12,40,000	
Grand Total			40,038		1,11,73,622

Ammonium Nitrate

1945-46 (July 1945 to June 1946)	Canada	2,000		83,198	
1946-47 (July 1946 to June 1947)	Canada	6,035		16,83,765	
1947-48 (July 1947 to June 1948)	Canada	7,950		24,41,691	
Grand Total			14,185		42,08,654

Statement

showing purchase price per ton of imported chemical fertiliser operating since 1944-45.

Price of British Sulphate of Ammonia.

		£	s.	d.	
July 1944 to June 1945		19	0	0	Per ton C & F Indian Ports.
July 1945 to June 1946	(a)	15	13	0	do.
	(b)	15	7	0	(July to August 1945). (Sept. to Dec. 1945).
	(c)	15	17	0	(Jan. to June 1945).
July 1946 to June 1947	(a)	17	0	0	(July to December 1946).
	(b)	17	15	0	(Jan. to June 1947).
July 1947 to June 1948	(a)	18	10	0	(July to August 1947).
	(b)	19	0	0	(September to Dec. 1947).
	(c)	19	10	0	(January 1948 onwards).

Canadian Sulphate of Ammonia

July 1944 to June 1945	$	65·50	(Canadian Dollars) per ton C. & F. Indian Ports.
July 1945 to June 1946	$	63·00	do.
July 1946 to June 1947	$	63·50	do.
July 1947 to June 1948	$	63·50	do.

U. S. A.

July 1947 to June 1948	$	92·39	(Dollars) per ton C & F Indian Ports.

Russian

July 1946 to June 1947	Rs.	273/10	Per ton C. & F. Indian Ports.
July 1947 to June 1948	Rs.	303/13	Per ton C. & F. Indian Ports.

Canadian Ammonium Phosphate			
July 1944 to June 1945	$ 81·0		(Canadian Dollars) per ton C. F. Indian Ports.
July 1945 to June 1946	$ 76·0		do.
July 1946 to June 1947	$ 76·0		do.
July 1947 to June 1948	$ 79·0		do.
U. S. A.			
July 1947 to June 1948	$ 88·8		(U.S.A. Dollars) per ton C. & F. Indian Ports.
Belgium			
July 1947 to June 1948	£ 46·10		Per ton C. & F. Indian Ports.
Canadian Ammonium Nitrate.			
July 1945 to June 1946	$ 126·5		(Canadian Dollars) per ton C. & F. Indian Ports.
July 1946 to June 1947	$ 83·71		do.
July 1947 to June 1948	$ 93·0		do.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Does the imported manure meet the demand of the country at present?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I suppose not.

Seth Govinddas: Do Government propose to start some factories in different provinces and help the Provincial Governments in this respect?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We have not yet been able to complete one factory; the question of starting other factories will naturally follow later on.

Seth Govinddas: Has any Provincial Government written to the Government of India that it wants to start a fertiliser factory in its own province, and if so, what help are Government going to give to that province?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government will consider all such applications as received.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What steps have Government taken to give financial assistance to those factories which have been started by private agencies for the manufacture of fertilisers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: If any such requests are received Government will consider them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government making experiments as to the advisability or otherwise of using Sulphate of Ammonia for fertilising purposes? Is it not a fact that Government themselves have reiterated that they would like to start this factory and see how the product of it is utilised before they launch on the construction of further factories?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That is so.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the imported manure is selling at Rs. 100 per ton less than the cost of manure produced in India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will require notice of that question.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that some of the private companies have applied for financial assistance for starting fertiliser plants?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would require notice of that question.

FIXATION OF RATES OF RAILWAY COOLIES

563. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that coolies at most of the railway stations demand exorbitant amounts by way of porterage and refuse to carry the luggage unless the same is paid?

(b) If so, do Government propose to fix the rates of coolies and also issue orders for their implementation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government are aware that there have been complaints to this effect.

(b) Porterage charges for carrying luggage of passengers are fixed and porters are liable to have their licences withdrawn if they demand more than the authorised charge. The Honourable Member's question will be brought to the notice of Railway Administrations, who will be asked to exercise closer supervision in the matter of porterage charges.

Seth Govinddas: Are Government aware, Sir, that in many stations where previously there were no middlemen, they have recently come into existence, particularly at stations like Jubbulpore?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Is the Honourable Member referring to the system of contractors?

Seth Govinddas: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, our idea is to abolish that system gradually.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: May I know, Sir, whether Government will consider the desirability of stationing some member of their staff at the time of the arrival and departure of trains, with a view to see that the porters do not exhibit a tyrannical attitude towards the passengers

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is one of the purposes for which we are considering the appointment of passenger guides at important stations.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know, Sir, whether there are any stations where the system of contractors have been abolished and coolies made direct employees of the railways.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There have been such cases, quite recently.

Seth Govinddas: Are Government aware that recently there has been a contractor appointed in Jubbulpore where there was none so far? Will Government see that the contract system is abolished in Jubbulpore and coolies are directly employed by them?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will have the matter looked into.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Are Government aware that at Vazagapatam station generally when the train comes coolies are not available and the passengers have to bring down their things, the coolies only coming later and that also without badges?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; the question hour cannot be utilised for giving information to Government.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Will Government consider the desirability of supplying each of these porters with a hand cart so as to prevent them from carrying heavy loads on their heads?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a useful suggestion.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know on which railways the contract system has been abolished and coolies are directly employed by the railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Since Government decided to accept this policy of gradually abolishing contractors' labour, I think on the G. I. P. they have made a beginning at certain important stations.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF RETURN TICKETS SYSTEM ON RAILWAYS.

564. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the system of return tickets is still in force on certain railways in India and if so on which railways; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of introducing or reviving this system on all the railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Return Tickets at concessional fares are not in force. A number of Railways, *viz.* B.B. and C.I., B.N., G.I.P., M. and S.M., O.T and S.I. Railways, however, issue Return Tickets at two single journey fares over a few small sections.

(b) In view of the present transport conditions, it is not proposed to take up consideration of the revival of Return Tickets at concessional fares.

CLASSES OF RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION IN INDIA AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES

565. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many classes of accommodation are provided on Railways in (i) the United Kingdom, (ii) the United States of America, (iii) Canada, (iv) Australia, and (v) Russia?

(b) What is the rate per mile of the lowest class passenger fare in each of the above countries and how does it compare with the rate of third class ordinary passenger fare per mile in India?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of having only two classes of accommodation on the Indian Railways, *viz.*, the Upper Class and the Lower Class?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) On the information available to Government, the following are the classes of accommodation provided on railways in various Countries:

United Kingdom.—First and Third Classes.

United States of America.—First and Coach Classes, the latter including observation and lounge cars and Pullman Cars.

Canada.—First and Coach Classes.

Australia.—First and Second Classes.

Russia.—First, Second and Third Classes.

(b) The rate per mile for the lowest class of rail passenger travel in each of these countries according to our information is as follows:—

United Kingdom.—26·17 pies.

United States of America.—16·03 pies.

Canada.—22·11 pies

Australia.—10·88 pies (Western Australia), 10·35 pies (Commonwealth), 8.35 pies (Queensland).

Russia.—22 pies.

As my Honourable friend is no doubt aware, Indian Government Railways charge third class travellers 5 pies a mile by mail trains and 4 pies by ordinary.

(c) The proposal which Government have under consideration is to retain three classes of travel instead of the present four classes, air-conditioned travel being provided in addition on important trains. The future classes of travel will be so arranged as to provide a somewhat higher standard of comfort than the present second, Inter and III Classes respectively. On small branch lines, there will be only two classes.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact that Government have decided to abolish the First Class and made that announcement long ago? If so, what is the difficulty in abolishing it immediately?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact we are going to make an immediate beginning. I made a reference to it during the course of the budget discussion. Hereafter when it comes to a question of overhauling First Class coaches we are going to have each coach converted into a Second or upper Class coach.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the sitting accommodation and the comforts provided in England for Third class are nearly as good as, if not better than, similar accommodation provided in the Second Class here, except for sleeping berths?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I can speak only from experience of many years ago; I do not know what conditions are today.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is it?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I do not know.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the type of Third Class compartments in U.K. and Russia as compared with the Third Class compartments here?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I must refer the Honourable Member to the countries concerned.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that the per capita income in England and in all these other countries where higher rates are charged are 10 or 12 times higher than the per capita income in this country?

Mr. Speaker: That is argumentative and need not be answered.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government take steps to obtain information about the amenities and conveniences available to the lowest class passengers in all those countries?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: What Government are trying to do is to improve the amenities which are at present provided on our railways.

SURVEY OF RAW MATERIALS IN RESPECT OF CELLULOSE

566. ***Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey for raw material in respect of Cellulose has been carried out in India; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to do so and if so when?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). A preliminary survey of the cellulose-bearing raw materials of the country was carried out in 1944, and the results were published in the June, 1944 issue of the Journal† of Scientific and Industrial Research (a copy of which is placed on the table).

†Not printed in these Debates. A copy has been placed in the Library of House.—*Ed. of D.*

In July 1946 the Provincial Governments and States were requested by the Government of India at the instance of the then Department of Industries and Supplies in pursuance of the recommendations of the Panels dealing with Paper and rayon and artificial Silk to undertake a comprehensive survey of the cellulose raw materials used in the Paper, Rayon and other Industries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are being taken to increase the production of the raw material needed for cellulose production?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I shall require notice of that question.

USE OF HEMP, REEDS, COTTON WASTE AND BAGASSE IN PAPER INDUSTRY

557. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether any research is being carried out at present to explore the possibilities of using hemp, reeds, cotton waste and bagasse in paper industry?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Hemp, reeds, cotton waste and bagasse are already being used by certain paper mills for the manufacture of paper.

Research work is in progress at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun to convert cotton waste, bagasse and eta reeds by the soda and sulphite processes to pulp suitable for the manufacture of paper on conventional lines. That high grade paper can be manufactured from cotton waste is well known. In view of its other important uses the possibilities of hemp have not so far been investigated. The suitability of bagasse for boards has been examined, and a paper on the subject has been published by the Forest Research Institute. The use of bagasse in the Paper and Boards Industry is dependent on a steady supply of coal or other fuel to the sugar mills some of which are utilising bagasse as fuel.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are steps being taken to publish these papers in Hindi and other local languages?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Not so far, but Government will consider the suggestion.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: May I know if any researches have been made to utilise the betel-nut husk for manufacturing paper pulp?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Not that I am aware of.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know what arrangement at present prevails for publicising the results of researches in this particular respect?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I shall require notice of that question.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the possession and cultivation of hemp plants is an offence and prohibited by law?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware of that.

PRODUCTION OF SABAI GRASS AND BAMBOO FOR USE IN PAPER INDUSTRY

568. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the annual consumption of Sabai grass and Bamboo in paper industry?

(b) What are the efforts that are being made to grow Sabai grass and other grasses and bamboo on a commercial scale?

(c) Is it a fact that Sabai grass can be grown on waste land and does not require imported machinery for its cultivation and if so, what is the reason for not developing it so far?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The annual consumption of Sabai grass in the existing paper mills is about 66,000 tons and of bamboo about 210,000 tons. Sabai grass is used by the paper mills in Upper India Region, Bamboo by the paper mills in South India and both Sabai grass and Bamboo by the mills in Eastern India.

(b) Sabai (or baib or bhabar) grass and bamboos are available in considerable quantities in private and government forests. Any difficulty in obtaining raw materials is more due to practical difficulties in exploiting and transporting the materials than to any basic lack of the materials themselves.

Some paper mills have tried to overcome the difficulty by raising small plantations near their factory sites. Plantations have also been undertaken in waste lands in Bengal, Bihar, East Punjab, United Provinces and Central Provinces under the Provincial Forest Departments.

The raising of commercial crops of these grasses and bamboo is primarily the concern of Provincial administrations.

Short term crops like Sabai grass (as different from tree crops) are held to be very exacting on soils and plantations of them would not provide a permanent solution of the problem. Large scale extension of planting bamboos and Sabai grass as undergrowth in tree forests would be possible when improved transport facilities, etc., have led to full utilisation of available natural supplies.

(c) Sabai grass generally grows wild and can be grown on waste land. Some of the paper mills are already growing Sabai grass on waste land. Machinery is not essential for the cultivation of this grass; but it may be economical to use tractors with implements where large areas of waste lands are to be brought under Sabai grass.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Minister in a position to give us an idea of the acreage in which this Sabai grass is grown?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would surely require notice of that.

Shri Kishori Mohan Tripathi: In view of the fact that bamboo is used for roofings and other purposes by the rural population in India, will Government restrict its use for the manufacture of paper?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government is not convinced that this is the case.

PRODUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF COTTON LINTERS IN INDIA

539. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what is the annual production of cotton linters in the Indian Union?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to encourage the production of cotton linters?

(c) Has there been any efforts to standardise cotton linters and if not, do Government propose to give an early consideration to this question?

(d) Is there any proposal before Government to depute properly qualified men to the United States of America to study the question of standardisation of cotton linters and if not, do Government propose to consider the desirability of doing so?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) The annual production of cotton linters in the Indian Union is very small. No statistics are available regarding the quantities produced.

(b), (c) and (d). No steps have hitherto been taken by Government to encourage the production of cotton linters or to standardise them. I am, however, having enquires made into the feasibility of Government now taking such steps, and these enquiries will cover the desirability of sending men to America as suggested.

FACTORIES FOR MANUFACTURE OF RAYON IN INDIA

570. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what are the plans of Government to set up factories for the manufacture of rayon in the country, the location of the proposed factories and the probable dates of their completion?

(b) What is the estimated quantity of wood-pulp that would be required for these factories and how do Government propose to meet these requirements?

(c) In view of the close relation between the paper and rayon industries, have Government considered the question of co-ordinating future developments in both, to eliminate duplication of effort and waste of raw material?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) Government do not intend to set up any rayon factory of their own. The policy of Government in the matter of rayon is not to lay down any target of production or restrict the location of new units. Three parties have been given import licences for machinery for plants, to be put up at Bombay and in Travancore and Hyderabad. These factories will probably go into production by 1950.

(b) The Bombay and Tranvancore factories would require about 5,000 tons of wood-pulp per annum. The Hyderabad factory will use cotton linters. Experiments are being undertaken to find the right type of cellulosic raw materials for the production of pulp. Initially, however, wood-pulp will have to be imported.

(c) The Director General of Industries and Supplies will co-ordinate the requirements of the paper and rayon industries, and he will make every attempt to prevent wastage of raw materials.

Seth Govinddas: Have Government received any applications with respect to the rayon industry from the Central Provinces Government that the Hoshangabad district has the greatest facilities for this industry and has any priority been applied for for erecting a factory there?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I would like to have notice of this specific issue.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: What would be the effect of the rayon industry on the indigenous silk industry?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: There will not be very much of an effect because the demand in the country is very great for both.

DEATH OF SHRI DEBI PRASAD KHAITAN

Mr. Speaker: I am very sorry to convey to the House, the news of the sad and unexpected demise, by heart failure in Calcutta this morning, of an important member of this Assembly, Mr. D. P. Khaitan. He was a distinguished Solicitor at Calcutta and practised there for some time and then had taken to business. He was also the Chairman of the Indian Federation of Merchants there and a very important and active member of this Assembly. As members are aware, he was also a member of the Drafting Committee here.

We all mourn his loss and our condolences naturally go to the family of the deceased.

The House will respect the memory of the deceased by standing in silence for some time.

INTERIM AGREEMENT ON STERLING BALANCES—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

The Honourable Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, I lay on the table copies of the letters relating to the extension up to the 30th June, 1948, of the first Interim Agreement on the Sterling balances.

Letter A.

UNITED KINGDOM FINANCIAL DELEGATION

Commander-in-Chief's House,
New Delhi.
15th February, 1948.

Dear Mr. Narahari Rao,

As a result of the consultations provided for in Article XI of the Agreement signed in London, on 14th August, 1947 (hereinafter called "the principal Agreement"), between the Government of the U. K. and the Government of India, the following arrangements have been agreed upon between our two Governments for the extension of the principal Agreement.

1. (a) The Government of the United Kingdom has taken note of paras. 2, 3 and 4 (a copy of which is annexed to this letter) of the Minutes of the proceedings of the Partition Council held on 1st December, 1947 (Case No. PC/218/20/47) recording the agreement (hereinafter called "the India/Pakistan Agreement") reached between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan for the maintenance by the Reserve Bank of India of a separate account or accounts for sterling received or paid on and after 1st January, 1948 in respect of current transactions affecting Pakistan or for sterling transferred after that date from the No. 2 Account by agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Pakistan.

(b) The Government of the United Kingdom will accordingly enter into separate arrangements with the Government of Pakistan in regard to these and other matters covered by the principal Agreement for the period subsequent to 31st December, 1947.

2. The Government of the United Kingdom further takes note that :—

(a) the Reserve Bank of India will transfer from the No. 2 Account to be opened for the conduct of current transactions relating to Pakistan (hereinafter called "the Pakistan Account") the sums agreed between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Pakistan to be made currently available to Pakistan.

(b) the Reserve Bank of India will also transfer from the No. 1 Account to the Pakistan Account a sum determined in accordance with para. 4 of the India/Pakistan Agreement *plus* a sum determined by the Reserve Bank of India as representing receipts on behalf of Pakistan from 1st January, 1948, to the date of the opening of the Pakistan Account, less a sum determined by the Reserve Bank of India as representing payments made on behalf of Pakistan from 1st January, 1948 to the date of the opening of the Pakistan Account.

(c) the Reserve Bank of India will from time to time make transfers in either direction between the No. 2 Account and the Pakistan Account in respect of such items as the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Pakistan may agree, in so far as they relate to transactions of Pakistan in terms of the Agreement which the Government of the United Kingdom propose to make with the Government of Pakistan in accordance with para. 1(b) of this letter.

The Government of India will forthwith issue to the Reserve Bank of India any instructions which may be necessary to enable the Reserve Bank of India to carry out the foregoing arrangements.

3. The principal Agreement as modified in this letter shall be extended to 30th June, 1948 and shall be interpreted where appropriate in accordance with the provisions of this letter. The extension shall come into force on 15th February, 1948 but shall have effect in all respects as from 1st January, 1948.

4. The extension now agreed upon shall relate only to the Dominion of India and Article X(a) of the principal Agreement shall be interpreted accordingly.

5. There shall be transferred from the No. 2 Account to the No. 1 Account the sum of £18,000,000.

6. The Government of India will co-operate with other members of the sterling area in conserving the exchange resources of the area by limiting expenditure in the territories listed in para. 7 of this letter to the fullest extent compatiable with the purchase of India's essential needs. In pursuance of this policy, the Government of India will take steps to purchase part of their requirements of U. S. dollars from the International Monetary Fund. Further, the

Government of India undertakes so to limit expenditure between 1st January, 1948 and 30th June, 1948 in the territories listed in para. 7 as to ensure that such expenditure does not exceed receipts from those territories together with the dollars to be purchased from the I. M. F., by more than £10,000,000. Provided that the amounts required to be paid by India to the I. M. F. by way of charges shall not be included in the computation of this sum of £10,000,000. Article III 2 of the principal Agreement shall be modified accordingly.

7. The territories to which reference is made in para. 6 of this letter are the following :—

The whole of the Continent of North, Central and South America and adjacent islands but excluding territories which are part of the sterling area, the Dutch monetary area and the French franc area.

The Belgian monetary area.
Japan.
The Phillipines.
The Portuguese monetary area but excluding Portuguese.
India.
Sweden.
Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

8. Further consultation shall be held before the termination of the principal Agreement as extended by this letter with a view to extending it further or replacing it by another Agreement or other Agreements.

9. I should be grateful to have your confirmation that this letter correctly sets out the understanding reached between us and that it, together with your reply, shall constitute an extension, in the terms of para. 3 of this letter, of the principal Agreement.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) JEREMY RAISMAN.

V. Narahari Rao Esquire, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Ministry of Finance, New Delhi.

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARTITION COUNCIL HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER 1947

Case No. PC/218/20/47. *Sterling assets of the R. B. of India.*

2. The two Dominions will negotiate separately with H.M.G. for releases beyond 1st January 1948. The Reserve Bank will open a separate account or accounts with the Bank of England to which will be transferred from its present account No. 2, a sum equivalent to the release made by H. M. G. to Pakistan together with the amount fixed as Pakistan's working balance. Pakistan's exchange operations will be conducted through these accounts. In assessing the total sterling holdings of the Reserve Bank for purposes of para. 1(a) above, the amounts standing in the Reserve Bank's Accounts Nos. 1 and 2 will be taken into account together with the amounts in the 'Pakistan' accounts with the Bank of England either through the Reserve Bank or otherwise.

3. From the 1st January, 1948 onwards, each Dominion will retain separately its own foreign exchange earnings and its own foreign exchange expenditure will be debited against these earnings. By the term 'its own' earnings or expenditure is meant the earnings arising out of exports from, and the expenditure due to imports into, ports within the territory of each Dominion. Invisible earnings and expenditure will be allocated according to the territory in which the transaction giving rise to them takes place.

4. The Government of India will transfer from Account No. 1 of the Reserve Bank of India to the similar account of Pakistan when established a sum in sterling equivalent to the difference between Rs. 6·95 crores and the c.i.f. value of 'limit' items actually imported into Pakistan ports between the 1st July, 1947 and the 31st December, 1947.

Provided that if India is not allowed to carry forward the entire sum standing to its credit in Account No. 1 on 31st December 1947, the payment above mentioned will be reduced in proportion to the reduction in the amount agreed to be carried forward.

UNITED KINGDOM FINANCIAL DELEGATION

Letter B.

Commander-in-Chief's House,
New Delhi.
15th February, 1948.

Dear Mr. Narahari Rao,

On the conclusion of the discussions leading up to the exchange of letters extending the Financial Agreement of 14th August 1947, which you and I have signed today on behalf of our respective Governments, I wish to express my appreciation of the spirit of cordiality and understanding which has been a feature of the negotiations.

It is understood on the part of the Government of the United Kingdom that the extension of the Agreement is of an interim nature to cover the period up to 30th June 1948, and that it is without prejudice to any subsequent discussions regarding India's sterling balances.

Certain matters agreed in London in July and August 1947 between you and Sir Wilfrid Eady are recorded in the four letters which were exchanged on 14th August 1947, regarding India's Post-War Dollar Fund, the Silver Redemption Reserve, the rate of interest to be earned on the sterling balances and Indian private sterling balances. It is further understood between us that the arrangements set out in these letters will remain in force for the period of the extended Agreement.

I should be grateful to have your confirmation that this letter is in accordance with the understanding of your Government.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) JEREMY RAISMAN.

V. Narahari Rao Esquire, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Ministry of Finance, New Delhi.

Letter C.

UNITED KINGDOM FINANCIAL DELEGATION.

Commander-in-Chief's House,
New Delhi.
15th February, 1948.

Dear Mr. Narahari Rao,

In the letters which you and I have signed today, extending the financial Agreement between our respective Governments, it is provided that the Government of India will take steps to limit to the sum of £10.000.000, their net drawings upon the central reserves in respect of payments to the territories listed in para. 7 of my letter. It is understood between us that this figure includes the following items :—

(a) United States dollar balances at 31st December, 1947, of banks in India in excess of the normal level of those balances; this excess we have agreed shall be considered to be the equivalent of £1.000.000.

(b) The whole of the remaining balance of the sum of United States dollars known as India's "Post-war Dollar Fund". This means that by 30th June, 1948, India will have no further claim on the P. W. D. F.

I should be grateful to have your confirmation that this is also the understanding of your Government.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) JEREMY RAISMAN.

V. Narahari Rao Esquire, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Ministry of Finance, New Delhi.

Reply to Letter "A".

Government of India,
Ministry of Finance.
New Delhi, the 15th February, 1948.

Dear Sir Jeremy Raisman.

I have to acknowledge your letter of today's date reading as follows :—

"As a result of the consultations provided for in Article XI of the Agreement signed in London on 14th August, 1947 (hereinafter called "the principal Agreement"), between the Government of the U. K. and the Government of India, the following arrangements have been agreed upon between our two Governments for the extension of the principal Agreement.

1. (a) The Government of the United Kingdom has taken note of paras. 2, 3 and 4 (a copy of which is annexed to this letter) of the Minutes of the proceedings of the Partition Council held on 1st December, 1947 (Case No. PC/218/20/47) recording the agreement (hereinafter called "the India/Pakistan Agreement") reached between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan for the maintenance by the Reserve Bank of India of a separate account or accounts for sterling received or paid on and after 1st January, 1948 in respect of current transactions affecting Pakistan or for sterling transferred after that date from the No. 2 Account by agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Pakistan.

(b) The Government of the United Kingdom will accordingly enter into separate arrangements with the Government of Pakistan in regard to these and other matters covered by the principal Agreement for the period subsequent to 31st December, 1947.

2. The Government of the United Kingdom further takes note that :—

(a) the Reserve Bank of India will transfer from the No. 2 Account to be opened for the conduct of current transactions relating to Pakistan (hereinafter called "the Pakistan Account") the sums agreed between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Pakistan to be made currently available to Pakistan.

(b) the Reserve Bank of India will also transfer from the No. 1 Account to the Pakistan Account a sum determined in accordance with para. 4 of the India/Pakistan Agreement *plus* a sum determined by the Reserve Bank of India as representing receipts on behalf of Pakistan from 1st January, 1948, to the date of the opening of the Pakistan Account, less a sum determined by the Reserve Bank of India as representing payments made on behalf of Pakistan from 1st January, 1948 to the date of the opening of the Pakistan Account.

(c) the Reserve Bank of India will from time to time make transfers in either direction between the No. 2 Account and the Pakistan Account in respect of such items as the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Pakistan may agree, in so far as they relate to transactions of Pakistan in terms of the Agreement which the Government of the United Kingdom propose to make with the Government of Pakistan in accordance with para. 1(b) of this letter.

The Government of India will forthwith issue to the Reserve Bank of India any instructions which may be necessary to enable the Reserve Bank of India to carry out the foregoing arrangements.

3. The principal Agreement as modified in this letter shall be extended to 30th June, 1948 and shall be interpreted where appropriate in accordance with the provisions of this letter. The extension shall come into force on 15th February, 1948 but shall have effect in all respects as from 1st January, 1948.

4. The extension now agreed upon shall relate only to the Dominion of India and Article X(a) of the principal Agreement shall be interpreted accordingly.

5. There shall be transferred from the No. 2 Account to the No. 1 Account the sum of £18,000,000.

6. The Government of India will co-operate with other members of the sterling area in conserving the exchange resources of the area by limiting expenditure in the territories listed in para. 7 of this letter to the fullest extent compatiable with the purchase of India's essential needs. In pursuance of this policy, the Government of India will take steps to purchase part of their requirements of U. S. dollars from the International Monetary Fund. Further, the Government of India undertakes so to limit expenditure between 1st January, 1948 and 30th June, 1948 in the territories listed in para. 7 as to ensure that such expenditure does not exceed receipts from those territories together with the dollars to be purchased from the I. M. F., by more than £10,000,000. Provided that the amounts required to be paid by India to the I. M. F. by way of charges shall not be included in the computation of this sum of £10,000,000. Article III 2 of the principal Agreement shall be modified accordingly.

7. The territories to which reference is made in para. 6 of this letter are the following :—

The whole of the Continent of North, Central and South America and adjacent islands but excluding territories which are part of the sterling area, the Dutch monetary area and the French franc area.
The Belgium monetary area.
Japan.
The Phillipines.
The Portuguese monetary area but excluding Portuguese India.
Sweden.
Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

8. Further consultation shall be held before the termination of the principal Agreement as extended by this letter with a view to extending it further or replacing it by another Agreement or other Agreements.

9. I should be grateful to have your confirmation that this letter correctly sets out the understanding reached between us and that it, together with your reply, shall constitute an extension, in the terms of para. 3 of this letter, of the principal Agreement.

I have pleasure in confirming that the understanding of your Government, as set out in that letter, is accepted by my Government.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) V. NARAHARI RAO.

Sir Jeremy Raisman, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.,
Leader of the U. K. Financial Delegation,
New Delhi.

Reply to Letter B.

Government of India,
Ministry of Finance.
New Delhi, the 15th February, 1948.

Dear Sir Jeremy Raisman,

I have to acknowledge your letter of today's date reading as follows :—

"On the conclusion of the discussions leading up to the exchange of letters extending the Financial Agreement of 14th August 1947 which you and I have signed today on behalf of our respective Governments, I wish to express my appreciation of the spirit of cordiality and understanding which has been a feature of the negotiations.

It is understood on the part of the Government of the United Kingdom that the extension of the Agreement is of an interim nature to cover the period up to 30th June 1948, and that it is without prejudice to any subsequent discussions regarding India's sterling balances.

Certain matters agreed in London in July and August 1947 between you and Sir Wilfrid Eady are recorded in the four letters which were exchanged on 14th August 1947, regarding India's Post-War Dollar Fund, the Silver Redemption Reserve, the rate of interest to be earned on the sterling balances and Indian private sterling balances. It is further understood between us that the arrangements set out in these letters will remain in force for the period of the extended Agreement.

I should be grateful to have your confirmation that this letter is in accordance with the understanding of your Government."

I have pleasure in confirming that the understanding of your Government, as set out in that letter, is accepted by my Government.

May I on my part say how much we have appreciated the spirit of mutual sympathy and understanding which has pervaded the discussions between the two Delegations.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) V. NARAHARI RAO.

Sir Jeremy Raisman, G.C.I.E., K.C.I.E.,
Leader, U. K. Financial Delegation to India.
New Delhi.

Reply to Letter C.

Ministry of Finance.
New Delhi, the 15th February, 1948.

Dear Sir Jeremy Raisman.

I have to acknowledge your letter of today's date reading as follows :—

"In the letters which you and I have signed today, extending the financial Agreement between our respective Governments it is provided that the Government of India will take steps to limit to the sum of £10,000,000, their net drawings upon the central reserves in respect of payments to the territories listed in paragraph 7 of my letter. It is understood between us that this figure includes the following items :—

(a) United States dollars balances at 31st December, 1947, of banks in India in excess of the normal level of those balances; this excess we have agreed shall be considered to be the equivalent of £1,000,000.

(b) The whole of the remaining balance of the sum of United States dollars known as India's "Post-war Dollar Fund". This means that by 30th June, 1948, India will have no further claim on the P. W. D. F.

I should be grateful to have your confirmation that this is also the understanding of your Government."

I have pleasure in confirming that the understanding of your Government, as set out in that letter, is accepted by my Government.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) V. NARAHARI RAO.

Sir Jeremy Raisman, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.,
Leader of the U. K. Delegation to India,
New Delhi.

REHABILITATION FINANCE ADMINISTRATION BILL—*concld.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion moved yesterday by the Honourable the Finance Minister, namely

"That the Bill to establish the Rehabilitation Finance Administration as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

I do not find Prof. Saksena in his place. He is changing his place. This is the last opportunity I am giving him. If I do not find him hereafter in his place, I will not call upon him.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P: General): Yesterday I had placed my criticism of the Bill on three points. I pointed out that it was not part of the coordinated plan and also said that it would result in lopsidedness of the country's economy if we proceeded in this manner, and I had said that the amount provided, namely rupees ten crores, was not quite sufficient for the problem, which is so colossal. In fact, if the figures are taken into consideration, the total population of West Punjab was 61 lakhs. Out of this, 55 lakhs are estimated to have come here. Of these 21½ lakhs are said to be of the urban population. Even if 20 lakhs have to be rehabilitated, I do not think this ten crores will be sufficient even to cater for these refugees from West Punjab. Then if we take into account the figures given by Mr. Maitra that 20 lakhs of persons have come from East Bengal, then this amount of money will become altogether inadequate. In fact, as I said yesterday, we must take note of the conditions of the people coming from East Bengal which have not been properly looked into. In fact I was looking into the speeches at one of the meetings held here the other day and Mr. Amritlal Chatterji, a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi, has been forced to say at the meeting that:

"They had not been very successful in either eradicating jealousy which the Muslims felt towards Hindus in East Bengal or banishing fear from the minds of the Hindus. Muslims were ousting Hindus from trade and commerce. Hindus were being forced to contribute to Jinnah Fund. Income-tax was assessed on them without any inquiry or preparation of statements of income. There was complete economic chaos. Foodgrain prices were soaring. It was the duty of the people of India not to leave them in Pakistan where living conditions had become extremely difficult."

We can expect that many more people will come from there and this amount of ten crores which is not sufficient even for 20 lakhs urban refugees from Western Pakistan, will not be sufficient for the people who will be coming in very large numbers from Eastern Pakistan. Some arrangement must be made to stop this exodus from East Bengal and that would be only possible when conditions there improve. I only want to take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the House that conditions are very bad there. In fact I have here a report sent by Mr. Rajani Kanta Das to the Prime Minister of East Bengal, in which he has cited certain specific cases where even the police and the authorities were not behaving properly towards the minorities there. You cannot expect the Hindus to stay there and the problem is likely to become colossal. In fact there is a case cited here. A person purchased a tube from a shop. That tube had been sold to the shop by a sweeper woman. That tube contained some metal and the tube burst injuring the people in that shop. One of the persons was a Muslim, who reported the matter to the police. Normally there should have been an enquiry but nothing of the sort happened. A mob went there with the police and the memorandum to the Premier of East Bengal says.....

Mr. Speaker: May I know what it is that the Honourable Member is referring to and how it is relevant to the motion before the House?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I am pointing out that ten crores are wholly insufficient to cater for the needs for the urban population which has come out from Western Pakistan and there is a very large number which is about to come from East Bengal. I want to bring to the notice of the House that large numbers of people are coming from East Bengal, as conditions there are such that they could no longer remain there. I therefore want the amount to be increased. Otherwise some measures should be taken to prevent the exodous .....

Mr. Speaker: For that purpose, he need not go into the various details. He can just generalise and then go on to the point so far as the Bill is concerned.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I pointed out yesterday that this Bill which is meant to solve the problem will not be able to solve it, unless the gravity of the situation is realised. The situation is so grave that it cannot be tackled unless the Eastern Pakistan people are told that the police and the authorities there ought to behave properly. Unless we can see that this is done the problem will become colossal, so that it will not be possible to handle it, and this Bill cannot cope with the problem. I only want to point out that either the people who are coming from Eastern Pakistan should somehow be enabled to live there or else much more money should be found in the Bill and special measures should be taken to look after the people coming from Eastern Pakistan.

I had been to Calcutta the other day and I can say that what my friend Mr. Maitra said is a moderate statement of facts. This Bill which is intended to help the urban refugees will not be successful unless the exodus from East Bengal is limited and put a stop to or the amount of money provided for rehabilitation is increased.

Clause 13 says how these loans are to be made. One of the things provided is that it will be on the recommendation of the district officer or the Government or other agency. I want that there should be some machinery which should be able to consult the evacuees themselves. I have found in cities that the evacuees are not satisfied with the schemes which have been put forward to rehabilitate them. I want some machinery to which the people might represent as to how they want to be rehabilitated. In fact alongside with that there should be a blueprint of a comprehensive scheme of social development and the suggestions made by the evacuees should be so fitted into that broad plan that they will become acceptable to the people. Otherwise section 13 will result in haphazard development of industry and the country.

It is laid down here that the interest charged will be at a rate not exceeding 6 per cent. and the period of the loan shall not exceed ten years. All these are based on the supposition that this will enable them to repay the money which they take as advance. But without a proper plan and without knowing what the function of each person who is helped under the Bill will be, you cannot lay down these limits. It might be that you may consider that certain industries which are uprooted from West Punjab should be set up in some areas of the U. P. or elsewhere. Then you might have to give them loans for longer terms and at a lower interest. We can only make provision for all these things properly if a national plan is first put down and thereafter all these things are laid down. In fact I hope that the Advisory Committee which will be formed will work as if it was a sort of planning body and it will see that help is given to persons in a manner that will be helpful in the execution of the national plan. If this Advisory Committee is able to do that work, probably some of the difficulties might be removed but it is very necessary that this sum of money should be increased.

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

I saw a statement by my friend Diwan Chaman Lall, in which he said that about 18 lakh refugees from West Punjab require some 200 crores to be properly rehabilitated. It may be a very big figure but certainly ten crores is too small. If conditions in East Bengal become still more grave and things become much more serious, this amount of money will be absolutely insufficient. Therefore while this Bill should be a token of our concern for those people who have been uprooted from their homes, I hope the Government will try to see that the real solution of this problem is found by pressing on the Pakistan authorities the necessity for their seeing that conditions in their country improved. As Mahatmaji said, if they persisted in their policy, conditions will become very dangerous and war would become inevitable. Our policy is consistent. We want to have all our people here properly settled and I hope Pakistan will be able to prevent the exodus by improving conditions there, so that we will not have to face this huge problem of exodus from Eastern Pakistan, where conditions at present are really very bad. In fact I lived in a house in Calcutta amidst refugee families who had come from East Bengal and I was really shocked at what I heard from them. I do not want to repeat it to the House as it will become hearing to very terrible things. But I do wish that things should change. Otherwise this Bill will not be able to solve the problems which are really arising and which need very special consideration by the Government and this House. I hope the Bill as it is will go a long way at least to reassure psychologically the people who have come that the Dominion Parliament is really concerned about them and is prepared to do what it can for them. I hope the time will not come when our country will be forced to take sterner measures to see that our nationals are properly respected.

I hope, Sir, this Bill which has been brought by the Finance Minister will achieve its purpose of seeing that the people are properly rehabilitated. With these words I support this Bill.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur (Madras: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting this measure which will give relief to a large number of people who really need relief and it does come at a time when the problem must be attended to immediately. I do not want to take up the time of the House except to stress one point, namely, to mention that the scope of this Bill has been narrowed down to an extent which must really receive the attention of the House. I find that the Bill, even as it has emerged from the Select Committee, does not give scope for any relief to a large number of people—thousands of citizens of India—who have suffered and lost all their property in India itself. The scope of the Bill is limited only to those people in India who have lost property outside India. I am not in any way saying that they do not deserve relief. In fact they do really deserve relief and it is a very necessary and essential thing that they should be given relief. At the same time to ignore thousands and lakhs of people in India who have suffered very largely in respect of their properties, their residences and all their belongings in India itself on account of the disturbed conditions in the country and on account of the failure of the Government to give adequate protection to them, which it was their duty to give, is not correct. As a matter of fact such class of people do deserve much greater help than the other people for the reason that their suffering is really on account of the colossal failure on the part of this Government to give them protection which they were bound to give.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): That is because they were responsible for Pakistan.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: Whatever may be the suffering of the other section of the people, namely, those who have lost property outside India, whether it is Pakistan or elsewhere—I am not concerned with Pakistan or any other State—I am concerned with India and the citizens of India. Whether the citizens of India have suffered on account of events that have occurred outside India or in India, both classes of people do deserve protection. It is true that the refugees who have come from outside India have suffered on account of the wrongs done to them by authorities or agencies outside India and it is certainly our duty to give them protection and all relief. But the citizens of India who have suffered—and it cannot be denied that there are lakhs of them who have suffered like that—on account of the utter failure of this Government to give them protection which is due to them, do require protection. I say they are the class of people who should be given even priority in the matter of this kind of relief which is proposed by this Bill. I do not want to attribute motives to the Government or to the other members who are responsible for bringing out this Bill, and I do not in the least suggest that it is on account of any communal distinction or out of any such consideration that they have omitted this class of people. But I am yet to know for what reasons they have been omitted. Is it the case of the Government that these people have suffered for their own fault and therefore they do not deserve any relief? Or is it their case that it is not the duty of the Government to give relief to those citizens who have suffered in India itself on account of the civil disturbances which have happened here? Whether the Government is responsible for these disturbances or whether it is on account of their failure to suppress the disturbances, the fact is there that these people have suffered heavily—and there are thousands and lakhs of them. I do appeal to the Government therefore to see that the scope of the Bill is widened in such a way as to include this kind of people also within the scope of the relief that is afforded by this Bill. Sir, this is all I have to say.

12 NOON

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Sir, the question be now put.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, there has been criticism from certain quarters about the scope of this measure, especially in relation to the definition of the word 'displaced person'. One Honourable Member went to the extent of saying that this measure is intended to give assistance only to the Hindus that have migrated from Pakistan into India and that it was not consistent with the spirit of a secular State. My answer to this criticism is that it is not intended that the benefit of this measure should go to any particular community at all. I can give an instance. For instance if a Mussalman or any non-Hindu living, shall we say, in Amritsar has lost all his business assets in Pakistan he would be as much entitled to assistance under this measure as the member of any other community. I was asked by these honourable gentlemen to enlarge the definition of the word "displaced person" so as to include persons who had to leave their homes in one Province in India and migrate to another Province or to another place in the same Province. Sir, it is not the intention of this measure to provide an all-round relief and assistance for every person who has suffered as a consequence of the recent communal disturbances. If it is contended that a person living in Delhi had to migrate to Agra on account of communal disturbances and must be given assistance, then by the same process of reasoning a person in Delhi who has lost all his property in Delhi and still continues to live in Delhi must also be given assistance.

An Honourable Member: Where is the harm?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: There is no harm. We are not attempting to introduce by this legislation a comprehensive measure of relief of that kind. I am prepared to concede that everyone of whatever community, under whatever circumstances who has lost any property or business is certainly entitled to the protection and assistance of the state, but I do not pretend that this measure is intended to cover that comprehensive scheme of assistance. Sir, this has got a restricted scope. It is intended to help those persons who had to come away to India from abroad on account of communal disturbances or persons who have lost their business and assets situated abroad. If this restricted scope of the Bill is appreciated, then I submit there is no point in that criticism.

My Honourable friend Professor Saksena, criticized the Bill from another point of view. He said considering the magnitude of the problem, the number of persons displaced, the property lost, the measure that I am proposing is inadequate. I say yes, his criticism is perfectly justified. But then the answer to him is also this, this is not intended to be an all comprehensive measure to meet all the problems arising out of this rehabilitation of refugees. This is intended to cover only one aspect of the problem.

Mr. Mohd. Tahir (Bihar: Muslim): On a point of information, Sir. What about those persons who have suffered in the States and have come and settled down in India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: This is not intended to help or assist anyone who has simply left one part of the Indian Dominion to another part of the Indian Dominion. So if the state in question is part of the Indian Dominion, then he would not be entitled to assistance under this measure.

With regard to the point raised by Professor Saksena, I would say that there are various other schemes that the Government have already put into operation and intend to put into operation to make the assistance of a much wider character. For instance, we have already set up a Rehabilitation and Development Board which is intended to tackle this problem on a very comprehensive scale. Provincial Governments like the East Punjab Government have already undertaken large schemes of agricultural settlement which is intended to settle on land all these unfortunate men. So I would invite Honourable Members to realise that this measure is intended to have a limited scope and within that limited sphere there is need for a measure of assitsance of the kind contemplated. With regard to the actual amount that we have provided for in the context of the present circumstances, I thought it would not be proper to come before the House with a proposal for more than ten crores of rupees, but if later on we find that this measure has achieved the purpose it has in view, then I would not hesitate to come again before the House and ask for a further increase of capital. I would in this connection, Sir, assure my Honourable friend Mr. Lakshmi Kanta Maitra that Government are fully alive to the situation that exists in West Bengal. In fact my intention is that even in the earlier stages of the operation of this administration, we should open a branch in Western Bengal also for the assistance of those who have come from Eastern Bengal.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): Thank you very much.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not think there is anything more that I should refer to at this stage. The other criticisms relating to points of detail will be answered when we take up the discussion of the clauses.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: May I know on a point of information whether the Government contemplate bringing in any legislation or measure to give relief to those Indians who have suffered in India on account of civil disturbances and on account of the failure of the Government to protect their property?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: It will be primarily the responsibility of the province concerned to extend the measure of relief that is necessary to these unfortunate persons, and if the provinces make out a case that their resources are not sufficient for this purpose, then certainly the Government of India will very sympathetically consider any proposal that the provinces might have to make.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to establish the Rehabilitation Finance Administration as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: We may now take the Bill clause by clause.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Before I move the amendments, I should say that I shall leave some of the amendments to you to consider. I will not move them. I have given a list yesterday?

Mr. Speaker: So these amendments will not be moved?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: No.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Can it not be a convention that such amendments will not be tabled hereafter?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: There can hardly be a convention of that type.

An Honourable Member: Are these amendments being withdrawn?

Mr. Speaker: Not withdrawn. They are not being moved. I discussed this twice before and also suggested that it would be better, if a list could be given to me so that I would pass it on to the Honourable Minister, as also to the Draftsman so that there will be no occasion for a discussion of these here. However even if the amendments are tabled, now that they are not being moved, the effect is practically the same.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I have already conveyed to the Honourable Member a list of the amendments that I am prepared to accept.

Mr. Speaker: I take it he will move only those?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: No, Sir, there are one or two others which I propose to move.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That part (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, be omitted and the subsequent parts be re-lettered accordingly."

Sir, part (a) reads as follows:

"(a) 'Act' means the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Act, 1948."

This seems to me to be absolutely unnecessary because in clause 1, sub-clause (1), we have already given a name to the Act:

"(1) This Act may be called the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Act, 1948."

As clause 1(1) has already given the name of this Act, this part (a) of clause 2 is unnecessary.

The word "Act" has been used in this Bill several times. It appears after the heading of clause 2, 'Definitions". It also appears in parts (b) and (c) of clause 2, clause 3(2), clause 10(a), clause 19, etc. Here the word "Act" has been used as "this Act". "This Act" is so clear that it does not require any definition. In fact, the passage which I object to, merely says:

" 'Act' means the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Act."

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

I submit it is absolutely unnecessary to retain this; "this Act" always means the Act with this title.

The word also appears in two other places, in clause 16 as the "Indian Companies Act" and in clause 20 as the "Income-tax Act". These are the only places where the word "Act" has been used. I believe, Sir, that part (a) of clause 2 is absolutely unnecessary; it attempts to make clear something which is already clear, and it is not even the custom to define the word "Act". Sir, I move:

"That part (a) of clause 2 of the Bill be omitted and the subsequent parts be re-lettered accordingly."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I am not accepting the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That part (a) of clause 2 of the Bill be omitted and the subsequent parts be re-lettered accordingly."

The motion was negatived.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That for part (d) (i) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'(i) a person who, being displaced from any area outside India on account of civil disturbances or fear of such disturbances, has settled and is engaged or intends to engage in any business or industry in India, or'."

Sir, as the clause stands, it reads:

"a person who is displaced from any area outside India, or."

It includes a person who is displaced from China and goes to Timbuctoo, but that is obviously not the intention of the Select Committee; I think the latter half of sub-clause (ii) refers both to (i) and (ii). Somehow it was printed like this and I thought it would be better to bring it again in clause (i). This is a purely formal amendment. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That for part (d) (i) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'(i) a person who, being displaced from any area outside India on account of civil disturbances or fear of such disturbances, has settled and is engaged or intends to engage in any business or industry in India, or'."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I accept the amendment.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): Sir, before that thing happens, there will be some difficulty. This ammendment seeks to replace sub-clause (d) of clause 2 and therefore it will be impossible for others to move their amendments on this sub-clause if the House accepts this amendment. I submit that the other amendments should also be allowed to be moved and that the House should finally be asked to give its opinion. Otherwise the others are shut out.

Mr. Speaker: All the other amendments relating to clause 2?

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Isaq Seth: There is amendment No. 8.

Mr. Speaker: There is also another amendment by Mr. Subrahmanyam.

Shri C. Subramaniam (Madras: General): I am not moving it.

Mr. Speaker: I shall take all amendments to this clause and see which are going to be moved.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, a substitution amendment always comes first, because if the substitution is accepted then the existing clause has no meaning—when it is substituted any amendment of the existing clause will not have any purpose.

Mr. Speaker: If the substitute amendment is accepted by the House then the other amendments go off automatically, but the point here is that, unless they are moved at this stage, the movers will get no opportunity of expressing their views on the nature of the amendment which they want to move.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If the substitute amendment is defeated then they will have a chance; therefore they need not be moved at this stage. If the substitute amendment is accepted, automatically the others go because the Assembly has expressed its opinion; then there is no meaning in their moving their amendments which are amendments to the original clause as it stands. If it is rejected they can move their amendments thereafter.

Diwan Chaman Lall (East Punjab:General): This is hardly a substitute amendment. What it seeks to do is to enlarge the definition of a person who is displaced. That is all it seeks to do; it is really an enlargement of the existing definition—not actually a substitution of one thing for another which may be entirely different. It merely enlarges the scope of the definition of the displaced person. The amendment (No. 8) which my Honourable friend seeks to move would enlarge the scope of this particular definition of a "displaced person"; it would take into its purview not only certain categories which are defined under "displaced persons" but certain other categories. So I submit he would be perfectly in order in moving his amendment.

Mr. Speaker: I was placing it on a different ground altogether without going into these technicalities. Of course, all these amendments, in a way, try to seek to enlarge the scope. To what I was inviting the attention of the Honourable Member, who raised the point of order was that if all these amendments which deal with the same subject are allowed to be moved at the same time, the Honourable Members who have tabled the amendments get a chance of placing their point of view before the House. Ultimately, if one is accepted the other amendments will be automatically taken to have been rejected by the House without being put to the vote. So I am giving a chance to them just to have their views before the House.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (d) (i) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the word 'area' the words 'in or' be inserted."

Sir, if the word "in" is inserted, the definition of "displaced person" will be like this: "a person who is displaced from any area in or outside India." While commenting on my speech yesterday, the Honourable the Finance Minister said that I attributed a motive to the Government that this measure was intended for Hindus and also that this was inconsistent with the secular nature of the State. Sir, I will read that portion of the speech which I delivered and it is this:

"These Muslims will not be entitled to any financial assistance according to the provisions of the Bill which will mean that the provisions of this Bill will be applicable only to Hindus."

I never alleged that the intention of the Government is to deprive the Muslims from the assistance that is to be given under the provisions of this Bill. Therefore, Sir, the statement which the Honourable Minister made is not, I think, wholly correct although I submitted that it means that.

Sir, the reason why I insist on moving this amendment is this. This is a question of principle; this is not a question of detail. It has been said that the Government did not intend to bring a comprehensive measure to cover this aspect of the question, but the Honourable the Finance Minister has given absolutely no reasons why a comprehensive measure is not brought before the House. If there are displaced persons *in* India who have suffered terribly who have lost their property, who have lost their relations, and who are the

[Kazi Syed Karimuddin]

nationals of this country, why should they not be supported under the provisions of a Bill like this? Sir, the only reason that has been assigned is this, that if the scope of this Bill is enlarged, there will be many cases which will have to be considered and probably the amount that is contemplated would not be sufficient. If this is such a serious matter, Sir, if people have suffered and if the State wants to look after them, if we want to give relief to those who have been displaced in life then, I submit, no amount is excessive. It is the primary duty of this Government to support, to finance and to give self-respect and an honourable living to such people in this country.

Sir, it has been said by the Honourable Minister: "Well, it is not that only Hindus will get relief. Even a Muslim living in Amritsar if he had his business in Pakistan and it is destroyed, will get it." Well, Sir, what are the facts? Hindus have suffered in Pakistan. They have suffered terribly and it is because of this misfortune, and these atrocities, that we want to extend a helping hand to them. At the same time, Sir, Muslims have suffered in India. They have suffered in the States terribly, and it is the Hindus who have come from Pakistan and not the Muslims who have come from Pakistan. So in effect, although it may not be the intention of the Government, it is only the Hindus who will benefit.

Now, it has been said by Mr. Ayyangar in the speech which he delivered yesterday that it is within the scope and jurisdiction of the Provincial Government to consider such cases. He said that we are considering only about outside refugees. Well, Sir, I submit that we are not only considered with outside refugees, but we are concerned with all "displaced persons". If the scope of this Bill relates to refugees from outside, then to that aspect I am objecting. We must consider the cases of those who have been displaced in this country or outside as a result of the civil disturbances. (*Shri M. Anantasayanam Ayyangar*: "No!") That is what I submit, Sir. Now, Mr. Ayyangar said that the Provincial Governments will help those who have suffered in this country and reinstate them and so on. Now, displaced persons cannot depend upon pro phesies. Considering from higher ideal which the Government has placed before this country, namely, that it is a secular State, that this matter should be looked at and the displaced persons, be they Hindus or Muslims in this a Secular State should be helped and rehabilitated.

Sir, I do not minimise the plight of those at all who have come from Pakistan. They have lost everything in life. They have lost their property; they have lost their relations, and whether they belong to this country, whether they are the nationals of this country or not, that is not the point to be considered. The point to be considered is they are human beings and people who once belonged to the geographical union of this country deserve all our help. Why the scope of this Bill is not being extended, I really fail to understand. Therefore, Sir, the matter is one of principle, not one of detail. I submit that it will be just and proper if the scope of this Bill is extended to all those who have suffered as a result of civil disturbances for no fault of theirs. People had become mad in Pakistan; people had become mad in this country. Nobody is going to justify either the action of those Muslims who committed these atrocities in Pakistan or those Hindus who have done the same thing in this country. Merely saying that the Bill is not comprehensive, and that Government is not prepared to bring in a comprehensive measure, does not carry conviction. If Rs. 10 crores are not enough, have Rs. 20 crores. Therefore, my submission is that this is a very urgent matter. It is a matter of principle and therefore, Sir, I press my amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in part (d) (i) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the word 'area' the worsd 'in or' be inserted."

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad (Bihar: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (d) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following new sub-part be added:

'(ii) a person in India who, having had his business, industry or property in India, has lost wholly or partially, such business, industry, or property on account of civil disturbances or the fear of such disturbances, and who is engaged or intends to engage in any business, industry, or agriculture in India';"

Sir, I do not wish to make any long speech. In proposing my amendment, I wholly support the observations made by my Honourable friend Kazi Syed Karimuddin. We have always said that we want to build up a secular State. What we are doing today is, however, just the direct opposite of all our professed aspirations and hopes. We have been saying that we are nationalists; we believe in Hindu-Muslim unity; that Hindus and Muslims are one; whatever wrongs, whatever atrocities the Muslims may have committed in Pakistan will not influence us. The fact is, Sir, that Muslims have suffered badly; they have suffered badly in Bihar Province, to which I belong, and, as my Honourable friend said, they have suffered badly in the native States as well. It is the bounden duty of a secular State, if indeed there is any substance in this professed claim, any truth in it, to help these Muslims also. The reason why Muslims have been excluded from the benefits of this Corporation are not convincing to us. I do hope that the Government, if it wants to maintain the prestige of the Congress, will amend the Bill as Kazi Syed Karimuddin wants it to be.

Mr. Speaker: Of course, the wording of this amendment is different, but in effect it is the same as that of Syed Karimuddin.

Amendment moved:

"That in part (d) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following new sub-part be added:

'(iii) a person in India who, having had his business, industry or property in India, has lost wholly or partially, such business, industry, or property on account of civil disturbances or the fear of such disturbances, and who is engaged or intends to engage in any business, industry, or agriculture in India'."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I would like Honourable Members and particularly my Honourable friend Mr. Karimuddin who has moved this amendment so ably, which in some other form though actually the same in substance and with greater eloquence has been supported by Mr. Brajeshwar Prasad, to consider what the implication of this amendment is. We know definitely when the exodus from West Punjab came to East Punjab. It is not long after they were brought here this rehabilitation programme has been started. How long before? Let us go back to the days when the Calcutta disturbances started, *i.e.* on the 16th of August. There a number of people suffered. Later on a number of Hindus in Noakhali left their homes and migrated to portions of Calcutta which are now West Bengal. Has this Government done anything for them till now? So it is not at all fair and proper for either my Honourable friend on the right or my Honourable friend on the left who was the first supporter to say what they said without understanding the facts of the situation.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: I know the facts probably better than the speaker, because I come from a Province where there have been such riots.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: All that I am submitting is that the Honourable Member has not addressed himself to the enormity of the problem and the other point is that he need not have enthusiastically accepted to help those persons who were displaced only now after this matter has been taken up regarding the refugees from other dominions. Persons whether displaced in Calcutta or in Bihar or in other parts or from one part to the other, they were all displaced long before those persons were displaced either from West Punjab or in East Bengal. Why were people silent? All that I am saying

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is that these were not at all to be compared with the provision that has to be made now, for the number of persons that were massacred, who fled for their very lives and who even today are undergoing all the inconveniences. Still they are suffering for food and are roaming from place to place. Can we say that the sufferings of those persons who come from West Punjab are absolutely different? As yet, they have not decided to what place they belong. They have been going on, not knowing where they go; they get into some train and until the train gets to its destination, they do not know where to get down. We are addressing ourselves to those persons, certainly of persons who have suffered from flood, damage, earthquake and disturbances and they are entitled to relief in some form or another. After all the entire income is coming from the public and the public has adjusted itself to those other persons who suffered on account of certain disturbance locally. I am still waiting to see if any of my Honourable friends protested and until my Honourable friend Maitra brought it to our notice, we did not know the enormity of the problem that is going to arise in East Bengal and West Bengal. Is it not open to my friends who started all the trouble in this country, on account of which all the troubles have arisen both in this country and elsewhere? Yesterday there was difference of opinion as to whether we should continue the same spirit of hatred and after persisting in doing it then say: "I will come here and preach morality for us." Our resources are limited. My Honourable friend says it is intended wholly for the Hindus. I would ask those persons: "Have you spared the Christians in that country?" Anybody who was not a Muslim was sent away.

An Honourable Member: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, are we to account for that?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am only saying: Do not throw the blame on the Hindus or Muslims. This is not a question of a Hindu or a Muslim, but whoever has suffered to some extent, the relief is sought to be given. Let not my friend Mr. Karimuddin say that this is intended for the Hindus. This Government has not used the word 'Hindu' but non-Muslims *i.e.*, those who have come away from West Punjab, not only Hindus. My Honourable friend Mr. Sidhva is here. Is this the place for him? He is one of the worst refugees, but it is most unfortunate for a man of his talents. One day he could have easily walked into the other lobby and taken charge of the Sind Government, but now he is a back-bencher. All that I say is this gentleman, my Honourable friend to the left is not a Hindu. Let the word 'Hindu' go to the wall and let us be a secular state. We are not only Hindus that have suffered, Christians have suffered; Parsis have suffered; Buddhists have suffered; Jains have suffered. This is not only for them but including the Muslims also. I know a number of cases where some of the Muslim friends thought they were going to heaven if they were going to Pakistan. Many of them have returned now. Those unlawful forces originally killed the enemy, but later on killed the man who set them afoot. The man who protected them is the last victim. The others are victims first likewise. The number of Muslims that fled away from Lahore to this country, I suppose they are also displaced persons.

It is only this morning, Sir, we had in the question hour my Honourable friend Mr. Ishaq Seth asking a question as to why through trains are not running from this province to the other province. He expects that those people would come here and my answer is: "Nobody from here will go there, but a number of people from there can come here." I assure my Honourable friend who wanted a through train: "Let there be one train from Lahore to India and even then I do not expect even a few people will go to Lahore. It is impossible." Let us not mix up the issues. If one man from Bihar has been displaced, he is

settled down. From Patna he has gone to Gaya or he may have gone to some other place. Those are persons who have settled down. We have suffered enormous damage. Again and again questions were put on the floor of the Assembly as to what steps are being taken to collect these damages that our people have suffered in West Punjab. What is the good of thinking in what quarter to appeal against. If any citizen of this country is displaced by another citizen the court of law will certainly replace that displaced person, punish the other man and impose fines on him and recover that and pay it to him. We are all citizens who are displaced inside our own dominion. But those who have come from West Punjab belong to a different dominion altogether. No court of justice is likely to get us compensation. Sir, I expected my friends to say let us expand this 10 crores and add to it by 10 more crores and give relief to those unfortunate people who are running away from East Bengal to West Bengal. But not a word has been said about it, by either of the sponsors of this amendment. I say let us be large-hearted; merely because he does not reciprocate, I am not going to build a shell round myself. I intend that this measure should help not only Hindus, but Muslims and all other displaced persons and the term 'displaced persons' will be applicable to whoever has suffered. To my knowledge Muslims might have suffered in such large numbers and might have come away from portions of the Punjab and they are also displaced persons. In clause 2 (d) you will find persons who had wholly or partly business in outside India. There may have been persons who had business in Amritsar and also in Lahore; their business might have suffered.

It will apply to these men also, whether Hindu or Muslim. With regard to my Honourable friend Mr. Chetty, whatever might be attributed to other people, you cannot attribute any communalism to him and say that he wants to deprive one community or one class of persons from the benefits of this. My Honourable friend the other day placed before us a deficit budget and by some clever jugglery he took an advance of 10 crores and handed it over for this particular purpose. He knows the finances are sound and he knows what difficulties there are. Let us all put our heads together and find out ways and means. My Honourable friend Mr. Poker and the other friend sitting with him are all prominent members of the Madras legislature. They can move that legislature and that Government. There are also other members who have come from the various provincial legislatures. The Finance Minister said that if the province wants it is the business of the province. Whether it is the business of the province or the centre, the centre cannot do all the business from end to end for every citizen from Cape Comorin to the Himalayas. After all its resources are limited and so it will address itself primarily to one aspect and the provinces will address themselves to another aspect, and if they are in need of funds which they cannot get there they will come to the centre. In these circumstances let us not lose ourselves in our enthusiasm to support one cause. We do want to be a secular State, whereas in another place it was said the other day, "We are a Muslim State." By all means let them be a Muslim State and whoever is a big Muslim can have a First Class ticket from me. We do not want any more of this camouflage. Those persons who are displaced brought it all. I ask honestly if there is one Muslim in this country who did not say "Jai, Jai" to somebody but wanted this country to go to pieces. Even now they have not changed their heart. I am not trying to penalise any one; all that I say is that their case stands on a different footing from the rest. These are unfortunates who have been driven out and they have not established their residence in this country. Therefore let us not fritter away the small resources that we have. These are people who want relief first and foremost. I am glad the Fanance Minister said that he will immediately open another branch in West Bengal. I would rather urge on my friends there to give a

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word of advice to their men in East Bengal not to embark upon the mad course of driving away to the last any non-Muslim who lives in that country. Sooner or later they will come to our own. In a huge province like the Punjab there is hardly more than 50,000 persons. Our friends are safe here, much safer than friends elsewhere. A Committee of five has been reduced to two. We do not want to dilate on these tactics. We are not here to please this section or that section; we are here to please God and ourselves. Sir, I appeal to my Honourable friends to withdraw this amendment.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, I confess that my first impression with regard to the definition of 'displaced person' was in very great accord with the views expressed by my Honourable friends Mr. Poker Saheb and Mr. Brajeswar Prasad. But on second consideration I would respectfully submit that the definition cannot be amended in the manner sought because that will be quite outside the scope of this Bill. What is intended to be done is to grant relief to those persons who were placed in that predicament not merely by the negligence of Government under which they were living at that moment but also to a great extent by indiscretion on our part. We had agreed to partition; we had expected—wrongly as it proved later on—that the Government in whose care the refugees were placed would do their duty by them. But partly due to our own action and partly due to the action of Government under which they were living, they were placed in that predicament; and the first duty of the Government of India would be to help those persons who were victims of negligence of another Government. It is indeed true that there are persons who lost in India and who desire help from the Government of the country, and they should be helped; but this Bill is not competent to give that relief. We know that in August 1946 a large number of persons, both Hindus and Muslims, were turned out of their houses and could not return to their homes and their business for a long time, and the Government of Bengal even in 1946 came out with some sort of help, though that help may not have been adequate. Similarly the Government of Bihar and the Government of Delhi will, I hope, come forward with a helping hand, and if the resources at their disposal are found to be inadequate I am sure the Government of India will give such assistance as they require. But, as I find, it is impossible to give them that relief within the scope of this Bill.

Another point is this. I hope the Honourable the Finance Minister will in the course of his reply enlighten us as to what has been actually done with regard to the refugees of East Bengal who have come already over to Western Bengal. When I last put a question in this House on that matter the answer was that Government did not even know the number of refugees who have come to West Bengal. I know the Premier of Bengal has already come to Delhi for the purpose of getting some relief from the Government of India. The administrative Corporation may take a long time to materialise. In the meantime these people want some sort of housing and some kind of business and employment and I hope the Honourable Minister will tell us what interim steps have been taken in the meantime.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, I am really very sorry at the turn which this debate has taken. When I was on the Select Committee and when the Bill was placed before us I thought that the number of Hindus who had come to grief in East Punjab and who had lost much on account of the depredations of their own countrymen was fairly large. Perhaps my Muslim friends in this House do not know that in many villages where Muslims had gathered together in separate blocks—in Hissar and Rohtak districts—they got out from scattered villages and gathered in thousands in their own villages and from there they committed depredations upon Hindus, and

many Hindu villages were burnt by them. In East Punjab thousands of people did not follow their ordinary avocations and cultivate their lands, and the number of persons who suffered from the depredations of these men who ultimately went to Pakistan was fairly large. And I submitted to the Select Committee to enlarge the scope of this Bill because I wanted that those who had lost here in East Punjab should also be compensated to some extent. But after hearing the Finance Minister and other friends on the Committee I withdrew my amendment, and for very good reasons.

Now, Sir, I am at one with my Muslim friends in thinking that all persons in the State who have suffered should be compensated by Government, and Government has done that. I am one of those who have been rather complaining that in this matter the Government of India have been much more considerate to the Muslims than to the other sections. And there is no doubt about it. Any person living in Delhi knows full well how the houses of those Muslims who have left for Pakistan are being guarded by Government and the refugees are complaining against Government for this discriminatory treatment. Now, Sir, I do not want to go into all those matters. Here in the present instance, the submission of some of my Muslim friends is that this Bill seeks to discriminate between Hindus and Muslims. This is wrong. The scope of the Bill is that those persons who have suffered in Pakistan at the hands of those who lived there, whether in property or person, and those who have been displaced, come within the province of the Bill, be they Hindus or Muslims. And it is not that other persons who have suffered in this Country are not to be compensated. May I humbly bring to the attention of the Muslim members of the House the provisions of the Police Act, in accordance with which, if there is any place or area in the province where there are civil disturbances, the Government is bound to compensate those who suffer in that area if the area has been declared a dangerous area. At one time, the Punjab Government in the months of March to August in 1947 issued instructions that those persons will be compensated. But we know that the sufferers and their relatives have come here and no one has been compensated. This Bill is very restricted and the facts that persons have suffered in Bihar and Noakhali are not germane to this Bill. I know the Government of Bihar has spent about 3 crores to rehabilitate Muslims displaced in Bihar. May I humbly ask, what have the Western Punjab Government done for those displaced from March to August, so far as the Hindus and Sikhs are concerned? But here when there is a question of miseries suffered and plight of persons who have been displaced, I do not want that the conditions of these people, or their number, or the troubles they have undergone, should be compared. Nor is it useful to complain that this Government has not done this or that.

As you have been pleased to see the amount is only Rs. 7 crores and if Rs. 10,000 be taken as the average loan per person, it is only about 7,000 people who will be helped. Now we considered that out of 40 lakhs of refugees, about 20 lakhs from West Punjab are such as were engaged in industry and business, which means that only about one third of one per cent. will be the number of persons who will be sought to be helped by this measure. If we add to the numbers which have come to West Bengal and are likely to come from East Bengal, I think the percentage will be still less. I am not in the habit of retorting, but at the same time may I humbly ask those who have preceded me, to tell me why they are so anxious about the rehabilitation of those few persons only who may have been displaced for disturbances in Delhi and other places? And why did they not say a word about those who are being displaced or who are in the course of being displaced? Have any of them raised their little finger in respect of a situation in East Bengal which is getting very serious from day to day?

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May I submit a word to the Government of India. Twelve lakhs are alleged to have come from East Bengal already. There is a very great population there and it is likely that more will come. The amounts mentioned in the Bill I understand, will not be able to meet the needs of all those cases and there will be no relief for all of them. When we consider the magnitude of the problem, I think this Bill will not be able to touch the fringe of the problem. The question is that when relief is to be given, I would like it to be given to one who is the worst sufferer. If there are 20 persons in a house, and one is suffering from some disease and the others are healthy, the better part of the family income must necessarily be devoted to the comfort of one who is suffering. These people who have come from East Bengal and those who have come from West Punjab have suffered most and they cannot, unless a Bill of this nature is there, be helped in any matter. If these are citizens of East Punjab or West Bengal whose citizens have been displaced in their municipal areas let those Governments do something for them. The East Bengal and Western Punjab Governments have done nothing for non-Muslim nationals. We have never heard that displaced persons belonging to these areas have been asked to come back and rehabilitate themselves there. On the contrary I know that persons are coming into East Punjab from Lahore and other places *e.g.* to Gurgaon because the conditions in Pakistan are not so good as they might be. In regard to those persons, I understand, when they come back, the Government will try to give them their properties. Such Muslims as have lost their properties in Pakistan and want to engage in business or industries will surely benefit by the present Bill. I think it is too much that some members of the House begin to impute motives to the Government of India that it is discriminating between Hindus and others. I do not know what to say to the Government of India. I cannot conceal my own feelings that the Government of India have not been fair to the Hindus in the sense that they have tried to give more relief to the Muslims of Delhi than to the Hindus from Western Punjab. I am sorry; I did not want to say all this but yet when I hear things contrary to facts, I cannot restrain myself from expressing that there are many refugees who think like myself, and there are many other persons who want that, in this matter of discrimination, this aspect of the activities of the Government of India should not be allowed to proceed further.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Honourable Member likely to take much longer? In that case, we may adjourn and he may resume his speech after lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT *RE* ALLOTMENT OF ADDITIONAL DATES FOR VOTING ON DEMANDS AND FOR REFERENCE OF FINANCE BILL TO SELECT COMMITTEE.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform Honourable Members that in pursuance of a demand from Members for allotment of further time for voting of Demands for Grants, I have fixed Saturday, the 13th March and Tuesday, the 16th March for the discussion and voting of Demands for Grants in addition to the days which have already been allotted for this purpose. The revised programme of dates in connection with the General Budget will be as follows:

Wednesday, the 3rd March	General Discussion.
Thursday, the 4th March	
Friday, the 5th March	
Monday, the 8th March	Voting of Demands for Grants.
Wednesday, the 10th March	
Thursday, the 11th March	
Friday, the 12th March	
Saturday, the 13th March	
Monday, the 15th March	
Tuesday, the 16th March	

I have also to inform Honourable Members that I have allotted two days, namely Wednesday, the 17th March and Thursday, the 18th March for the consideration of the motion to be moved by the Honourable the Finance Minister for reference of the Finance Bill to Select Committee.

REHABILITATION FINANCE ADMINISTRATION BILL—*concld.*

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: Sir, on a point of personal explanation, I never attributed any motive to the Government. On the contrary I am conscious that the Government is doing all that is possible for the protection of minorities. My point was that Muslims were excluded.

Another point which was mentioned was that I have not condemned in my speech those who had committed atrocities on Hindus in Pakistan. I have already condemned those atrocities.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I am glad that the mover of this amendment has been pleased to accept the view that the Government of India have been very just to the minorities and that they have done all that a Government could do for them. In regard to the condemnation of minorities by the Honourable Member I do not think I or any other member has raised this question, nor is this question the main issue.

I was submitting that this Bill has a restricted scope. In the first place it is restricted to persons who have been displaced on account of civil disturbances from outside India and secondly, it is restricted to those who have had business or property or industry in Pakistan and have lost them wholly or partially. As has been pointed out by the Honourable the Finance Minister there are many Bills on the anvil of the legislature of Eastern Punjab as also here which relate to this subject and this Bill only relates to such persons as are about to engage in business or industry. If you kindly compare the number of those who have been displaced from Western Punjab or Eastern Bengal with these displaced in India you will see that a very large number of them happens to belong either to the Hindu and Sikh community. Out of 40 lakhs of those who came from West Punjab half of them had agriculture as their avocation and the other

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half were engaged either in business or industry. Similarly I understand from Eastern Pakistan also a very large number of people coming, who were engaged either in business or industry, so that the percentage of those who are to be helped under this measure is bound to be much more from the Hindu community than from the Muslim community. I have no doubt that if the percentage is only taken ultimately it will be found that the Muslims will be benefited to a greater extent than the Hindus and Sikhs, because those who will settle in industry only will be helped and their number will be limited, so that if any Muslims apply for help under the measure their applications may be granted much more easily. Those persons from among numbers who intend to settle in industry and have been displaced are much smaller in number. In my humble opinion the Honourable Members who moved the amendment should direct their energies to a better cause than complaining against the provisions of the Bill. We will all get better dividends for those whom we represent if instead of providing for such a Rehabilitation Finance Administration we took steps to see that no such rehabilitation was needed at all.

I understand that persons from Eastern Bengal are coming just as they came from Sind and Western Punjab. Instead of providing for rehabilitation subsequently it would be much better if Government took steps to see that the properties of those who have left Eastern Bengal are properly protected, their properties are taken charge of by custodians or somebody else and they are kept safe. Secondly, I would submit that nature and nemesis being as they are I do not think the Government of India will be able to control the situation if such a large number of people came from Eastern Bengal. About 20 lakhs of them have already come. Either the exodus should be stopped so that further rehabilitation may not be needed or things may so shape themselves that with so many persons coming other persons who are living here may have to be displaced, not voluntarily but circumstances may compel them to do so. I am not in favour of such displacement but I feel that a situation may arise when it will be very difficult for the Government to control it and no solution except displacement of Muslims from Western Bengal may be possible. When refugees came from Western Punjab the authorities said that they had had no previous experience in the matter and it was beyond their keen to forsee. Now we have seen the shape and course of things—and we have got past experience. If no proper steps are taken by the Muslims of India, by the Government and by the Hindus to stop this exodus, I envisage a situation which would be very difficult for us to manage. Therefore I submit with folded hands to all persons concerned that the situation should not be ignored.

A few days ago when questions were put to the Honourable Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, he said that officially the Government did not know how many came from Eastern Bengal. The papers say that about 20 lakhs have come but this number may be exaggerated. But at least not less than 15 lakhs have come. If there had been a peaceful exchange of populations between Eastern and Western Punjab the tragedies which we have witnessed would have been avoided and the money which we are spending today would have been spent for the betterment of the people of this land. All this money is being wasted and we are face to face with a situation which is difficult. It is high

time that steps were taken to see that between Eastern and Western Bengal there was a peaceful exchange of population.

I must humbly submit that unless and until the scope of this Bill is restricted to its present measure it will be difficult to give any relief at all. If the relief is to be extended to, say, one crore and fifty lakhs of people out of whom at least half may be taken to be engaging themselves in business and industry, how can you do it with only seven crores of rupees? Even if the amount is seven thousand crores it will be impossible to rehabilitate them in the manner and in the method which the Government of India have in view. It is only by stopping the exodus by giving relief where necessary that even the fringe of the problem can be touched. If you take the numbers alone I may assure my friends who have spoken before me that the number of displaced persons (Hindu) in Eastern Punjab will be much more than the few hundreds or thousands of people (Muslims) who have been displaced in some cities here like Delhi, etc. For them their houses are safe and the Government of India have done all that they possibly could. I am not complaining what the Government of India have done. I wish much more could be done for those who have suffered. But that is beside the point. I submit that when I have got only limited relief in my hands and when I have to choose between two classes of sufferers I will certainly give more relief to the man who is in greater need of it than distributing it or wasting it on people who, though suffering, have not equally suffered. This should be the view of my Muslim friends also. May I ask those gentlemen who belong to the Muslim League who come from Madras this question? Is there any Mussalman in Madras who has been displaced? Is there anyone whom they are representing here who has been displaced in Madras? Then why are they so anxious for these people? Only Because they are Mussalmans. I am not taking that attitude. I want to see every Mussalman helped. This is our creed; this has been Mahatma Gandhi's creed. Everyone who is a national of this country may be helped. At the same time, if I have got limited means at my disposal I would readily give more relief to those who are in greater need of it, whether they are Muslims or Hindus. I may submit that Hindus of Eastern Punjab have suffered much as compared to the Mussalmans of other parts of India. We are the orginal inhabitants of East Punjab. People have come in large numbers from Western Punjab and they have been given everything, houses, services and other facilities. There is no question of original nationals of this country. This sacrifice we have to make and suffer. We should receive displaced persons not as refugees, not as people belonging to another country. The argument was advanced that Muslims are the nationals of this country and therefore priority should be given to them in the relief. I entirely repudiate that argument. These refugees who have come are our kith and kin. They are as much nationals of this country as we are or the Muslims are. They are entitled to greater relief as they have suffered much more. The original Hindus of Eastern Punjab, I may submit, have sacrificed many things—we have asked them to stay even in our own houses. For instance in Delhi lakhs of them are staying. Our homes in Eastern Punjab have been requisitioned for them. We have all suffered though we are the nationals of this country. If they belonged to another country we may or may not have suffered for them so much but they are not strangers. In that spirit I ask the Mussalmans of India to suffer to a certain extent also. Let them treat these people in the same manner that they want to be treated. Let them treat these people like their brethren and not grudge the small relief by way of rehabilitation which they are getting. They are the nationals entitled to as much help and relief as other nationals of India. If the Government of India extend the scope of this Bill they will not be doing justice to these refugees to whom they are giving. I should say, only a very

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small measure of relief. What is seven crores of rupees? It is a drop in the ocean when you consider the numbers that have come and consider what they have lost. My humble submission is that the restricted scope of this Bill should not be extended.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): Sir, I do not want to take the time of the House. The object of the Bill, as I understand, is that it arranges assistance for such persons who cannot legally get any relief from the Government of India. If any wrong has been done or if anybody has been molested in civil disturbances in India, they can approach the Government of India or the Provincial Governments direct saying that such and such injustice has been done to them, that they have been ruined and they should be helped and the respective Governments have made necessary arrangements in the past and will do so in future too. But in the case of people from Pakistan who have been ruined there for want of any protection and assistance which they were entitled to have from Pakistan Government have come here and it is to provide relief to those persons that this Bill is going to be enacted.

The other point I want to make is that this is a Bill which is meant to provide relief to a particular class of persons. If we include in one Bill or in one enactment various things like giving relief to agriculturists, businessmen, persons who have been displaced in India, there will be great difficulty in administration. It is for facilitating administration that different Bills and different enactments and different arrangements are being made for giving relief to different kinds of persons.

As for the charge made by my Honourable friend Mr. Brajeshwar Prasad that this is a secular State and that the Congress is on test whether they are going to do justice to all concerned, Muhammadans and Hindus, or not, he has quoted Bihar. He says that great atrocities were committed in Bihar. He comes from Bihar and he knows about it. But I do not know whether he knows or does not know that Mahatma Gandhi himself went there and did a great lot for our Muhammadan brethren. I would just point out to the House a quotation from the speech of the Finance Minister of Bihar who said the other day:

"A scheme estimated to cost Rs. 2,60,00,000, has been prepared for the rehabilitation of Bihar refugees for expenditure over house-building, rehabilitation grants, free rations, cost of education and grants to widows and orphans. Loans free of interest are also being granted in deserving cases."

From this it will appear, Sir, that necessary steps have been taken timely, and still everything is being done in order to give relief to all the Muhammadan brethren in Bihar whoever have suffered. It is a matter of great regret that here communal questions are being raised. There is no question of Hindus or Muhammadans here. Such things should not be allowed here. Ours is a secular State and the honesty and the sincerity of the India Government cannot be questioned as has been done by my Honourable friend Mr. Brajeshwar Prasad.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: On a point of order, Sir. I have never questioned the sincerity of the Government of India. I know very well that the Government of Bihar has done its level best for those who have suffered in Bihar. What I wanted to say was that as a matter of principle it is not desirable to exclude certain classes of persons from the scope of the proposed legislation. Beyond this I never meant anything.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no mind to speak on this subject because whatever views I wanted to express I have expressed in the Select Committee and I feel that the Bill has come out very satisfactorily from the Select Committee. But I am obliged to make some remarks on account of a little communal colour that has been given to this Bill,

which I really deplore. It is true that there are lakhs of non-Muslims from East Bengal who have migrated, and nearly six lakhs of Hindus from Sind have migrated into the various parts of India. Notwithstanding that when I went into the Select Committee it created a clear impression in my mind that this Bill was purely meant for the Punjab refugees because they have suffered immensely. They have been evacuated wholesale from Western Punjab to Eastern Punjab. The Government at a high level took this matter into their hands. Government felt it their duty that they should be supported and Government is therefore perfectly justified in bringing forward a Bill of this character and if a larger number of people from the Punjab stand to benefit by this Bill, it is because they suffered the most and have lost everything. Now it is stated that the provisions of this Bill should be extended to give relief to other classes of persons, those other than non-Muslims who are residing in India. One factor has been forgotten by my Muslim friends which I would like to impress upon them. I have great sympathy for them. There is no question about it that we all do feel they have also suffered, but they must remember that the non-Muslims who have left the Punjab have no hold there; crores of rupees worth of property, both movable and immovable, are left there, and today it is for them a foreign country and they cannot have any access for the restoration of their property, whereas persons who are residing in India, certainly have an opportunity of representing the matter to the Government of India; they can represent their case to them; they can go to a court. All that is open to them. The unfortunate residents of Pakistan who have come to India have no such opportunity left to them, whether legal or any other opportunity, and therefore Government really ought to be thanked for coming to their assistance. That is one factor.

The second factor that I want to clear up is that my Muslim friends think that this measure is only meant for Hindus because Hindus suffered. I have never stated before anywhere in public to anybody, but I am obliged to state today that the Parsis have suffered also in Western Punjab. The Parsis, as you know, only number a lakh out of a population of 40 crores, 30 crores of Hindus and 10 crores of Muslims, and apart from the very large population in the Bombay Province, very many are scattered throughout India; nearly 2,500 souls resided in undivided Punjab, including Delhi: and as it was customary for this community, they had provision and liquor shops. I will give illustrations to show how the Parsis suffered. In Rawalpindi there was a Controller of Railways, a high officer drawing about Rs. 1,200 as salary. His sin was that he opted out for India, and what is the story behind it? The story is that an evacuee train was coming from Rawalpindi to Lahore side and the Controller, who is supposed to control the train did not give the signal for the evacuee train until a goods train which was ahead reached that station. He halted that train at one of the way side stations. Some of the passengers in that train were killed and the bogey was brought that this Controller intentionally halted that train to massacre the Muslims. And then when he opted out for India a handbill was posted on his building 'Your fate is coming, you are going to India.' Poor fellow had packed up his things to leave for India, but on the previous day he and his wife were killed. His sin was that he opted out for India and Sir, a false bogey was brought up against him. As we all know he was Controller of Railways. He would have failed in his duty if he had not stopped that train. Otherwise there would have been a collision. But he was massacred.

Another Parsi was coming from Karachi to Lahore. He was at Multan. He was threatened that he would be killed. He showed his sacred threat. They said give us all the property. He gave all his property and he came with only

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva]

a shirt and a pyjama. There were two Parsi families travelling from Rawalpindi to Bombay who were killed between Pindi Lahore in that train. There were some Parsi families in Gurdaspur and Pathankot, running a liquor shop. Thinking it was a Muslim shop, they were looted and the husband was killed, and the poor widow is today without any kind of livelihood.

I would ask my Muslim friends not to go away with the impression that this is a communal Bill. I felt it very much when I saw that communal colour was given to it and I hate that this thing should have been brought about. It is a secular state beyond any doubt. I have much to do with Bombay these days after having come out and when I go to Bombay I am so very happy to see that Muslims are trading there freely; Hindus and Muslims there are partners: in trade they are also in service, and I said to myself what a pity that in my province I cannot find any non-Muslim working so freely as the Bombay Muslims do.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Shame.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: That is the position. My friends can come with me to Bombay and I will show to them. I have many Muslim friends in Bombay who have been resident there for long ages. Thousands of Muslims are doing business, hundreds of them are partners in business, and they are freely walking about in the streets of Bombay, and it is a pleasure to see both communities working together, and I felt it a great pity that the people in my province are not allowed to lead such a happy life. This is the state of things. If you want support, our Government is equally eager to support Muslims. I have no doubt about that, but I am sure if this provision is extended, the object will be frustrated. I said the same thing in the Select Committee and I repeat it here. The Parsis who have also suffered would then come under the provisions of this Bill but they will not take any help not because they do not need it but the Parsi community feel that those who have suffered more should be given preference, and there are in the Parsi community well-to-do people who will support these unfortunate persons. In my opinion they are giving every help, but that must not be understood to mean that the Parsis have not suffered. Therefore I would appeal to my friends not to bring in a communal colour. I have worked actively with the Muslims, I do not want to blame anybody. Something good may come out of the evil, but let us at least now, after having suffered so much, desist from harping upon communal matters. The Government have come forward with a fine measure to help people in distress. If there are Muslims in Delhi who have suffered, they have all avenues open to them—they can appeal to the Government of India, to the court, to everybody who may be concerned. What avenues have our friends who have come from the Pakistan areas in those areas? Let my friends tell me what opportunity we have got who have come out from there? None whatsoever: and for this reason Government felt it their duty to come to their rescue. As far as the Sind Hindus are concerned, they are scattered all throughout the province. Some have come to Delhi and they will require relief, but they will be too glad, I know, if the Punjab friends are given greater help because they have suffered most. Why have you brought this communal matter here unnecessarily? If you take a dispassionate view about this matter, you will feel that is a Bill on which we ought to be proud of our government (hear, hear). That is, Sir, my view point and I want to impress that upon my Muslim friends. If they have any doubt about it, let it be dismissed from their minds. I am very glad about this Bill because it gives me pleasure really to see that you work with us and I wholeheartedly feel that this is our country, everybody's, we want to work with you, you should work with

us: I gave you the illustration of Bombay. Create that kind of impression in the Punjab, Sind, and Bengal, and you will see what a fine result you would create. But, Sir, as my friend Pandit Bhargava stated and also Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, what are you doing and what have you done in Madras?

Nothing has happened in Madras. But what have you done in Bengal? What have the Mussalmans done in Sind? Kindly let me know. If you are blaming us in this Assembly, I should have understood that if you have had a fine record of what you have done for our brethren in Pakistan—I could have appreciated that much. Neither have you done anything, nor your brethren, you have left in the lurch these people, your own co-Indians—they are Indians, you cannot say they are not your brethren. They have suffered and the State is doing something, something very little, which it feels it should do.

3 P.M.

Therefore, Sir, while whole-heartedly supporting this Bill, I would desire that if there is any doubt in the mind of the Honourable Mover of the amendment, he should dispel it. He stated that he had nothing of it, but I wish every one of them to say and honestly feel, sincerely and clearly, that they do not feel that there is any kind of injustice done to their community. I will be glad, I will then be too glad. Merely stating now that they feel that the Bill is really a good measure will not go a great way ahead. The heart must come out; if the heart comes out, then you will find it; you will find in India all this trouble and misery which we have created—you have created and we have created. I do not want to go into the story, but I only desire that that kind of thing should be buried and should not be repeated in this House; this Government which is a Government for everyone irrespective of caste and creed should bring in a measure for the benefit of only one community is unthinkable. Sir, that impression should be removed once and for all from their minds.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I wanted to point out only one thing in this. This is not a Bill to afford relief to refugees at all. For individuals who have suffered in communal disturbances there have been other measures, whether they moved from Province to Province, State to State or from Pakistan to here. This Bill is intended to rehabilitate refugee industry and business. There are lots of talented businessmen who have been driven out of their normal business, who have had to come over to India; it is to rehabilitate them and to convert their talents into national assets that this Bill is introduced. I do not think that the displaced persons from Province to Province or State to State come in here at all. They are individuals who may require relief in some manner or otherwise. But here we are dealing with a situation as if it was created by war or by some great calamity. During the war, when the Indians came over from Burma to India, the Central Government gave relief. But when Madrasis ran away from Madras because there may be a Japanese invasion, I do not think, my Honourable Friend would say that they stood in the same position as the Indian refugees from Burma.

This is a cataclysm which has happened. It is to provide for that cataclysm that this measure is brought forward. Why do they want to drag in other considerations?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: The Madras Government evacuated only on rumour.

Shri K. Santhanam: Any way they evacuated and they suffered just as many of our Mussalmans have who have gone from Delhi to Madras, etc.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): That was not even a rumour.

Shri K. Santhanam: Therefore, Sir, these things should not be confused. This should be treated as an exceptional measure. We have already passed the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill which is available to all persons, to all communities and to the normal residents of India, for development of industries,

[Shri K. Santhanam]

But this measure is an extraordinary provision for an extraordinary contingency and to forget the extraordinary conditions and argue as if it was a communal scramble, is to degrade the entire level of the debate. I submit this point should not be pressed at any time during the debate of the Bill and that we should proceed with the Bill.

Shri Khurshed Lal (U.P.: General): Sir, as one who has, both in the Select Committee as well as in this House, advocated the enlargement of the scope of the definition of "displaced persons" in this Bill, I must confess that I was both considerably surprised and pained at the turn which the debate took this morning. Sir, to doubt the *bona fides* of the Indian Government or of the Government of any of the Provinces, so far as communal matters are concerned, is I submit simply fantastic. I come from a District which has been the scene of serious communal disorders in September and October, last. I have seen Congressmen risking their lives, putting their all in jeopardy, in order to save their Muslim brethren. I have seen Hindu officers going all out, facing ordeals, killing their own co-religionists, in order to save Muslims of that place. After that, Sir, to accuse the Congress or the Congress Governments of communalism, is I submit.....

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: Nobody has accused.

Shri Khurshed Lal: .....I am glad that that point was cleared when the Assembly re-assembled. The whole point is this, that this question should not be looked at at all from the point of view of Hindu or Muslim. All that we want is—at least that is what I want—that some relief should be afforded to those persons, to whatever religion they might belong, I do not care, to those who belong to this Dominion—unfortunately, Sir, we are divided into two Dominions and we have to distinguish that way—but all that I wanted was that some relief should also be afforded to those who were living in this Dominion but who were the victims, for no fault theirs but for being dupes of others, and who, as a result of communal frenzy which spread, suffered. I wanted them to be helped. The Honourable the Finance Minister this morning gave an assurance that they will be helped by the Provincial Governments and that if the Provincial Governments find that their resources are not enough and they come for help to the Central Government, that help will be afforded to them. I am sure what the Honourable the Finance Minister said about the Provincial Governments also applies to the centrally administered areas, and the centrally administered areas will afford the same relief to those persons who have suffered here.

It is not as though help is not being afforded. I have seen hundreds of Muslims who have been uprooted being rehabilitated. In my District where many of their houses have been burnt they are being helped to re-build them. The Provincial Government is helping them. We have given help in the shape of building material, in the shape of *taccavi* loans in the shape of free seeds, etc. I am sure this matter has now been brought to the attention of the Honourable Minister and after the assurance of the Honourable Minister, help will be afforded to the Muslim citizens of India who are uprooted and who have suffered. I should have thought that after that assurance the amendments would have been withdrawn. At least that was the reason why I did not move the amendment which was standing in my name. After all it is, I am sure, nobody's purpose to make any political capital out of this controversy but the object is to afford relief to those who have suffered whether inside India or outside India. If the Honourable the Finance Minister thinks that this Bill should be restricted only to those who come from outside and, as he has assured us this morning, that relief will be afforded to those who have suffered inside the country, I think the wiser course for my friends here would have been not to move their amendments or in any case to withdraw them.

One thing more, Sir, I would like to say here. It is time that this House ceased to hear any more about communal colour being given to various questions which come before it. We have suffered enough on account of that. My friends who today talk of justice to Muslims, up till yesterday were leading a campaign of hate and I am sure by now they realise that it was that campaign of hate carried on by them which has resulted in enormous injuries inflicted on both Hindus and Muslims in this Dominion and in the other. We are talking, Sir, of relief and rehabilitation. I would ask my Honourable friends, let them leave the interests of the Muslim citizens in our hands. We have protected them during the last year and we shall protect them from any harm, but they have more influence than we have in the Dominion of Pakistan They were instrumental in creating it. We are now getting the exodus from Eastern Bengal and if that exodus continues in the huge proportions that the exodus from Western Punjab did,—there are about a crore and twenty lakhs of Hindus in Eastern Bengal—if they all have to get out from their homes, then whatever the Congress may try, whatever the Government may try, it will be impossible to face the consequences and the evil that may flow from that exodus to this side. I would therefore beg of them, instead of wasting their time here, instead of accusing people here of communalism, let them go to Eastern Pakistan, exercise their influence there, tell the people there that already enough mischief has been done in this country by this propaganda of hatred. "Stop it for Heaven's sake and give the Hindus there equality with the Muslims." If they do that, then I can assure them that the Muslims in this part will be safe.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Even otherwise they are safe.

Shri Khurshed Lal: We are determined to stand by and do our duty. We will, irrespective of what is done in the Dominion of Pakistan to the Hindus, stand by the Muslims and see that no harm comes to them, but our task will be made easier if our friends here who have influence in Pakistan, instead of preaching non-communalism here, go there and do it for us.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U P.: General): Sir, I move:

"That the question be now put."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: There are three amendments, one by Mr. Santhanam, one by Kazi Syed Karimuddin and one by Sjt. Brajeshwar Prasad.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Sir, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: By the way, Sir, does not the Honourable Minister wish to say anything?

Mr. Speaker: Does he wish to say anything? I should have asked him before. I thought he accepted Mr. Santhanam's amendment.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Yes, Sir. I do not wish to say anything.

Mr. Speaker: Then, of the two amendments, does Mr. Karimuddin wish to place his amendment before the House for its vote?

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: Sir, in view of the assurances given by the House that the interests of the Muslims who have been displaced will be looked into by the Provincial Governments, I beg to withdraw my amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member Mr. Karimuddin wishes to have leave of the House to withdraw his amendment. Does he have the leave?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No, Sir. I do not think the House has given or can give any sort of assurances to my Honourable friend.

Mr. Speaker: There is one objection against leave being granted. So I shall have to put the amendment to vote.

An Honourable Member: Yes, Sir, We can vote it down.

Mr. Speaker: It is not my concern whether it is voted on favourably or unfavourably, but I must put it to the House.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: I think, Sir, the question before the House is whether he should be allowed to withdraw his amendment or not, and not a vote on his amendment. He has already withdrawn his amendment.

Mr. Speaker: That is not the question. As the Honourable Member knows, the practice is that requests for withdrawal are put to the vote of the House, and even if there is one dissentient voice—and in this case there is one dissentient voice about withdrawal—I have no other alternative but to put the original amendment to the vote of the House.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Is it the amendment, Sir, or the permission to withdraw that is put to the House?

Mr. Speaker: Permission to withdraw is never put to the House, as other questions on motions.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharati (Madras: General): Very probably, Sir, if the Honourable Member withdraws his amendment unconditionally, without making any reservation as he has done, the House may agree to give him leave.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes. My objection is to his reservation that Muslims will be protected and so on. If he withdraws unconditionally, then the House as a whole might permit him to withdraw his amendment.

Mr. Speaker: That is for the Honourable Member to consider.

An Honourable Member: Kindly put the amendment to the House, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: But before I put it to the House, I may just ask the Honourable Member who moved the amendment whether, in view of the suggestions made he withdraws it unconditionally.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: I never made any condition. I have withdrawn without any condition.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): I never thought that he made any condition. I thought he merely explained why he withdrew.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is exactly the difficulty. It is the explanation which I object to.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever it may be, I find that there are differences of opinion in the House. So I shall put the amendment to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That in part (d) (i) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the word 'area' the words 'in or' be inserted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: I now put to the House the amendment by Mr. Santhanam. The question is:

"That for part (d) (i) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

'(i) a person who, being displaced from any area outside India on account of civil disturbances or fear of such disturbances, has settled and is engaged or intends to engage in any business or industry in India, or'."

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (e) of clause 2 of the Bill, the words 'for business and industry' be added at the end."

With your permission, Sir, I want to substitute the word 'or' for the word 'and', so that the amendment will read "for business or industry".

This is a simple amendment. The object of the Bill as stated earlier in the Preamble is to enable displaced persons to start business or industry. In the body of the Bill there is no provision insisting that loans ought to be utilised for that purpose only. In the definition portion of the loan, I seek by this amendment to add the purposes for which the loan may be granted, namely, for business or industry. That is the object of the amendment. I urge upon the House to accept it.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in part (e) of clause 2 of the Bill, the words 'for business or industry' be added at the end."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (e) of clause 2 of the Bill, the words 'for business or industry' be added at the end."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I wish to move my amendment. This is going to be accepted Sir, I beg to move:

"That to part (e) of clause 2 of the Bill, the word 'and' be added at the end."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That to part (e) of clause 2 of the Bill, the word 'and' be added at the end."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 3 of the Bill, for the word 'Corporation', the word 'Administration', be substituted."

Sir, the name of the Corporation is Rehabilitation Finance Administration. It has been made clear that it is a corporation. In sub-clause (2) at the beginning it is said: "The Corporation shall be a body corporate." In other places the word "Administration" has been used, as for instance, in clause 3, sub-clause (1) in line 2, it is described as Administration.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No, Sir. Sub-clause (1) of clause 3 reads: "The Central Government shall constitute a Corporation called" "and the Corporation shall be a body corporate, etc."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The word 'Administration' has been used all through. I beg to draw the attention of the House to clause 4, sub-clause (1), line 1 where it is described as 'Administration'. Then again in sub-clause (2) of clause 4 the word "Administration" has been used twice. It has been so used in many other places also.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member will see that there is this difference. Here in clause 3, sub-clause (1) it is said that a Corporation shall be constituted and in sub-clause (2), the Corporation is being given a name and therefore the word "Corporation" is used. It is all very well to say "The Corporation shall be a body corporate by the name of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration" and it would not be so nice to say that the "Administration" shall be a body corporate by the name of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration". That is what the Honourable the Finance Minister has pointed out.

Mr. Nazirudin Ahmad: In that case I am not pressing the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: So then, I am not putting it to the House.

Mr. Nazirudin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 3 of the Bill, for the words 'acquire and hold', the words 'acquire, hold and transfer' be substituted."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 3 of the Bill, for the words 'acquire and hold', the words 'acquire, hold and transfer' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I beg to move:

"That after sub-clause (2) of clause 3, of the Bill, the following new sub-clause be added :

'(3) The Administration shall have its head office at Delhi and may with the previous approval of the Central Government, open branches at such places in India as it may consider necessary to discharge effectively its functions under this Act'."

Sir, so far as the head office is concerned, a Corporation must have its head office somewhere As Delhi is the seat of the Capital, its head office will naturally be here and it is close to the Punjab. Also it might be necessary that branches will have to be opened at Calcutta and other places. So this amendment gives power to the Administration to open a number of branches with the approval of the Government.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That after sub-clause (2) of clause 3, of the Bill, the following new sub-clause be added :

'(3) The Administration shall have its head office at Delhi and may with the previous approval of the Central Government, open branches at such places in India as it may consider necessary to discharge effectively its functions under this Act'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, for the word 'the' where it occurs for the first time, the word 'a' be substituted."

Sir, the word "Chairman" is referred to for the first time there and therefore the appropriate article would be "a" and not "the".

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, for the word 'the' where it occurs for the first time, the word 'a' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I beg to move:

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 5 of the Bill, the following be added at the end :

'and may where necessary constitute a Regional Committee to advise each branch of the Administration'."

Sir, this is practically consequential. Before my amendment was accepted there was no indication that the Government may open branches. It had the power to open branches but there was a Central Advisory Board to advise on the constitution with a membership of 15 persons, all to be nominated by the Central Government. Branches may be opened anywhere, one may be in the East Punjab and another in West Bengal. To advise that branch it might be open to the Government to nominate a regional Committee and that is the object underlying my amendment.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 5 of the Bill, the following be added at the end :

'and may where necessary constitute a Regional Committee to advise each branch of the Administration'."

The motion was adopted.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण साहू : सभापति जी, मैं यह संशोधन का प्रस्ताव रखना चाहता हूं कि :

"That for sub-clause (2) of clause 5 of the Bill, the following be substituted :

'(2) The Advisory Board shall consist of one member from each Province'."

इस संशोधन के प्रस्ताव के देने से मेरा यह मतलब है कि जब हर एक प्राविन्स (province) में थोड़े थोड़े आदमी पंजाब से जाते हैं, मैं सुनता हूं कि उड़ीसा में भी दो हजार या दो हजार से ज्यादा शरणार्थी गए हैं, तो यह अच्छा होगा कि हर एक प्राविन्स (province) का एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन (administration) के साथ ताल्लुक रहे। अगर यह नहीं रहेगा तो वहां का काम अच्छा नहीं चल सकता। इस लिये मैं इतना ही प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि (५) का जो सब-क्लाज (Sub-clause) है उसको बदल कर ऐसे रखना चाहिए :—

"The Advisory Board shall consist of one member from each Province."

इससे यह होगा कि कम से कम एक आदमी हर प्राविन्स (province) में से लिया जायगा और जब पंजाब से और किसी प्राविन्स (province) से ज्यादा मेम्बर लेने होंगे तो १५ से ज्यादा मेम्बर भी लिये जा सकते हैं। उसमें कोई अड़चन नहीं है। लेकिन कम से कम एक आदमी एक प्राविन्स से जरूर लेना चाहिए। यह

[श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण साहू]

जब तक नहीं लियें जायेंगे तब तक लोग क्या सोचेंगे कि एक ही प्राविन्स (province) से सब चुने जाते हैं। सब कामों में और खास कर इस काम में इन्क्रीज़िंग एसोसिएशन (increasing association) हर एक प्राविन्स (province) का होना चाहिए। इसमें और सब प्राविन्स (province) भी समझेंगी कि इतनी बड़ी आफ़त हमारे देश के उपर आई थी और हम लोग इस बोझे को उठाने के लिये सब कुछ कोशिश करते हैं इसलिये में चाहता हूं कि यह जो संशोधन का प्रस्ताव मैंने दिया है उसको हाउस मंजूर कर ले।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu (Orissa: General): Sir, I move:

"That for sub-clause (2) of clause 5 of the Bill, the following be substituted :
'(2) The Advisory Board shall consist of one member from each Province'."

The object of my moving this amendment is that when refugees from the Punjab are going into every province—I hear Orissa has also received over two thousands of them—it would be better if the Centre keeps in touch with the administrations of the provinces. If it does not, the provinces will not be able to do their work properly. I, therefore, move that for sub-clause (5) the following be substituted:

"The Advisory Board shall consist of one member from each province."

This means every province will have at least one representative. When it is required to have more representatives of the Punjab or of any other province the number can be increased beyond fifteen. There is no hitch about it. But there should be at least one representative of every province. So long this is not done people will think it to be exclusively a monopoly of one province. All works, especially this, require an increased association of all the provinces. This will enable all other provinces to appreciate the magnitude of the catastrophe that has befallen our country and we spare no pains to shoulder this responsibility. I, therefore, wish the House should accept my Amendment.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I do not accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That for sub-clause (2) of clause 5 of the Bill, the following be substituted :
'The Advisory Board shall consist of one member from each Province'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That sub-clause (1) of clause 6 of the Bill, be omitted and the subsequent sub-clauses be renumbered accordingly."

Sir, I submit that this sub-clause is unnecessary. It is not my case that there should be no provision to this effect, but the provision is implied by the provisions of the General Clauses Act, Sir. sub-clause (1) reads as follows:

"A member appointed under clauses (a) and (b) of sub-section (1) of section 4 shall hold office during the pleasure of the Central Government."

My contention is that according to the General Clauses Act any authority which has the power to make any appointment has also the power to dismiss, suspend and the like: so the power of removal would be clearly implied. I think I should read section 16 of the General Clauses Act, as the matter constantly comes up before the House. That section reads as follows:

"Where, by any (Central Act) or Regulation, a power to make any appointment is conferred, then, unless a different intention appears, the authority having (for the time being) power to make the appointment shall also have power to suspend or dismiss any person appointed (whether by itself or any other authority) in exercise of that power."

The condition that they hold office during the pleasure of the Central Government implies that when they incur the displeasure of the Central Government that Government has the right to remove them. Any man who is appointed by a particular authority holds that office during the pleasure of that authority. The sub-clause is thus unnecessary.

Shri K. Santhanam: I do not think, Sir, that is the correct interpretation. What this clause really means is that the Central Government shall not appoint the members specified in clauses (a) and (b) of sub-section (1) of Section 4 for a fixed term. I think the provisions of the General Clauses Act should not be brought in here.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, what I feel is this. Here the words "appointed" and "nominated" are used though both technically mean the same thing. The word "appointed" is used in the case of officials, while the word "nominated" is applied in the case of non-officials. Accepting the interpretation of the General Clauses Act, does my Hon'ble friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad mean to suggest that the Central Government can do away with the nominated members. It is no doubt a fact that the authority which makes an appointment has the right of removal—I do not deny that. But the right of extinction does not go with the right of creation. All of us are the sons or daughters of our fathers, but our fathers have no right to destroy us. Assuming this interpretation to be correct, my Honourable friend's amendment is superflous; if my assumption is not correct it is unnecessary.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I cannot accept the amendment, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I may just say what strikes me, though I do not want to interfere in the course of the discussion. Power of appointment, no doubt includes power of dismissal. Even if the authority of dismissal is conceded, still, the question will remain as to whether that dismissal should be conditional or unconditional, or under what circumstances and in what manner. All those questions remain open if the interpretation of the General Clauses Act is taken into consideration. Here the appointment is during the pleasure of the Central Government and the difference seems to be very clear to me. Does the Honourable Member want to press his amendment?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I do not want to press my amendment, Sir.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 6 of the Bill, for the words 'Chief Administrator' the words 'Central Government' be substituted."

As the appointment is made by the Central Government I want that the letter of resignation should be sent to the Central Government. Further, on the occurrence of a vacancy it is the Central Government that will fill up the vacancy. So there is no purpose in sending the letter of resignation to the Chief Administrator. Sir, I move.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 6 of the Bill, for the words 'Chief Administrator' the words 'Central Government' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 7 and 8 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 9 of the Bill, for the words 'shall devote his whole time to the affairs', the words 'shall be a whole time servant' be substituted."

Devoting the whole of his time to the Administration is impossible. Sir, I move.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I accept the amendmove.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 9 of the Bill, for the words 'shall devote his whole time to the affairs', the words 'shall be a whole time servant' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 9, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I move:

"That in part (c) of clause 10 of the Bill, after the word 'remuneration', the words 'and allowances' be inserted."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (c) of clause 10 of the Bill, after the word 'remuneration', the words 'and allowances' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 10, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 11 of the Bill, the words 'of rupees', be added at the end."

The sub-clause says that the Central Government may advance 'ten crores' but it is not clear whether it is ten crores of rupees or annas or pies. The Honourable Minister did not initially agree to this amendment but I know he is ready to accept amendments which are really necessary, Sir, I move.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 11 of the Bill, the words 'of rupees', be added at the end."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in part (a) of clause 12 of the Bill, the words 'of rupees' be added at the end."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (a) of clause 12 of the Bill, the words 'of rupees' be added at the end."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, it is here provided that as individual banks, only Scheduled banks can advance money which can be guaranteed by the Administration. It can also guarantee money advanced by Syndicates of Banks. A large number of very ricketty banks can join together and form a syndicate and then demand from the Administration that its advances should be guaranteed. So I wanted to provide that it must be a Syndicate of Scheduled Banks but it was pointed out to me that this would give rise to difficulties. I therefore suggest that in the Rules provision should be made to scrutinise the financial basis of such Syndicates and wherever possible at least one or two Scheduled Banks should be associated with such a Syndicate.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I can give that assurance.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, under clause 12 ten crores may be advanced—(i) seven crores directly under sub-clause (a); (ii) one crore by way of rediscounting under sub-clause (b); and (iii) two crores by way of guaranteeing part of the losses accruing from advances by Scheduled and other banks to any of these displaced persons, under sub-clause (c). In the last line but one we have these words: "provided that the maximum liability incurred under such guarantees shall not at any time in the aggregate exceed two crores of rupees." I wanted the omission of the words "at any time". The difficulty is that the particular loan at the time may not be recoverable, in which case the loss would have accrued and would have been made. Take the case where 3 to 4 lakhs have been loaned. One lakh is guaranteed. To that extent the loss would have accrued. Thereafter 'at any time' would mean the company could guarantee to the extent of Rs. 2 crores. I do not believe this is meant. On the aggregate losses would extend up to two crores. The administration is authorised to undertake the liabilities. Therefore, the words 'at any time' give room for the administration to go on lending. At any time they should not undertake a loss of two crores. We agree with the clause in substance but I want to know whether the words make any such difference as I am trying to point out. Otherwise I have no objection to it. Even now it is not too late for him to forego or remove those words.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The amount of two crores is indicated as the maximum limit of the guarantee so far as that class of business is concerned. It is certainly not the intention of the Government to permit the administration to incur an actual loss of two crores on that class of business. In fact if the amendment in the form in which my Honourable friend wants it to be incorporated is included, it might give room to that conception that we are prepared to allow losses in that category of business. Naturally what will happen is this. We do not expect that the Corporation should make any loss. But where losses are made they must be few and far between: and if the administration goes on incurring losses in this class of business, then Government will have to intervene and issue necessary instructions.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 12, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 13 of the Bill, the words 'from time to time' be omitted."

The relevant portion in the Bill reads:

"The Central Government may, from time to time, prescribe the limits as to amounts within which loans may be advanced by the Administration."

This sub-clause gives power to the Central Government to prescribe the limits. I submit whenever a power is given, the power obviously may be exercised 'from time to time as the occasion arises'. It is not necessary to specify on every occasion that the power may be exercised 'from time to time'. In fact, unless anything is said to the contrary limiting the exercise of the power to one specific occasion, it may, in every case, be exercised from time to time as occasion arises and the authority is given in the General Clauses Act. Section 14 of that Act says:

"Where by any Central Act or regulation made after the passing of this Act, any power is conferred then unless a different intention appears that power may be exercised from time to time as occasion arises."

In these circumstances, had there been the appointment of a particular man for a particular job only for a particular occasion, probably the power would be exhausted by making the appointment once. The Central Government here may prescribe certain limits. So I think that the power can be exercised at any time as and when occasion arises is clearly implied. So these words are unnecessary.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I cannot accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 13 of the Bill, the words 'from time to time' be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 13 of the Bill, the following be added at the end:

'but in the case of an individual other than company, association or body of individuals, the amount of loan shall not exceed Rs. 25,000'."

The object of this amendment is that in view of the number of displaced persons who will be entitled to take financial assistance is very great, no individual should get more than Rs. 25,000 loan. In my opinion our consideration should be that the maximum number of refugees gets the benefit of this, otherwise the very purpose of this Bill would be defeated. Therefore I submit that the loan that should be advanced to an individual should not exceed more than Rs. 25,000.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 13 of the Bill, the following be added at the end:

'but in the case of an individual other than company, association or body of individuals, the amount of loan shall not exceed Rs. 25,000'."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not like the idea of prescribing the maximum limit of the loan in the Act itself. As I mentioned in my opening remarks, it is my intention to issue instructions to the administration that the maximum limit of loans in the case of individuals should be Rs. 50,000 and in the case of companies Rs. 1 lakh. But I fully agree with my Honourable friend that our attempt and aim should be to spread out this assistance as widely as possible, and for that purpose I certainly would like the amount of the loan to be restricted. But it is quite conceivable that in certain cases a group of individuals may join together and advancing them Rs. 50,000 may be tantamount to helping 25 people with that money. In addition to giving this instruction, I propose to issue a general instruction of policy that as far as possible the aim should be to give small loans so that the help may be spread out.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: In that case I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am not moving any amendment but I would like to speak on the clause itself.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: A similar restriction already exists in clause 13 sub-clause (1), namely:

"The Central Government may, from time to time, prescribe the limits as to amounts within which loans may be advanced by the Administration."

My amendment referred to the terms and conditions under which the loan may be granted. There is no doubt that necessary provision is also made in Clause 24. Section 2(c) of this clause relates to "the terms on which the corporation may grant loans". Naturally they would insist that these loans be utilised for business or industry and that they would see that it is so utilised. But whereas the administration can directly give loans to the extent of 7 crores, three crores are given away as guarantee or discounting. I wanted that by rules or instructions even those guarantees or discounts should have been given to persons for business or industry. I do not want to restrict the class. That is why I did not move my amendment. I hope the Honourable Minister will take that into consideration.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I will carry it out by suitable instructions.

[*At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen).*]

Shri K. Santhanam: I have just a point to make. Sub-clause (5) of clause 13 says:

"The assets created from the loan shall notwithstanding any law or usage to the contrary, be deemed to be mortgaged to the Administration for the payment of the loan together with the interest thereon and the amount of the loan and the interest thereon shall be first charge on such assets."

Ordinarily it would be difficult to distinguish the assets created from the loan from other assets. Therefore this clause may be inoperative in many cases and the Administration will have to be careful as to how it is operated. I had given amendments to say that the loan shall be a general charge on all the assets of the borrower while the assets created by the loan shall be the first charge. I was told that the "assets of the borrower" may be too wide and therefore it may cause difficulties but in any case ordinarily there should be a first charge on all the assets wherever possible. It is only in exceptional cases where there is a prior charge on the assets concerned in the industry or business the loan should be given with a great deal of care and with further collateral security.

4 P.M.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I have tabled an amendment but as I pointed out, in sub-clause (2) the loan is to be given only on the recommendations of the district officer, or a State Government, or any bank, etc. I wish the wishes of the refugees in those districts were also consulted. I have often seen influential persons getting their jobs done through the district magistrates but poor people do not have access to them. If there are associations in every

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

district and almost in all districts they have formed associations, it would be proper to recognise them and get their opinions also in this respect. That would help in the solution of this problem. I hope in the Advisory Committee there would be a number of persons who will represent the associations of refugees in the province and in that way also they will be able to get what they want. I do want that all these loans should be granted to industries in such a way that it may help in filling the picture of the development of the country which we have in mind. Therefore I hope the Honourable Finance Minister will issue instructions either through rules or in some other way to secure this purpose.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Sir, I wish to say a word in regard to sub-clause (3) of this clause which refers to interest. Of course it says that the Administration shall charge an interest not exceeding 6 per cent. But generally the law of indebtedness produces the experience that what is maximum is the minimum and it does not do much credit to the Government to put even a limit of 6 per cent., when in its own acts such as the Industrial Corporation Act it has forbidden the distribution of dividends at a higher rate than 3 to 5 per cent. We must gradually accustom the people to the idea that the percentage of interest must be brought down steadily. The Co-operative movement began with 9 per cent. it brought it down to 6 per cent. and now it has brought it down to 5 per cent. If that is the rule that Government prescribes in regard to others taking dividends, when it takes interest it is taking power to be greedy or capitalistic and is trying to put a higher limit for itself. If the Finance Minister agrees not with my reasoning but with my conclusion then he may at some suitable stage reduce the interest from 6 to 5 per cent.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Clause 11, sub-clause (3) will show that the Government is taking only 3 per cent. The difference between 3 and 6 per cent. is intended to cover the cost of administration and possible losses.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: As my Honourable friend pointed out the Government is charging only 3 per cent. for the money advanced but the Administration should run and somebody must pay for the running of the Administration. It is not our intention that beyond getting just the 3 per cent. on the capital that we supply the Corporation with the Government should make any profit out of it. I want that this Administration should be a self-supporting administration. Therefore we will tell the Administration that in charging interest to its clients it should just keep in view the idea of making the Administration self-supporting. If that body can run at 4 or 4½ per cent. we certainly would have no objection but I thought that a maximum limit of 6 per cent. with a margin of 3 per cent. should be allowed, so that the Administration might adjust its lending rights suitably to circumstances.

With regard to the suggestions made by my Honourable friend Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena, I would point out to him that associations of refugees would be included in the term "appropriate agency" and I shall certainly issue instructions to the Administrator that he should wherever such associations exist co-operate with them and take their views also.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya has had considerable experience in the administration of co-operative societies. He knows that the administrative expenses are not supposed to be more than I per cent. at each stage when moneys are lent by the Imperial Bank to the Provincial Co-operative Bank and the Co-operative bank charges only one per cent. for its administrative expenses and these banks do not lend at a loss at all. On the other hand they show some profits and distribute dividends. When they lend money to the district societies they charge again only one per cent. and no more. (*Interruption*). That only shows that where you have got three intermediary organisations the maximum rate of interest that is added on to it comes to 3

per cent. more. Here you do not expect to have so many intermediaries You are now creating only one organisation. To that organisation Government is lending money. Government charges 3 per cent. I do not see any reason why this organisations is expected to charge as much as 6 per cent. My Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya's suggestion that it should be reduced to 5 per cent., is extremely reasonable and I hope the Honourable the Finance Minister will be able to agree to it.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: With regard to Co-operative Banks they have enormous resources. They take money on current account at a very small rate of interest, and therefore they can live on a small margin. Then again Co-operative Banks are established for a long time and have experience. With regard to this clause 6 per cent. is only the maximum. If the Honourable the Finance Minister keeps the rate of interest in his mind to make it consistent with as little profit as possible, then in keeping the maximum rate there will be no harm.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: We all support 5 per cent.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Merely because there is a margin of 3 per cent. there is an inducement to have a heavy establishment. Therefore the Minister may have the maximum here as 6 per cent. but by rules he shall direct that not more than 5 per cent. may be collected and he should see to it that the administrative charges are covered by the extra 2 per cent. that is charged over and above the 3 per cent. In no case.....

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: What about some margin for a loss?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We have already provided for losses. The losses are not expected to be recouped from the Administration itself.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Certainly.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Two crores of losses we are prepared to guarantee. That is what is said.....

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No, no.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It only reminds me of the story of a person who wanted to perform *puja* to the God Vigneswara. He made the idol in *gur* and finding nothing else for *Nivedan* he pinched a portion of Vigneswara's buttocks and made it his offering to the God. These ten crores are offered to those people. Why should they go and borrow from the Administration? It is because they have no assets on the strength of which any bank would normally give them loans. In Bombay 2 and 3 per cent. loans are raised. If you go more and more into the interior the rates go on increasing. If at the headquarters he has sufficient security it reduces the rates of interest. The man who has the assets gets the loan at a lower rate of interest. The rate is higher, if there is a risk involved and there is no property which he can pledge with respect to the loan. Under these circumstances we ought not to take advantage of his inconvenience or exploit his difficulty. When we are trying to make it appear that we are helping the poor people we should not make it impossible for them to earn a decent living. There is no amendment on the table, but I hope the Honourable Minister will see that the Administration shall not charge more than 5 per cent. or 2 per cent. over and above the three per cent.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, in this connection one point deserves to be remembered. If the Government today lends a crore of rupees to the Administration the Administration cannot immediately lend it to the borrowers. The money will have to be simply lying without earning interest for some time.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Money would be taken on the strength of the applications.

Shri K. Santhanam: Government will have to arrange its borrowing programme. If money is put in current account it will fetch no interest. It is

[Shri K. Santhanam]

wrong idea that because we provide for some contingency which may occur, the Administration should have to incur losses on all transactions of guarantee. It should be a self-supporting organisation. Otherwise there cannot be sufficient relief to the refugees. It is only there to the extent that it helps them to build sound businesses. I think a maximum of 6 per cent. is not very heavy under the present circumstances. I do not suggest that the maximum should be levied, but it is intended for certain cases. It depends upon the nature of the particular industry or business. For some industries it may lend at 3 per cent., for others at 4 per cent., for certain others at 5 per cent. There should not be a uniform rate of interest. It must depend upon the credit, the risk and the nature of the industry or business.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: In other words the rate of interest rises inversely according to the square of the security.

Shri K. Santhanam: I do not know whether it is square or cube, but it should be in some inverse proportion. I think there is no reason why we should object to this.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: General): Sir, having had some experience of this I may say a few words. I think 2 per cent. will be quite sufficient to meet the administration charges and to provide for bad debt, for a small reserve and things like that. But unfortunately the Reserve Bank has taken the view that there should be 3 per cent. difference between the borrowing and lending rate.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is a capitalistic bank.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: That is why we have a lot of trouble in the co-operative movement with reference to the fixing of rates of interest. The Reserve Bank said there must be a margin of 3 per cent. between the borrowing and lending rate. I presume the Honourable the Finance Minister has taken the advice of the Reserve Bank and has put in this 6 per cent. on their advice. But in the actual working, as I said, our experience is that 2 per cent. will be quite ample. I see from the provision in the Bill that 6 per cent. is only the maximum. So, in view of all this discussion, if the Honourable the Finance Minister will fix the rate of interest at 5 per cent. I think the interests of the Bank will be safeguarded and the people who are intended to be benefited will also get the benefit.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): Sir, I think the guiding principle of this measure is generosity. I think the suggestion given by Dr. Pattabhi is quite moderate and may be accepted. It appears to be the consensus of opinion in the House. I think the Honourable Minister should be generous enough to accept this.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I shall certainly instruct the Administration to keep prominently in mind the expressions of opinion made here this afternoon.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 13 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13 was added to the Bill.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Sir, I move:

"That in part (a) of clause 14 of the Bill, for the words 'for the loan', the following be substituted :

'for obtaining the loan or while furnishing any information under section 17'."

The clause as it stands, does not mean anything. It says "if it appears to the Administration that false or misleading information in any material particular

was given by the borrower for the loan". I want to have it amended into "for obtaining the loan". Then you will find that under clause 17 the Chief Administrator may call upon any borrower to furnish certain information. If he furnishes false information that also should give a ground for the Administration to call upon the borrower to pay the entire amount. So I have added the words that where such false information is furnished under section 17 that should also enable the Administration to call for repayment of the entire loan. Sir, I move:

"That in part (a) of clause 14 of the Bill, for the words 'for the loan', the following be substituted :

'for obtaining the loan or while furnishing any information under section 17'."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in part (a) of clause 14 of the Bill, for the words 'for the loan', the following be substituted :

'for obtaining the loan or while furnishing any information under section 17'."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das (West Bengal: General): Sir, I move:

"That in part (a) of clause 14 of the Bill, after the word 'given', the following be inserted :

'or any material information was suppressed'."

Sir, I want to make the clause explicit so that there may not be flaw in the clause. Therefore I move that these words be inserted.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

"That in part (a) of clause 14 of the Bill, after the word 'given', the following be inserted :

'or any material information was suppressed'."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: It is not necessary to have this amendment.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Then I do not press the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: Does the House give leave to the Honourable Member to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (a) of clause 14 of the Bill, the word 'or', be added at the end."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in part (a) of clause 14 of the Bill, the word 'or', be added at the end."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I beg to move:

"That in part (b) of clause 14 of the Bill, the word 'or', be added at the end."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in part (b) of clause 14 of the Bill, the word 'or', be added at the end."

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I had tabled two amendments which I did not press. If only the Honourable Minister takes the matter into consideration and gives necessary directions I shall be satisfied. The point is that under clause 14 the power to call for repayment before the agreed period is conferred under certain circumstances in cases of loans directly lent by the Administration. In the case of a loan which it guarantees, if it has reason to suspect that the loan was obtained under circumstances which, if granted

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

directly by the Administration, it would be entitled to call for repayment, it must also be entitled to call upon the bank to call for repayment from the borrower—for we have undertaken to guarantee the loss. This can be done by directions to the Administration.

Then there is one other amendment which I have not moved. It is with this object. Amongst the reasons for which or the occasions on which the entire amount may be called for from the borrower I wanted to add one reason, namely, if he did not utilise it for business or industry. I did not like to press its inclusion here. The main object of the Administration is to help business or industry. I want that a watch should be kept to see that the borrower does not use the loan for other purposes. The loan is not intended to be given to encourage all and sundry but for the purpose of business and industry. If this is not ensured the object would be frustrated. This point may be kept in mind by the Administration.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Yes, these will be taken note of.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 14, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 15 of the Bill, after the words 'which is due', the words 'or has been required to be repaid under section 14' be inserted."

Sir, This is only to make it clear that the Administration may take this action not only when the loan is due and has not been repaid, but also when it has been recalled under the conditions prescribed in clause 14. It has been pointed out to me that this amendment may not quite fit in with the terms "has not been repaid in accordance with the terms of the contract". I think however "contract" in this connection will also include clause 14 automatically by implication or by express provision, and therefore I do not think there is any inconsistency, and I move the amendment.

Shri C. Subramaniam: After the amendment, the clause reads thus:

"If the amount of loan or any instalment thereof or interest thereon which is due, has been required to be repaid under section 14, has not been repaid in accordance with the terms of the contract."

That is how it reads: If you turn to clause 14, you will find it reads:

"Notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary, the Administration may, by notice, require etc.".

Therefore if you put both, that is "which is due, or has been required to be repaid under section 14" before the clause "has not been repaid in accordance with the terms of the contract", that would mean that only if the terms of the contract are violated will this clause come into operation. On the other hand, under clause 14, apart from the terms of the contract, you can call for the amount. So what I submit is that the amount will become due under two circumstances: (1) In the ordinary course when the time expires; and (2) when the Administration calls for repayment under section 14. Therefore it is not necessary to say "or has been required to be repaid under section 14", because under both the circumstances, by lapse of time as well as by being called upon to pay, the loan becomes due. So the appropriate thing would be to amend it to read.

"Or any instalment thereof or interest thereon which is due, has not been repaid in accordance with the terms of the contract, or under the provisions of section 14."

So it should come that way—repaying either in accordance with the terms of the contract or in accordance with the provisions of section 14; that would be the correct thing. In those terms I have tabled my amendment and if my Honourable friend agrees, I shall move my amendment.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I think Mr. Subramaniam's amendment is probably slightly better worded. So I would suggest to my Honourable friend to withdraw his amendment. I would accept Mr. Subramaniam's amendment—No. 12 in List No. III.

Mr. Subramaniam's amendment—No. 12 in List No. III.

Shri K. Santhanam: I wish to withdraw my amendment.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 15 of the Bill, after the word 'contract' the words 'or under the provisions of section 14' be inserted."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I make a suggestion. I believe the suggestion of my friend Mr. Subramaniam is that Mr. Santhanam's amendment ought not to come in immediately after "which is due" because the latter portion "has not been repaid in accordance with the terms of the contract" militates against the express provision of clause 14. Whatever has to be added must come after the word "the contract", but I would like that Mr. Santhanam's expression there may be incorporated instead of Mr. Subramaniam's, "or under the terms of clause 14". Mr. Santhanam's amendment will fit in like this "If the amount of loan or any instalment thereof or interest thereon which is due in accordance with the contract or has been required to be repaid under section 14 and has not been repaid". Mr. Subramaniam says "which is due" covers both cases. I have got a doubt about this. "Which is due" is in the normal course under the terms of the contract, and not which has been called for under the provisions of section 14. Therefore it does not cover this. I would urge that instead of this amendment, after the word "contract" the words in the amendment of Mr. Santhanam may be incorporated,—"or has been required to be repaid under section 14 and has not been so repaid". There is no harm in making it explicit.

Shri K. Santhanam: I may make a suggestion. Mr. Subramaniam's amendment may read as follows:

"If the amount of loan or any instalment thereof or interest thereon which is due in accordance with the terms of the contract or under the provisions of section 14, has not been repaid, the Administration may."

Then it will be all right.

Mr. Chairman: Does Mr. Subramaniam agree to accept the amendment proposed by Mr. Santhanam?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, the amendment will be like this, Sir, I move:

"That in clause 15 of the Bill, for the words 'has not been repaid in accordance with the terms of the contract', the following be substituted:

'in accordance with the terms of the contract or under the provisions of section 14, has not been repaid'."

Mr. Chairman: I will put the amendment as accepted by the Honourable Member to the House.

The question is:

"That in clause 15 of the Bill, for the words 'has not been repaid in accordance with the terms of the contract', the following be substituted:

'in accordance with the terms of the contract or under the provisions of section 14, has not been repaid'."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (b) of clause 15 of the Bill, for the words 'the person to whom the loan has been advanced', the words 'the borrower' be substituted."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in part (b) of clause 15 of the Bill, for the words 'the person to whom the loan has been advanced', the words 'the borrower' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman; The question is:

"That clause 15, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 15, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I beg to move:

"That after clause 15 of the Bill, the following new clause be inserted :

'15A. Where the Administration acquires asset in satisfaction of its claims under loan or guarantee, it shall dispose of the same, as early as practicable and in any case not later than a period of three years from the date of such acquisition'."

Similar provision exists in all the other statutes and therefore it is necessary. If there is no need, of course we will not issue this instruction.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I will issue instructions about this matter.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, then it may be treated that I have not moved the motion.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: I was only going to ask whether it is obligatory on the part of the Administration to dispose of a good asset; it might try to keep it. Why do you compel it? For instance, the price may very much appreciate; and I know instances where banks have got an institution for Rs. 5,000 and it has gone for Rs. 25,000.....

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: This is a temporary Administration, not intended to be permanent.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya:.....thereby it might make up for a loss sustained elsewhere. It might be left to the discretion of the Administration.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: My Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi would agree that it is very undesirable to lock up its funds in any of the assets. Naturally the instructions that will be issued to the Administration will be that assets acquired in the course of business should be disposed of as soon as possible, but if in the opinion of the Administration it is found that to retain the assets for some time more will result in profits, then certainly they will be given, the discretion to have it but ultimately they will have to dispose of it.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: What about the word "shall"?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Therefore I said I will give instructions.

Mr. Chairman: We shall now take up clause 16.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (4) of clause 16 of the Bill, for the word 'fair', the word 'true', be substituted."

Sir, in my amendment which I had tabled I had proposed to substitute the word "accurate" for the word "fair" but with your permission I would now substitute the word "true" for the word "fair". The text speaks of the balance sheet as a "full and fair" balance sheet. I would like to make it a "full and true" balance sheet. With regard to the word "fair" it has got several meanings; when applied to a lady it indicates fair complexion; with regard to character it does not show a good character—in schools the Headmasters give certificates

that a boy has "good" character, or a "bad" character; a "fair" character is never good character; that is a most grudging certificate. So also it cannot apply to a balance-sheet. I think the true position would be that the balance-sheet should be full and "true", not full and "fair".

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: It is written in the feminine sense, I believe.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: If it is written in that sense, I think it would be quite accurate but in matters of accounting the correct expression is full and "true"; fairness is not the sense in which it is really applicable.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I agree with the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (4) of clause 16 of the Bill, for the word 'fair', the word 'true' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 16, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (4) of clause 17 of the Bill, for the words, figures and brackets 'sub-sections (1) and (3)', the words, figures and brackets 'sub-section (1) or sub-section (3)', be substituted."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (4) of clause 17 of the Bill, for the words, figures and brackets 'sub-sections (1) and (3)', the words, figures and brackets 'sub-section (1) or sub-section (3)', be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 18 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I beg to move:

"That in clause 19 of the Bill, the words 'from time to time' be omitted."

Sir, the clause gives power to the Central Government to do certain administrative acts. I submit that under section 14 of the General Clauses Act, especially in this context, the words are unnecessary. My Honourable friend suggested that there is no harm in having it. That principle should be applicable when a guest is invited to dinner; of course there is no harm in eating and giving more to eat. But in matters of legislative drafting that sort of principle should not be accepted. I believe that when words are not necessary they are not to be incorporated. The General Clauses Act is enacted simply to prevent unnecessary repetition and it would not be proper to flout the principles of the General Clauses Act; when things are clearly implied it is not necessary to emphasise them.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, my own idea of the General Clauses Act is that it is a general statute to provide for contingencies where provision has not specifically been made in certain cases, and every Act as far as possible should be self-contained and full. That is my own reading of the purport of the General Clauses Act, though I am not a lawyer. Therefore I think people who are asked to buy this Act should not also be put to the necessity of buying a copy of that Act. So I should rather keep this phrase.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I should then suggest that the General Clauses Act be scrapped. That would be the easiest thing.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No.

Mr. Chairman: Does the Honourable Member press his amendment?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: No.

Mr. Chairman: Then he may proceed with his next amendment.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Yes, Sir. I beg to move:

"That in clause 19 of the Bill, the words 'in the exercise of its functions under this Act' be omitted."

I fail to see what purpose would really be served by the use of the words "in exercise of its functions under this Act." In fact, it is always in the exercise of its functions under this Act that acts here are to be done. This condition is never laid down anywhere else. These words are unnecessary and they should be removed. That would not disturb the sense in the least.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I think it is all right as it is.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Then, I do not press.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 19, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19 was added to the Bill.

Clause 20 was added to the Bill.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Sir, I have three amendments on this clause and I shall move them all together. I move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 21 of the Bill, for the words 'undistributed assets', the words 'assets of the Administration', be substituted and the following be added at the end of the sub-clause:

'and the Central Government shall thereupon have all the powers of the Administration in recovering the loans remaining unpaid'."

Sir, yesterday there was a discussion regarding the words "undistributed assets". I think this expression has been used with some purpose to distinguish certain other assets, *i.e.*, distributed assets. Now, what would be the distributed assets in the case of this Corporation? I fail to see what could that be. It was suggested, "Suppose some creditors were paid by the Administrations—that would be distributed asset." Certainly, when you pay a creditor or when you meet a liability, you do not say you are distributing the assets. That is only paying the creditor or meeting the liability out of the assets. That won't be a distribution of asset. So when you use the expression "undistributed assets" the only meaning which suggest itself is that the distribution of assets by way of loans to refugees, would mean "distributed assets" and the cash assets which have not been so distributed would mean the "undistributed assets". My Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar suggested that this is the expression used in the Indian Companies Act. As a matter of fact, if you look into the Indian Companies Act,—the relevant Section is Section 244(b),—you will find that the analogy is wrong. The use of the words "undistributed assets" there is to this end, namely, when a liquidation takes place, monies are payable to the shareholders. Certain shareholders may not claim it and may not have been paid. Then the liquidator has to deposit this "undistributed asset" into a certain Bank in the liquidation account. So even if you take the meaning of the words in the Indian Companies Act, the use of this expression here does not make any meaning. There is absolutely no necessity to use it in respect of this Corporation. There are no distributed or undistributed assets here. All the assets are for the purpose of granting loans. That is why I have moved for the omission of the word "undistributed". To make it clear I have added the words "of the Administration", *i.e.*, "assets of the Administration".

Then, Sir, I have moved for the addition of a new clause, namely, "and the Central Government shall thereupon have all the powers of the Administration in recovering the loans remaining unpaid". In regard to this also, it was suggested yesterday "After all the Government is the legal successor and therefore all the rights will vest in the Government." But then, Sir, I would invite the attention of the House to Section 15, wherein a special mode of recovery is provided for. That special power is given to the Administration and unless it is passed on to the Central Government also, that mode of recovery cannot be resorted to by the Central Government simply because the rights vest in the Central Government by virtue of this Section. Therefore, I want this new clause to be added at the end. I hope it will be accepted.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I accept the amendments.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 21 of the Bill, for the words 'undistributed assets', the words 'assets of the Administration', be substituted and the following be added at the end of the sub-clause:

'and the Central Government shall thereupon have all the powers of the Administration in recovering the loans remaining unpaid'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 21, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 21, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 22 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 23 of the Bill, after the word 'rules', the words 'not inconsistent with this Act' be inserted."

Sir it is provided in clause 23 that the Central Government may make rules for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Act. I want to make it clear that those rules shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act. The condition is invariably inserted in all Acts. There has never been a single exception. Although I believe that the rules which will be made will not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act; that is another matter. As a matter of legislative formality this condition is always inserted. Not that I fear any mischief would be done, especially under the Honourable Minister, but it is the natural form in which such power is conferred. Sometimes rules go wider than the Sections unconsciously. Such unconscious trespass or going beyond the purview of the Act is sometimes inevitable.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

'That in clause 23 of the Bill, after the word 'rules', the words 'not inconsistent with this Act' be inserted."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: But the Honourable Member's amendment is inconsistent with the general dictum that unnecessary words should not be used. I do not think that these words are necessary.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Legislatively they are important and also necessary.

Mr. Chairman: Does the Honourable Member want me to put his amendment to the vote of the House?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in clause 23 of the Bill, after the word 'rules', the words 'not inconsistent with this Act' be inserted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 23, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 23 was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 24 of the Bill, after the word 'Act', occurring in line three, the words 'or the rules made thereunder' be inserted."

Sir, this is necessary as the regulations have to be consistent with rules.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 24 of the Bill, after the word 'Act' occurring in line three, the words 'or the rules made thereunder' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (b) of sub-clause (2) of clause 24 of the Bill, after the words 'Advisory Board', the words 'or Regional Committee' be inserted."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in part (b) of sub-clause (2) of clause 24 of the Bill, after the words 'Advisory Board', the words 'or Regional Committee' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (c) of sub-clause (2) of clause 24 of the Bill for the word 'corporation', the word 'Administration' be substituted."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in part (c) of sub-clause (2) of clause 24 of the Bill for the word 'corporation', the word 'Administration' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I beg to move:

"That after part (g) of sub-clause (2) of clause 24 of the Bill, the following new part (h) be inserted and the existing part (h), be re-lettered as part (i):

'(h) the manner in which and the conditions under which the business or industry of a person to whom a loan has been advanced may be taken charge of and administered under section 15'."

Sir, originally the Bill did not contemplate taking over of a concern. The Select Committee put in this clause 15 and provided for taking charge, but they did not put a special provision in the rules. Of course, under the general provision the institution will have power to make rules but as this is a very important matter, it is better that the attention of the rule-making authority is drawn to this particular matter.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That after part (g) of sub-clause (2) of clause 24 of the Bill, the following new part (h) be inserted and the existing part (h), be re-lettered as part (i):

'(h) the manner in which and the conditions under which the business or industry of a person to whom a loan has been advanced may be taken charge of and administered under section 15'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 24, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 24, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 1, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in the Preamble to the Bill, for the words 'business and industry', the words 'business or industry' be substituted."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Preamble as amended, stand part of the Bill."

"That in the Preamble to the Bill, for the words 'business and industry', the words 'business or industry' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Preamble, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Preamble, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in the long title of the Bill, for the word 'the', the word 'a' be substituted."

The long title is to the effect that it is a Bill to establish 'the' Rehabilitation Finance Administration. I should make it establish 'a' Rehabilitation Finance Administration. We use the word 'the' pointedly to draw attention to something in existence. The Rehabilitation Finance Administration is in the making and so we want to establish a Rehabilitation Finance Administration and when it becomes full-fledged we can call it "The Rehabilitation Finance Administration."

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

"That in the long title of the Bill, for the word 'the', the word 'a' be substituted."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I accept the amendment.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: I wanted to know whether we should call the Indian Penal Code and the Civil Procedure Code, A Indian Penal Code and A Civil Procedure Code.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am told that my acceptance is invalid.

Mr. Chairman: I think the word "the" is more appropriate.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: After hearing Dr. Pattabhi, I prefer the word "the".

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in the long title of the Bill, for the word 'the', the word 'a', be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the long title, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The long title was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know that members are impatient to go and I am not going to keep them long. I have great pleasure in supporting this motion of my Honourable friend and I wish all success to this Administration that is being set up and I hope it will do all that we are expecting out of it. In supporting this motion, Sir, I cannot but express the great pain that I felt on the sudden change that the debate had taken earlier. The pain was all the greater, when I found that it is all due to the twist given to the debate by my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. Mr. Ayyangar knows that I have very great regard for him and our personal relations have been very very cordial. And it has been very painful for me that a man of such eminence, and a gentleman of such a big heart—as I have always found him—should have read into one of the amendments something which was never meant. It becomes very difficult for members of this House, particularly for members of my way of thinking, that we cannot get up in this House, in this sovereign legislature of this independent country, and ask for something that we want without some meaning being read into it. After all what was under discussion was that the scope of the Bill should be enlarged so that certain other unfortunate people should be included. No one said that it was a question between Hindus and Muslims. The Honourable the Finance Minister—be it said to his credit—never thought that this has anything to do with the communal question; he understood the point very well and he replied in those terms. This is not the first time that this point is being discussed here. When the Bill was first

5 P.M. introduced and was going to the Select Committee this matter came up; and the very fact that of the three amendments of the same nature two were by Hindus, shows that there was nothing communal about it. I do not know why I cannot get up in this sovereign legislature for something that I want without being insulted, without being called names and without being offered a First Class ticket to Pakistan. I felt very bad about it and I start appeal to the House to have some regard for the minorities. After all we have been sitting in this House for the last six months and the House has noticed what our demeanour has been. We can certainly raise any number of troublesome questions in this House. Even today on the speeches made by Honourable Members I can raise any number of matters here, which will create a great deal of soreness; but, as I said, we have been avoiding soreness all along. And today for a member to get up after six months and try our patience in this House and in the country by saying that there is no change in us at all does not make things easy. My Honourable friend speaks very fast and thinks very fast, with the result that he leaves his sentences unfinished and his thoughts unfinished. He mentioned so many things; he mentioned, for instance, what happened in the party meeting day before yesterday, and what he wanted to say is not clear. He appears not to have read newspapers. He does not know what the controversy was. He gets up with the responsibility that he has and tries to give a lead to all these hundreds of newspapers which are waiting for trouble by saying that some trouble has started here and that the Muslims have not changed at all and that even after six months in spite of all the concessions made the Muslim is still the same, and so on. Does the House realise that in this House we are occupying a very difficult position? Not one word have we said in this House in the last six months in support or in defence of any Muslims in this Country or in Pakistan. The question hour has been a very trying time for us. We know the difficulties of this country; we know the difficulties under which we ourselves are labouring. And over and above all that we want this country to succeed; we want to give this Government the completest and fullest support and service. That has been the one guiding principle ever since we accepted this partition. And then an Honourable gentleman gets up and blames us for asking for partition. He forgets that this partition came to this country because of the agreement between two parties. If I am responsible for the partition my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar is equally responsible for it. It is after all the leaders who sat down and agreed to it; the country and the organisations agreed to it. What is the use of blaming us or blaming them? The best course is for both the countries to work together and make a success of it. But if every time I get up I am blamed for the partition and offered a First Class ticket, I can talk like that also. So my purpose is to appeal to this House and the country outside to forget all these things and see that we work for the strengthening of this new country which is faced with God knows how many dangers and difficulties. You should make it possible for me at least to co-operate and not to goad me into a position where I will have to retaliate. I know it is possible for me to make mischief, but who wants it? Sir, I am sorry I have spoken with some vehemence but I appeal to the House in all humility not to take opportunities of creating trouble. If there are attempts to create trouble the attitude of the House should be to pour oil on troubled waters, not to see that trouble is fished out where it does not exist.

Sir, I strongly support the motion that the Bill be passed.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I rise to support this motion. I wish to make my position absolutely clear that there is no allegation or even a suggestion that Government is against the Muslims. On the other hand I make a clear declaration here that Government have been doing everything in their power to support the Muslims and perhaps they have a soft corner for the Muslims as compared to the Hindus. Sometimes in a sovereign legislature words are said when people's nerves are somewhat highly strung which cause resentment. This happens in other legislatures when people speak from sincere convictions on the spur of the moment. In the House of Commons worse things have taken place; there have been free fights; here we have only used hot words. I only hope these things will not be repeated. What happened was probably more due to misunderstanding than to the actual use of any objectionable sentiments. I hope this will be forgotten as a nightmare and we will be happy as brothers.

Sir, I find a very welcome sign in the House that Honourable Members are taking more and more to the drafting of amendments, which to me at least is more agreeable than the discussions. I believe the drafting of Bills should be more carefully done and after that the Bills should be carefully revised. The fact that Government accept a large number of amendments of a more or less important nature shows the need for caution in this respect. And I find that the little efforts that I began here, which were not at first very acceptable in the beginning, are gradually being appreciated and more and more Honourable Members are tabling and moving amendments.

Sir, I support the motion that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, you will pardon me if I rise to offer a word of personal explanation. We have been all watching what happened. I never started an amendment of that kind nor did I take any exception to that amendment. I spoke like that because it was said that this was intended to help only one section of the community; it was also understood in the same sense by the Finance Minister. My Honourable friend Mr Karimuddin said that it was not intended to insinuate that but all the same it carries that impression. Sir, it is easy for a scorpion to sting but the man who cries is a blackguard, and that is why I have been put in that position. Sir, I submit that really there must be a change of heart. My Honourable friend Mr. Ishaq Seth is a member with whom we have had intimate connections; we come from the same Presidency. Let alone the refugees and third class and fourth class persons who could not take care of themselves, magistrates and judges and men of importance in this country who happen to be Muslims have not been displaced. But what is happening there? Mr. Lalchand

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

Navalrai was a Member of this House; his son who was an Additional District Magistrate has had to run. My Honourable friend Dewan Chaman Lall is an old parliamentarian; his brother had to run away. None of them can be there. Tell me of any single Hindu of any importance and standing, whether in business or in employment who can live in Pakistan. I met today an employee of the Watch and Ward in this building; he told me he was a sub-inspector of police in Bahawalpur. Today he is employed here in the Watch and Ward. Therefore this country is sore. I say something about patience and next morning I get a letter telling me that I must not say this if I want to keep my head on my shoulders. My Honourable friend does not know with whom we are dealing. Today there is not one Hindu in West Punjab; they have all been displaced. If people have suffered in the country what is that compared to the sufferings of these people: What I said was that we must first of all attend to them.

An Honourable Member: Hindus in Delhi have been displaced.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: They must have been fools to run away.

My Honourable friend wanted to show that his community does not get proper respect and reverence in this sovereign legislature. What is it that we have done? He holds a very important position here. We are terribly afraid of calling ourselves of Hindusthan; I want it to be called by an English name India. We are a secular State. But can I go to Lahore? (*An Honourable Member*: "*Why not*"?) Yes, I can go but I can never return. Let us talk in terms of humanity. What is said was that it is not as if any revolution is created by the ordinary man who does not think. But rightly or wrongly this thing was started and these persons left their hearths and homes. They have fled from West Punjab. Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan who is an important member of the Pakistan Government said that anyone can go to Pakistan; any non-Muslim refugee who left that country can return there but their houses or lands or business premises will not be restored. Will any Member of this Government speak like that? Here Muslim houses vacated are locked up, and the sub-inspector displaced from Bahawalpur told me that he is paying a Muslim Rs. 30 for a small cottage. In addition if you have no occupation you are fed at State expense. Tell me of any displaced person in Bihar . . .

An Honourable Member: How is all this relevant?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am giving a personal explanation.

Take people in Bihar who have left that province and gone away elsewhere. Their lands are there and their houses are intact; tomorrow if they come back all these will be returned to them. Therefore it is very easy for them to settle down. And so the question of rehabilitation of a person who has been displaced from one area and gone to another area near about is not the same thing as the other case. There is no comparison between the two. Again and again a number of instances were given by my Honourable friend Pandit Maitra and we were practically weeping over the matter. The chapter that was closed in West Punjab is now starting in East Bengal. So my Honourable friends must change their attitude, every one of them. We want all of them to be here but not to say that they also can create mischief. I wish my Honourable friend Mr. Ishaq Seth had not said that; he is an experienced Member who was Chief Whip of the party and the right hand man of the Leader of his party. Let them search their own hearts and say whether they are not safe here whereas in other places our people are sitting on the top of a volcano. Here they are absolutely safe and I can assure them that no one will touch them. Do you think I could talk like this in Pakistan? My head would have been cut off. My appeal to my Honourable friends is that we should not create trouble in these matters. Let us live together happily as my Honourable friend Shri Khurshed Lal said, let them go to places where they have influence and see that the refugee problem does not arise any more. Therefore let us part without rancour. We want the support of our friends on that side. The Government and the Congress are pledged to bring about a secular State, and let there be no trouble created by us.

Sir, I support the motion.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Sir, as an old member, at least in age, though not in standing I feel called upon to say a word, so that we may not leave this House with nasty taste on our tongues. I was hoping that with the complaint and the answer a calm atmosphere would be restored. No doubt an abrasion requires a little tincture iodine but when you rub the tincture a little too much, the abrasion may be made worse. I do wish that in this House we maintained as cordial relations as we are certainly maintaining outside. We need not take advantage of every occasion in order to bandy words or make repartees nor indulge in persiflage and banter. But in this House if we only take care to maintain an atmosphere not merely of friendliness but of cordiality, it will help us all ever so much and I would only assure our Muslim friends as they have assured the rest of us that in our debates there should not be rancour or repartee. Even if one friend indulges in it, the best remedy is not to repay him in the same coin but to ignore it, so that by indulgence shown to him he may feel that he is being sought to be reclaimed and chastened by a policy not of retaliation but of self-suffering. That should be the attitude that all of us must bear to one another. If we are indulging outside, if we are just and generous, we deserve no credit, because that is what is due from the major community to the minor community. But if the minority community is a little querulous, a little whining and whimpering, that also is only to be expected considering the feeling of utter helplessness which they entertain, because numerically they are weak. It is the same feeling that one community in the other section of India is entertaining in respect of the other community. The feeling of the minorities is a tremendously painful feeling. We know it in the linguistic minorities which are here and there in the border areas. They feel bitter towards one another. Small things become exaggerated. We must all learn to take a wider and more generous view of these matters and look upon all these bilingual and biracial areas in that spirit. If we do that we shall be able to leave a better atmosphere in this country as we advance from day to day. I thought it but right and that it would be fitting that we should part from this debate with friendly thoughts, once more strengthened in our determination that we shall keep up an atmosphere not merely of friendliness but of cordiality, fellowship and goodwill.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 3rd March, 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Wednesday, 3rd March, 1948

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

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS

The following member made the declaration under Rule 2C:

Shri S. A. Sudhalkar (Baroda State).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS

MERGER OF FRENCH INDIA WITH INDIAN UNION

571. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the French India People's Convention met in Pondicherry on the 23rd January, 1948 and resolved for the complete merging of French India with the Indian Union?

(b) Has their deputation met the Ministers of the Government of India?

(c) What action do Government intend to take on the resolution passed at Pondicherry?

(d) Are Government in communication with the Government of France in respect of the French possessions in India? If so, with what result?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Government of India have received a report to the effect that the French India People's Convention met on the 25th January, and passed a resolution for "the immediate unconditional withdrawal of French Sovereignty from the five settlements", and expressed its determination to merge with the Indian Union.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). The Government of India are in communication with the French Government over the future of the French Establishments in India.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the French Ambassador has brought any proposals to the Government of India and whether he has had any talks with the Honourable the Prime Minister?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The French Ambassador has recently come back from Paris. I have not had an occasion to meet him yet.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Are the Government in communication with the Government of Portugal in respect of the Portuguese possessions in India?

Mr. Speaker: That does not arise out of this.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the attention of the Honourable the Prime Minister been drawn to a statement made by M. Daniel Levi, the French Ambassador in India to the effect that a plebiscite would be held in India to determine the future of the French possessions: and if so, whether this referendum would be held solely under the French Government's auspices or jointly with us or under some international auspices?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is I think common ground between the Government of India and the French Government that the future of the French possessions should be decided by the people of those possessions. As to how it should be decided, according to the wishes of the people there.

Obviously some arrangement will have to be made so that they might have full opportunity to give expression to their opinion. We have not discussed this matter.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are negotiations in progress between our Government and the French Ambassador?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Not about that particular detail, but as I have stated in answer to the question, about the future of these possessions.

CONSTRUCTION OF QUARTERS FOR SECRETARIAT STAFF.

572. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) how many buildings have been sanctioned for the staff of the Government of India, when the construction of the same will be started and when it is expected to be completed;

(b) in view of the transport difficulties, whether Government propose to select sites for the staff quarters near the Secretariat office and its surroundings;

(c) whether Government are aware that large open sites are available in the vicinity of the Secretariat offices; and

(d) whether Government are aware that residential quarters nearer the offices would save the staff from conveyance expenses?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The number of buildings recently sanctioned is as follows:

New Delhi.—(i) 200 officers' flats, (ii) 1,000 clerks' quarters, and (iii) 1,000 peons' quarters.

Old Delhi.—(iv) 36 clerks' quarters at Karolbagh, (v) 1,000 clerks' quarters at Timarpur, and (vi) 250 peons' and duftry quarters at Timarpur.

These construction schemes will start very shortly and are expected to be completed within about fifteen months.

(b) No. Sites for the above schemes have already been selected in the Lodi Road, Factory Road and Aliganj areas in New Delhi and in the Karolbagh and Timarpur areas in Old Delhi. The sites near the Secretariat will be required for permanent office accommodation.

(c) Yes. At present there are three large open sites near the Secretariat, *viz.*, the Central Vista and the North and South Avenues, but these are not suitable for housing schemes. Other big sites near the Secretariat are mostly occupied by temporary hutments, which cannot be demolished at present, owing to acute shortage of office accommodation.

(d) Yes.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any quarters for the staff are being built in the Civil Lines?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: No.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know why Government do not think it desirable to build all quarters near Lodi, so as to allow the staff to attend office conveniently?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: For the simple reason that the density of population will be much more and not in the interests of public sanitation and health.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that many of these places are far away from the Secretariat, and these people are low-paid, have Government considered the possibility of covering them with suitable bus services by means of which they can come here?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That question could be more appropriately addressed to the Ministries of Transport and Finance?

Shri K. Santhanam: What is the number of storeys for each house?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: So far as officers' flats are concerned, they are to be four storeyed: As regards the clerks' quarters they are to be three-storeyed houses: as regards the peons' quarters, they are to be one-storeyed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In planning the situation for the building of these Houses, will Government keep the earlier consideration prominently before their mind?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: In planning all factors, including transport facilities are taken into consideration.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: When is the work likely to start?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As a matter of fact the construction with respect to peons' quarters had started but had to be suspended on account of civil disturbances. But it has started again.

As regards the other matters, the Standing Finance Committee was good enough to sanction these schemes recently, and the construction will start in two months and the scheme will be completed in fifteen months.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is the work done departmentally or are tenders invited?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is done according to the usual procedure.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the usual procedure?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The usual procedure is to call for tenders.

PROVINCIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR POST WAR DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

573. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to his answer to my starred question No. 234, asked on the 21st November, 1947 regarding the Post War Development schemes, and state how much money out of the sum of Rs. 13 crores paid to the Provinces each Province has spent upto December, 1947 and on what schemes?

(b) While implementing the schemes, what amount has been contributed by each Province and what amount has each one of them actually spent from its own funds?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not readily available as the accounts for the period ending 31st March, 1947 have not yet been closed. The Honourable Member must have seen from the Finance Minister's Budget Speech for 1948-49 that it has now been made clear to the Provinces that in future the grant from the Centre upto the maximum agreed to will be contingent on the Provinces spending from their own revenues at least an equal amount.

EXPORT QUOTAS OF JUTE TO SINDHI MERCHANTS

574. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Sind Works Merchants Association, Bombay, made a representation to Government for granting Export quotas of jute goods to Sindhi refugees?

(b) Are Government aware that several Sind Works Evacuee merchants and firms who evacuated from Far Eastern countries sent applications to the Chief Controller of Exports, for allotment of quotas in pursuance of the notification dated the 5th July, 1947?

(c) If so, were quotas granted to them and if not, why not?

(d) Are Government aware that after the partition of India, most of these Sind Works Evacuee merchants and firms have abandoned their trade in Sind and have migrated to the Indian Union?

(e) If so, do Government propose to consider their applications for export quotas for jute?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Quotas have been granted to Sind Work evacuee merchants and firms who were eligible for quotas in accordance with the principles adopted for distribution among various applicants. The Honourable Member's attention is invited in this connection to my reply in this House on the 9th December, 1947 to part (d) of Shri Ramnarayan Singh's starred question No. 737, which lays down the principles that have been followed by this Ministry in the distribution of newcomers' quotas.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Under the revised scheme, quotas of jute and jute goods are being distributed half-yearly on a *pro-rata* basis to those parties who are in a position to produce evidence of having concluded contracts with importers abroad. If, therefore, these refugees are able to produce the necessary evidence before the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Calcutta, by the dates prescribed by that officer, they would be also able to secure the necessary quotas for exports.

ALLOTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS PREMISES TO REFUGEES

575. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received from refugees for allotment of residential houses and business premises respectively;

(b) the number of allotments made by the Custodian of Evacuees' Property in respect of residential and business premises respectively;

(c) the number of allottees who have been given actual possession of houses and business premises allotted to them; and

(d) the total number of houses and business premises which had been forcibly occupied by refugees and other persons, and how many of them were got vacated by the Custodian of Evacuees' Property with the help of the Police and have been allotted to refugees?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is presumed that the question relates to Delhi.

(a) 24,208 applications were received for allotment of residential houses and 10,800 for business premises.

(b) 2,593 residential houses have been allotted. No business premises have so far been allotted, though care-takers from among refugees have been appointed in some cases.

(c) 72 allottees have been given actual possession of houses.

(d) 9,926 houses and 3,733 business premises have been forcibly occupied by unauthorised persons. 1,400 eviction warrants have been issued. The police have evicted 19 unauthorised occupants of houses and 3 such occupants of business premises.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the fact that 2,500 allotments have been made and only 72 have been given actual possession, may I know if Government has considered the desirability of making an announcement that people should not look forward to the Government or the Custodian of Evacuees' Property for getting houses or business premises?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As I have already stated, 1,400 eviction warrants have been issued and until and unless Government get a report from the authorities, whose responsibility it is to have these warrants executed, that it is not possible to execute these warrants and evict these persons, no such statement as suggested by the Honourable Member can be made.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not the settled policy of the Government at the moment that the unauthorised persons who are occupying these houses should not be evicted and the police is not co-operating in the matter of their eviction at all?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I would not say that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the average period that is taken between the issue of these warrants and their actual enforcement?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Having regard to the fact that only in very few cases actual execution has taken place, it is difficult to give an estimate of the average period.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How does Government justify the failure on their part to evict these people after having given warrants to them and only 22 people have been evicted?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I would ask my Honourable friend to wait for the reply to the next question because this issue is raised there and I have attempted an answer to this point.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does Government propose to regulate the business that is carried on on the pavement premises not far from the Council House opposite the Rehabilitation Ministry's Office?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid that does not directly arise out of this question.

BUSINESS PREMISES ALLOTTED TO REFUGEES BY SECTOR CUSTODIANS OF EVACUEES PROPERTY

576. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses, business premises and factories which were sealed by the Custodian of Evacuees' Property and are still lying vacant;

(b) the number of business premises which were allotted by Sector Custodians without reference to the Advisory Committees or without previous permission of the Custodian of Evacuees' Property;

(c) how many of them have since been got vacated;

(d) whether it is a fact that most of the allotments made by the Sector Custodians to refugees have not been put into effect; and

(e) if so, where Government propose to provide these people with accommodation?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) 28 houses were sealed by the Custodian. None of them is vacant now. The number of business premises and factories sealed by Custodian and still remaining vacant is 61 and 38 respectively.

(b) and (c). No allotment of business premises has so far been made.

(d) and (e). Due to the unauthorised occupations during the period of disturbed conditions in the city, most of the allotments remained ineffective. The eviction of refugees on a mass scale was not considered practicable or conducive to the restoration of normal conditions. Government is attempting with some success to provide shelter to refugees but has decided that any more refugees coming to Delhi will be sent out to refugee camps in Bihar and Orissa.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know what progress Government have made with the different proposals to rehabilitate these people and provide them with housing accommodation?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Rehabilitation and Development Board are actively engaged in examining these various proposals and they are expected to take an early decision—at least in one particular case.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that there are about 1,600 plots belonging to the Delhi Improvement Trust, duly serviced and ready for allotment or auction, and Government has not decided as yet whether these plots should be allotted to the refugees and temporary buildings should be put on them?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: This matter again is under the consideration of the Board.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that this information was brought to the notice of the Government as early as November but no action has so far been taken on it?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: There have been discussions between the different Ministries concerned, and in view of certain difficulties that were put forward by the other Ministries in regard to these various plots it was not possible to make any progress. For instance, there are certain commitments. The question of slum clearance and the question of prior claims of the people who had been dispossessed—all these questions—came up for consideration and it was felt that the question of reserving these plots for refugees was not so simple as was originally thought.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that even during the last month some plots were sold by auction by the Delhi Improvement Trust?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Delhi Improvement Trust is at liberty to proceed with their duties as authorised under the law which applies to them. There is again some difficulty about Government controlling the Delhi Improvement Trust in the matter of restricting the scope of their authority so as to benefit the refugees.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have Government not issued any instructions to the Delhi Improvement Trust that pending bigger decisions about housing it would not be wise to part away with the land which is readily available for building purposes and which belongs to the Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: On the other hand I have received representations from certain sections of refugees who are in a position to invest capital that they would benefit if these auctions were to take place.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: May I ask what is the total number of refugees who are without any shelter at present?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I should ask for notice of that question.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it not a fact that a considerable number of them have still not been accommodated in houses, notwithstanding the promise given to them by the Prime Minister about a month ago that everyone of them would be so accommodated within the space of a week?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I should not think so, because still there is accommodation in Purana Qila.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid my Honourable friend does not remember the words I used. I did not say that they would be not be accommodated in houses because the houses were not there for accommodation to be given to them. What I said was that there should not be any shelterless person in Delhi, that shelter adequate as far as possible and such other amenities would be provided for them. I believe those were provided in larger numbers than were necessary for the refugees at that time in Delhi.

When news of that fact was bruited abroad, far greater numbers came to Delhi and continue to come. We have provided shelter for everyone. I cannot say offhand whether there are any persons who are without shelter—there may be a few. But I can say that in effect there should be none and there should not be any considerable number of shelterless persons. It is true that the kind of shelter which we provide is not first-class. In the nature of things that is a little difficult. As a matter of fact, the conditions in regard to refugees in Delhi have improved so considerably that a considerable number of semi-settled refugees in East Punjab wanted to come to Delhi, and did come to Delhi and created further difficulties, so that, apart from this, any undertaking that was given by us, I do think, was fulfilled.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What was the number of refugees who were provided with shelter in pursuance of the Prime Minister's undertaking?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I presume what the Honourable Member means is the number of persons who have been provided with shelter since the statement was made by the Prime Minister. If that is so I should like to have notice and can furnish the figure later on.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it not a fact that in Purana Qila shelter has been provided for about 8,000 refugees?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is the full capacity. But nothing like the full capacity has yet been utilised.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it not a fact that two to three thousand people have already been accommodated in Purana Qila?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What is the total accommodation in the refugee camps and how much of it has been occupied?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I think it does not arise out of this. In any case I should like to have notice.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is difficult to give numbers offhand without enquiry. But there has been a considerable addition in the Kingsway camp. About 4,000 people have been provided for in the Purana Qila. The fact that at the present moment we are prepared to provide for two or three or four thousand more people in the Purana Qila but people do not come, goes to show that people think that they are better off without the accommodation provided for them. Nobody need therefore be shelterless.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that assurances were given by the Rehabilitation Commissioner that satisfactory arrangements for transport would be made from Purana Qila to the city but those arrangements have not yet been made and this is one of the reasons why people are not attracted to that camp?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I shall look into this matter. This is the first time I hear about this complaint.

EVACUEES' PROPERTIES IN DELHI

577. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of houses, factories and business premises which have been declared as Evacuees' Property in Delhi; and

(b) the total rent collected till 31st January, 1948, in respect of these premises and the principle followed in fixing the rents?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) About 12,512 residential units, 3,866 business premises and 420 factories (most of them small workshops, brick kilns, lime kilns and the like) were declared Evacuees' Property.

(b) The total rent collected upto 31st January, 1948 was Rs. 46,993. The rents have been fixed on the basis of amount of rent previously charged by the landlord, if known, or assessment record of the Municipal or Notified area concerned. Where the Municipal record also is not available, the rent is fixed on the basis of prevailing rent for similar accommodation in the area. In order to check and rectify errors, a Departmental Rent Committee will review the rents fixed from time to time.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Is there any time limit fixed by the Ministry to keep these evacuee properties vacant and unoccupied?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact the complaint is none of this property which has not been specially reserved is vacant.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that out of these residential houses, quite a large number—as many as over 2,000—are still lying vacant and the Government has not yet made up its mind whether it should proceed to allot those houses to the refugees or not?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as I am concerned, there is no intention to make any allotment of these houses to the refugees.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if it is the intention of the Government to keep these houses vacant indefinitely?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I should not say that.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: May I know the time-limit fixed for it?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: We will wait and see.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Why is the allotment not made?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member is fully aware of the circumstances in which this step had to be taken, namely to keep these houses vacant.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will Government consider the desirability of reserving a certain percentage of these houses for possible evacuees returning to these houses or for meeting other requirements of evacuees and proceed to allot the rest of them to refugees?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As at present advised it has been decided that the houses that my Honourable friend mentioned should be kept vacant for the time being.

Mr. Speaker: The matter has been sufficiently discussed now. Next question.

EMPLOYMENT OF REFUGEES THROUGH INSTITUTIONS BESIDES EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

578. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state what steps other than those through Employment Exchanges are being taken to provide jobs to the refugees at an early date?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member is referred to my replies to (i) Starred Question No. 56 on 31st January, 1948. (ii) Part (a) of Starred Question No. 109 on 4th February, 1948. (iii) part (b) of Starred Question No. 459 on 25th February, 1948. (iv) For refugee officers of the provincial governments of West Pakistan a Transfer Bureau has been functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs. A special Employment Bureau is being set up in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation for specially qualified displaced persons drawn from trade, business, commerce, industry and professions as also for displaced employees of local bodies.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Are Government satisfied with the progress of work reported by these exchanges?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think that is a matter for opinion.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: What steps have been taken to collect the pension and other dues so that they may be distributed monthly to the retired government servant refugees who have come from the Pakistan area?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: This is a matter which has formed the subject matter of negotiations with Pakistan.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Are Government aware that these retired government servants from Pakistan are here for six months and will Government please see that arrangements are not delayed so that these people may not die of hunger?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: In so far as anything depends upon us, we certainly give the guarantee that nothing would be delayed.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Can any advance be paid of those pension amounts?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is a matter which may have to be considered hereafter.

FOOD AND TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH PAKISTAN

579. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of agreement entered into between India and Pakistan in respect of food; and

(b) whether the Government of India propose to have a general trade agreement with Pakistan?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) This part of the question should really have been addressed to the Honourable Minister for Food and Agriculture. A copy of the Memorandum of Agreement entered into between India and Pakistan has, however, been placed on the table of the House.

(b) As the Honourable Member is aware, the Standstill Agreement which was in force and under which there was to be free trade between the two Dominions has expired on the 29th February, 1948. The question of a general trade agreement with the Dominion of Pakistan is at present engaging the attention of Government.

Seth Govinddas: In view of the fact that the Standstill Agreement has expired on the 29th February, what is the position at present as far as trade between Pakistan and India is concerned?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That position has been explained in a communique which was issued a couple of days ago and which says that Pakistan for purposes of trade, will be treated as foreign territory.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the Pakistan Government made any proposal so far in regard to the negotiations and the conclusion of a general trade agreement?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Some preliminary talks are taking place.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUREAU FOR COMMERCIAL INFORMATION

580. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the present *Indian Trade Journal* is not able to cater to the needs of all the export and import traders in India?

(b) In view of the greater necessity for information regarding the possibilities of foreign trade, do Government propose to consider the desirability of establishing a separate bureau of commercial information?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) The *Indian Trade Journal* is not the only publication which caters to the needs of the trade in India. Weekly reviews of Indian and foreign market conditions based on internal advices and

reports received from Trade Commissioners are also issued for the general information of the trading and business public. An *Indian Trade Bulletin* is also published fortnightly with the object of giving wider publicity to principal developments in the realm of Indian trade, Industry and Finance. Press Notes, based on Trade Commissioners' reports, are also put out from time to time bearing on important matters which require immediate and wide publicity.

(b) The Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics at Calcutta exists for the purpose of giving information to traders regarding the possibilities of foreign trade and there is no necessity therefore for setting up a separate Bureau of Commercial Information. I may add, however, for the Honourable Member's information that proposals are under consideration for strengthening and reconstituting this Department with a view to its rendering the maximum assistance possible to the commercial community in the development of India's overseas trade.

Seth Govinddas: Have the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and other such bodies applied to Government in this respect?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: A suggestion has emanated from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce for strengthening and reorganizing the Commercial Intelligence Bureau which exists at Calcutta.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister consider the desirability of having one journal instead of a multiplicity of journals which will confuse the interests concerned?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That may be taken into consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government be prepared to supply to such of the members of this House as are interested in this matter copies of the *Indian Trade Journal* as well as the fortnightly summaries?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That may also be considered. They can be supplied. They are usually placed in the Library, I am told.

NATIONAL ANTHEM FOR INDIA

581. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister please state whether any steps have been taken to have a National Anthem for India composed?

(b) If so, what stage has it reached and when will the same be ready?

(c) Has the work been entrusted to one or more experts and what is the prize fixed for the best composition?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c). Before finally deciding on a National Anthem it is considered desirable to give trials to orchestral renderings. With this object in view such orchestral renderings have been prepared by experts of Tagore's *Jana Gana Mana*, and a number of military bands have been asked to practise them.

Seth Govinddas: Has the Government considered the desirability of changing certain songs like Jhanda song which have now become obsolete and by certain changes can be made into a national song?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid these are suggestions for action and need not be answered.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Considering that Hindi or Hindustani is going to be the *lingua franca* or *lingua indica*, will Government consider the desirability of giving a trial to that famous song beginning *"Shubh Sukh Chain ki barsa barse....."* popularized and immortalized by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose?

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow any questions giving suggestions. Members may ask for information

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know whether the traditional Bande Mataram song has ceased to be a national anthem now?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Certainly not.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: May I know who will be the body of persons who will select that a particular song should be selected as a national anthem?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot precisely answer that question immediately, but may I point out to the House that a national anthem is something far more than the words. The most important part of an anthem is the music of it and most people do not realise that. They go by the words. Therefore it has been decided that Tagore's *Jana Gana Mana* with the orchestral renderings should be examined. Other songs no doubt can also be so examined. My friend wishes Bande Mataram too. Unfortunately the words of some songs that are very good are not capable of good orchestral renderings, tunes and etc., and as national anthems played as orchestra, they are not very impressive. We want something with life in it and yet with great dignity. We want both. If either is lacking, it is not good. If it is all dignity and no life, then it falls flat. If it is all life and no dignity, then it is theatrical. So we have to strike a balance between the two.

Now, to answer the Honourable Member's question, I imagine that at first some committee of Government (or Government itself) or some committee of this House will probably make a recommendation and ultimately it will be for the House itself to adopt finally the National Anthem, as it adopted the National Flag.

Seth Govinddas: Will Government consider the desirability of appointing a committee of musicians and experts who may report to Government?

Mr. Speaker: These are suggestions for action.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: But, is it a fact, Sir, that, in the meantime, our Army is required to play the National Anthem of *God Save the King*?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the army is enjoined to play, but sometimes they do play that, though, nowadays, the general practice is to play *Jana Gana Mana*. Now, if I may be permitted to branch off a little from the context, the normal army toast has thus far been to the King Emperor. That is the toast at the gathering of officials. Now so long as we are connected with the King that toast to a certain extent continues. Quite recently, there has been a gradual change: there are two toasts, one to the King and the second one to India. At the official and army functions, normally speaking, unless the Governor-General is present when *God Save the King* is played, some other anthem like the *Jana Gana Mana* is played, although it has not yet been officially recognised.

Mr Tajamul Hosain: May I know, Sir, whether the Prime Minister can give us an approximate idea as to how long it will take before we shall have a National Anthem of our own?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot say. I should, however, like the matter to be decided fairly early, though there is no extreme urgency about it. The point is that the tune should be fairly well known before it is imposed upon the people. Therefore the way we try to proceed is this. Some of these tunes are played—not in the normal sense of school-girl renderings at public meetings and conferences—but by regular expert orchestras, bands etc. When people get used to them, then will be the time to adopt them finally and give them the official impress.

EVACUATION OF NON-MUSLIMS FROM BANNU

582. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindus and Sikhs who are awaiting evacuation from Bannu;

(b) how long it will take to evacuate them; and

(c) what arrangement is being made for their evacuation?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) About eight thousand.

(b) It is hoped that the evacuation will be completed during the month of March, 1948.

(c) Evacuation has to be carried out mainly by rail. Some trains have already come out but since the attack at Gujrat on one of these trains no further trains have been laid on by Pakistan Government for security reasons. It is hoped that it will be possible to resume evacuation by rail in the near future. A few aeroplanes are also sent as and when possible.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether adequate arrangements have been made to provide the refugees in Bannu with food?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have had complaints that there are difficulties experienced at Bannu about this matter and we have asked our High Commissioner to find out the position.

REMOVAL OF PROPERTY FROM SAFE DEPOSIT VAULTS IN PAKISTAN

583. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who have been granted permits and have been able to remove their property from the safe deposit vaults in Pakistan since 1st January, 1948;

(b) in how many cases during the above period were claims put in by the Government of Pakistan against the applicants for such permits;

(c) how many such claims have been allowed; and

(d) how many such claims have been rejected?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Conditions governing operation of safe deposit vaults by non-Muslims evacuees vary in the different Provinces constituting Pakistan. In East Bengal, Sind and Baluchistan no restrictions have been placed by Government on the operation of safe deposit vaults and hence no permits are required.

In West Punjab 670 safe deposit lockers have been operated under permits issued since the 1st January, 1948. All these applications have been allowed excepting those of seven depositors against whom claims have been preferred. These claims are under examination of the Custodian of Evacuee Property, West Punjab. The total number of claims preferred against holders of safe deposit lockers is not known.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Is it a fact, Sir, that not more than twenty depositors are allowed to operate these safe deposit vaults daily?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That was the original figure but it has since been raised to about forty and my information is that in addition to these forty, the Custodian gives certain special permits, so that the number of lockers that can be operated per day is about fifty.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: What is the total number of lockers belonging to non-Muslims in West Punjab?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have no information.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether it is a fact that in the permit that is issued by the West Punjab Authorities it is specifically stated that securities and bonds will not be removable from these vaults?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know what exactly is entered in the permits, but the information that I have with me is this that the Custodian has imposed a police search on the contents of the lockers and has ordered the taking out of security bonds and other scripts.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether this particular restriction is not in contravention of the agreement arrived at between us and Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Well, the agreement in specific terms did not refer to any restrictions of this kind and, therefore, we have taken this matter up with the Government of Pakistan and repeated telegrams have been sent to them. We have also instructed our Deputy High Commissioner at Lahore to take up the matter with the authorities there.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether he has found out any reason for the restrictions that are placed; has it anything to do with any action taken in East Punjab?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I could not say that off hand, but generally speaking whenever we raise any issue of any restriction, the usual reply from the Pakistan authorities is that somewhat similar restrictions have been imposed in East Punjab.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know the number of lockers used by the evacuees either in East Punjab or Delhi?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I have no information.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have any restrictions been placed by Government in respect of lockers which belong to the evacuees and who have gone away from Delhi?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: We have placed no restrictions.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: Has the Government enquired if any restrictions have been placed by the East Punjab Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As far as I am aware, no such restrictions have been placed by the East Punjab Government either

REMOVAL OF DOMICILE RESTRICTIONS FROM REFUGEES IN INDIA

584. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accepted the principle that refugees from Pakistan are to be treated as domiciled in the Province or State in which they propose to settle or seek employment, and that all domicile restrictions are to be removed in their case; and

(b) if so, whether the Provincial Governments and the acceding States have also been requested to accept this principle and to act accordingly, and if so, what has been the response from the different Provinces and States?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by the Honourable the Prime Minister to starred question No. 723 by Dr. N. B. Khare on the 9th December 1947 and also to clause 5 of the Draft Constitution of India.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to starred question No. 459 (b) by Mr. R. K. Sidhwa on the 25th February 1948.

PROVINCIAL RESTRICTIONS ON PRACTICE OF REFUGEE LAWYERS

585. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have requested the various High Courts in India to remove the Provincial restrictions in the matter of enrolment and practice of refugee lawyers from Pakistan, and if so, what has been the response from the different High Courts?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Ministry of Home Affairs have requested the Provincial Governments to move the Provincial High Courts in this matter. Decisions of the Provincial High Courts are awaited.

SURPLUS STORES FOR REFUGEES TO START BUSINESS ETC.

586. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have frozen and set apart out of surplus stores, any material to be made available to refugees for helping them to start business or establish industries;

(b) whether Government propose to publish at an early date a pamphlet giving the details of such goods and the manner of obtaining them; and

(c) whether any definite scheme has been drawn up in this connection, and if so, whether Government propose to lay a copy thereof on the table of the House and also publish it at an early date to enable the refugees to take full advantage of it?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The scheme has not yet been finalised. It will be announced in the Press and placed on the table of the House as soon as it is finalised.

REVISION OF BOUNDARY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BENGAL

587. *Shri Arun Chandra Guha: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government of India have taken any steps to revise the boundary between West Bengal and East Bengal as demarcated by the Radcliffe Award?

(b) Is it a fact that the question of the Chittagong Hill Tract was considered to be outside the terms of reference to the Radcliffe Committee and that, therefore, the present decision regarding that Tract is *ultra vires*?

(c) If so, what action has been taken to remedy the position?

(d) Have the Government of India set up a Committee to find out ways and means to revise the boundary?

(e) If so, what action has that Committee so far taken, particularly with regard to the revision of the question of the Chittagong Hill Tract and of the district of Khulna?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No, Sir.

(b), (c), (d) and (e). Government have examined the Boundary Commission's Award regarding Bengal but I do not think that it will be in the public interest to disclose at this stage either the nature of their discussions or the decisions thereon.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is it a fact, Sir, that the Chittagong Hill Tracts contain three Tribal Chiefs who enjoy some of the rights of ruling Princes?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as I know they do enjoy some special rights, but not those of ruling Princes.

PROBLEM OF REFUGEES FROM EAST BENGAL INTO WEST BENGAL

538. *Shri Arun Chandra Guha: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government have received a representation from the President of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee regarding the problem of refugees coming into West Bengal from East Bengal?

(b) If so, what are the contents of that representation and what suggestions have been made therein?

(c) What action has been taken so far on that representation?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A copy of the letter is laid on the table of the House. The entire question is under discussion with the Government of West Bengal who are taking the initial steps in the matter of relief to refugees. I hope to be in a position to make a detailed statement on the subject before the end of the Session.

Copy of letter No. nil dated the 19th December, 1947, from Mr. Surendra Mohan Ghose, President, Bengal Provincial Congress Committee, 10, Suburban School Road, Calcutta, 25 to the Honourable Minister in charge of Relief and Rehabilitation, New Delhi.

On several occasions we have tried to bring to the notice of the Government the problem of refugees in West Bengal. So far, the Central Government do not seem to have any idea of the gravity of the situation there. Problem there is not of a few thousand refugees from Bihar and Punjab; the problem there is of several lakhs of Hindus who have migrated from East Bengal There has not been any riot or violent outburst in East Bengal. Economic pressure and the new social order consequent upon a somewhat aggressive assertion of Muslim supremacy in an avowedly Muslim State have forced many Hindus to cross the frontier to West Bengal. The Urban middle class Hindu suddenly finds himself bereft of all means of livelihood. So to keep his own physical existence, the middle class Hindu has been and will be coming to West Bengal.

Then the educational institutions of Pakistan do not suit the Hindu students of East Bengal Moreover, the situation has become almost impossible for the girls to continue their studies in East Bengal. Perhaps you are aware, that area for area compared, East Bengal has the largest number of educational institutions in the whole of India. So the number of migrating Hindu students—boys and girls—must have been several thousands. It is a problem of gigantic magnitude.

I think by now about 8 lakhs of Hindus have migrated to West Bengal from East Bengal In Calcutta alone the number of new entrants is not less than 2 lakhs 50 thousands. Navadwip has got about a lakh. Similarly other towns, townships, industrial areas and countryside have got large influx. A fair portion of this are urban people.

I learn so far the West Bengal Government have asked for only about 3 lakhs of rupees from the Central Government for refugees in camps and for non-Bengalee students from Punjab The more serious side of the problem i.e. of this near about 8 lakhs from East Bengal, has not yet attracted sufficient notice. It has been reported that the Central Government is not willing to expand their scope of refugee succour beyond those from the West Pakistan. As far as I have been able to gather from the responsible utterances of Ministers in the Assembly, I think this is not true ; and I may say this should not be the attitude. Bengal problem should be faced even now. The number that has already come makes the problem too big for the Provincial Government to tackle. More is sure to come in steady stream. Moreover, the Government should be ready for all eventualities. Any day, one crore twenty five lakhs Hindus may find their stay in East Bengal no longer possible. After what has happened in the Punjab, we cannot be too complacent.

However leaving that contingency aside, rehabilitation of those who have already come should be undertaken immediately. Satellite towns and model villages should be set up with due industrial avenues—so that those men may find accommodation and vocation. At Kanchrapara, there is a big pliot of land 3,500 acre—occupied by the Defence Department but now requisitioned by the Government of West Bengal ; at Biratia wayside station about 12 miles off from Calcutta 1,400 acres of land under the Government of India is lying vacant. These two plots can be suitable sites for settling about a lakh of urban people. Being near Calcutta, the settlers on these plots would get sufficient means of livelihood. On a liberal calculation, this near abot 5,000 acres of land can accommodat 3,5000 urban families; i. e. about 2 lakhs urban people can be rehabilitated. Calcutta has been overcrowded to the extreme. Municipal arrangements never up to mark, have been unable to cope with the problem. Health of the city is sure to be undermined unless congestion is relieved at an early date. Everyweek about 35,000 more

immigrants are entering the city—according to the report of the "Statesman" (December 14) So the tasks of finding accommodation and vocation for this overflow people should be undertaken dimmediately. For this, at least, 2 crores of rupees would be required ; and this has to be undertaken by the Central Government.

Then comes the question of several thousands of students who have migrated from East Bengal. I agree with the Prime Minister—when he put these young students as the first charge of the Government. To set up schools, colleges, technical institutions and hostels is a huge task—which only the Central Government can undertake adequately. Moreover, many of these students have come to West Bengal in a desperate state and have no personal means to meet their educational expenses. Many of them have their families financially ruined due to the changed political and social situation. They would require help from the Government. I may mention there are quite a good number of girl students also.

The cost of setting up of educational institutions, hostels and of personal help to the needy students cannot be met from the Provincial Exchequer. This would cost about 50 lakhs of rupees —which only the Central Government can undertake.

Before concluding, I may say—the refugee problem is politically a problem for the Central Government. Provincial revenues should not be charged for this. Moreover, the centre has a moral responsibility towards the Hindus of East Bengal whose sufferings, sacrifices and service for the sake of country's freedom are unique.

So I hope you will please allot the required amount for rehabilitating the Hindus of East Bengal who have already come over to West Bengal.

Thanking you.

Your sincerely,
Sd/-
President,
Bengal Provincial Congress Committee

RESTORATION OF REFUGEES PROPERTIES IN PAKISTAN

589. *Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

(a) whether statements of the sufferings undergone by individual refugees coming from Pakistan and their claims to properties left behind by them in Pakistan, have been recorded and if so, how;

(b) whether any portion of the properties referred to in part (a) above has hitherto been recovered, and if so, what portion; and

(c) whether any agreement has been arrived at between the Governments of Pakistan and India with regard to the restoration of the properties left behind, in their respective spheres, and if so, whether any action has been taken to give effect to that agreement?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes. Facts Finding organizations have been set up at Delhi, Bombay, Ajmer-Merwara and various centres in East Punjab for recording statements of refugees of sufferings undergone by them in Western Pakistan.

Claims to properties left behind in Western Pakistan by non-Muslim refugees are being recorded by the Registrar of Claims in Delhi Province. Similar arrangements have been made in East Punjab. In other Provinces and States of the Indian Union this work is being done by officers of the local administration.

(b) Persons have been able to move their property to certain extent from Lahore. Government have no exact information about the quantity of property thus moved nor about its value.

(c) The matter is still under negotiation between the two Dominions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware of the fact that if anyone wants to remove his car from West Punjab into East Punjab, he is expected to take one car from this side and hand it over to the West Punjab Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have heard such stories, but I am not in a position definitely to say whether this is invariably followed as a practice; but I am satisfied that this has happened in individual cases.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps do Government propose to take if regular orders are placed before Government stating that private cars would not be allowed to be removed from West Punjab unless cars are taken in their place from East Punjab into West Punjab?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: When copies of such orders are supplied to me, we will consider what action should be taken.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: How many claims by refugees have been registered so far?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: A very large number. In fact, I gave the numbers the other day in reply to a question. So far as Delhi is concerned, we have recorded the claims of a very large proportion of the refugees who are here; as far as the other areas are concerned the work is proceeding.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any steps being taken by representatives of our Government in West Punjab to ascertain whether there are any boxes containing valuables left behind in West Punjab as per the information supplied to them by the refugees, and see whether these boxes are properly kept and safely returned to these people?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am sure whenever such information is conveyed to our representatives in West Pakistan, they take whatever action is possible to safeguard the interests of our people.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask the Honourable Minister as to whether the claims that are registered in Delhi and East Punjab would be centralised at some time or other?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is the intention.

ABOLITION OF DISTINCTION BETWEEN ORTHODOX AND UNORTHODOX QUARTERS

590. *Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (on behalf of **Shri Mohan Lal Saksena**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the distinction between what were previously called "Orthodox" and "Unorthodox" clerks' quarters has been abolished?

(b) If so, have any structural alterations been effected to remove the disparity that existed in the amenities provided in the two types of quarters?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, what safeguards have been provided in the allotment rules to ensure that the better type of houses *i.e.*, "Unorthodox" houses are allotted strictly according to seniorty?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The Allotment Rules provide for the strict observance of seniority by date of arrival or eligibility to the class of quarters to which the applicants are entitled and for which they have expressed preference in their applications.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, do the terms *orthodox* and *unorthodox* refer to the diet or habits or the religious faith and practice of the clerks concerned?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: In this particular context, to accommodation.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How can accommodation be described as "orthodox" or "unorthodox"?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There can be no argument about it.

CONSTRUCTION OF MULTI-STOREYED HOUSES IN NEW DELHI.

591. *Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (on behalf of **Shri Mohan Lal Saksena**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government propose to build more multi-storeyed houses in New Delhi?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to ensure accommodation for those living on the ground floor for sleeping in the open during the hot weather?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes.

(b) Tenants on the ground floor can sleep on the open lawns in front during the hot weather and in fact many do so even at present. It is not possible for Government to make special arrangements for those who wish to sleep in the open.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of answer to part (a), do Government aspire to emulate the sky-scrapers of New York?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: If this House donates crores of rupees, that may be considered.

APPLICATIONS FOR CHANGE FROM ORTHODOX TO UNORTHODOX QUARTERS

592. *Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (on behalf of **Shri Mohan Lal Saksena**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state how many applications for change from what were previously known as "Orthodox" clerks' quarters to "Unorthodox" clerks' quarters were received by Government during the period from 1st August to 30th November, 1947?

(b) How many such applications were accepted and how many were rejected?

(c) What was the basis on which they were accepted or rejected?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Twentyfive.

(b) Changes were allowed only in 8 cases and the others were rejected.

(c) Changes were allowed in cases where there was evidence to show that the applicants were accustomed to live in the 'unorthodox' type of houses for a number of years, or when there was constant illness in the family in a particular house.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know, Sir, for what purposes or reasons the houses are called as *orthodox* or *unorthodox*?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Just to suit the way of living of different persons.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Who has introduced this word?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Well, at the worst, the English language is responsible for that.

INDIANS IN AREAS OCCUPIED BY CHINESE COMMUNIST FORCES

593. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether there are any Indians in the areas recently occupied by the Chinese Communist forces?

(b) Have the Indians suffered any loss of life or property owing to the Civil War in China?

(c) Has any request been received from the Indians in Mukden for evacuation?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Government of India have been informed by their Embassy in Nanking that there are no Indians in these areas.

(b) There have been no reports of loss of life or property suffered by Indians as a result of the Civil War.

(c) No, Sir. Government's information is that there are no Indians in Mukden.

UN-OCCUPIED ROOMS IN WESTERN HOUSE ALLOTTED TO A. I. R. EMPLOYEES

594. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that rooms allotted to the employees of the All India Radio in the Western House have been lying un-occupied for the last one year?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The question should have been addressed to my Honourable colleague in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

INSTALLATION OF PRE-FABRICATED HOUSES IN NEW DELHI AND DELHI

595. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government propose to instal pre-fabricated houses in New Delhi and Delhi?

(b) Has the said question been examined in all its details by Government and if not, do Government propose to give an early consideration to it?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The question is still under consideration.

(b) Preliminary enquiries show that the cost of pre-fabricated houses is much higher than that of our ordinary comparable buildings. They also require a larger proportion of steel and wood.

The question will be pursued further.

NATIONALS IN KASHMIR OF COUNTRIES OTHER THAN PAKISTAN.

596. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether nationals of any country other than those of Pakistan are among the Kashmir raiders?

(b) If so, has the attention of the respective Governments been drawn to this fact?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Members of certain tribes belonging to the Afghan side of the border have been identified among the raiders.

(b) The matter was brought to the notice of the Afghan Government and they promised to take deterrent action.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact, Sir, that some American and British citizens have joined forces with these raiders?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: One American, Mr. Haight, I believe was his name, did certainly take an active part, but then he was recalled by the American Government. I am not personally aware of any other Americans or British people who are taking part.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have not Government seen press reports to the effect that some British citizen anyhow has been taking part as a sort of 'mystery man'?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Perhaps my Honourable friend is referring to a certain person who is called *mystery man*. So far as I know that *mystery man* was more or less a junior Muslim officer in the Defence Department here for some time till the partition.

Maulana Hasrat Mohani: Is the Government aware that some of the so-called raiders belong to Chinese Turkestan or Sinkiang, and whether some of the war materials are supplied to them by some other foreign power?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir; the Government is not aware of this—in fact, it is positively unaware of it.

Maulana Hasrat Mohani: May I know to what country Sardar Ibrahim belongs? He is not an Afghan nor is he a Pakistani. I understand he belongs to Sinkiang or Chinese Turkestan.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I must confess my ignorance about Sardar Ibrahim's ancestry and what he had done previously. I had never heard of this gentleman three or four months previously and I do not think most other people had heard of him either. But I had a vague impression that

he did belong to some territory round about the frontier in Kashmir. This is the first time I have heard of any suggestion that he comes from outside India.

Maulana Hasrat Mohani: Is it not a fact, Sir, that Ibrahim is called Mirza Ibrahim and he is a Mongol and not an Afghan or anybody else?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not heard anything of this.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable the Prime Minister in a position to assure us that the statement made by this American adventurer Haight, who is alleged to have risen to the rank of a Brigadier-General in the so-called Azad Kashmir Government, to the effect that tribesmen are being equipped with Russian rifles, is a pure fabrication?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Any statement made by Brigadier—whatever his official designation is—Haight ought to be examined closely because he makes all manner of statements. But in regard to the question of a certain person having a rifle or not, obviously I cannot say what type of rifle a person has been using somewhere. But there is absolutely no ground for anyone to imagine that any kind of help or aid from the Soviet side of the border has come or can have come. So far as the Government of India are concerned, we are not worried about that in the least. In the course of the War, rifles have exchanged hands; there are plenty of rifles about, of all makes; it is quite possible that some type of rifles may have been found there. But we have not captured any such rifle nor have we seen them.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Is it a fact that Russian and German ammunition was used by these raiders?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know anything about these questions; I do not know how to answer them.

Mr. Speaker: They need not be answered. We shall proceed to the next question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

NEW SYSTEM OF JUTE LICENSING

Shri Khurshed Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a new system of jute licensing has been adopted in 1948?

(b) If so, what is the nature of the scheme?

(c) What are the special reasons for adopting this scheme?

(d) Why is it necessary to continue the quota system for jute goods?

(e) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the agitation against this system and the continuance of the quota arrangements?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Quotas of raw jute and jute goods are allotted by Government for export to various destinations. These quotas are announced to the trade through a notice issued by the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Calcutta, and applications are invited by that officer by a particular date from intending exporters with definite evidence of having concluded contracts with overseas buyers. There is no restriction in regard to the eligibility of an applicant and thus any trader who has contracted with an overseas buyer for sale of jute or jute goods is eligible to apply. Provisional quota slips are then issued to these applicants, on a strictly *pro-rata* basis. The quota-holders are then required to produce before the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Calcutta, within 15 days of the receipt of the quota evidence of the foreign importers having opened Letters of Credit in their favour. The quotas are not confirmed unless this evidence

is produced. The Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Calcutta, has also been instructed to ensure that the Letters of Credit are (i) from the same parties who placed the orders originally and (ii) in their own names. This should ensure that quota-holders are *bona fide* applicants and do not sell their quotas to other parties.

(c) The licensing procedure which was followed in 1947 was based on the established shippers' principle. According to this principle, 90 per cent. of the quotas were reserved for established shippers and allotments were made on the basis of the percentage share of their exports in the year selected by them. They were given the option of selecting any basic year in the 10 years ending the 25th June, 1946 in the case of raw jute and the 31st December, 1946 in the case of jute goods. The balance *viz.*, ten per cent. of the quota, was reserved for new comers for which applications were invited by the Chief Controller of Exports, New Delhi.

This system came in for much adverse criticism as introducing an entirely new feature into the jute trade which had not existed even in the war years and as favouring mostly non-Indian firms, since Indian firms in large numbers had actually started doing substantial business only in 1946 and in the beginning of 1947.

As regards the new comers scheme, since allotments were made on the basis of the orders produced by them in their applications to the Chief Controller of Exports and not on their ability to do business, a very large number of undesirable persons got licences, which they openly advertised for sale.

When the question of allotting quotas for the half year 26th December, 1947 to 25th June, 1948 came up for consideration, it was decided, after very careful consideration and after discussing the matter with the various interests concerned, to abandon the established shippers scheme and to revert to the *pro-rata* scheme as explained in reply to (b) above.

(d) It is necessary to continue the quota system for jute goods for the following reasons:

(i) The quantum of goods available for export is far from sufficient to meet the world demand:

(ii) we have to maintain directional trade to the hard currency areas;

(iii) jute goods are to be prevented from going to South Africa; and

(iv) large quantities are necessary to be earmarked for export to various countries, *e.g.*, Argentine in return for foodstuffs.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Sir, is it a fact that in the half year before the establishment of the established shippers system the share of the Indian and the foreigner was 50/50 in the jute trade and thereafter in the half year after its introduction, the Indian share went down to 30 per cent. and the foreigner's share rose to 70 per cent.?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Definite statistics are not available, but from the information that was supplied by the West Bengal Government, the statement made by the Honourable Member is correct.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Is it a fact that the West Bengal Government protested against the introduction of this established shippers system?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That is so. It was after receipt of all protests that the whole scheme was reconsidered and a new one was introduced.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article appearing in yesterday's *Statesman* in which it is alleged that the representatives of a foreign power have made representations against this system and that this system is designed to deprive Calcutta of its established trade?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Our attention has been drawn to that article, but the representation was only made by some Association from abroad, and that representation was officially communicated. All the information that was needed by the foreign authority, or rather the foreign Association, was supplied to them.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that much of the trade has already been diverted from Calcutta to Bombay as a result of this new policy?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That is not so.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is the percentage of trade licences given to Bombay during the last six months as compared to the previous six months?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Our attention has been drawn to some such allegations that have appeared in the Press from time to time, but the statistics before us prove that these allegations are absolutely untrue. In particular cases, the percentage of licences which was given to non-Calcutta firms including Madras was 6 per cent. and for the information of the Honourable Member I may state that there are certain firms not in Calcutta who are also classified as established shippers and who were in the jute trade even before the quota system was introduced.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if the Government acts on its own or whether it has got any Adviser or any Advisory Board representing the trade to advise it in this matter?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Government have got an Adviser called Jute Adviser who is very often consulted on several matters of this type. In addition, trade Associations are also usually consulted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Has this Jute Adviser been consulted in regard to the various changes that have been made in regard to this particular matter?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: A discussion was held with him.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if he had noted the wording of the communication that appeared in the *Statesman* referred to by my Honourable friend Mr. Khurshed Lal, and are the Government going to allow such a threat to go unchallenged?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Well, for clarification purposes, Government are considering issuing a Communique to explain the whole situation.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Has the Government of India noted the contents of this particular article?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Yes, we have noted it.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the fact men who are neither established shippers nor those in the trade have been given a concession, which has been abused by them, do Government propose to give up the practice of reserving that 10 per cent. for them?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: There is no reservation, as I explained under the new system. All persons connected with the jute trade or other trades with foreign countries are allowed to put in their applications and substantiate those applications with firm orders. After receipt of that, a sort of an interim quota is granted, which they have further to substantiate by a Letter of Credit.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Is there any truth in the allegation that in case of other applications invited for January and February, the quota was actually given for the period from January to June, 1948 for Australia and America?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That is so, Sir. On representations from foreign countries and because of the necessity of our securing further exchanges from these countries additional quotas were given for these two destinations.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Do Government propose to allow quota firms which did not apply for January quota in the belief that this could apply for March and June quota?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Well, further applications will be invited and Government will sympathetically consider such applications.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is there any truth in the allegation that people who have been granted quotas and who are actually in the trade are mostly related to some of the officials of the Department, Sir?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That is not true, Sir.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Will Government see that when they appoint a Jute Adviser, he is one who is not actively concerned with the jute trade?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: The very nature of the Adviser's duties makes it necessary that he must be well connected with the trade and have sound knowledge of the same.

Shri Khurshed Lal: May I ask whether Government will bear all these considerations when they select an Adviser and then appoint.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Do Government propose to permit diplomatic channels to interfere with the normal methods of trade in this country which Government controls?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: There is no such thing as diplomatic interference, Sir. But if certain statements or representations are brought before Government, Government do consider and suitably explain the situation to these diplomatic channels.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

First Stage

Mr. Speaker: Before the general discussion of the General Budget commences, I have to announce to the House that under rule 46, I fix the time limit for speeches as 15 minutes for each Honourable Member excepting the Honourable the Finance Minister for whom 45 minutes or more will be allowed, if necessary.

May I also invite the attention of the Honourable Members to the fact that I have received a long list of people who wish to speak and though the time-limit is fixed by me as 15 minutes, if it is desired by the House that a larger number of Honourable Members should be allowed to participate in the debate, each Honourable Member wishing to speak, will strictly confine himself to relevant remarks and will avoid repetitions and try to close his remarks within 10 minutes.

I want to make one other position clear. I understand that there is a general agreement in the House as regards the time to be allotted for discussing Demands for Grants and the Cut Motions. The time-table placed in my hands is as follows:

Friday, the 5th March, 1948

Industry and Supply	2½ Hours.
Labour	1¼ Hours.

Monday, the 8th March, 1948

External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations	2½ Hours.
Cabinet (Planning)	1¼ Hours

Wednesday, the 10th March, 1948

Home	1¼ Hours.
States	1¼ Hours.
Information and Broadcasting	1¼ Hours.

Thursday, the 11th March, 1948

Works, Mines and Power	2½ Hours.
Education	1¼ Hours.

Friday, the 12th March, 1948

Health	1¼ Hours.
Communications	2½ Hours.

Saturday, the 13th March, 1948

Defence	2½ Hours.
Transport	1¼ Hours.

Monday, the 15th March, 1948

Commerce	2½ Hours.
Relief and Rehabilitation	1¼ Hours.

Tuesday, the 16th March 1948

Food and Agriculture	1¼ Hours.
Finance	2½ Hours.

Mr. Speaker: I will arrange to see that copies of what I have read will be distributed to the Honourable Members for their convenience.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi: General): On a point of information Sir. There is no mention about Home as Home. You have mentioned Information and States.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member did not catch it.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first full year budget of the Honourable the Finance Minister has been received in this country with mixed feelings. The rich and the industrialists whom the Honourable the Finance Minister wanted to encourage to increase production in this country—which of late has gone down—have not been fully satisfied with the Honourable Minister, because they expected that the business profits tax would be entirely abolished. Concessions have been given to the industrialists which amounted to nearly 2 crores out of which one crore will come back by way of additional income-tax. There is in the budget a deficit of 9 crores which is sought to be made up by indirect taxation. By such indirect taxes the lower middle-class men and the poor will be affected badly. The articles of consumption which some years ago might have been luxury articles, have all been taxed, though they have now become necessaries to the middle-class men. Tea and Coffee are being freely taken even by the poor section in that part of the country wherefrom I come. On account of prohibition they have taken to the sober stimulus in the form of tea and coffee and they have given up the strong stimulus by way of liquor. As I would presently show, there is not much justification to impose this kind of indirect taxation and to come forward with a huge paragraph on the advisability of imposing such taxation and following the model of indirect taxation adopted in the U.K., where under certain unavoidable circumstances they have preferred indirect taxation to direct taxation. After all, we are getting only 9 crores by this kind of taxation. The estimate of losses for the year or the real deficit has been concealed. Instead of 27 crores shown, there is really a deficit of 27 plus 10 plus 14. Ten crores have been made up by utilising the advances that have been made by income-tax assesses in advance of their assessment and which are till now kept in a suspense account. Fourteen crores of rupees which normally, for defence purposes, must be taken from revenue, though they may relate to capital works, have been put under capital expenditure. Therefore if both these items are to be met by Revenue, *i.e.*, if these are legitimately put under Revenue expenditure, we would have a deficit of 27 plus 10 plus 14 crores or 51 crores. War conditions have not yet disappeared we need not therefore be worried about a deficit in our budget.

The system of preparing the budget for a single year is losing ground in the world; they are budgetting for cycles of years. In a particular year there might be a slump and in another year there may be a boom; there might be inflation on one side and depression on the other. Therefore a particular year ought not to be taken as the test; nor should Government get absolutely panicky merely because there is depression or there is a chance of a deficit or depression. Whenever there is depression it is advisable to make up the deficit by borrowings and to tax when there is inflation, and then keep the surpluses and make good the losses in the other period. I would urge—and I expected that the Honourable Minister would plan for a five-year programme ten years would be too long in the world as we are situated at present—and then think of budgetting for this year in a cycle of five years. A five-year programme is also, in the context of the world as we are now in, very necessary for another reason. The clouds of war are thickening all round; there are groups being formed in the world, and it is not easy to say whether any country that wants to remain neutral can do so at all. It does not seem to be possible, as we have seen in the U.N.O. We expected great things from the UNO and a dispassionate approach to the problems of any country like our own. Our matter was referred to the UNO, but unless we can easily get into the pockets of this country or that we do not seem to have a place there. Still I have not lost faith in the UNO: I still have faith in them and I hope they will decide properly without allowing these various considerations. As to whether there is to be a third world war and where India will stand,—that ought not to be a consideration

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

with the UNO in deciding these matters. If they side-track the issue and allow these considerations to come in, I am sure India knows what to do then. It is too premature to decide what action we should take. Now judging from the circumstances of the world five years will be too long a period for any third world war to come. I am not anxious that this war should come but we must be realists. What steps should we take? I entirely agree with the Honourable the Finance Minister when he says that we must step up production, not because we should have some more consumer goods now but for the larger purpose that we should be able to defend our country thoroughly and stand on our own legs. In the last world war Belgium and Holland were not able to keep their neutrality and when they were not able to stand by themselves they were overrun by Germany in a short time. Unless we make ourselves thoroughly strong we may not be able to influence world opinion to prevent war or at any rate to remain neutral. Therefore our Defence industries must take the first priority. The Honourable the Finance Minister did not diagnose the disease properly; he thought that industrialists had not been able to make the largest contribution or to step up production merely because they have been taxed. But the business profits tax was not imposed last year and it has not been collected. So it is not on that account that industrialists did not step up production or delayed production. The main reason is that it is all the fault of this Government. Even to this day Government have not come forward with a plan. Again and again we talk of nationalisation. Certainly I am for nationalisation of certain industries. But how can any industrialist decide as to what industries be nationalised straightaway? It may be our object but we can only nationalise having regard to our means and only certain things. I expected that after the Industrial Conference that took place two months ago Government would come forward with a definite announcement of policy that these are the industries which they are to take over immediately and that therefore they expect no private industrialists to come forward; the rest is field for private industries, or this field is reserved for joint participation by Government and the industrialists. If we have such a demarcation I am sure industrialists would have at least some peace of mind for five years and embark upon industry. It is not the business profits tax but the want of policy that stood in the way.

The other point is in respect of my Honourable friend Dr. Matthai; he has not been as alert in his department as I expected him to be. Unfortunately during the war the wagons moved very rapidly; on the B.B. and C.I. the wagon miles were 77 per day, and today it is only 33 miles per day. What is that due to? After all there can be only ten bottlenecks. It is exactly this that stands in the way in addition to the other,—the want of policy. The next is the want of communications or at any rate quick transport. Evidently we are more afraid of the European than of the dark man. The establishment now must be made to feel that we have got rid of the European who was having a stranglehold on this country. They must feel that it is their country also.

Thirdly, take some of the industries. There are industries to which relief should go. We want textiles to improve, iron and steel to put forth greater production as also cement, apart from the armament industry which is the concern of the State. In the textile industry you may again and again pamper, the industrialist but he will have his own way. He produces the finest variety of cloth which the ordinary man cannot use, and this fine variety of cloth goes into the black market or is exported. They can easily turn to other varieties of cloth: and although this country is the largest producer of cotton, next to the U.S.A., we are naked or at least not properly clothed. Therefore in the matter of stepping up production it is not the business profits tax which sits over the industrialist but other things. He wants to make huge profits and that is why he does not turn his machine to the production of ordinary consumer goods. He must have a plan and go forward with

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it now at least. Even now it is not too late. Certain industries like arms and ammunition, aeroplanes, shipbuilding and motor cars and lorries are necessary for Government in the case of war for defence purposes, and they have to be taken over by the State. It is impossible to expect that private industry will address itself to it. We know the case of the Hindusthan Motors started by a very big company with one of the biggest or richest men in this country. But what is its position today? It merely assembles Morris parts that are brought in here and for a car which you can get for Rs. 8,000 you have to pay Rs. 12,000. Their shares are selling at a discount. Therefore I am not accusing any industrialist. Our country ought not to be compared with other countries of the world where private industrialists have made a great headway in industries; in our country there is not a surplus of private enterprise. We have not any key industries; and having regard to the enormous outlay of capital involved, it is useless to expect private capitalists to come forward, if within a period of five years we have to make ourselves sufficiently strong. And with respect to other consumer goods they have to be helped. Sir, I suggest that the reduction of the business profits tax will help not only the producers of necessaries of life like iron and steel, cement and cloth, but it will also help the producers of luxury goods like cosmetics and hair oils and toilet goods. I suggest that there are many other ways. If the Finance Minister had bestowed some consideration he would find that there is an incessant demand for removing the import duty on capital goods for the purpose of various industries. Till now I do not know why it has fallen on deaf ears. The Honourable the Finance Minister has not been able to reduce that duty or remove it. Instead of removing the business profits tax he should collect it and then give help to those industries which according to the plan I have thought of should be given certain priorities. In the interest of the country and to make it absolutely self-sufficient in a period of five years, they should be helped by way of subsidies and helped with capital goods without the import duty.

These are the ways in which they can be helped. So far as the middle-class man is concerned, I feel that we could have refrained from imposing this duty.

I will show in the short time allowed to me how we could have made this money. I entirely agree with the Honourable the Finance Minister that our financial position is sound. But it reminds me of the saying that there is everything in the sweatmeat shop but there is Saturn in the mouth of the son-in-law. The son-in-law is not able to eat in the sweatmeat shop because Saturn is sitting there. We have so many crores of sterling rupees due to us. Altogether there are 2,000 crores and out of the debt we owe, Rs. 800 crores are covered. They are all productive debts. A small balance of unproductive debt is more than covered by the resources we have and with the able Finance Minister that we have got, we can never be unsound in this country. Therefore he has been somewhat a little panicky. He wanted to tax coffee and tea, and small things. He said that for burning and keeping oneself warm he caught hold of a few hairs from here and there and then he tried to burn it. But you can not warm yourself like that. You must have coal. You cannot clip off hairs here and there and warm yourself. He promised to refer the question about the poor man to a Select Committee. We are all interested in seeing that our finances are sound. We ought not to have a deficit. Even if there is a deficit we should not worry. We need not at any rate reduce these taxes. As a matter of fact prices have gone up. I have tried to calculate the yield expected. But it will come up to only Rs. 50 crores in an expenditure of Rs. 200 crores. Therefore, he should consider this. So far as the poor man is concerned, his kerosene, his matches and such things should be made a little cheaper. But he has not done so. As against all this, I know the Honourable the Finance Minister would expect me to say, what would you suggest? I would

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

suggest. Our raw materials are going down and naturally imports and customs duties too. I would urge upon the Finance Minister to start a Commercial Corporation in India so that foodstuffs may be purchased on account and motors also. So far as exports are concerned, I would like to relieve my Honourable friend, Mr. Bhabha who is worried with quotas and this and that for essential articles, with respect to which we have a monopoly. Thereby we may earn something.

I am appealing to the Railway Member also. Let him not feel that he is not bound to contribute towards this because to-morrow he may become the Finance Minister.

I expected from the speech of the Finance Minister that he would take up some monopolies as the French Government has taken a monpoly over production: for example matches, which is a Swedish concern: and so far as cigarettes are concerned, he can become the biggest cigarette dealer in this country!

As regards the sterling balances, it is a very wretched question. I will reserve it for a time when you may not have a control over me and you must leave it to my good sense to speak or sit down. All that I can say is that I expected, with all my admiration for the members of the staff of the administration who negotiated with Sir Jeremy Raisman, something different. My point is this: If I had been asked to interview a man under whom I had worked for 25 years, I could not oppose him. Likewise to leave Mr. Narahari Rao or other friends to discuss matters with Sir Jeremy Raisman is placing them in an awkward position because these people will naturally have a sense of delicacy with regard to him. The Englishman knows the tricks too well and that is why they sent an erstwhile boss to negotiate with us. The Finance Member should have asked Members of this Assembly to negotiate with Sir Jeremy Raisman, members who were not afraid of him. That is a lacuna which I wish to point out. Besides, the Honourable the Finance Minister does not by his appearance look the age that he is. He appears to be 40. May he live a long time. But I want a programme for our country for five years. We have no friends in this world. On account of community, religion or creed or political affiliation, we seem to be orphans in the world. I am not afraid of defence expenditure. When the Britishers wanted to impose extra military expenditure on us I was the first to quarrel with them. Today I will vote any amount for them. Let us utilise all our resources. Let us make ourselves perfectly strong. Our position in the world is absolutely sound both with respect to money and intellect.

I welcome this Budget. I want, even if it is not too late, that the Honourable the Finance Minister will see his way to assuage the feelings of the poorer sections of the middle-classes, lest his predecessor who went to Pakistan be taken as the friend of the poor. I know my friend is a much greater friend of the poor than any other person. But he is anxious to place the country's interests before the individual's. No one need criticize him as having pampered the rich and trying to exploit the poor. Production has to be stepped up. This is one of the main considerations. I hope he will consider without prejudice to his budget all the financial proposals, accept some, reduce some and give relief to all.

Sir, I welcome the budget.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim): I entirely agree with the remarks of the Honourable the Finance Minister that we are meeting under a heavy cloud. That one of the greatest benefactors of humanity and the greatest planner of the nation, *i.e.* Mahatma Gandhi, is no more amongst us to

shape the destiny of this country or of a newly born State. I also agree with him, Sir, that with the liberation of our people we are faced with the stupendous difficulties of rehabilitation of refugees and also the military operations in Kashmir. But what next? These are difficulties to be faced. But is there any plan chalked out by the Honourable the Finance Minister in his budget? That is a point which has been stressed by the Honourable Mr. Ayyangar. I find, Sir, that there is absolutely no plan in the budget. The budget is only attempted to be a balanced budget. The only attempt that has been made is that there should not be a very big deficit. What we want today—that is a point which ought to have been considered and plans should have been made out accordingly—is impregnable military might. What we want in this country is the satisfactory food position: and an efficient transport. As the Honourable Mr. Ayyangar has said, war clouds are growing in the international atmosphere. He has also said, and I entirely agree with him that in Europe there are already blocs. This country has to prepare against aggression and I say that our military strength and our naval strength is nothing compared to England, America or Russia. We have to go a long way to build up this navy, air force and army. But there is absolutely no plan in the budget as to what he proposes to do in future.

The next item about which there ought to have been a plan is food.

I am sorry to say that in spite of the vastness of our country, in spite of the vastness of our resources, in spite of the very big area of land, we are half fed and half clothed. Why? Because there is no mechanisation of agriculture in this country.

A resolution was moved by Mr. Ayyangar that there should be a permanent Famine Commission in this country. In the Budget I do not find any announcement regarding the appointment or creation of a permanent Famine Commission. There is absolutely no mention in the Budget speech that the Government has any scheme about the introduction of collective or co-operative farming, although the Prime Minister said the other day that that scheme was acceptable to the Government. There are no state farms to be introduced by the Government and there is no announcement about the Royal Commission that was promised to be appointed to inquire into the production of this country.

The next item about which there should be planning is transport. We have already discussed about the efficiency or otherwise of the transport system in this country, particularly the railways. In his attempt to make a balanced budget the Finance Minister has deprived the railways of 4½ crores. It is a staggering blow for the expansion and development of that industry, which is the only nationalised industry. When there was a surplus budget of 10 crores, that was the proper occasion for expansion of the railways. Which is a nationalised industry. A huge amount has been taken away in order to have a balanced budget, from this nationalised industry and therefore there are very remote possibilities that any considerable improvement will be made in the expansion of the railways of this country.

The third point is about the necessaries of life. I do not find any plan in this budget that any industries are to be nationalised. The other day the Prime Minister stated in a very historic statement on the floor of this House that the Government was considering as to which industries should be nationalised. Not one industry is nationalised; nor is there any indication that the Government proposes to start any industry which would be nationalised. Last time the Honourable the Finance Minister adumbrated the theory of mixed economy and when there was so much criticism this time there is no mention about mixed economy or socialist economy.

What has the Finance Minister done in this budget. I do not want to use any strong language but he has robbed Peter to pay Paul. This was the time when people had accumulated their war fortunes and they should have

[Kazi Syed Karimuddin]

been taxed. The rate of the business profits tax has been reduced. He had given an indication in the last budget speech that due to the fiscal policy pursued last year productivity of industry had suffered. In spite of the fact that he has accepted the principle that the rates of business profits tax should be reduced in this Budget no reasons have been assigned for it to show that this was alone responsible for the fall in production. The only reason that has been assigned by him is that he wants to give an incentive to industry and capital in this country. It is an accepted fact that labour, capital and capital goods are three factors which go to the making of an efficient industry. The business profits tax is reduced but there is no incentive to labour. The cry of the capitalist always is that because of the strikes in the country production has fallen. In the name of national patriotism appeal is made to labour that they should not go on strikes but what is the incentive in this Budget that has been given to the labourer? The incentive to capital is that some of the riches taken away from them will be compensated. Is there any incentive to labour except an appeal to their sense of patriotism? I submit that there is not the slightest doubt that the productivity of this country is falling. It is devastatingly falling. It is alarming. It is the duty of every citizen of India to see that production increases. But what are the remedies? Those remedies have not been discussed in the budget. We are thinking of giving incentive to industry and capital but is there any chance of getting capital goods? We have given their money back but is there any possibility of getting capital goods at all? I have learnt on reliable authority that these capital goods are booked up to 1952 and it is very difficult to get capital machinery before that. In the case of labour there is a cry that these people go on strike and therefore the production has fallen. The capitalist pleads that the laws, suppressing the activities of labour should be brought into force in the interest of the nation and production. This is no solution of the problem. You have taxed the middle classes and the poor people. You have taxed the only luxuries of the middle classes and the poor man, *viz.*, coffee, tea, kerosene, cigarettes, etc. Some of them are necessaries. As against this why have you relieved the rich people? The reason is not given. As I have been insisting, the only remedy which will increase production is that you have to nationalise some of the industries.

The last para. of the speech mentions about post-war development schemes. The Honourable the Finance Minister says that he has not withdrawn the promise that was given to the provinces regarding the contribution of the Centre for post-war development schemes. We thank him for not withdrawing the promise but that promise is also contingent on two other conditions. One is that the Government of those provinces should spend an equal amount otherwise this promise would be withdrawn. The second condition is that in the case of re-adjustment or reallocation of revenues it would be again re-adjusted Practically it will be found that the post-war development schemes may not be brought about for 10 or 15 years. According to me this is a barren speech and the outlook of the Budget is a capitalistic one. With this fiscal policy at the Centre it is very difficult to improve the condition of labour, agriculture and industry.

Sir, I also join the Honourable the Finance Minister in his prayer and in his singing the hymn "Lead kindly light."

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri (U. P.: General): Sir, it is customary on an occasion like this to offer congratulations and to shower praises. In fact I have been looking forward for such an opportunity, in the hope that the first annual budget of independent India would be radically different from the previous ones and that it would reflect the new urge of the masses of this country. But I regret to confess that I am considerably upset to read the budget proposals as presented by the Honourable the Finance Minister. I can say this much

that it was not to witness a budget of the present description that the masses of this country wrought for freedom. Sir, it was hardly four months back when the great national organisation, that most of us here have the proud privilege to owe allegiance to, passed a resolution on its objective, wherein it was clearly stated that political independence having been achieved the Congress must address itself to the next great task, namely, the establishment of real democracy in the country and a society based on social justice and equality. While passing the said resolution the All-India Congress Committee appointed a Committee to draw up a detailed economic programme. This Committee laid down that a quick and progressive rise in the standard of living of the people should be the primary consideration governing all economic activities and relevant administrative measures of the Central and Provincial Governments and that the achievement of a national minimum standard within a reasonable period must be pursued as the practical goal of all schemes for economic development. The Committee also came to the conclusion that to establish a just social order and to raise the standard of living of the people it was necessary to bring about an equitable distribution of the existing income and wealth and to prevent the growth of disparities in this respect with the progress of industrialisation of this country. Now that the reins of the government of this country are in the hands of the Congress the principal criterion on which the budget of this country is to be judged is as to whether there is any scope in it to move towards the objective as visualized in the report of the Economic Programme Committee of the All-India Congress Committee. Looking at it from this point of view one feels greatly disappointed. With an outlook as revealed in the budget the prospects of achieving a national minimum standard within a reasonable time have receded to the background. Nor is there any serious effort visible in the budget to prevent the growth of disparities. Our viewpoint in this respect was clearly stated in a resolution passed some months back by the Working Committee of the Indian National Trade Union Congress wherein it was stated that the difference between the minimum and the maximum incomes should not exceed twelve times. The economic programme committee of the All-India Congress Committee, while accepting a difference of forty times as a temporary measure, fixed twenty times being the difference as a lasting solution. But the Finance Minister has ruled out the possibility of checking or regulating disparity to any extent. Last year when the Interim Government presented the budget, the popular verdict was that the burden of taxation had fallen on the right people; but due to the panic organized by the industrialists of this country the budget had to be modified. Even then it was welcomed by the people of this country as a progressive budget. Dr. John Matthai who is supposed to have no less concern for the industrial development of this country than our Finance Minister had observed in the course of the discussion on the said budget that in his opinion industrialists have no right to expect greater return. Replying to the bogey of production being hampered as a result of the modified budget proposals, Dr. John Matthai had remarked that "if that issue was going to be raised then this country would have to face very seriously the question whether it was in India's interests that capitalism should have a longer lease of life." Circumstances have not since then altered to warrant any departure from the policy pursued last year. If there is any difference, it is in the person of the Finance Minister. But I humbly submit that, whatever may have been or are the views of Mr. Shanmukham Chetty, the same should not have influenced the policy of a Cabinet with which the very prestige of the Congress is inseparably linked up and which includes our respected and great leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel, of whom we all here are so very proud. One fails to understand why a present of about three crores of rupees in so many forms is going to be made to the capitalists of this country? If it is proved, as it has been proved, that the existing taxes have not adversely

[Shri Harihar Nath Shastri]

affected the industry to the point of stopping enterprise, what justification is there to give up this income? Why is it proposed to benefit the capitalist class by affording it an astoundingly excessive relief at the cost of the middle and the poor classes of people. Sir, although a socialist, I do recognize that our country is passing through a phase of transition when the best interests of the country can be served by giving a further lease of life to capitalism. But the capitalist classes should understand that the old days are gone—gone with those who enslaved the country—and that the capitalists have to adapt themselves to the spirit of the new age. Let them have their due. But no exploitation can be tolerated in Free India. The Honourable the Finance Minister has laid great emphasis on the desirability of increased production. In this connection he has also referred to the three years' industrial truce that took place in December last at the Industrial Conference. There is perhaps none in this House who does not share the anxiety of the Honourable Minister for stepping up production to the maximum possible limit. But permit me, Sir, to observe that the policy underlying the present budget is not conducive to that objective. As you may be aware, Sir, our organisation—I mean the Indian National Trade Union Congress—had some hand in bringing about that truce.

Although a great deal of false and malicious propaganda has been carried on against our organization on that account, we still stick to it as we are convinced that the course that we adopted was the only right course in the interests of the working class and the community as a whole. It may however be noted, Sir, that the truce was tripartite in character. There were obligations imposed not only on labour and industry, but no less on the government. Leaving aside other obligations, I may be permitted to point out that there was a distinct understanding that the amount over and above a fair remuneration to capital would be taken away in the form of increased taxation to be utilised for the benefit of the whole community. Hardly has the ink on the agreement paper dried up and we find that far from taking any concrete step in that direction, there is a distinct move to add to the profits already being made by the industrialists. If that sort of thing takes place, labour cannot be expected to fulfil its obligations. Those of us here who draw our inspiration from the Congress and its great leaders are doing our level best to create a sense of responsibility and a spirit of sacrifice amongst the working class but it must be clearly understood that in a free country labour is not prepared any more to make sacrifices to fill the pockets of a vested class. It may be enthused to make sacrifices only if it is convinced that those sacrifices will promote the well-being of the country and the community as a whole. The only ray of hope in the Budget is that the whole of the Budget proposals are going to be scrutinized by a Committee of the House. I have no doubt that members of the Committee will remodel the Budget in a manner which will be just and fair and which will receive the approval and acclamation of the masses of this country.

Sir, before I conclude there is just one word which I want to say. It is my proud privilege to avail myself of the present opportunity when the first annual budget of our free country is under discussion to offer my felicitations to our great leader Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Though the division of the country has deprived us of a part of our natural territories the loss has been amply compensated by the unexpected consolidation of our country. In this connection I cannot refrain from mentioning one factor which to me, and I presume to most of us here, has been a great miracle. On the 15th of August 1947 when we achieved independence we were faced with the menace of the vivisection of the country into hundreds of Pakistans in the form of native states trying to assert their independence. The country has noted with delight and satisfaction that such a tendency was not only curbed but much to our pleasant surprise most of the native states were brought close to us and the time is fast approaching

when the natural distinction between native states and real India will disappear. Another feature in this connection is that responsible government has been gratulate the Honourable the Finance Minister on having presented to the bloodshed could have brought about what has been achieved by the boldness, tact and imagination of our respected leader Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. I am voicing the feeling of all of us here when I offer my respectful felicitations to him. With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Shrimati G. Durgabai (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Minister on having presented to the nation an almost balanced budget. Sir, he has endeavoured to prove to all of us that our country's finances are on a strong and healthy basis, and that our country's credit is high enough. The main thing, as I understand it, in his policy seems to be this, that the present phase of inflation is due to our having abundance of spending power without having goods to spend on, and also that if you want to have a more favourable balance of trade and to stop further inflation, then you will have to increase production, and that further the more you tax the business profits, the less will be the incentive for increased production. Sir, it is on the basis of this that he tries to justify the kind of policy which he recommended in his taxation proposals. Sir, the policy of taxation should be such that it raises fresh revenues in the least objectionable way. In a country like ours, which is a poor country and where basic needs elsewhere are considered luxuries, the least objectionable way to raise any revenues should be more by way of direct taxation. Sir, the Honourable the Finance Minister tried to impress on us that the existing level of direct taxation now in our country is not below that prevailing in England or America. But there is a background against which we should consider this matter. In England, where the basic needs are already met, the existing level of direct taxation may be considered reasonable enough. But in our country, where even the basic needs are not met,—the basic needs are considered here as luxuries—I think it calls for a far higher level of direct taxation. Now it is curious to note some people argue that the taxation policy of the Central Government has little concern with the welfare of the masses. But, Sir, may I say that really the welfare of the masses is directly concerned with such measures as are adopted here by the Central Government, measures like social insurance or old age pensions.

They are certainly interested in such measures because they raise their standard of living. But how can such measures be taken up by the Central Government unless a bold policy of direct taxation is resorted to?

I say that the poor man is not really interested in dispossessing the possessed class; but he certainly is interested, and he is certainly within his rights to protest, when he is dispossessed of what little he has. When I say this, I refer not only to the poor man's cup of tea, but also to what little surplus remained in the Railway Budget which would have certainly given a sitting accommodation to his ailing wife or sleeping accommodation to his child. We have taken away that surplus from the Railway Budget in order to encourage the so-called incentive of the industrialists.

Our country expected from Freedom's first Budget that there will be an attempt made to rectify the economic maladjustments; but unfortunately our circumstances have driven us to give more relief to those who can pay more. I realise, Sir, that increased production is the great need of the hour; but is it necessary, I ask, that we should go on humouring the capitalist-owned industrialists by telling them, by assuring them, "We assure you that we touch little of your profits. Please go ahead and produce more". Is it necessary to do this? Did we do this during war-time? Did they not have incentive enough and to spare? Did they not go on producing more in order to make money? They did it: they did it at a time when there was the Business

[Shrimati G. Durgabai]

Profits Tax and a host of other taxes. Now is it not the time, when a national emergency has arisen which is grave enough, to call for a little sacrifice on the part of these industrialists. Can they not be told, can they not be made to realise, that they should be prepared to continue to help a little more in order to give some relief to the poor? Sir, in this connection I should also say that in order to set off the relief given to the rich, the Honourable the Finance Minister had taken recourse to tax consumer goods. When I say this with regard to the levy on motor cars, I say that a pleasure car may be a luxury; but I have absolutely no quarrel with him if only he can see his way to exempt school buses, medical vans or transport buses even, if it comes to that.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): The duty is not applicable to these classes of vehicles.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: I am glad of that. I said this because these vehicles are as important as anything to these institutions or social service organisations and I thought this duty might adversely affect them. The Madras Government have already adopted a policy of nationalizing transport and many other Governments are following suit. I am now glad that the Honourable the Finance Minister has made it clear that they are exempted.

A word about the levy on oilseeds. Certainly I welcome this levy because it is admittedly a measure to make the foreigner pay.

About tea, the less said the better, because the poor man who was addicted to toddy is now falling back on tea to stimulate his spirits; now the poor man is made to pay more for it.

With regard to matches, I say that the businessmen had failed to pass on relief to the consumer, a relief which was given to him in the last Budget. But now it is extremely doubtful whether the businessmen would not be quick enough to shift the new burden on to the consumer. I would request the Honourable the Finance Minister to tell me what safeguards he had taken to see that the prices will not soar high.

With regard to salt let me congratulate the Government for having abolished the duty. Gandhiji had insisted on this relief to the poor, but it is curious to see that with the abolition of the duty, we do not know why salt has disappeared or the price has risen so high, but it has now become almost a luxury.

I must mention here that charitable institutions and social service organisations—scores of them—will be grateful to the Honourable the Finance Minister because donations made to these institutions are exempt from tax. The Honourable Minister said he would prepare a list of such institutions with the help of Provincial Governments. May I appeal to the House and the Honourable Member that the Secretaries and Organizers of these institutions should not be made to depend for their inclusion in the approved list, upon the whims and fancies of the Provincial Governments? It is already very difficult to secure a donor—it should not be made more difficult to secure inclusion in the approved list.

One word more, and I have done. Sir, it is very difficult to reconcile the Nation's needs with its ability to pay. It not only calls for a great administrative ability, but it also calls for a very great imaginative leadership. The Honourable the Finance Minister has shown this; he has not only presented a balanced Budget, he has also provided for carrying out development plans in the Provinces—a job which is well done and which calls for the Nation's thanks to him. Sir, I have done.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao (Mysore State): Sir, I am neither a financial expert nor a financier nor an industrialist. I face this Budget just as an ordinary citizen would face it. There are several items of tax proposals to

cover the deficit. Of course, the Honourable Member Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar has shown the fallacy of including Rs. 10 crores of deposits in the revenue item. It may be all right for this year and it may be all right for the next year, but when we think of the Finance Minister two years hence we have to shudder at his position. There is also no justification, Sir, to include the expenditure of 15 crores under Defence under Capital Expenditure. That also Mr. Ayyangar referred to.

Now, coming to the tax proposals, I find that certain angularities and peaks in the income-tax structure have been softened, but even there we have to see it from the point of view of the effect it has on the business community. Take the share market. We find that the shares have gone down. It has neither satisfied the business community as such nor the common man. The only healthy principle of differentiating between the earned and unearned income has been done away with.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: You are wrong. It is still there.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: That is how I understood it—of course, I stand corrected. I do not see why the man who earns by the sweat of his brow, by using his brain, should be differentiated from the man who sits in his Rolls Royce car and earns his income through his share capital and dividends.

Then again if we take the common man, I mean especially the labourer and the agriculturist from the hilly parts from which I come, coffee and tea to them have become national drinks just as beer is to an Englishman. I find that my coffee has been taxed, my tea has been taxed, my tobacco has been taxed and the match box has been taxed. Simply because the Government could not effectively control the tax difference between 40 and 50 matches, it is no justification why 40 stick matches should be brought to the level of 50 stick match boxes and the duty raised from Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 2-8-0. If at all, it should have been the other way about and relief should have been given at a lower level. This taxation directly hits the poor man.

Again, Sir, some relief has no doubt been given to the betel nut grower. On behalf of the betel nut growers, I certainly thank the Honourable the Finance Minister for the great relief that has been given, but I say sufficient protection has not been given. Rs. 5 lakhs was provided in the previous Budget for the improvement of the arecanut cultivation. That has been done away with in the present Budget. Again the Honourable Minister has not assured us that the arecanut grower will be protected from indiscriminate import of foreign nuts. I suggest that a certain target, specially to cover the deficiency of Indian production, should be fixed as the quantity to be imported into India. That will assure the Indian betel nut grower some security for increased production and satisfy the Indian market by increase in production.

Then, again, Sir, I refer to the sterling debt. Of course, I am not an expert. I would leave it to Honourable Members like Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari to dwell upon it, but still, even as a layman it would be very difficult to understand the position without certain details. As the Honourable the Finance Minister's speech shows, we do not know what the existing balance in Account No. 1 is, and we do not know what amount is to be transferred to Pakistan. He says that certain amount will be transferred to Pakistan account, but he has not given us the amount we have to transfer to Pakistan account. Again, some amount is to be borrowed from International Monetary Fund. What is the amount that we are likely to borrow from the International Monetary Fund? Again, he has not given us what is the amount that is at our credit in Account No. 1 and Pakistan account also has to be dealt with in this connection. Even the roughest estimate has not been given to us of the effects that the partition has had on external trade. In regard to balance of pay-

ments with Pakistan also, even the roughest estimate has not been given to us. Without some rough estimate, without some material, it is I believe very difficult even for an expert to understand the sterling balance position of India.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may resume his next point after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

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

Shri S .V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was just referring to the new tax proposals. I submit, Sir, that the principle of sound finance should be a simple tax structure and I think our tax structure is rather cumbrous. I suggest that the Finance Bill as it emerges from the Select Committee may remove these taxes from the poor and middle-class citizens and if any taxes are necessary, I suggest the Finance Minister may kindly examine whether we cannot totally prohibit the export of oilseeds so that the oil cake can be spared for use in India for manure purposes. The Estate duty can be introduced straight off. Again, Sir, the duty on foreign liquors, cosmetics and other luxurious articles can be enhanced and the Finance Minister may kindly see if there cannot be a small increase on air mail rates. Generally, only persons to whom time is money make use of air mail facilities and as a measure of economy air-mail envelopes and air-mail cards can be printed and supplied to the people. It will save lakhs of rupees in printing and stationery and also save the time of the people. I also suggest that there should be a stringent economy drive in the various Departments of the State. Vast sums of money are given to the research institutes. I want to know if our research is in tune with the man in the field. I am reminded of a passage from Wendell Wilkie's '*One World* where he says when there was a break of cattle disease in Russia, the expert did not go in time and prevent the rot. The expert was given transportation for life. I do not want that we should take such stringent measures, but the researches carried on by the experts must be useful to the agriculturist. After all, let us not forget that our economy is agricultural economy. The cottage industries should be co-ordinated with our agricultural production on one side and on the other side cottage industries should be co-ordinated with the large industries. Only yesterday the Commerce Minister told us that the proposals to co-ordinate cottage industries with large industries is still being considered. I do not see why we should not stop this drain of 110 crores for purchase of food. The reason for the deficit budgetary position is given as the great drain on the import of food articles. Sir, can we not make a capital out of this great Punjab calamity and try to start agricultural farms? The Finance Minister has told us that 50 lakhs of persons have come from Western Pakistan to Eastern Punjab and I am sure without disturbing the agricultural economy of East Punjab or the Delhi Province, we can make use of the experience of these agriculturists for starting agricultural farms throughout the length and breadth of India, wherever we have got vast arable lands. I wish the Finance Ministry, the Agricultural Ministry and the Rehabilitation Ministry may consider this proposal.

Sir, I find that there is no co-ordinated programme of production in India. We may be shown the proposals to start the Damodar Valley or the Mahanadhi Valley or the Sindri Chemical Fertiliser plant, but they take about five years or even more, but till then what is to be the food position in India By the time the Honourable the Finance Minister presents the next Budget, let us have a drive for producing more food by starting agricultural farms by making available more manure to the agriculturist and let there be a co-ordinated

planning for production of more food. I fail to see any provision for such a plan or for such a drive in the Budget presented to us.

Sir, to conclude, I would only pray with the Finance Minister *Lead Kindly Light* to the next step, but I want that step should be a firm one, a correct one and a right one.

Shri R. R. Diwakar (Bombay: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join with my predecessors in appreciating the Budget that has been presented to us under the difficult circumstances through which we are passing; but at the same time, I will not have done my duty if I do not point out certain defects and offer some criticism on the proposals made to this House. The Budget proposals on that day were really heard and followed with rapt attention by a very full House. The proposals were very well padded by a piece of poetry in the beginning as well as in the end, but in between there was a pudding or a cake which was really of mixed taste and as we went along analysing, we found certain important defects in the proposals. My friends have said that there is a lack of general overall planning in the proposals. Really speaking after freedom had been won, the first thing that we ought to have done was to seriously address ourselves to a long-term planing rather than to a kind of hand to mouth economy and hand to mouth proposals. I am quite aware, Sir, that the problems which face the Government and which are still facing are such, that they are chasing each other with great speed and we have very little time to consider long-term proposals. But this is a kind of vicious circle. If we do not address ourselves to long-range proposals we shall never be in a position to solve adequately even the day to day problems that arise. And therefore even in the midst of these difficulties that surround us overwhelmingly we have to take particular pains to see that we have some definite plans before us to solve the various problems that face us. Though we all take a very optimistic view of the present position and though the Finance Minister has tried to prove our position to be sound by comparison with the United Kingdom and the United States in the matter of public debt, etc., I do not think that so far as the general deterioration in our economic position is concerned, we have either turned the corner or that we have got over the difficulties.

No doubt, our Finance Minister has tried to stimulate and give incentives to industries in our country; but I should like to point out that lightening of the burdens of taxation or giving some relief here and there regarding supertax or business profits tax is not really going to stimulate industry to the extent the country needs. In fact, if we study the reactions of the industrialists and of the share market we see that there is a demand for greater relief and the share market does not seem to have improved on account of the proposals made. That clearly shows that there are various other elements as well which go to stimulate industry and make money flow into production.

Sir, our economic condition cannot improve unless two or three very important things happen. One is that we should not be obliged to go to the foreign market for food; because that ties us down and limits our purchasing power of capital goods and other essential goods we require for the development of the country. As regards that point, other Honourable friends have dealt with it. All I wish to say is that the subsidies that have been earmarked for food in this country must be used as carefully as possible to see that agriculturists really improve their methods of agriculture and that there is a permanent gain from the money thus spent. Otherwise it may happen that all this money would give a temporary stimulus and nothing more. That is not really enough. We are told that we have a deficit of about 6 per cent. in food. That is not a very big percentage to be wiped out if real improvements are carried out in the methods of agriculture.

[Shri R. R. Diwakar]

The second important thing naturally is the production of consumer goods here. Of course the Finance Minister has made an effort by giving some relief to industrialists here and there. But, as I pointed out just now, there are various other things which are necessary, I may just enumerate a few of them. For instance, there is the transport bottleneck which has been admitted by the Finance Minister. Then there is the question of availability of capital goods. And we see that out of the sterling balance about 13:13 crores of rupees only is available for multilateral convertibility; and possibly the purchase of capital goods may be handicapped not only by non-availability but by our limited power to purchase.

Then the question of raw materials is there. Not all the raw material that we want for numerous industries do we get here; take, for instance, a number of chemicals. I know that sometimes for want of caustic soda or some such simple chemical, industries like those of soap and other things are held up for months.

Then there is also the important question of technical skill which comes in the way of production. Last but the most important is the question of willing labour. That point has been very well touched upon by my honourable friend Mr. Shastri. But I wish to point out that this question of labour is not going to be solved by a temporary truce for three years. A truce is often utilised by both parties for preparing for the next battle, and in this case too that may happen. Even the truce that has been concluded does not seem to be in operation at all. But even if it begins to operate seriously, I do not think that unless there is a clear policy by which we lead labour to believe that within a measureable space of time—they are going to be prospective partners in production and in profits, they would really be helpful or that a psychology can be induced in them which would be very helpful to our industries. I would therefore plead for a very long-range policy in this matter. If capital is important, labour is equally important; and unless labour is made a willing partner in this whole big drive for production, I do not think we shall be able to step up production to the extent that we want.

About Defence expenditure. I should like to point out that it continues to be as heavy and as high as in the days of British rule. There was a resolution before this House in the last session that a national militia should be raised. That Resolution was no doubt withdrawn on an assurance from Government. What the Resolution aimed at was that the citizens of the country should be given some kind of military education by which they would be able to supplement the army in times of emergency. But I do not see any such proposal in the budget this time.

Then about mass education for citizenship—as one might call it—that too is lacking in the whole programme. That is a very great constructive programme. For the lack of it we are suffering immensely since the communal virus has spread and entered into the roots of our social and political life. If that is to be removed by a long-range programme, then education of the masses on a national basis and on a national scale is the only remedy. That too, unfortunately, we miss in this whole programme.

As regards taxation proposals, my friends have pointed out many defects. I want to touch only one, the taxable minimum in income-tax which today is only 2,500. I would like to point out that that ought to be raised to 3,500 to give relief to persons who really need relief. The prices of agricultural products and manufactured goods have gone far over 300 per cent. since 1939 and so this relief is very much needed and the loss can be made up by a slight change here and there in the scales above that amount.

With these few words, I commend my suggestions to the House and to the Honourable the Finance Minister.

K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur (Madras: Muslim). It is a matter for gratification that the Honourable the Finance Minister has been able, with his wonted dexterity and cleverness, to almost balance the budget, which would otherwise have shown a heavy deficit. It is also a matter of pleasure that he has been able to confirm the assurance that he gave us last November that the financial position of the country is intrinsically sound, even after a detailed investigation of the financial position for a longer period.

He has also rightly emphasized that the paramount need of the country is to stimulate production and for that purpose he has been able to lessen the taxation on certain businesses and industries. I would submit that the desired effect would not be produced by merely lessening the severity of taxation. The country still has to obtain from the Government an assurance regarding the scope and extent of private enterprise. Attempts have been made on previous occasions on the floor of the House for such an assurance and I am yet to see any such assurance given to the fullest extent.

Now, Sir, for the purpose of stepping up production we require capital goods and for that purpose we have to get an adequate quantity of foreign exchange resources. Unfortunately as a result of the negotiations between the British delegation and our representatives, we have not been able to secure an adequate quantity of foreign exchange resources. On the other hand; even compared with what we were able to get last time the amount has been considerably reduced now, though when the delegation came to India it was pointed out that Egypt had been able to get almost double the foreign exchange this time, and that it also got gold reserves, but in spite of the fact that we are badly in need of foreign exchange both for our capital goods and for the purpose of import of foodgrains, the amount of foreign exchange resources at our disposal for the next six months have been reduced and for whatever urgent need we have to meet, we have to draw on other resources like the International Monetary Fund and to exhaust even resources like the Post-war Dollar Fund. I hope that the Government will take the matter further and try to get more foreign exchange resources for our country.

As regards industries I would lay emphasis on three industries. First of all comes the tanning industry, which is the largest exporting industry of my province and the third largest exporting industry in the whole country and as such it deserves proper consideration at the hands of the Government. After all we want more exports and for the development of these industries the necessary raw materials must as far as possible be made available in the country. Since a long time there has been a demand for the imposition of a fair export duty on skins and hides exported to foreign countries. For the development of this industry, it is necessary that a high export duty must be imposed on these raw products. By imposing such a duty we will not in any way be suffering any loss because the world cannot but get our skins and hides either in the raw form or in the tanned condition; it is always preferable in the interests of the country to send out our skins and hides in a tanned state and the world cannot do without our tanned skins and hides because in no part of the world is such a quality of tanned skins and hides being produced. Therefore, we will not be affected adversely if we impose a high rate of export duty.

Again, with regard to the mineral resources, I would point out that whatever may have been the intention of the previous bureaucratic Government in not helping the mineral resources of the country, it is time we took measures for its development. It was at one time thought that South India was a burnt out land geologically. But now it has been found that there are very rich mineral resources there. Recently coal has been found and also iron ore

[K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur]

in the district of Salem; it is said that the iron mines are inexhaustible. On the floor of the Madras Legislature it was mentioned that the Government of India is not willing to send out even the necessary number of officers to survey the geological resources of the province. I would appeal to the Government of India to render the necessary help in not only surveying the province with regard to the mineral resources but also in tapping those resources speedily in the most profitable manner for the good of the country.

When the Finance Minister imposed last November a heavy export duty on Handloom cloth, those who were engaged in the industry pointed out that the industry could not and cannot stand such a heavy duty and I am glad that the Finance Minister has realized the justice of the contention of the industry and has removed it. But along with that he has removed the export duty on yarn. Well he may be aware that the handloom weavers, especially of my province, are getting no more than 10 days yarn in a month. Such being the case, how can you export yarn outside the province? Therefore, it is better that we impose a heavy duty on the export of yarn, so that the people may have a proper livelihood by working for a larger number of days. We can send the finished products outside. There is also a sort of excise duty on the yarn. That is being consumed by these handlooms, and it is necessary that that excise duty is also withdrawn in the interests of the development of the handloom industry.

Again, Sir, the Madras province has become very much trade-mark conscious and it is deplorable that even now after the Trade Marks Act has been in operation for the past six years, it has not been possible to establish a Branch office in Madras. The people in Madras have to go to Bombay or Calcutta for making enquiries and getting the necessary assistance from the Government offices concerned. It is high time that a Trade Marks branch office is established in the province.,

Sir, I feel compelled to mention another important matter. The Government of India banned the Muslim National Guards Organisation throughout the whole of India. Certain arrests have been made in Madras and other Provinces I would like to emphasise that this organisation was not at any time intended to commit nor had it at any time engaged itself in acts of violence, nor was there any disposition on its part towards acts of violence.....

3 P.M.

Mr. Speaker: I believe that is a provincial subject, as the banning of the organisation must have been done by the Government of Madras.

K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur: The organisation was banned by the Government of India. When we approached the Madras Government we were definitely informed that they have no discretion in the matter and that they were acting only on the orders of the Government of India.

Mr. Speaker: The question is by whom the orders banning the Muslim National Guards were issued.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): It is the Provincial Government. No orders have been issued by us.

Mr. Speaker: If there is any grievance on that matter, it should be raised in the Madras provincial legislature.

K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur: The Provincial Government said that they acted on the orders issued by the Government of India. The organisation was banned by the Government of India.....

Mr. Speaker: Is there any authoritative statement to that effect?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): I can understand raising a matter like this in connection with the Finance Bill but how is this germane to the General Discussion on the Budget?

Mr. Speaker: That is another point. Let us be clear as to whether this order was issued by the Government of India or not.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur (Madras: Muslim): I can authoritatively state the Honourable the Premier of Madras told us when we waited on him in deputation, that he was acting on the orders of the Government of India and that he had no discretion in the matter.

Mr. Speaker: I thought he must have said very probably that he was acting on the advice of the Government of India. But that is a different matter. But here the Home Minister says that no orders were issued by the Government of India.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Advice has been given to all provinces to ban all private armies.

K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur: We have raised the matter on the floor of the provincial legislature also and we have had no remedy. Not a single person who belongs to this organisation has been released, whereas people belonging to other organisations are being released from day to day.

Sir, I was speaking about trade marks registration. People have to go either to Bombay or Calcutta for the purpose of registering trade marks. There is provision under Section 76 of the Indian Trade Marks Act for the establishment of branches. Even small States like Cochin and Udaipur have branches on a reciprocal basis. Why should a major province like Madras be denied the right of having a trade marks office, I cannot understand.

I come now to the Madras High Court. Out of the total strength of 16 of the High Court Bench of Madras, including the two temporary judges, there are now only 8 judges and the vacancies have not been filled up for sometime, with the result that on certain days of the week the admission court does not even sit; no judge sits for the disposal of admission work on some days. I appeal to the Government to see that these vacancies are filled up as early as possible.

I am sorry that the budget does not give any substantial help to the provinces financially. When the Madras provincial budget was introduced on the floor of the House our Finance Minister said that he had made repeated representations to the Government of India for giving us a larger share both in the income-tax and the corporation-tax. I find here a slight hint that even the amount promised for postwar development schemes may be cut down if the Provincial Government does not spend an amount equal to that given by the Centre. These are times when provinces need very great financial help from the Centre. I would appeal to the Honourable the Finance Minister to see whether it is not possible for him to increase the share to the provinces in certain items of income and whether it is not possible for him to give favourable consideration to the representations that have been made to him by our Finance Minister.

With regard to food, in the budget speech the Honourable Minister says that during 1947-48, 110 crores were spent on the import of foodgrains, while this year only 61 crores will be spent. I am sorry that that amount has been reduced. I am quite aware of the difficulties with regard to the financial position.....

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: 61 crores for the first half of the current year.

K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur: I do not know whether even that would be sufficient to meet the demand. The Honourable the Finance Minister who comes from my province knows that famine is at our doors on

[K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur.]

account of the failure of the North East Monsoon. Unless we are able to get foodgrains in larger quantities from outside the country it would be impossible for us to tide over the crisis. This morning I read in the papers that the Foodgrains Policy Committee of the Government of India has recommended that potatoes, tubers and bananas should be used as food. I do not know whether it would be possible to make the people use such things for their diet. Whether they will suit their stomachs and other factors have to be taken into consideration. We know how the attempt to substitute groundnuts for 2 ounces of rice failed and nobody even in the villages was prepared to take groundnuts.

Then I come to the excise duty on tea and coffee, which is direct taxation on the poor. In our province where total prohibition has been introduced those people who have been addicted to some sort of stimulants would naturally like to have some mild stimulants like tea and coffee and it is not fair that they should be asked to pay more by the imposition of this duty.

Another matter is this. When the British Bureaucracy was ruling the country certain books, pamphlets and brochures published by eminent public men in the country,—*i.e.* by our national heroes—were proscribed and I do not know why this Government should not lift the ban on such books. For instance.....

Mr. Speaker: That is a provincial subject.

K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur: I refer to books that have been banned by the Government of India. For instance I refer to the famous article written by Maulana Mohammad Ali in the Comrade under the title of *The Choice of the Turks*. With regard to import licenses I desire to point out that there is very great irregularity in the issue of licenses.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member's time is up. I cannot permit him to continue.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha (West Bengal: General): Sir, if I utter a few words of criticism of the Budget I am not forgetful of the fact that this is the first annual budget of Independent India and that this is the budget presented by the Cabinet of the Congress to which I have the honour to belong. Whatever criticism or suggestion I may make is only in a helpful spirit. I expected that the new budget would bear some stamp of independent India but I am constrained to say that I am disappointed. The budget as presented before us is just the same type as had been presented year after year up to 1947. It is only an attempt to adjust revenue and expenditure.

But I expected that this budget of the new independent India would make an attempt to adjust our national economy and would try to adjust the unfavourable trade balance. That is the real problem. Unless we can solve that problem it is no use adjusting the revenue and expenditure by imposing certain taxes or giving some relief to certain categories of people. The greatest malady in our present economy is that we have an unfavourable balance of trade. There should be a planned attempt to remedy this. The first thing we can do is to control haphazard imports. The system of controlling import by way of licences as is prevalent now is far from satisfactory. Mostly it is done to accommodate certain individuals or certain groups of persons who have been in the trade of importing or exporting certain goods, so that they may not lose their means of livelihood. But in a free India the importing system should be based mainly from the point of view of putting our trade balance on a right footing. We should try to stimulate export for which there must be planned economy and systematic campaign. The Honourable the Finance Minister has rightly stressed the importance of increasing production. To increase production he has given some relief only to the rich people. He has given them relief by reducing super-tax

and business tax. But that is not enough. It is apparent that this concession to the big capitalists has not satisfied them. The Honourable Finance Minister ought to have understood by this time that these big capitalists won't be satisfied by these petty concessions. They all want to have their full pound of flesh. The Finance Minister ought rather to have concentrated on cottage industries and on increasing food production. India must have to develop her cottage industries if she wants to have a favourable balance of trade. In the matter of helping cottage industries the Finance Minister has only given relief to the handloom industry by withdrawing the export duty on handloom cloth. in this connection he might have done something more. The Cotton Textile Equalisation Fund which was mainly derived from the handloom weavers might have been given as a subsidy to the handloom weavers.

As for food production, there is absolutely no system and no planning. Year after year our food import is increasing. Last year it was Rs. 110 crores and this year it is expected or apprehended to reach Rs. 125 crores or something like that. If we are to import so much foodgrain from outside and to pay hard cash for it, it will be difficult for us ever to have any favourable trade balance. So this is the first point on which the Finance Minister should have devoted his attention.

Then, Sir, the Finance Minister has imposed excise duty on tea and coffee. Instead he might have imposed export duty on tea and coffee. I think Ceylon tea is even now selling at a higher price in foreign markets. By imposing a small export duty on tea and coffee he might have got enough revenue and at the same time I think, there would not have been any diminution in the export of Indian tea or coffee. Instead he has taxed the poorman's tea. Tea is not only a poor man's drink—it is even his food now. In towns as well as in rural areas the labouring classes have almost nothing else than tea for breakfast—tea or coffee. In Northern India it is tea and in Southern India and at least in some districts there it is coffee with the labouring classes for breakfast. I would implore the Finance Minister that instead of imposing the excise duty on coffee and tea he may put an export duty on coffee and tea which may give him some revenue and also give some relief to the poor.

Then, the match duty ought not to have been increased. That is also a tax directly on the poor consumers. The town people have mostly got their electric lights. Except the smokers they do not use much of matches. But the rural people have always to use matches, and this article essential necessity should not have been taxed rather the tax should not have been increased.

As regards our sterling balances for the next six months we have got only 18 million sterling, or Rs. 24 crores. Of course there is a balance of the last six months which may leave us some fair amount at our credit. Even then, of this Rs. 24 crores we will have only Rs. 13 crores which will have dollar convertibility. Because we have only such a small sum at our disposal, in regard to transactions with dollar regions we shall have to borrow from the International Monetary Fund. I do not know what interest we shall have to pay for this and who will pay it.

As regards the different heads of expenditure naturally Defence consumes more than 50 per cent. including capital expenditures. Defence expenditure has always been the target of attack from the nationalist benches in the past. But in Free India we shall have to build up our defences and we do not grudge this expenditure. We only wish that the money may be rightly spent. In this connection I must say a word about what the Indian Army has done for evacuating millions of people from Western Pakistan to India. It is splendid and they have done immense service to humanity and to India. And what they are now doing in Kashmir we appreciate and recognize. Yet I think

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there might have been some economy and some money might have been better spent. One point I would like to stress, namely, that there should no longer be any such thing as martial and non-martial races in the Army. No distinction like that should be prolonged.

While speaking on the subject of defence I must mention West Bengal. India has practically two frontiers on the eastern side—one Assam with China and Burma and another, West Bengal with Eastern Pakistan. Unless the position of Western Bengal is strengthened it will be very difficult for the Indian Union to defend her frontiers from that side. So I hope the Government as a whole and the Defence Department will give due attention to the defence of West Bengal by strengthening its position and developing Home Guards and Frontier Guards there. That is of the utmost importance not only for the defence of West Bengal but also for the defence of the whole of India.

In this connection I must also point out another matter. What is happening in East Bengal should also be remembered. One crore and twenty-five lakhs of people are involved there. What has happened in Western Pakistan is nothing in comparison with what may happen in Eastern Bengal and Western Bengal. I do not want to be panicky. We have been trying our best to keep our people in Eastern Bengal and we have asked them not to leave their hearth and home, and not to cross the frontiers. We have been trying our best and on behalf of the Congress of Bengal I can say that the Bengal Congress have been doing all that is possible to allay the people's fears and to restore communal harmony. Yet things are becoming very difficult for the minority community in East Bengal, and for that also the Defence Department and the Relief and Rehabilitation Department should have some provision even from now. In the Western Punjab, Sind and the Frontier, the government were taken almost unawares. A similar situation may not face them again. They should be prepared against a possible development of such a contingency in Eastern Bengal. That contingency will be like an avalanche before which the whole structure of our infant state may have to crumble. So from now on the Government should pay utmost attention to defence as well as to other matters in Western Bengal.

The Finance Minister has imposed certain extra charges. He has raised the surcharge on trunk telephone calls from 40 per cent. to 60 per cent. and he has increased the registration fee from 3 to 4 annas. These increases yield an additional revenue of only 40 lakhs. I think he can easily forego this. 40 lakhs is not a big sum: and the increase of the registration fee may hamper the development of business, trade and commerce. Instead the Finance Minister might have given some more attention towards economy. He has made a token economy cut of 2½ crores. That is nothing compared to the expectations of the people and the members of this House. There ought to be more economy. There should be a systematic attempt at economy in all the departments.

Then before concluding, Sir, I must say a word about the income-tax allocation. I do not know on what basis the Niemeyer Award has suddenly been upset. It is an interim arrangement. West Bengal has been given only 12 per cent. while it was previously getting 20 per cent. Undivided Bengal was getting only 30 or 40 lakhs of rupees from the East Bengal regions as Income Tax collections. As regards population, West Bengal has still a larger population than Bombay. Then why Bombay is getting 21 per cent. and West Bengal is getting 12 per cent.? I expect the Honourable the Finance Minister will look into this. Bengal has already suffered much due to many causes—the war policy of the government, famine, communal rioting and last of all due to partition, and I hope our Congress government will not inflict any more injury

or create difficulties for West Bengal in recouping herself. So, before concluding, I implore the Finance Minister to allocate a larger sum. It is an interim arrangement after all. Till we can reach a final settlement let the previous arrangement stand and 20 per cent. be allocated to Bengal. The Finance Minister concluded his admirable speech by saying "The next step is enough for us if it is illumined by the star of our ambition and fortified by the faith in our destiny." I say this will not be enough. The whole budget should bear the stamp of the Congress party. Unless we have also the torch light of Gandhian socialism and Gandhian social ideas, I think the whole budget will become a failure and Independent India cannot be satisfied with a budget of the stereotyped class that has been presented year after year before this House. With these few words I commend my suggestions to the Honourable Finance Minister.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the large number of Honourable Members who seem to be anxious to speak, I am reducing now the time-limit from 15 to 10 minutes. A larger number of people will be able to speak if I can snatch away 5 minutes from each. Ordinarily therefore I would allow 10 minutes except in special cases where I may allow a few more minutes.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, instead of giving some sort of joy during the presentation of the budget, just the opposite has happened, and I must say that this budget is not in any way different from the budget which was presented by the British Government in former years. We can say that this is a budget of free India but we cannot say that this is a budget of *Swaraj*. We all heard the Finance Minister quoting the words of Gandhiji, but one is surprised to find that the budget is devoid of any spirit of the Gandhian ideology or the Gandhian ideals of economy. So we have either to accept this budget or reject it on its face value. The only new item in the budget is the expenditure on Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. All the other items are as they were in the former budget, and we find in the budget the same figures, the same form, the same meaning everything. We all know that the British Government tried to keep the people away from the administration of this country and they did not provide us with any details of the expenditure or anything of that kind. In this budget also one fails to see any detail or explanation of the various items of expenditure involved. If we take, for example, one department, we find this. They are given like this:

Secretary 1, Deputy Secretary 1, Assistant Secretary 1, and other officers 54. One fails to understand what is meant by other officers. I think it would be better if the designations and the grade of all the officers are given there, and the number of the different kinds of officers. Then also we are not provided with details of the establishment, and there is also an item called 'Miscellaneous.' These are all items which involve crores of rupees.

To keep his promise to the capitalists he has tried to please them by reducing the taxes on them and the Honourable Finance Minister has tried to balance the budget by indirect taxation of the poor man. We could have welcomed even a deficit budget if it had given any relief to the common man. I do not think it would be a repetition if I were to say the budget has taken away even the small comfort that the common man enjoyed by taking a cup of coffee or tea. Two days back I had to pay an additional three annas for a pound of coffee, and during the introduction of the budget they knew about the duty on tea and coffee and the dealers had begun exploitation even before the budget came into operation. I think a wiser method would have been to impose a duty on costly drinks like whisky, brandy or wine. If such a step had been taken many people would have become irritated. If that course had been adopted it would have paved the way for the introduction of one of the constructive programmes of the Congress, namely prohibition.

[Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan]

Sir nowadays one hears much about 'production' 'production' 'more production.' As an incentive to the capitalist taxes on business have been reduced. But I fail to understand what relief this budget is going to give to the common man. I must in this connection bring to the notice of the Honourable the Finance Minister that production does not depend on the capitalist alone. We find people going without cloth not because there is no cloth in the country, but because the purchasing power of the people is limited. People go without food not because there is no food in the country, but because they have no money to purchase food.

If you go through the budget you find that huge sums of money are set aside under each Department for the expansion of Departments, increase of staff, etc., but when you come to Departments like Labour and Education, they are left as they were before. Not even an attempt has been made to make an experiment in compulsory education; even the basic education scheme which was so dear to Gandhiji, has not been given a fair trial. In short in the first budget of free India one fails to find any ideal. It is only confined to the exploitation of the poor tax payers to meet the demands of a top-heavy administration. The Congress Government have been repeating time and again that they do not approve of the top-heavy administration, but when they have the power they let the old state of affairs continue, and are content with putting forward some excuses. It is therefore imperative that in order to do justice to the poor people of this country some sort of policy should be evolved by which the economic structure of this country will be changed and the disparity in the income of the rich and the poor be made little or nothing. It is the duty of the Government and of the Honourable the Finance Minister to see that something is done for the relief of the common man by taking into consideration the suggestions put forward by the Honourable Members of this House.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unnecessary I think for me to congratulate the Honourable Minister for Finance for his budget, because not only fairminded men, but also members of fair sex

[*At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (one of the panel of Chairmen)*].

have already done so. There is absolutely no doubt, that the author of this budget is a man of great talents. It is quite obvious that his talents are of a very high order. But the budget has been elusive. A rich man going through the budget speech will exclaim: "Well, look here, our old friend Mr. Shanmukham Chetty has not entirely forgotten us. The Congress benches which he now adorns, has not been able to spoil him yet." That is the first reaction. But when the rich man goes deeper into the budget he finds that his first impressions were not correct. If he has been given something by one hand, that has been taken away by the other. The poor man on hearing of the remissions of certain taxes exclaims: "Look here, I had misjudged him. I had unnecessarily listened to what the socialist leaders have been saying—in fact some of them went to the length of saying that he should be withdrawn from the Treasury Benches." That was my first impression also when I heard that the tax on betel nuts was withdrawn. When I go further into the matter I find that it was merely a will-o'-the-wisp which I was running after. When I think of the tax on tea, when I think of the increased tax or matches, I see that I was mistaken. It is all like this. You dream of getting large amounts of money; you tighten your grip on the nuts you suddenly wake up and find that there is nothing in your palm. A great disappointment! I have personal experience of that kind of disappointment. Here in Delhi where only one gallon petrol is given for each day of sitting, we feel great want for this and on one occasion I dreamt that I had sheafs of petrol

coupons—I tightened my grip and roused myself only to find them gone. The Honourable Finance Minister has done the same thing in matter of distribution of receipts and burdens. As between the rich man's claim and the poor man's claim, he has behaved exactly like the one who distributed cheese between the two cats; and after cutting one portion from one share and another portion from another, he has taken the main quantity of cheese for himself—when I say *for himself*, I mean he has added to the public exchequer—he has not given much to others.

Madam, I am very glad that I have this opportunity of addressing you in the Chair. My honourable friend the Finance Minister has proved a veritable juggler. He has the whole set-up of a juggler, and if he had only the magic wand he might have been able to compete with the best Continental magicians of the Western countries; but our Indian jugglers have always been far more effective than the European jugglers. I have heard the budget speeches of European Finance Members, and I am sure their jugglery would pale into insignificance compared to our jugglery. Madam, after all, Indian jugglery is superior. Everybody knows, and I think you have seen it, that the Indian juggler has his *Bhanumati*. That *Bhanumati* is not any woman or lady; it is a figure in a wooden frame which every juggler carries about with him. The *Bhanumati* in the case of the Finance Minister was a steadfast determination to get all he can for the Government of India so that the country may advance in the way of progress.

I think, Madam, it is hardly necessary for me to remind the House that I come from Assam. So, I would just briefly state some of the grievances of that Province. When my honourable friend Sardar Patel went to visit our Province—he had the courage to do so; other ministers of the Bench would not dare because there is a prejudice against Assam that whoever goes to Kamrup never comes back; there is a popular belief that in Kamrup one would be converted into a lamb. When Sardar Patel went there and he had given us the assurance that whatever is needed for the development of the Province, he would always be prepared to give. But, Madam, I find myself sorely disappointed when I look into the Budget: there is nothing special given for the development of that Province. That Province is a double frontier; it has not only to protect the frontier against Pakistan, but it is also generally speaking the Eastern frontier. But what have you got there? What additional advantage have we got there excepting the fact that the original promise, which was made perhaps by Sir Archibald Rowlands or somebody else, has now been repeated? Nothing new has been given to us.

Certainly, I am grateful to the Honourable Minister for removing the tax on betel nuts, which was a pressing tax and cruelly realised. But he had raised the tax on tea. Madam, tea is a beverage, it is almost a food.

Shri T. Channiah (Mysore State): Madam, I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Minister for the way in which he began his speech when he presented free India's first Budget before this House; and also the way in which he ended his speech is a thing which is to be noted. He began by paying a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, and at the end of his Budget Speech on Saturday last he concluded with the words, *Lead Kindly Light*. Of course, Madam, it is very good and it is very kind of him to say such words. But when I read those words, the very essence of Mahatma Gandhi's ideals do not find a place in the frame-work of the Budget. One of the objects of his high ideals, namely, the unprivileged people, the Depressed Classes in the country, who form about one-fifth of the population of India, have been totally neglected and no mention in the whole of the Budget has been made about the Harijans. I feel very sorry for the very unkind attitude the Finance Minister has taken towards this aspect of the problem, of the amelioration of the depressed classes.

[Shri T. Channiah]

Madam, I am really worried in one or two respects. Mahatma Gandhi wanted that the Harijans in India should form the strength of the Hindu community and that unless they are elevated Hinduism would be lost. They are the real tillers of the soil; they form the backbone of the country; they are the real warriors in times of danger. Mahatma Gandhi wanted in his life time to see untouchability removed; and we the Harijans in India feel that God has snatched him away and we find no help at the present time. We thought that the first and foremost priority of this Government was to take up the amelioration of the Depressed Classes. They are labouring in India, as you can see, under very great disadvantages. Not even a single rupee has been allotted for their amelioration anywhere in the Budget.

Let me place before the Honourable Members of this House the various disadvantages under which they are labouring now. Wherever we go in villages, we see most of these depressed classes, those who are weavers, tanners and *mochis*, they have no place because the modern machine has replaced their work. Therefore, they cannot find any employment. Government has not thought of helping them, say, for instance, by way of co-operative societies, by way of cheap credit, by way of selling raw materials and improved methods of machinery and by way of giving loans to these people. No such thing has been provided in the Budget.

Another aspect which I want to mention is that the artisans and tenants are suffering from very great poverty because most of them are involved in debts. Most of the depressed classes in rural areas are under the system of born-slavery because on account of extreme poverty and on account of their indebtedness, they cannot free themselves from these zamindars. What is the Government going to do for that? They have not stated any definite policy in regard to the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes in India.

First and foremost, the depressed classes in India want educational facilities. As we can see, they have not been given any residential schools or hostels. They should be provided with these things. There must be legislation to abolish born-slavery and also serfdom. Legislation should also be brought forward to remove social disabilities. Unless social disabilities are removed and the economic condition is improved, I do not think the depressed classes in India can ever come forward and assume equal status with other communities. I gathered from the Prime Minister of India very recently that unless the depressed classes are made to stand on equal level with other communities, we cannot boldly say that we are having a real democratic Republic of India. Unless the present Government takes it into its head to lift the depressed classes, to bring them on equal footing with others, to improve their economic condition, etc., I do not think that the democracy in the true sense will be achieved; it will remain a dream.

In these circumstances, madam, there is nothing for me to appreciate, nothing to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Minister upon, as he has not set apart any sum either for the educational facilities or for the large scale housing-scheme of these depressed classes.

An Honourable Member: This is more of provincial concern.

Shri T. Channiah: May be, but the Government of India have not definitely stated their policy towards the depressed classes. That is why I am mentioning this. I wish that the Central Government take earnest steps to improve the condition of the depressed classes, which is entirely their duty and not that of the provinces.

Madam, I thank you.

Dr. V. Subramaniam (Madras: General): Madam Chairman, after the decease of the Father of the Nation, this is the first Budget which the Finance

Minister has placed before this Assembly. We know the difficulties in placing this Budget. I am not going to repeat every subject which has been dealt with previously by my honourable friends, but I have to mention a few points as a common man, as a representative of the people, in regard to what the man in the street thinks and what he wants.

First of all, I take the concessions given to the business people. The Business Profits Tax has been brought down from 16 2/3 per cent. to 10 per-cent., and the abatement amount has been raised from one lakh to two lakhs. All these proposals I quite welcome. But while I have no objection to raising the maximum amount for which super-tax is to be levied, there was no necessity to reduce the rates of super-tax. As regards the Business Profits Tax, no doubt they are having the benefit, but I have my own doubt whether the benefit obtained will be utilised for the benefit or for the increase of business in the land so that the national wealth may be increased. If it had been a condition that the business people will invest that amount for the enlargement of their business, it would have been very good. Anyhow, business people must invest that saving at least in Government bonds so that it may be of some use. Otherwise, if it is possible—I will welcome such a proposal—some enactment may be made that the three crores of rupees which will be saved should be diverted to a business concern and short-term proposals should be brought forward for the industrial development of the country. Of course, I do not know the legal implication of this suggestion, but I am merely giving out the idea which strikes my mind.

Then, Madam, in order to give relief to the ordinary common man—the middle class people—it was suggested that income-tax must be exempted up to incomes from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,500. I do not know what will be the idea of the Honourable Minister. Anyhow, as an alternative relief, I think the income of those people who get below Rs. 5,000, at least 10 per cent. of it may be exempted from income-tax so as to give them house-rent relief and other benefits. Let me illustrate. Suppose a man is getting Rs. 3,000 or 4,000, he may be paying Rs. 60 or 50 as house-rent; that amount can be deducted from his income and the balance may be taxed as income-tax, so this will give some relief to the middle class people.

The other thing, Madam, is that after the attainment of freedom we want to encourage cottage industries. I have great faith in the *Khadi* scheme. The different provinces are putting up different schemes. The Centre, as a token, might set apart a certain sum, say a few lakhs, and make grants to each province, so that each province may put in *Khadi* schemes as a national and economical emblem so to say. We can then call it more of a national policy. We want a national tinge in the Budget.

Then we want prohibition throughout India. It is a provincial concern; yet some relief must be given to the Provinces by the Centre in this respect also.

Then about coffee and other things, my honourable friends have already taken that portfolio, so I would not talk about them.

As regards the export duty, there are many articles which could have been taxed. Take the case of mica. An export duty can be levied on mica. There are many such articles. I have not got the list of all articles that are being exported to foreign countries.

As regards prohibition, I thought we will be having prohibition even at Delhi, but Delhi is not going dry; I think it is already wet. I would suggest that foreign liquors may be heavily taxed, so that we can increase our income.

4 P.M. Next to Defence, food, clothing and housing are the most essential things in the country and as regards food problems there is no use in getting food-grains from foreign countries to the tune of 50 or 60 crores. At least 200 crores may have been taken as a loan and that loan may be given for Provinces for the construction of tanks and wells as a short-

[Dr. V. Subramaniam]

term measure, for the reason that Damodar Valley and other large scheme will take at least ten years for its completion. It will be a really a long-term relief, and as a short-term relief the Provinces must be helped with some amount for one portion as grant and one portion as loan, so that small tanks wells and other irrigation channels may be dug. In this way the Provinces might be made self-sufficient. After all, if the problem in the province is solved, naturally the Centre will have no burden after some years. I hope the Honourable Minister will consider these matters.

As regards medical relief, I must say that the medical system in our country is far below the average in foreign countries and it is not at all touching the villages. I heard many interpellations in this House itself regarding the Ayurvedic system. Even today more than 85 per cent. of the population of India are being treated by the Ayurvedic system, but there is no place for it in the Budget. The Honourable the Health Minister was very kind enough to consider this subject. I know it may be a Provincial Concern. I feel that all research must be made a Central subject. Research in medicine or research in agriculture or research in any subject whatever it may be—there must be co-ordination between the Provinces and the Centre. There is no co-ordination between one province and another and even the Centre when finding out certain research as good, they are not being utilised by the Provinces or for the use of the nation itself. The provinces are going in one way and the Centre in another way. I think that every branch of science and research must be brought and co-ordinated. Then only the nation will be developing.

As regards the housing scheme, though it is a provincial question, co-operative housing schemes can be started and the provinces may be induced by token grants and in that way they may be compelled to take up the schemes on a uniform basis.

As regards engineering schemes, I feel that there must be co-ordination between Provincial highways and national highways and in each and every department there must be a proper, thorough overhauling and co-ordination.

Madam, the Budget which the Honourable Minister has put before us is a satisfactory one and I congratulate the Finance Minister on it. I am sure that when relief is necessary for the poor class of people, it will be forthcoming. With these words, I resume my seat.

Shri Lal Mohan Pati (Mayurbhanj State): This is the very first opportunity in my life to congratulate the Finance Minister of the Independent India on the occasion of his presenting the annual budget before the House for consideration and adoption. While I would join in chorus with all the other Honourable Members who have spoken before me in congratulating the Honourable the Finance Minister, I, however, while congratulating him reserve the right of making certain observations, which, I think, are not only relevant but pertinent to the questions at issue now. The whole budget has been prepared and presented and over which the Honourable the Finance Minister have enlightened the House by quite a lengthy speech, explaining matters as sufficiently as under the circumstances would be possible. I beg to observe that I have not been quite satisfied with the budget now before us. This budget appears to me nothing better than the old wife in a new *saree*. It is almost the same old-fashioned budget which used to be presented in this house from year to year but only with certain changes here and there. Now so far as the nation is concerned, we have all been shouting both day and night that ours is a free country, we are the legislators of a free independent sovereign India and this is the first budget of such a free and sovereign India. Now in that case for a people like that the two things which I consider to be the most vital and important are the nation-building programme and the nation's saving programme.

These are the two vital factors on which the new born freedom of our country must give the fullest possible attention. So far as these two matters are concerned, I confess I have failed to find any such thing in the whole budget, which is quite a lengthy one. There is nothing which inspires confidence that our Government is going to have a sufficient nation-building programme or a sufficient nation saving programme before it. There is no plan either for the purpose of nation saving or for the purpose of nation building. It is something like this: A physician may be going on his way and he prescribes some medicine or something like that and whether it fits in or not with the disease, he does not care to know what is the disease or the true remedy of the disease but administers some doses and goes away. There does not appear to be any such thing in the budget which goes to the very root of our disease. We have been speaking and speaking quite for a long time. The country is poor. We have been importing into India foodgrains worth 100 crores from year to year and there should be an all-round attempt made for growing more and more food, but merely saying this would not suffice. There must be some definite, concrete plan and there must be a definite attempt made for the execution of the plan. So far as a plan is concerned, there is absolutely nothing to be found in this budget. Of course we find that there are agricultural research institutions, which have been there for a very long time. But I must say that all these researches that have been made—if at all—in these institutions have not proved to be of any benefit so far to agriculture in India or to agriculturists as a class. Vast sums of money must have been spent on them from year to year and probably there is no one in the whole administrative system of Government to see and to know whether the so-called researches are really researches which are beneficial to the peculiar soil, temperament and environments of India. What may be true of the American soil or American conditions may not always be good for Indian soil, Indian society and Indian environments. I think there is no machinery in Government to see whether our research institutions are alive to this or not. Therefore I have my objection to the grant of such a huge sum of money to this branch of Government unless and until there is satisfactory evidence before Government that this research is really of benefit and is sure to impart its beneficial effect to the country in the very near future.

One feature of the budget is that a strenuous attempt has been made to equalise its debit and credit side, that is, to produce as far as possible a balanced budget. I should like to observe that even if a budget in a particular year or over a consecutive number of years is a deficit budget and still there is a definite programme before the nation and before the country for its development, that budget would not be very bad. Here in this present budget I find one thing. Everybody has come to know that now this new born freedom of India is passing through a very critical time. The international situation is fraught with danger and it is not unlikely that in the very near future there may be a flare-up. Signs are evident that the fate of the present U.N.O. may go on the same lines as the old League of Nations. All nations of the world now appear to be lining up as they used to do some time after the establishment of the League of Nations. We also see that the most powerful nation—the United States of America—which proclaims from the housetops that she is the most democratic country in the world and has no empire-making ambitions, has in recent years established military and naval bases in almost all the accessible islands of the Pacific, and fire is already being kindled in the middle east. We are now living in this situation and India on account of her geographical position and various other circumstances occupies a very strategic position. So much greater attempts should have been made and much greater attention should have been paid to the military development of the country, not for the purpose of aggrandisement or invasion of any other country, but for the purpose of self-preservation and self-defence. If in order to develop our country militarily we are required to spend a few more crores of rupees—and if need be by fresh

[Shri Lal Mohan Pati]

taxation—I would not mind it, because I want first to live and save myself. So in regard to this I submit the present budget is lacking in very vital and material respects.

Sir, I hope my observations will be taken into account by the Select Committee that takes up this subject.

डाक्टर धर्म प्रकाश : माननीया सभानेत्री जी, इस समय जो बजट हमारे सामने पेश किया गया है, मैं समझता हूं कि देश में पूंजीपति ज़मीदार और ताल्लुकेदार लोग हैं इससे उनको ही प्रसन्नता हुई होगी, लेकिन जहां तक गरीब जनता का सवाल है उसको इससे कोई विशेष प्रसन्नता नहीं हुई है। आप लोग भली भांति जानते हैं कि देश में सबसे बड़ी आबादी किसानों और मजदूरों की है और उन्ही की कमाई को इकठ्ठा करके आप देश के कामों में बांट रहे हैं। जिस प्रकार वर्षा होती है और वह प्रत्येक गरीब और अमीर के घर में समान रूप से होती है, ठीक उसी प्रकार से हमारी राष्ट्रीय सरकार के अनेक विभाग रूपी जो बादल हैं उसकी वर्षा भी समान रूप से जनता पर होनी चाहिये, तब देश में उन्नति और प्रसन्नता हो सकती है और गरीब जनता को संतोष प्राप्त हो सकता है। इस सम्बन्ध में बजट को देखकर मैं कुछ बातें आपके सामने रखना अपना कर्तव्य समझता हूं।

एक बात मैं आप से यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि आपने नशीली चीजों पर थोड़ा बहुत टैक्स बढ़ाया है, भले ही उससे पैसे वालों पर भी असर होता है लेकिन साथ ही आपको इस बात का भी ध्यान होना चाहिये कि नशीली चीजें गरीब जनता ही ज्यादा इस्तेमाल करती है और इसका ज्यादा बोझ उन्हीं के ऊपर पड़ेगा। इससे हम उनकी यह बुरी आदतें दूर नहीं करते। इससे तो अच्छा यह था कि इन चीजों को ही बिलकुल बन्द कर दिया जाता। हमारी प्रान्तीय सरकारों ने इस ओर कुछ कदम बढ़ाया है और कुछ जिलों में नशा बन्दी भी की है, मगर उस मात्रा में अभी नहीं किया गया है जिससे हमारे गरीब लोग इस चीज़ से मुक्त हो जायें। इससे हमारे देश को लाभ ही होगा, करोड़ों रुपया जो हमारा इससे विदेश को जाता है वह सब बच जायगा। इस ओर भी मैं सरकार का ध्यान दिलाता हूं।

दूसरी बात जो मैं आपसे अर्ज करना चाहता हूं वह यह है कि जो करोड़ों रुपया कर्ज के रूप में आप उन शरणार्थियों की व्यवस्था में खर्च कर रहे हैं। मेरा अपना विचार है कि यह रुपया किसी तरह से भी शरणार्थियों को फायदा नहीं पहुंचायेगा। इसका कारण यह है कि अभी तक गवर्नमेंट की वह मैशीनरी उसी ढंग से चल रही है जिस ढंग से वह पहले चला करती थी। उसमें अधिकतर अधिकारी उसी नीति से काम करेंगे जिससे अधिकारी लोग वंचित रह जायेंगे और अन्य लोग फायदा उठा लेंगे। इससे अच्छा तो यह था कि छोटी २ इंडस्ट्रीज गवर्नमेंट खोलती, छोटे २ शहर बसाती और उसमें शरणार्थियों को लगाया जाता। इस तरह से रुपया भी सुरक्षित रह सकता था और शरणार्थियों को भी फायदा पहुंचता और रुपया बरबाद होने से बच

जाता। लेकिन इस बजट में इस तरह की कोई चीज़ नहीं है। इस समय देश में ट्रान्सपोर्ट की बड़ी दिक्कत है अगर इन करोड़ों रुपये में से लाखों रुपयेक कोआपरेटिव सिस्टम से लगाया जाय तो काफी हद तक शरणार्थियों को भी मदद मिल सकती है, देश में जो कष्ट है वह भी दूर हो सकते हैं और रुपया भी सुरक्षित रह सकता है।

इसके अलावा एक बहुत बड़ी बात जो इस बजट में देखने में आई है वह यह है कि इस बजट में हरिजनों के उत्थान के लिए कुछ भी नहीं रक्खा गया है और न कोई ऐसी ही योजना इसमें है। प्रान्तीय सरकारों ने भी कुछ न कुछ अपने बजट में हरिजनों के उत्थान के लिए रक्खा है। यहां तक कि हैदराबाद स्टेट ने भी हरिजनों के उत्थान के लिए दो करोड़ रुपया रक्खा है, जहां तक मुझे मालूम है कि पिछले कुछ दिनों से वहां के हरिजनों को काफी कष्ट सहन करना पड़ रहा है। हो सकता है कि इन दो करोड़ रुपयों को रखने में हैदराबाद रियासत की कोई गहरी चाल हो जिससे इस की आड़ में हरिजनों का धर्म परिवर्तन किया जा सके, मुझे स्टेट मुस्लिम लीग के कुछ कारनामे मालूम हैं जिनसे स्टेट के अन्दरूनी षडयन्त्र का पता चलता है। कुछ भी हो आखिर हरिजनों के नाम पर वहां की सरकार ने कुछ रुपया तो रक्खा है। लेकिन हमारी राष्ट्रीय सरकार ने हरिजनों के उत्थान के लिए कुछ भी नहीं रक्खा। तो मैं आपसे यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस बजट में हमारा यह कर्तव्य होना चाहिय कि उन गरीबों के उत्थान के लिए जरूर कुछ रखना चाहिये जिससे वह उन्नति कर सकें।

इसके अलावा एक बात जो मुझे इस बजट के बारे में कहनी है वह यह है कि हम देश को अगर धनवान् बनाना चाहते हैं, खाद्य पदार्थों, कपड़ों वगैरह में अगर हम तरक्की करना और उत्पादन ज्यादा करना चाहते हैं तो हमको जो गरीब मजदूर लोग हैं उनकी भलाई की तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिये। मजदूरों को जो भाग उनकी मजदूरी से मिलना चाहिये वह उनको दिलाना चाहिये। इस समय अधिकांश भाग मिल मालिकों के पास चला जाता है। पूंजीपतियों और कारखानें वालों के पास चला जाता है, तो ऐसी अवस्था में अगर इस बजट में यह व्यवस्था कर दी जाय और मजदूरों को विश्वास दिलाया जाय कि १० या १५ साल तक यह सब हो जायगा तो इससे हमारे देश की भलाई होगी। इसके अतिरिक्त एक बात यह भी आवश्यक है कि यदि हम खाद्य पदार्थ और कपड़े इत्यादि के उत्पादन को बढ़ा कर देश की उन्नति चाहते हैं, तो हमें किसान और खासकर मजदूरों को यह विश्वास दिलाना चाहिये कि दस पांच वर्ष में यह सब कल कारखानों के वे ही मालिक बन जायेंगे। आज तो उनकी कमाई का अधिकांश भाग पूंजीपति या मिल मालिकों के पास ही रह जाता है।

अब समय बहुत कम है। अभी दो तीन बातें मुझे और कहनी थी मगर अब एक खास बात की ही तरफ सरकार का ध्यान दिलाकर मैं खत्म करूंगा। वह बात हरिजनों से खास सम्बन्ध रखने वाली है, और वह है चमड़े का व्यापार, अगर हम

[डाक्टर धर्म प्रकाश]

इस व्यापार और व्यवसाय को कोआपरेटिव ढंग से करें और करावें तो इससे बहुत लाभ होगा। हमें इस बात की भी कोशिश करनी चाहिये कि हम जो कच्चा चमडा बाहर भेजते हैं और बाहर से चमड़े का जो सामान मंगाते हैं उसको किसी प्रकार रोकें। अगर हम कच्चे चमड़े को बाहर न भेजें और न बाहर से चमड़े का सामान मंगायें तो हमारा करोड़ों रुपया बच जायेगा और वह रुपया हमारे ही देशवासियो को मिल जायगा जिससे गरीब जनता और सरकार को भी फायदा पहुंचेगा। इस तरफ सरकार को फौरन ध्यान देना चाहिये। यदि हमने गरीबों के सिर से आर्थिक बोझ को हलका किया तो जिस प्रकार हम यहां बैठकर अर्थ मन्त्री को बधाई या धन्यवाद दे रहे हैं उसी प्रकार गरीबों की झोपड़ियों में से भी धन्यवाद मिलेगा। जब गरीबों को हमारे बजट में रोटी, कपड़ा और रहने को जगह आराम के साथ मिलेगी तभी हमारी राष्ट्रीय सरकार का बजट सार्थक और प्रशंसनीय कहलायेगा। इस सुझाव के साथ मैं बजट का समर्थन करता हूं।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Dr. Dharam Prakash (U. P.: General): Madam Chairman, I feel that the Budget which has now been presented before us will only afford gratification to the capitalists, zamindars and taluqdars in this country. But so far as the poor man is concerned, he has not been happy in the least.

You are very well aware that the agriculturists and labourers constitute the majority of the population of this country, and by consolidating their earnings, you are utilizing these in connection with the affairs of the country. Just as rain benefits equally both the rich and poor, similarly the various Departments constituting our National Government which resemble the clouds should shed showers of rain on the masses alike. The country can only then progress and achieve happiness and the poor people can feel satisfied. Keeping this in view and after looking through the Budget, I consider it my duty to place certain points before you.

One thing I would like to say is that you have increased the tax on intoxicating articles to some extent. No doubt it affects the rich also, but at the same time you should keep this in view that such articles are used by the poor people in a greater degree and the burden of incidence of such taxation will fall more on them. By this method, we cannot relieve them of this evil habit. It would have been much better if the use of all these articles is prohibited. Our Provincial Governments have taken some action towards this direction, and have introduced prohibition in certain districts. But this has not yet been accomplished to such an extent as would enable the poor people to get rid of this evil. This would benefit our country. We would then be able to save crores of rupees which are drained out to foreign countries. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this aspect as well.

Another point which I would like to say is that in my opinion crores of rupees which you are spending in the form of giving loans to refugees through the Rehabilitation Administration will not in any way benefit them. The reason for this is that uptil now the Governmental machinery is working in the same manner as it used to be in the past. Many of the officials will work in such a manner as would deprive the deserving people from being given the help

and others would derive the benefit. It would have been better if the Government had started small scale industries, set up small townships, and the refugees were absorbed there. In this manner, the money would have been secure and the refugees also benefited and the money saved from being wasted. But this Budget does not contain any proposals to this effect. At present great difficulties in regard to transport exist in this country. If out of these crores of rupees, hundreds of thousands of rupees were invested on a co-operative system, it can benefit the refugees to a considerable extent. The turmoil through which the country is passing can also be removed and the money kept secure.

Besides this, one of the most important points which has been noticed in this Budget is that neither does it contain any provision for the uplift of Harijans nor is then any proposal to this effect. The Provincial Governments have provided something in their Budgets for the amelioration of Harijans. So much so that even the Hyderabad State Government has provided rupees two crores for the cause of Harijan uplift. So far as I know the Harijans in the State have had to undergo a good deal of suffering during the past few days. It is just possible that there might be some deep rooted conspiracy by the Hyderabad State in earmarking these two crores of rupees under the garb of which the Harijans may be made to change their religion. I am aware of certain activities of the State Muslim League which gives an idea of the internal conspiracies of the state. Whatever it may be, after all the Government there has provided some money for the sake of Harijans. But our national Government did not make any provision for the Harijan uplift. Therefore, I would like to say that it should be our duty that some provision should be made in this Budget for the uplift of those poor people to enable them to progress.

Besides this, another thing which I have to mention in regard to this Budget is that if we want to make this country rich and step up and increase production of foodgrains, cloth etc.. we should devote our attention to the amelioration of the condition of the poor labourers. We should ensure the payment of the wages due to the labour. At present, the major portion of the earnings goes to the mill-owners, the capitalists and industrialists. In such circumstances if provision is made in this Budget and an assurance is given to the labour, that all this would be done in the ensuing ten or fifteen years, it would surely benefit our country. In addition to this, it is also necessary that if we want that our country should progress by increased production of foodgrains and cloth etc., then we should give an assurance to the agriculturists and labourers in particular that within the period of 5-10 years they will be the owners of all factories. To-day a major portion of their earnings is snatched away by the capitalists and mill-owners.

Time is very short. I had yet to say two or three things more, but I will now finish my speech after drawing Government's attention to a certain important matter, which relates to the Harijans particularly, and that the trade in hides. If we undertake and conduct this business and industry on co-operative basis, it would surely result in great benefit. We should also try to devise some means to prevent the export of raw hides and import of leather goods. If we do not export raw hides and also refrain from importing leather goods from abroad, we will be saving crores of rupees and that money will go into the pockets of our own countrymen which will benefit both the Government and the poor masses. The Government should devote immediate attention towards this direction. If we lighten the financial burden thrust on the poor, then we will be receiving the same congratulations from the slums of the poor as we are now offering in this House to the Honourable Finance Minister. If our budget provides food, cloth, shelter and safety to the poor, it is then only that the Budget framed by our National Government will be called useful and praiseworthy. With these suggestions, I support the Budget.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण साहू : सभापति जी, यह खंडित भारतवर्ष का सन् १९४८-४९ का बजट जब मैं पढ़ता हूं तो दिल में बड़ा दुख होता है, क्योंकि यह सुन्दर नहीं है। पहले तो दुख इसका है कि भारतवर्ष खंडित हो गया और हम लोग अभी तक जब स्वप्न देखते हैं तो सोचते हैं कि वह खंडित भारतवर्ष फिर एक में मिल जायगा। और जब इस खंडित भारतवर्ष के लिये हम लोगों को इतना दुख और दुर्दशा भुगतनी पड़ी है, तो यह हम लोगों का जो ४८-४९ का बजट का हिसाब जो हमारे पास है, उसमें बहुत गड़बड़ हुई है, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है। लेकिन अर्थ मन्त्री को हमको भी बधाई देनी होगी क्योंकि उन्होंने कोशिश की है कि इस बजट को जहां तक हो सके अच्छा बनाना चाहिये। लेकिन मैं इतना जरूर कहना चाहता हूं कि हालांकि अर्थ सचिव के बजट के शुरू और आखिर दोनों जगहों में महात्मा गांधी का नाम लिया गया और महात्मा गांधी के प्रति आदर भाव प्रकट किया गया, लेकिन बीच में उसमें बिल्कुल अंधेरा मालूम पड़ता है। इसलिये मैं कहना चाहता हू कि जब तक हम अंधेरे में पड़े हैं, तब तक हम लोगों का बजट भी अंधेरे में रहेगा। मेरा कहना है कि महात्मा गांधी के जो आदर्श हैं और जिनके कारण हमने स्वाधीनता पाई है उन आदर्शों को हम जीवन में पालन करेंगे और हमें चाहिये कि उन्हीं के आधार पर हम अपना बजट ठीक करें। ऐसा हम लोगों का आज प्रण होना चाहिये। बहुत आदमी कहते हैं कि महात्मा गांधी एक आदर्शवादी थे उनको अमल में नही लाया जा सकता। उन्होंने स्वाधीनता हमें ला दी, बस उनका काम खत्म हो गया लेकिन मैं कांग्रेस वादी न होते हुए भी मैं इतना कहना चाहता हूं कि हम लोग जब सच्चे आदमी होंगे, तो महात्मा गांधी के जो आदर्श हैं, उस पर हम लोग बजट बनायेंगे। हम ऐसा बजट बनाने का प्रयत्न करें जिससे हमारे गांव वालों की आत्मा सुख में रहे। और शहरवालों की जो समस्यायें और अड़चनें हैं, उन्हें हटाना होगा। हम लोगों को रूरल Rural बनना पड़ेगा जो कि महात्मा गांधी का आदर्श है। मैं उड़ीसा से आता हूं उड़ीसा का नाम कलिंग देश था, वहां इतने (वीवर्ज़) weavers हैं, दस लाख या सात आठ लाख जो (वीवर्ज़) weavers हैं, उनको कुछ काम नहीं मिलता है। वह बेकार बैठे रहते हैं और कभी-कभी जमशेदपुर और कलकत्ता में जाकर काम करते हैं, वहां मिल मालिक उनको और उनके बच्चों को रहने के लिये घर नहीं देते हैं। वह बच्चों को पीछे छोड़कर कभी-कभी आसाम चले जाते हैं और वहां से सारी बीमारियां घर साथ ले आते हैं।

मैं कहूंगा कि हम लोगों के देश में ढाई करोड़ आदिवासी हैं, उनकी तरफ हम ध्यान नहीं देते हैं। मैं जानता हूं और मैंने देखा है कि उनमें से सौ में से साठ फीसदी aboriginal (अबोरिजिनल) हैं, उनको गरमी (Syphillis) और दूसरी कई बीमारियां घेरे रहती हैं। मैं तो कहना चाहता हूं कि हम लोगों को सारा ध्यान इस तरफ देना चाहिये। हरिजन आन्दोलन के लिये हम लोग बहुत पैसा खर्च करते हैं लेकिन आज

भी हमारे देश में ९९ फीसदी स्त्रीयां एसी हैं जो यह समझती हैं कि हरिजनों के मन्दिर में प्रवेश करने से हिन्दूधर्म का नाश हो जाता है और भगवान् का मन्दिर अपवित्र हो जाता है यह जरूरत है कि उनको (स्त्रियों) को उचित शिक्षा देने का प्रबन्ध किया जाय जिससे वह इस छुहआछूत के वायुमंडल से निकल सकें और तभी हरिजनों का प्रश्न वास्तविक रूप में हल हो सकता है। हमने इस तरफ अभी तक ध्यान नहीं दिया है।

आज सबसे बड़ी आवश्यकता कृषि की उन्नति और प्रचार की है। यह बड़े दुख की बात है कि हिन्दुस्तान को जो एक कृषि प्रधान देश हैं अन्न की कमी पड़ती है और बाहर से मंहगे दामों में उसे अन्न खरीदना पड़ता है और इस काम के लिये बजट में ११० करोड़ रुपये का provision किया गया है। मैं कहता हूं कि जब हम लोगों की agriculture policy अच्छी तरह से ठीक हो जायगी तो हम लोगों को खाने पीने की कोई अड़चन नहीं होगी। यह मौजूदा food policy ठीक नहीं है। इसलिये हमें १२५ करोड़ रुपया अभी बजट में लेना पड़ा है। इसलिये मैं कहता हूं कि यह बजट जो है इस बजट को हम ठीक करने के लिये ऐसा प्रबन्ध करेंगे, जिससे हम लोगों के जितने आदमी है और कितने ही उनमें aborginals (अबोरिजिनलस) लोग हैं, उनको क्या सुभीता होगा। हमें यह देखना होगा कि हरिजनों पर जो अत्याचार हुए और हो रहे हैं, उनको कैसे दूर किया जा सकता है। हम लोगों को Villages विलिजिस को ठीक करना होगा और उनकी उन्नति करना होगा और अब से (सिटी लाईफ) City life को खत्म करने की कोशिश करना होगा। बजट बनाते समय हमें इन सब बातों को ध्यान मे रखना पड़ेगा। मैं यह नहीं कहना चाहता हूं कि हम लोग Research (रिसर्च) नहीं करेंगे और विज्ञान की बड़ी बड़ी theories (थ्यूरीज) पर अमल नहीं करेंगे। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि अब जरूरत यह है कि हम लोगों का ध्यान गांवों की तरफ जाय, हरिजनों की तरफ जाय जिससे हमारी उन्नति हो सके। यह Key Industries (की इण्डसट्रीज) और बड़ी बड़ी स्कीमस (Schemes) की जो बातें हैं यह इतनी जरूरी नहीं है। इन बड़ी स्कीमस (Schemes) में दामोदर वैली प्रौजेक्ट (Damoder Valley Project) में इतना पैसा बरबाद होता है। वह सब फिजूल है और इसमें धोखेबाजी है। वह बड़े आदमियों को ही फायदा पहुंचाने वाली हैं।

अन्त में इतना ही कहकर खत्म करूंगा कि हम जो बजट बनायें उसमें सबसे गरीब गांव वालों और हरिजनों का ध्यान रक्खा जाय और उन्हें ज्यादा से ज्यादा सुविधा दी जाय।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu (Orissa: General): Mr. Chairman, I am deeply pained when I read this Budget of a divided India for the year 1948-49 be-

[Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu]

cause it is not good. Firstly I am grieved that India has been divided and we people even now dream and cherish the hopes that divided India will be reunited. And when we had to undergo so many trials and tribulations for the this divided India, undoubtedly there has been a good deal of shuffling in these Budget estimates for the year 1948-49 which have been placed before us. But even then we will have to congratulate the Finance Minister because he has endeavoured that this Budget should be given a good shape as far as possible. But I should like to say this much atleast that although the name of Mahatma Gandhi has been mentioned in the Budget presented by the Honourable Finance Minister both in the beginning and at the end and reverence has been shown to him but in the midst of all this absolute darkness prevails. Therefore I would like to say that whilst we are engulfed in darkness our Budget will so long remain obscure. My point is that the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi through which we have achieved independance be given practical effect to in our life and we should therefore, adjust our Budget on those very basis. We should take such a pledge today. Many persons are of the opinion that Mahatma Gandhi was an idealist and his ideas cannot be practically acted upon. He got us independence and thus his object was accomplished.

Though not a Congressman. I would like to say that when we achieve righteousness, we shall frame our Budget on the basis of ideals profounded by Mahatma Gandhi. We shall try to prepare such a Budget as would afford solace to the hearts of villagers. The problem concerning the urban people will have to be solved and their difficulties removed. We shall have to adopt ourselves to rural conditions which is the ideal of Mahatma Gandhi. I come from Orissa. The name of Orissa was 'Kalinga'. There are about ten lacs of weavers out of which seven or eight lacs are unable to find any work. They remain unemployed and sometimes go to Jamshedpur and Calcutta and find some work. There the mill-owners do not provide them and their children with any residential accommodation. After leaving behind their children they sometimes go to Assam and from there they bring along with them all sorts of the diseases.

I must say that there are about 2½ crores of *Adibasis* (aborigines) living in our country and we do not devote any attention to them. I know and have noticed that 60 per cent. of them are aboriginals. They are generally suffering from syphilis and various other kinds of diseases. I would assert that we must devote our entire energies to this problem. We are incurring a large sum on Harijan movement, but even today there are 99 per cent. women living in this country who think that with the entry of Harijans into temples the Hindu Religion is destroyed and the God's temple is desecrated. It is quite imperative that proper education should be imparted to these women which would enable them to emerge from this vicious atmosphere of untouchability. It is then only that the Harijan problem can be solved in reality. We have not uptil now paid any attention towards this aspect. Today there is a vital necessity for agricultural production and development. It is a matter of deep regret that India which is predominantly an agriculturist country is short of foodstuffs and it has got to purchase foodgrains from abroad at high prices and for this purpose a provision of Rs. 110 crores has been made in this Budget. I, therefore, say that as soon as our agricultural policy is carefully set right we will not feel any difficulty in procuring foodgrains. Our present food policy is not right. Therefore, we had to provide for 125 crores of rupees in the Budget just at present. I, therefore, say that we should take necessary steps to set right this Budget so as to afford comforts to all of us, many of whom are aboriginals. We shall have to see and find out ways so as to relieve the Harijans of the tortures which have been and are being inflicted upon them. We will have to improve and develop our villages and to try to liquidate the city life. While framing the Budget we shall have to keep all these things in view. I do not want to say that we should not undertake the research work and act upon the important theories propounded by science. I would like to say that it is the high-time that we should direct our attention towards the villagers and Harijans so that we may progress. These key industries and other schemes are not so vital. Amongst the major projects, a good deal of money is being wasted on Damodar Valley Project. This is all useless, and it constitutes a fraud. This is likely to benefit big people only.

In the end I will conclude my speech with the observation that while preparing the Budget we should keep in view the poor villagers and Harijans and they should be given the greatest possible facilities.

Shri K. Santhanam (**Madras**: **General**): Madam, I find that the debate on the budget is taking the form of a debate on the Finance Bill. I shall try to avoid matters which deserve to be treated at the time we come to the Finance Bill and confine myself solely to the demands which have been placed before us as they should properly form the subject of our debate.

Madam, I wish to confine myself to the head of Defence. As you know, we are asked to give 121 crores as expenditure and nearly 15 crores as capital for purposes of defence. Till 1938-39 the average military expenditure of this country was of the order of 45 crores and we were banging at the then Government that it was too high and that the country could not bear so much expenditure. Now we are supposed to have only two thirds of the Indian army and this two thirds, on the standard of the old expenditure, must cost only 30 crores whereas it now costs 121 crores, which is four times as much. I do think that this is a very big bill for us to pay and we should see that it is strictly justified. If there is no alternative but to pay such a huge sum for the defence of the country we have somehow to foot the bill but I am far from convinced that it is a bill which we ought to pay. There are many items which are a mere legacy from the old regime and which the Defence Minister, I think, has not had the time to look into. Take, for instance, the educational establishments, which have been handed over to us. Many of them were meant only for the children of British officers, which were born here and were to be educated in this country. It costs more than 36 lakhs a year. It is to be found in the Defence Expenditure Estimates page 18. I will read just one item to show what sort of schools we have got:

"Lawrence Military Schools: There are three schools at Sanawar, Mount Abu and Lovedale. These schools were founded for children of British soldiers serving or having served in India. They are now open to all: a few Indian children have been admitted already and more are expected. These schools are expected to be converted eventually into Indian publice schools."

I would ask whether this is the way in which Indian finances should be dealt with. We ought to be glad that the old British rule is at an end so that all the superfluous institutions which were built up for their own convenience should be scrapped. So I would suggest that the Defence Minister should look into this and see that these schools are handed over to civil authorities if they want to keep them or close them for all time. If they are superfluous they should be closed down.

If you will please look into the budget estimates, the pay and allowances of the fighting services cost only 17 crores, the administrative services 22 crores and the stores cost 26 crores. The whole position has been reversed. It may be due to the war. It is said that now our army is mechanised and the stores are complicated and very costly. Still I do think that under the head of administrative services there is a great deal of retrenchment possible and under the head supplies and stores a large slice can be cut down.

I suggest to our Finance Minister that he should have two special Economy Committees who will go into these specific problems. I do not think a general Economy Committee going into the whole field of either civil expenditure or defence expenditure can do much.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The Economy Committee is not expected to scrutinize defence expenditure.

Shri K. Santhanam: That is true. I am suggesting that when he thinks of economy in the Defence Services he should not take up the whole field but a specific field and appoint a small Committee for that. It can go into it and in two or three months' time give him a report. I suggest that he should concentrate his attention on these two particular heads—Administrative Services which are now costing Rs. 22 crores and Supplies and Stores costing Rs. 25 crores. A scrutiny of the expenditure under the head Supplies and Stores is important from a further aspect. We must find out how much of these stores is being bought abroad and how far these stores can be manufactured in this country. A mere scrutiny of these stores may open up a great way for the industrial reconstruction of this country.

There is the item of Remount Depots and the Veterinary establishment. These are days when the cavalry has no more function and all the breeding establishments have gone to Pakistan. Is it not time that we liquidate this archaic item from our defence expenditure? And all the veterinary services can be sent to look after our cattle. Whatever horses may remain may be sent to those who indulge in races.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Why not give them to the *tongawalahs* here?

Shri K. Santhanam: They may do anything they like with them. But I do not want that our military budget should pay for them.

If you would look into the item Military Engineer Services there is an item of expenditure of over Rs. 11 crores. To it you must add a further Rs. 3 crores which is found under Administrative Services. Electrical and Mechanical Engineer Services have been duplicated. I do not know why they should be first included under Administrative Services and again a further item should appear under Engineer Services. I would like to say that the whole estimates are presented in a fashion in which even the most conscientious member could not make much out of them. I think this is not a fair way of dealing with this Assembly. They should give us proper figures. They should give us comparative figures also. Even if they had given figures for the army of United India we could have compared what was the extent of these Engineer Services before and what is it now, why has it expanded, how much has been the increase in pay, how much in materials etc. All these facts should have been presented to us. As it is, we have been given only the most elementary facts.

To illustrate my point I would like Honourable Members to take the head of our toy Navy. It is to be found in page 56. A curious thing about the personnel of the Indian Navy is this. There are 138 Commissioned and Warrant Officers and 1,730 ratings. To manage these 138 Commissioned and Warrant Officers and 1,730 ratings you find a Naval Headquarters staff of 101 Officers, 101 ratings and 364 others at Delhi. It can be found in page 60. To provide training for these 138 officers who are mostly trained abroad, there are 595 officers, 4,529 ratings and 1,649 others with Rs. one crore and 34 lakhs of budget. I wonder whom these 595 officers 4,529 ratings and 1,649 others train, how they train etc. The whole thing is a racket which deserves to be closely looked into. I have indicated some of the points in the defence budget which require the serious scrutiny of the Finance Minister. I think half of the defence budget is a mere waste. Within half the budget the present establishment could be kept and the present army could be doubled with the present expenditure. I think this is a matter which requires the closest attention of the Government and I hope they will look into it.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Madam, the budget was presented on the 28th February and we are called upon to make a study of the budget and offer our preliminary observations on the 3rd March. I would appeal to the Honourable Minister to arrange the presentation of the budget in such a way as to afford the Honourable Members of the House the fullest opportunity to go through the budget in all its details so as to make our observations really helpful to the Honourable Minister in charge of the Department as also the Government. With this preliminary observation I proceed to discuss the budget.

In the constitution of the U.S.A. it has been stated that common defence and general welfare of the population shall be the aim of the budget. Judged from this standard I must frankly confess that a budget of a different nature is called for. About defence, my honourable friends have already stated the gravest anxiety and sounded a note of warning. I would not therefore take the little time that is offered to me in discussing the Army portion of the budget which will be done in due course. The rest of the expenditure is mainly consumed by the provision for expenditure under two heads, namely Rehabilitation of refugees and Purchase of foodstuffs. My honourable friend calls it practically a balanced budget but as has already been pointed out by my honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar with whom I fully agree, it is really a deficit budget. Madam, having seen that we have very little dollar resources and having seen that we have to go with our beggar's bowl from country to country for purchase of foodstuffs, I would appeal to my honourable friends to show us what provision they have made for the development and advancement of agriculture to see that within a specified period we do not have to go to any country for purchase of foodstuffs. Except for my honourable friend the Minister in charge of the Department of Works, Mines and Power I do not see any hope in this regard. And that again will take five or six or ten years before his programme is made operative, is made useful and we are able to see the results. Till then unless a bigger and broader programme is taken up, more or less on the lines indicated by the Famine Commission or even a still more ambitious programme, I think India has to find dollar resources and has to go with her beggar's bowl from country to country. In that view of the question I would strongly protest again that little attention has been paid. We have been talking much of the Grow More Food Campaign. You are thinking of bigger industrial magnates and development of production. But what about the primary necessities of life which the people of this country require, namely wheat and rice?

You have done very little for them. What to speak of the other requirements? The bare necessities of agriculture, namely manure and implements that are essential for agriculture. These are not provided for the agriculturists. First priority should have been given to these things, and I again very strongly record my protest in this regard, that sufficient attention has not been paid to this aspect of the question all these months or for the last one and a half years during which period our national Ministry has been in office.

Having stated so far, I come to a discussion of certain items of the budget about which I feel very unhappy and uncomfortable. My Honourable friend has taken a new course of action which is unknown to any religious persuasion in this country, namely that he is trying to encourage charity by inducements, and what are those inducements? They are financial inducements offered to business men to contribute their mite to charity. This is a thing which is unthinkable I think he imagines a different society altogether than the one which has been thought of by all the seers, great men, and specially by Mahatma Gandhi. In the first place the proposal is not possible of being given effect to. If I have known anything of incometax and its assessment, income-tax is assessed on the basis of the previous year's profits. Now how can you encourage charity by individual industrial magnates by a provision in this year's

[Shri Biswanath Das]

budget which would come into operation, if at all, in the coming year? From that point of view I am afraid that for the year 1948/49 his proposals will have absolutely no effect. And if industrial magnates, clever as they are, are going to take advantage of the proposal, if this is given retrospective effect, they will take advantage of it and make contributions to charity. That means, if and when an industrial magnate sees that by giving to charity he saves more than what he gives, then he will make a contribution to charity, gets for himself a name and loss to the country. Why on earth should you offer a greater inducement to have a smaller amount? Why not straightaway impose a tax and give it to technical education? I would appeal to my honourable friend not to think of constituting a society on this basis of charity and inducement but on a higher and nobler basis than the one he has conceived of. That is a thing which offends me as a Hindu and that should offend anyone whether he is a Christian, a Jew or a Muslim or of any other persuasion in this country. Society should be broad-based and reconstructed on a higher and nobler basis than the one that has been envisaged in this budget.

Madam, having stated so far about this, I will deal with the rest of the subject when I come to the motion. Now I come to the other item in the budget, namely the attempt he has made to catch hold of tax-dodgers, and I offer my heart-vote of congratulations on the great work he has done in catching hold of the British tax-dodgers who were escaping taxation all these days since the British rule started in India. Here a casual observer might think that this is discriminative tax. Really it is not so. It is really a move in the right direction, wherein a government, after lapse of hundred years or more wake up to see that the tax-dodgers generally are people living outside India and are escaping taxation, and the measure has been well conceived and well devised, and thus the money that was being taken away by people who had no right to it is being arrested and brought to the treasury. I might state in this connection that since 1918 our Income-tax Law was on a proper basis. Under the Act of 1918 something was done to put the law on a proper basis and we had something approaching the modern income-tax law. Even then the law was thought to be defective and the result was that the tax evasion was going on. There was again an amendment of the Income-tax Act in 1939, with the result that specific provision has been made in the Income-tax Act that any dividends earned in India shall be liable for taxation. As an instance, let me take the case of the Electricity Corporation of Calcutta. The Corporation earns its benefits in Calcutta, and the dividends are divided in London. The result is that tax evasion is going on ever since the Corporation was instituted, and the most unfortunate part of it is that our Law Department, staffed as it is with very high legal luminaries, have never been able to bring this to the notice of the government. I do not know what the Central Board of Revenue has done, but the fact remains that up to this day these people were evading taxes and it remains to the credit of the Honourable the Finance Minister today to catch hold of them by the throat. I would have been glad and congratulated him further if he had pursued them and realised their dues for the last three years or more if he has power to do so. I think he has the necessary power for that and I think he could have realised the amount and made good the deficit that he speaks of. In this view of the question I again offer him a very hearty vote of thanks. After having said so much about tax-dodgers, I come to the next item, namely the benefits of his proposals.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Thursday the 4th March 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Thursday, 4th March, 1948.

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

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS

The following member made the declaration under Rule 2C:

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy (West Bengal: General):

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS

PROVIDENT AND DEFENCE PROVIDENT FUNDS OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES FROM PAKISTAN

597. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to safeguard the interests of the personnel of the Government of India so far as their Provident Fund and/or Defence Provident Fund lying in the books of the Accounts Offices in Pakistan are concerned?

(b) Will the formalities for the permanent transfer of these accounts be completed soon and if so within what period?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The Provident Fund balances of Government employees are merged in Government's cash balances and if a Central Government servant has opted for service in India the liability for the outstanding balance in his Provident Fund account will be assumed by the Government of India irrespective of the accounts-officer on whose books the accounts were originally borne.

(b) The extent to which these accounts have already been transferred to India is being ascertained and steps will be taken to expedite the transfer of accounts in the remaining cases.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether in all cases the Pakistan Government have sent the accounts of these employees who have opted for India or whether there are still some to be received?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: How is it possible to answer that question? I said that so far as our knowledge goes quite a good deal has already been transferred and we are expediting the transfer of that which is left.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact, Sir, that representation has been made by employees who have come out from Pakistan, to the Government Departments that their service books etc. have not yet been received and they are considerably handicapped?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: We are referring to the Auditor-General to find out whether the cases of all those who have opted for India have now been transferred.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, what steps Government have taken to transfer the G. P. Fund accounts of the Government of India employees who came to India just before the 15th August 1947? Will their cases also be considered similarly?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not know, I must have notice.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is he aware, Sir, that employees who have come from Pakistan are experiencing great difficulty because they are not getting the Provident Fund?

Mr. Speaker: That is covered by the answer already given by the Honourable Minister.

TEMPORARY STAFF IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES

598. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of officers and subordinates employed in a temporary capacity for over three years in the various Ministries and attached offices of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: A statement containing the required information is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Showing the number of temporary employees with more than three years' service

Name of Ministry	Officers	Subordinates
Ministry of Home Affairs	2	160
Director Intelligence Bureau	..	..
Special Police Establishment	1	43
Ministry of Agriculture	..	..
Ministry of Finance	3	7 157
Revenue Division	1	138
Food Division	2	17
Defence Division	3	176
States and E. A. Division	..	5
I. & C. Division	16	77
National Savings Central Bureau	..	27
Financial Adviser Delhi Province under the Ministry of Finance	..	4
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting	3	115
D. G., AIR	..	28
Press Information Bureau	22	131
Director, Publications Division	8	44
Overseas Posts	4	4
Ministry of Defence	..	350
Armed Forces Headquarters	14	3,104
Ministry of Labour	8	105
D. G., R. & E.	3	95
Ministry of I. & S.	27	350
D. G., Disposals	20	362
D. G., I. & S.	205	2,971
Director of Industrial Statistics, Simla,	2	26
Newsprint Office, Simla.	..	11
Coal Commissioner's Organisation, Calcutta	32	328
Iron and Steel Control Organisation	24	647
Ministry of Works, Mines & Power	5	37
Office of the Controller of Printing & Stationery	3	72
Ministry of Railways	1	105
Central Standards Office Railways	..	11
Controller of Railway Supplies	..	45
Ministry of Commerce	..	121
Office of the Supdt. of Insurance	1	54
Chief Controller of Imports	2	123
Chief Controller of Exports	1	52
Adm. Intelligence Room	1	..
Economic Adviser's Office	7	42
Ministry of Communications	2	36
Civil Avaition Directorate	1	20
P. & T. Directorate	24	122
India Meterological Department	3	14
Ministry of Education	5	64
Ministry of E. A. & C. R. (includes HPM's Sectt. & Consular posts abroad)	3	121
Ministry of Food	54	423
Ministry of Health	4	199
Ministry of Law	..	32
Ministry of R. & R.	2	14
Ministry of States	..	32
Ministry of Transport	7	174
Ministry Without Portfolio	..	..
Secretariat of the Legislative Assembly	..	19
Partition Secretariat	..	7
Federal Public Service Commission	..	51
Cabinet Secretariat	..	10
Total	530	11,484

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know the total number of officers and subordinates?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Officers 530 and subordinates 11,484.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Do Government intend to refer these cases to the Federal Public Service Commission?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Many of them have appeared before the Public Services Commission for examination.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have the Government taken any decision as to how many of these posts will be retained and how many people will be sent out?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The House probably is aware that a special Economy Committee has been appointed—a Retrenchment Committee so to say—of which Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai is the Chairman, and when, after full examination, the report is received the question will be decided.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister let us know whether provision for alternative employment will be made before retrenchment is effected?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is difficult to say at present as to what will be their fate after the report is received; but if alternative employment is available Government will certainly consider the matter.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know, Sir, whether the Committee has begun to function—is it sitting here in Delhi?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no information. If it has not already done, it will begin to function very soon.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact, Sir, that one of the members has expressed his desire to resign because the Chairman is not prepared for the Committee to function before April?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no knowledge of it.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: May I know, Sir, whether the figures given by the Honourable Minister relate to pre-partition or post-partition period?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: They relate to employees in our Secretariat now.

DEMOBILISATION OF INDIAN EMERGENCY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS

599. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether any Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers or other ranks of the Army, Navy and Air Force have been demobilised since 15th August, 1947?

(b) If so, what are their numbers separately in each Force?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of utilising their services in the course of expansion of the Armed Forces in future?

(d) If not, how do Government propose to employ them?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No.

(b), (c) and (d). Do not arise, in view of the answer to part (a)

IMPLEMENTATION OF SHORT TERM SCHEME OF BHORE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

600. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state what steps have been taken so far to implement the short term scheme of the Bhore Committee's Report?

(b) In view of the shortage of doctors in India, do Government propose to consider the advisability of reducing the M. B. B. S. course to four years as an emergency measure?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given to Question No. 741 asked by him on the 10th December, 1947 and to the reply given to Shri Damodar Swarup Seth's starred question No. 263 on the 12th February 1948.

(b) This is primarily for the Medical Council of India and the Universities to consider. But I may mention that the majority of members of the Bhore Committee did not favour the idea that the period of training of doctors should be reduced for the purpose of increasing the number of doctors.

Seth Govinddas: With respect to part (a) of the Question, is it not a fact that as a short-term scheme the Bhore Committee recommended something with respect to Ayurved, and may I know what Government is going to do as far as Ayurved is concerned because in the previous reply the Honourable Minister did not say anything about it?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I may mention that I have already replied on the floor of this House as regards Ayurved. A Committee was appointed; that Committee's report has unfortunately been delayed because of the illness of its Chairman, but I am expecting it any day and the moment that report comes in, the matter will be given consideration.

Seth Govinddas: Does the Honourable Minister know that as far as that Committee was concerned there was lot of criticism in the Press with respect to its personnel? Under these circumstances will Government see that the real representatives of Ayurved are consulted before that report is given effect to?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government is aware of the criticism, and the Committee, wherever it has travelled, has taken the opinion and called in evidence of the Ayurved physicians of the Province concerned.

Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister consult the representatives of the all-India Ayurved Sammelan as far as Ayurved is concerned?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: When the report is received that matter will be considered.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: In view of the shortage of doctors, is the Honourable Minister aware that there is a large number of doctors displaced from their profession on account of their participation in the national struggle, who may be willing to join the Government service?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I shall be glad to receive the names of all those.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Was any attempt made to collect statistics regarding the numbers of such doctors?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: We have had a certain number of names sent to us during the recent disturbances, but this is primarily a matter for the Provincial Governments concerned

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Will the Honourable Minister issue a directive to the Provincial Governments to lift any restrictions imposed on these doctors, if they want to enlist their services?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I shall consider that suggestion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government any proposal to establish a School of Medicine in Indian methods on the same lines on which such a school has been run in Madras for the last twenty years?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That matter will come up for consideration after the receipt of the Chopra Committee Report.

PUBLICATION OF REVISED EDITIONS OF DEALINGS WITH INDIAN STATES

601. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the latest available editions of Aitchison's "Treaties, Engagements and Sanads" and "Memoranda on Indian States", which used to be issued at regular intervals in the past, were published many years ago and are consequently out of date;

(b) if so, whether Government intend to bring out in the near future revised and up-to-date editions of these publications; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to consider the feasibility of doing so as soon as possible?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The latest edition of Aitchison's Treaties was published in 1929 and Memoranda on Indian States in 1940.

(b) and (c). In view of the rapid changes taking place in the States, the present is not an opportune time for considering this question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that the ceaseless labours of the indefatigable States Minister have rendered most of these Treaties, Engagements and Sanads extinct and a thing of the past?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It does not arise at all.

EXPORT OF INDIAN OPIUM

†602. ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state what are the countries to which opium is exported from India and for what purpose it is so exported?

(b) Are Government deriving any revenue from the sale of opium?

(c) Have Government adopted the policy of not making any income out of opium sale?

(d) If not, do Government propose to declare that India will not sell any opium except for medicinal purposes?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The countries to which opium is exported are those with which India has a close geographical or long standing political link, namely, French and Portuguese Settlements in India, Nepal, Zanzibar (including Pemba), Burma, Aden, Pakistan and United Kingdom. The export of opium to these countries other than U. K. is allowed for medicinal as well as non-medicinal purposes and is confined only to the quantities approved by the Governments of those territories. The supply to the U. K. is purely for medicinal purposes.

(b) and (c). Opium issued for internal consumption in India to the Provincial Governments and Indian States and to Pakistan at present is sold at cost price and no profit is made by the Government of India. Provincial Governments and States sell opium in turn to the consumer at higher prices, and the

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

difference constitutes a part of the Provincial Excise revenue. As for other countries, the French and Portuguese Settlements in India, Nepal, and Zanzibar obtain their requirements from the neighbouring Provincial Governments—while supplies to U.K., Burma, and Aden are made by the Government of India on a commercial basis and a profit is made thereby.

(d) The present position is as indicated in the reply to part (a). The Government of India have, however, recently accepted as their policy the prohibition of opium production except for medical and scientific use and will endeavour to give effect to this policy at the earliest possible date compatible with effectiveness.

DISPOSALS OF INCOME-TAX APPEAL BY ASSESSEES FROM PAKISTAN

603 * { **Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** / **Shri K. Santhanam.** } will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangements which have been made for the disposal of income-tax appeals filed by assessees originally resident in Pakistan, but who have since migrated into India; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to have the appeals transferred to the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal in India or propose to devise some other suitable method for disposing of them?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The Appeals referred to fall to be disposed of by the Appellate Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax in Pakistan. The Pakistan Government has agreed to direct the Appellate Assistant Commissioners not to pass *ex parte* orders during the current financial year on appeals filed by evacuee assessees of West Punjab, unless the appellants themselves agree to their doing so.

(b) No. There is no method of transferring the appeals filed in Pakistan to India, unless the assessment case, as a whole, is also transferred to India. As Pakistan is entitled to make assessments in these cases and retain the tax on the income which accrued or arose prior to 15th August 1947 they are not likely to agree to the transfer of these cases to India.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, whether the Honourable Minister has considered the desirability of extinguishing these appeals and let these people start new appeals? When these people are in India, what are they to do there?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not know, Sir, how we can nullify the sovereign powers of Pakistan to entertain any appeals or to dispose of the appeals in any manner they like.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if the Honourable Minister is aware that this question refers to people who have come down here who are beyond the jurisdiction of Pakistan courts?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid it is arguing.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Minister, in view of their assessing persons who are here, enter into a reciprocal arrangement for a period with the Pakistan Government in respect of people who have gone there?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid this is also an argument.

OFFICERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA GETTING MORE OR LESS THAN RS. 3,000 P.M.

604. * { **Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** / **Shri K. Santhanam:** } Will the Honourable Minister of Home affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers in the Government of India who are drawing a salary of over Rs. 3,000;

(b) how many of them were getting less than Rs. 3,000 before August 15, 1947; and

(c) whether Government have undertaken to continue to pay salaries on the old scale to pre-1931 entrants, even when they are promoted quickly from comparatively junior posts to high senior posts?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Ninty-five.

(b) Eighteen.

(c) Yes. All officers are ordinarily allowed the salary fixed for the posts to which they are appointed, without reference to the length of service.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of answer to part (a), does this number include those officers who might be drawing a substantive pay which is less than Rs. 3,000 but who with allowances and other things, may be drawing Rs. 3,000 and more?

Mr. Speaker: In other words, are the allowances included in the salary?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel: The question is about the salary.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if there is any proposal to revise the original assurances given to these people that they will be paid the scale of salaries that obtained prior to August 1947?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There can be no question of revising the assurances that have been given to the officers of the Secretary of State's services

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Do Government intend to fix a maximum salary for any officer?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The maximum has been recommended by the Pay Commission, but this does not apply to officers to whom guarantees have been given by the Government of India.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if guarantees have been given to any pre-1931 entrants besides the Secretary of State's Services?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No guarantees have been given to officers other than those belonging to the Secretary of State's Services.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if others who do not belong to the Secretary of State's Services are drawing more than Rs. 3,000?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There may be, I cannot say, but I will make enquiries.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if the Honourable Minister is aware that the Chief Commissioner and the Members of the Railway Board are drawing more than Rs. 3,000, although they do not belong to the Secretary of State's Services?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes, there are such officers.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Are all these 95 officers under the Secretary of State Services?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No.

Seth Govinddas: May I take it that in view of the recommendation of the Pay Commission that the highest salary would be Rs. 3,000 no new recruit will be paid more than Rs. 3,000?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Pay Commission have not recommended Rs. 3,000 as the maximum salary; they have recommended Rs. 2,000.

Seth Govinddas: Then, may I take it, that no one who is recruited newly will be paid more than the maximum pay recommended by the Pay Commission, namely, Rs. 2,000?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That is so. No new recruits will be placed on higher scales.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If there are no commitments already in the case of the Chief Commissioner of the Railway Board, its Members etc., why should they be given more than the maximum salary that has been fixed by the Pay Commission now?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Well, if they are either on contract service or if they are permanent servants, we cannot afford to lose them.

Mr. Hussain Imam: May I know if the Home Department has accepted *in toto* the recommendations of the Pay Commission to apply to the existing members of the Services as well, or is it merely in respect of future recruitment?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is only for the future entrants; not for the existing people.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any effort been made either by the Honourable Minister or by anybody in whom he has got complete trust to examine every one of these 95 cases and satisfy themselves that these very high salaries of more than Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 3,000 should be given in the interests of the State and the public?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The very fact that they have been appointed provides positive proof that they deserve that salary and their employment is in the interests of the Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is only an argument.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The member is going beyond the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No, Sir. I want to know the fact whether the Honourable Minister or anyone in whom he has trust has gone into this question.

Mr. Speaker: He has said so.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No, Sir. He has not said so. He has only given the presumption.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Will the successors of those who are holding these posts also get the same pay?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Only the Secretary of States' Services are guaranteed; not the new entrants.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does that mean that so long as they continue in service, although they may be getting Rs. 3,000, they may go up to Rs. 4,000? Is that the interpretation of the Honourable Minister?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That is so.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then, is it not open to the Central Government not to promote them at all beyond Rs. 2,000?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It can be done if you give the compensation which is fixed.

REGISTRATION OF TEMPORARY PERSONNEL FROM DEFENCE MINISTRY, PAKISTAN

605. ***Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government have registered the names of any temporary personnel from the Ministry of Defence of Pakistan for employment in India?

(b) If so, is it a fact that they have not been provided with jobs so far, as they arrived late in India?

(c) Do Government propose to absorb them in the other Ministries?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes Sir.

(b) It has not been possible as yet to provide all persons, who have been registered, with jobs.

(c) Yes Sir. A separate Bureau has been set up in the Ministry of Home Affairs for the purpose and particulars of employees for whom jobs are not immediately available in the Ministry of Defence are forwarded to this Bureau.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many vacancies, Sir, were caused on or after the 15th of August owing to the opting out and consequent exodus of some of the personnel in out Defence Ministry to Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is not possible for me to give the exact figures, but the information that is available with me at present shows that the total number of employees registered is 3,063.

RECRUITMENT OF TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES FROM DEFENCE MINISTRY, PAKISTAN

606. ***Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state, whether it is a fact that orders have been issued by Government to recruit the temporary employees who have reported for duty from the Ministry of Defence of the Government of Pakistan, on their initial rates of pay, pending receipt of their service documents from the Government of Pakistan?

(b) What steps are being taken by Government to obtain the service records of these employees from the Government of Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Orders have been issued by Government to the effect that in case the last pay certificate of any Government servant was not received the Head of the Department or Office should fix the pay of the Government servant concerned provisionally at the minimum pay of the post or, on proof of acceptable evidence regarding last pay drawn, at any higher rate in the time scale as may be appropriate.

(b) The Government of India have requested the Pakistan Government to forward the service records of all persons who have left their previous stations in Pakistan.

گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر : جب تک ان کا ریکارڈ پاکستان سے نہیں آتا - کیا گورنمنٹ تب تک اس بات پر غور کر سکتی ھے کہ کوئی اور طریقہ اختیار کیا جائے - جس سے معلوم ھو جائے کہ وھاں وہ کتنی تنخواہ لیتے تھے - مثلاً اگر ایک گزیٹڈ افسر سارٹیفیکیٹ اپنی تنخواہ کے بارے میں پیش کریں تو کیا گورنمنٹ اس پر غور کریگی اور اُن کو وھی تنخواہ دے گی جو اُس گزیٹڈ افسر کے سارٹیفیکیٹ میں بتائی گئی ھے ؟

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: So long as their records from Pakistan are not received, are Government prepared to consider any other method by which it may be possible to find out their pay in Pakistan? If a gazetted Officer submits a certificate, in support of his pay, will Government consider it and give him the same pay as is shown in the certificate?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I will examine that suggestion, but Sir, at present it is difficult for us to have any other method.

EXTRA TEMPORARY ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFENCE SERVICES IN INDIA

607. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state, whether there is any scheme to revise the terms and conditions of service of the Extra Temporary Establishment of the Defence Services in India?

(b) Do Government propose to give them the previleges of Provident Fund, permanency in service and pension?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). Orders have issued on 2nd February 1948 prescribing monthly rates of pay for Extra Temporary Establishments. Other matters are under consideration.

TRANSFER OF TEMPORARY PERSONNEL OF DEFENCE MINISTRY TO MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

608. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Temporary personnel of the Ministry of Defence whose names were registered by the Transfer Office, Ministry of Defence, are now being transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs?

(b) If so, will their previous service in the Ministry of Defence count towards seniority on their being appointed in the Ministry of Home Affairs?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Personnel employed in offices under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence who have come over from Pakistan are registered in the Transfer Office with a view to their absorption in vacancies under the control of the Ministry of Defence in India. As the number of persons who have registered are far in excess of the vacancies available, particulars of persons registered are being forwarded to the Transfer Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, so that they might be absorbed in suitable vacancies in other offices of Government.

(b) The extent to which the previous service of such persons should count towards seniority is under consideration in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

REVISED EDITION OF MOORE'S "FAMILY MEDICINE" FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

609. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some years ago a popular book known as Moore's "Family Medicine" which dealt with simple remedies for ailments was published under Government auspices and were supplied to Government servants of certain categories at a nominal price;

(b) if so, whether any revised edition of this book has been published in recent years;

(c) if so, whether it is still supplied to government servants at a concession rate; and

(d) if the replies to parts (b) and (c) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of bringing out a revised edition of this book and making it available to government servants as well as to members of the public?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The last edition of the book was published in 1936. It is supplied both to Government servants and to the public at the cost price of Rs. 3-2.

(d) It is not considered necessary to publish a revised edition now. Copies of the last edition are still available for sale with Manager of Government Publications, Delhi.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I ask if the Honourable Minister will consider the desirability of bringing out this edition in provincial languages so as to make it useful to the housewife?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The proposal will be considered.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Minister consider it advisable to appoint a Committee to go into the preparation of such a book based on the indigenous system of medicine?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: This will be taken into consideration when the report of the Chopra Committee is out and when we consider the whole question of Ayurved.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable Minister aware of an excellent book called *The Home and Village Doctor* by Satish Das Gupta of Sodepur Ashram, Bengal and whether this could not usefully substitute Moore's *Family Medicine*?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member is asking for an opinion on that question.

UNIVERSITIES IN INDIAN DOMINION

610. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Universities in the Indian Dominion together with the years in which they were established; and

(b) the amount of the annual or recurring grant, if any, made by the Government of India to each University?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) ایک سٹیٹمینٹ ہاؤس کے ٹیبل پر رکھدیا جاتا ہے - جس میں اُن تمام یونیورسٹیوں کے نام موجود ہیں جو انڈین ڈومینین میں اسوقت تک کھل چکی ہیں - کونسی یونیورسٹی کس برس میں کھلی ہے - یہ ہر ایک یونیورسٹی کے نام کے ساتھ بتادیا گیا ہے -

(b) گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا ریکرنگ گرانٹ (recurring grants) صرف تین سنٹرل یونیورسٹیوں کو دیتی ہے - ایک سٹیٹمینٹ اس بارے میں بھی ہاؤس کے ٹیبل پر رکھدیا گیا ہے - اسسے معلوم ہو جائیگا کہ پچھلے دو برسوں کے اندر اِنکو کتنی گرانٹ دی گئی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) A statement showing the names of the Universities in the Indian Dominion incorporated by Law and the years in which they were established is laid on the table of the House.

(b) The Government of India give recurring grants to the three Central Universities only.

A statement indicating the Recurring grants paid to these Universities during the year 1946-47 is also laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Showing the Names of Universities is the Indian Dominion and the years in which they were established

	Name of University.	Year.
1	Agra University, Agra (United Provinces)	1927
2	Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (United Provinces)	1920
3	Allahabad University, Allahabad (United Provinces)	1887
4	Andhra University, Waltair (Madras)	1926
5	Annamalai University, Annamalainagar, Chidambaram, (Madras)	1928
6	Benares Hindu University, Benares (United Provinces)	1915
7	Bombay University, Bombay (Bombay)	1857
8	Calcutta University, Calcutta (Bengal)	1857
9	Delhi University, Delhi	1922
10	East Punjab University, Solan (Simla Hills)	1947
11	Gauhati University, Gauhati (Assam)	1947
12	Lucknow University, Lucknow (United Provinces)	1921
13	Madras University, Madras (Madras)	1857
14	Mysore University, Mysore (Mysore State)	1916
15	Nagpur University, Nagpur (Central Provinces and Berar)	1923
16	Osmania University, Hyderabad Deccan	1918
17	Patna University, Patna (Bihar)	1917
18	Rajputana University, Jaipur	1947
19	Travancore University, Trivandrum, (Travancore State)	1937
20	Utkal University, Cuttack	1943
21	University of Saugar, Saugar (Central Provinces)	1946

Recurring grants paid to the Central Universitites 1946-47.

University	Grant	Remarks
Benares Hindu University	7,02,168	Includes a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs as an advance against the grant of Rs. 4 lakhs recommended by the University Grants Committee in a full financial year.
Aligarh Muslim University	6,30,265	Includes a sum of Rs. 2,25,000 as an advance against the grant of Rs. 2,50,000 recommended by the University Grants Committee in a full financial year.
Delhi University	5,77,398	Includes a sum of Rs. 1,95,000 as an advance against of Rs. 3,64,000 recommended by the University Grants Committee in a full financial year.

رائے بہادر لالہ راج کنوار : کیا میں دریافت کر سکتا ہوں کہ سب سے زیادہ گرانٹ کس یونیورسٹی کو دی جاتی ہے ؟

R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: May I know which University receives the highest grant?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ آپکو سٹیٹمینٹ سے معلوم ہوسکتا ہے - بہر حال میں آپکو رقمیں بتلادیتا ہوں - بنارس یونیورسٹی - ۱۹۱۸ ، ۷۰۲ روپیہ - علی گڑھ مسلم یونیورسٹی - ۶۳۰,۰۰۰ روپیہ - دھلی یونیورسٹی - ۵,۷۷,۰۰۰ روپیہ -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This is given in the statement. I can give to the House the figures for the last two years:

	RS. A. P.
Banaras Hindu University.	702168-0-0
Aligarh Muslim University	630000-0-0
Delhi University.	577000-0-0

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether the Prayag Mahila Vidyapith and Kharve University in Bombay are full-fledged Universities in the sense that they are recognised as such by this Government?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اِسکے لئے نوٹس کی ضرورت ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Notice is required for this.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: May I ask the Honourable Minister if there is any basis on which the grants are given for different educational Universities?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اِسکے لئے ایک یونیورسٹی گرانٹ کمیٹی مقرر ہے گرانٹ کا پورا معاملہ اُسکے سامنے جاتا ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: There is a Universities Grants Committee which deals with it. All cases of grants are referred to it

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: On what basis do they consider the different cases?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جو تیولپمنٹ (development) اسکیم ہیں اُنکو سامنے رکھتے ہوئے اور یونیورسٹیوں کی ضرورتوں کا خیال کرکے یونیورسٹی گرانٹ کمیٹی فیصلہ کرتی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Universities Grants Committee takes its decisions in the light of the development schemes, and the requirements of the Universities.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government consider the desirability of discontinuing grants to merely communal Universities?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اب یہ گرانٹ دئے جارہے ہیں - کمیونل یونیورسٹیوں کا جو معاملہ ہے وہ اپنی جگہ الگ ہے - اور گورنمنٹ اِسپر غور کریگی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: These grants are being given at present. The question of communal universities is altogether different. The Government will, however look into it.

श्री रोहिणि कुमार चौधरी : क्या मैं यह पुछ सकता हूं कि आसाम युनिवर्सिटि को क्यों ग्रान्ट नहीं दी गयी है।

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know why the Assam University has not been given any grant?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : آسام یونیورسٹی تو ابھی ابھی شروع ہوئی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Assam University has just started.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government any proposals, Sir, to see that these Universities to which Government are making these grants are converted into non-communal universities at the earliest possible moment?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اِس بارے میں جو تجویز گورنمنٹ کے سامنے ہے اُس پر اپنے وقت پر غور کیا جائیگا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The scheme which is before the Government in this connection will be considered in due course.

Shri Biswanath Das: Arising out of the replies given to some of the supplementary questions may I know whether the Honourable Minister in charge of the Department has considered the need of suggesting to these Universities to change their names suitably so as to take away the communal sting which now attaches to their name, especially in view of the fact that the Hindu University, though the name 'Hindu' remains is not at all a communal University?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : بہر حال جب اِس سوال پر سوچ بچار کیا جائیگا، تو یہ ساری چیزیں سوچی جائینگی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: When the question comes up before the Government for consideration, all these matters will be kept in view.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I request Government to consider the need for suggesting if they think proper, to name it in the name of Pandit Malaviya. . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We cannot make any suggestions. I do not propose to allow that question.

BROADCASTING STATION FOR MALABAR

611. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a broadcasting station in Malabar for the benefit of those living in Malayalam speaking areas; and

(b) what arrangements now exist for broadcasts in Malayalam language and how much time is given to such broadcasts in the different centres of the All-India Radio?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) A daily news talk in Malayalam is broadcast for ten minutes by All-India Radio, Madras, with an additional entertainment programme of twenty minutes on Sundays.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: With reference to his reply to part (a), as early as 18th April 1946 it was stated that the Government is considering the necessity of establishing a Broadcasting Station for Malabar May I just ask when we may expect this scheme to fructify?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The first programme that was prepared was for five years in which Malabar was not included. We expanded the programme to eight years and in that programme this is included. When the five years' programme *i.e.*, the first part of the programme is completed, then the second part, *i.e.*, the three years' programme which is connected with it will be taken up and within it Malabar's turn will come.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Delhi station of the All-India Radio puts out a Malayalam broadcast, but Madras, under whose jurisdiction the Malayalees live does not relay this broadcast?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot say; but I will certainly enquire into it.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if there is a station at Trivandrum to serve the Malayalee speaking population?

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Is it not a fact that the Trivandrum station works only for about half an hour in the evening and does not serve the Malayalam speaking area, because it is a medium wave station?

In view of the fact that there is not going to be a separate station for broadcasting in Malayalam, will the Honourable Minister be kind enough to increase the time allotted for Malayalam broadcasts?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The suggestion will be considered

RETRENCHMENT OF CERTAIN OFFICERS OF ARMED FORCES BEFORE AUGUST 1947

612. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the normal strength of the Armed Forces, both officers and men, have been fixed and if so, what it is?

(b) Is it a fact that certain efficient temporary officers of the Armed Forces were retrenched before August 1947, on account of their political leanings?

(c) If so, have Government examined each case and satisfied themselves that there have been no victimisation?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No, Sir.

(b) I am not aware of any such cases.

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

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Is Government aware, Sir, that some of those who sympathised with the R. I. N. mutiny were sent out?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The question does not relate to the R. I. N. Mutiny.

ARMY RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND PRODUCTION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT

613. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether there are any research institutes attached to the Army?

(b) If not, is there any machinery to keep the Army abreast of the armies of other countries in respect of mechanical, scientific and technical inventions?

(c) Is there any plan for the construction and desiguing of sub-marines and other naval vessels?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b): Yes, there are certain establishments which are engaged in matters relating to design, research and development of Army equipment, vehicles and stores.

(c) No, not yet.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are these research stations under the direction of Indians or non-Indians?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Some are under the management of Indians; others may be under the management of British officers.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any steps being taken to see that these strategic services are brought at the earliest possible time under the direction of Indians?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Steps are being taken to bring these establishments under the management of Indians, but whether they are under the management of Indians or Britishers, they are under the Government of India which controls them.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know, Sir, whether these institutions are manned by civilians or military personnel?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not give this information offhand, but if the Honourable Member is interested in the details, I will be able to get them for him.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Is there any liaison between the military research stations and the civil research stations?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I do not think there are any research stations of the type I have given here on the civil side.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, whether there is any advisory committee of Indian scientists to advise the Defence Department in its technical researches?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is a separate question. But steps are being taken to appoint an Advisory Committee of scientists to assist the Defence Department.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: How many British officers are there at present?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not give this information off hand, but quite a number about 100, I think.

RECOGNITION OF INDIAN DEGREES IN ARTS, MEDICINE, ENGINEERING ETC. IN U.K. AND U.S.A.

614. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Indian degrees in arts, medicine, engineering and other technological subjects have been recognised in foreign countries, especially in the United States of America and the United Kingdom?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : باہر کے بہت سے ملکوں میں جن میں یو - ایس - اے بھی شامل ھے اِنڈین یونیورسٹی کی ڈگریاں نارمای رکگنائز نہیں کی گئی ھیں - ابھی تک جس ڈھنگ سے کام چلتا آیا ھے وہ یہ ھے کہ ھر ھندوستانی وذیارتھی کی درخواست میرٹ پر دیکھی جاتی ھے جو کوالی فیکیشن یہاں بتائے ھیں انہیں بھی دھیان میں رکھا جاتا ھے - ایجوکیشن منسٹری اب یہ سوال اٹھا رھی ھے کہ امریکن یونیورسٹیاں ھندوستان کی ڈگریوں کو عام طور پر رکگنائز کر لیں - ایک سٹیٹمینٹ ھاؤس کی ٹیبل پر رکھدیا جاتا ھے اس سے معلوم کیا جاسکیگا کہ اس بارے میں برٹش یونیورسٹیوں کا کیا اصول ھے - جو کچھ اسمیں لکھا ھے وہ سب سے آخری انفارمیشن ھے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: In most foreign countries, including the U.S.A., degrees and diplomas awarded by the Indian Universities and Institutions are not recognised formally, but each application from an Indian student is considered on merits and the qualifications acquired by the student in India are taken into account. The Ministry is pursuing the question of a general recognition of Indian degrees by American Universities.

A statement is laid on the table giving the latest information available regarding the recognition of Indian degrees and diplomas by British Universities.

State ment

Showing the latest information available regarding the recognition of Indian degrees and diplomas by British Universities

* As a general rule, all Universities in the U. K. accept a degree of the Indian University as exempting from the Matriculation Examination and certain universities accept also the Intermediate Examination of an Indian University. The following statement gives the detailed position according to the latest information available in regard to each University separately :—

1. *Birmingham University.*—(*a*) A holder of a Bachelor's degree of an approved Indian University, or an Intermediate certificate of an Indian University is eligible for admission to the Degree course.

(*b*) Graduates of Indian Universities may apply for exemption from the first year course and examination. This examption is usually decided on the merits of each application.

2. *University of Bristol.*—(*a*) A holder of an Intermediate certificate of a recognized Indian University is eligible for admission to the Matriculation course.

(*b*) No definite regulations for examption in the faculties of Arts and Science have been laid down but consideration is given to individual applications.

In the faculty of Engineering of this University exemption from the first year course is usually given to candidates who have obtained the Diploma of Thompson Civil Engineering College, Roorkee.

3. *Cambridge University.*—(*a*) A holder of a First Class Intermediate or a First or Second Class Bachalor's degree of an approved Indian University is eligible for admission to the University without passing the 'Previous' Examination.

(*b*) Exemption from any portion of the courses or period of residence prescribed for the Bachelor's degree are only granted to affiliated students. A student who has been a member of an Associated Institute for not less than three years, and who, before matriculation at this University, has graduated, or done all that is necessary for graduation at that Associated Institution is entitled to be approved as an affiliated student.

The Indian Universities at present approved as *Associated Institutions* are :—Agra, Aligarh Allahabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Lucknow, Madras, Mysore, Osmania and Patna. The old Punjab University was also approved, and it is hoped that the East Punjab University will now be approved.

4. *Durham University.*—(*a*) A holder of a Intermediate certificate of an Indian University is eligible under certain conditions for exemption from the Matriculation Examination of this University.

(*b*) Exemption is granted from the first year of study, provided that an equivalent course of study has been pursued at some approved institution and exemption is obtained from the first year examination, provided an equivalent examination has been passed elsewhere.

An Indian Graduate may be admitted to the status of an advanced student in order to study for the Ph. D. Degree, provided his qualifications justify such admission.

5. *Leeds University.*—(*a*) A holder of a Bachelor's degree of an approved Indian University, or an Intermediate certificate of an Indian University is eligible for admission to the Degree course.

(*b*) The University has not found it possible to draw up a scheme of exemption for students from Indian universities but is prepared to consider each application on its merits.

)6) *Liverpool University.*—(*a*) A holder of a Bachelor's degree of an approved Indian University, or an Intermediate certificate of an Indian University is eligible for admission to the degree course.

(*b*) The University has not found it possible to draw up a scheme of exemption for students from Indian Universities but is prepared to consider each application on its merits.

7. *University of London.*—(*a*) A holder of a Bachelor's degree of an approved Indian University is exempted from the Matriculation Examination.

(*b*) External Students are not entitled to any exemption from examinations above the Matriculation.

Internal Students who are graduates of other Universities may proceed as candidates for a Bachelor's degree without taking the Intermediate Examination, after they have pursued an approved course of studies as Internal Students.

8. *University of Manchester.*—(*a*) A holder of a Bachelor's degree of an approved Indian University, or an Intermediate certificate of an Indian University is eligible for admission to the Degree course.

(*b*) This University has never laid down any general schem for exemption and each application for exemption is dealt with individually and on its merits.

9. *Oxford University.*—(*a*) A holder of a Bachelor's degree of an approved Indian University obained after a course of study extending over three years, or if two years only, with uninterrupted success at all examinations and certificate of satisfactory progress is exempted from 'Responsions' (*i.e.* Matriculation Examination) and is eligible for admission as a member of the University.

(*b*) Exemption from any portion of the prescribed courses or period of residence for the B.A. Degree is only granted to students of Senior Status. Students who have obtained a Bachelor's degree at a University in the British Dominion or Colonies or in Indian or in Great Britian and North Ireland or at a foreign University are admitted to the status and privileges of a Senior student, provided that they have pursued at that University a course of study extending over at least three years.

10. *Sheffield University.*—(*a*) A holder of a Bachelor's degree of an approved Indian University, or an Intermediate certificate of an Indian University is eligible for admission to the Degree course.

(*b*) At this University exemption of one year is usually granted for courses in the various Faculties to degree holders of approved Universities.

11. *Aberdeen University.*—(*a*) A holder of a First Class Intermediate certificate of an approved Indian University with English and either Mathematics or Science is eligible for admission to the course of a study qualifying for graduation.

(*b*) With the exception of the Preliminary Examination, this University does not make any exemptions or concession in virtue of Degrees or courses obtained or pursued at Indian Universities unless a special application has been submitted and approved by the University Court.

12. *Edinburgh University.*—(*a*) A holder of a First Class Intermediate certificate of an approved Indian University with English and either Mathematics or Science is eligible for admission to the course of a study qualifying for graduation.

(*b*) Each application is considered on its merits and exemption is granted from attendance or from both attendance and examination.

13. *Glasgow University.*—(*a*) A holder of First Class Intermediate certificate of an approved Indian University with English and either Mathematics or Science is eligible for admission to the course of study qualifying for graduation.

(*b*) Students from India who have attended Degree courses at a recognized Indian University may receive exemption from class attendance in certain courses at this University, but they are required to pass the Degree Examination.

14. *St. Andrews University.*—(*a*) A holder of First Class Intermediate certificate of an approved Indian University with English and either Mathematics or Science is eligible for admission to the course of a study qualifying for graduation.

(*b*) Exemption from part of the curriculum or examinations is granted to students who have given attendance or passed examination at other universities recognized by the University.

15. *University of Wales.*—(*a*) A holder of an Intermediate certificate of an approved Indian University is exempted from the Matriculation Examination.

(*b*) Graduates of an Indian University may enter upon a scheme of research or advanced study in one of the Constituen t College 'without having first to qualify for the degree of Baccalaureus.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जो युनिवर्सिटियां अमेरीका और यूनाईटेड किंगडम हिन्दुस्तान की डिग्रियों को मंजूर नहीं करती हैं इस बात का आर्डर (order) देंगे कि उन युनिवर्सिटियों की डिग्रियां हिन्दुस्तान में भी मंजूर नहीं की जायेंगी ।

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Minister issue orders, that the degrees of those Universities of America and U. K. will not be recognised in India, which do not recognise Indian Universities Degrees?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں جہانتک سمجھتا ہوں - ہندوستان کی یونیورسٹیاں بھی اُنکو رکگنائز نہیں کرتی ہیں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: So far as I know Indian Universities are also not recognising them.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Is it a fact, Sir, that our degrees are not recognised by the foreign Universities because they are not given practical training?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : نہیں -میں ایسا نہیں خیال کرتا - بہر حال اب منسٹری یہ سوال اٹھارہی ہے کہ امریکن یونیورسٹیاں ہندوستان کی ڈگریوں کو رکگنائز کریں اور اس سلسلہ میں دیکھا جائیگا کہ ہمیں آیندہ کیا تھنگ اختیار کرنا چاہئے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No, I do not think so. But the Ministry is taking up the question of recognition by American Universities of Indian Universities degrees. We will see what should be our policy in this connection in future?

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: What steps are Government taking to give sufficient practical training in the Indian Universities?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں نہیں دیکھتا کہ اس بارے میں پریکٹیکل ٹریننگ کا سوال اٹھ سکتا ہے - جو سٹوڈنٹس باہر کے ملکوں میں بھیجے جاتے ہیں - انہیں کوئی پریکٹیکل دقت نہیں پیش آتی - اور ہمارا کام چل رہا ہے - لیکن میں مانتا ہوں کہ ہمیں اصولی طور پر اِس چیز کو طے کرلینا چاہئے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I do not think the question of practical training arises. Students who are sent abroad do not have to face any practical difficulty at all, and our work is running smoothly. But I admit that this point should be settled as a matter of principle.

مسٹر آر - کے سدھوا : کیا کوئی ملک ایسا ہے - جہاں ہندوستان کی ڈگریاں منظور کی گئی ہیں -

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is there any country where Indian Universities degrees are recognised?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : چند برٹش یونیورسٹیوں نے منظور کیا ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Some British Universities have recognised them.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that various complications arise on account of the present system of using the name of the Province after the degree and if so, do Government propose to use only the word 'Hind' instead of using the name of different Provinces like B.A.(Mad.), M.A. (Cal.) etc.?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : لیکن میں نہیں سمجھتا کہ پراونس کے نام کی وجہ سے ہمیں کوئی تفیکلٹی پیش آرہی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I do not think we are experiencing any difficulty on account of the addition of the name of the Province.

RECRUITMENT TO INDIAN POLICE SERVICE.

615. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what is the present strength of the Indian Police Service?

(b) What are the minimum qualifications prescribed for entry into this service?

(c) Is it a restricted competition or is publicity given to this examination as in the case of the Administrative Service examination?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) 179.

(b) The regulations for recruitment to the new Indian Police Service have not been finally adopted yet. It is proposed, however, that a candidate must hold a degree of a recognised University and must have attained the age of 21 and must not have attained the age of 24 years on the 1st January of the year of the examination.

(c) The only restriction is of provincial domicile. The same publicity is given to the examination as in the case of the Indian Administrative Service examination.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know the number of Britishers in the Indian Police Service now?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot give the exact number

but there are very few of them now.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of the revolutionary changes that have overtaken us, will the probationary or training course for these Police Service entrants include some instruction about fraternisation and co-operation with the people and service of the nation?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The suggestion will be communicated to those who are in charge of the instruction.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any date fixed by Government for completely Indianising the Indian Police Service and send away or eliminate the British officials?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: As I said before, there are hardly any non-Indian police officers; but if there are any the provinces must have considered them to be specially useful.

RAIDS FROM SIALKOT DISTRICT NEAR SIALKOT-JAMMU BORDER WITHIN INDIAN TERRITORY

616. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that raiders from the Sialkot district have looted and burnt villages within the Indian territory near the Sialkot-Jammu border and on either side of the Kathua-Samba-Jammu Road?

(b) If so, how many raids took place and how many villages were looted and burnt in February, 1948?

(c) What is the number of persons murdered by the raiders?

(d) Has the insecurity of the Kathua-Jammu road adversely affected the despatch of troops or supplies?

(e) What steps have Government taken to guard the road and stop the raids?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) Twenty-seven raids as a result of which nine villages were burnt and looted.

(c) The information is not readily available.

(d) No.

(e) Adequate steps have been taken to guard the Jammu-Kathua Road. It would not be in the public interest to disclose further details.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: May I know whether the raids are still going on?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It will be difficult to say that there are no raids going on; they do occur from time to time and they are being repulsed.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether these raids are on the increase or on the decrease?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sometimes they are on the increase and sometimes on the decrease.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it a fact that on account of these raids the construction of the road is being delayed?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: To some extent but, as I have said before in reply to a question, arrangements have been made to give adequate protection to labour.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it a fact that till recently the labourers did not have adequate protection and therefore did not stay at certain points which were specially liable to attack?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am afraid it is not possible for me to disclose the measures that Government have taken. But, as I have already said, adequate protection has been given to the labourers working on this road.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether the persons participating in these raids are Pakistan policemen or soldiers or mere civilians?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As far as our information goes, the raiders are tribesmen and some nationals of Pakistan. As to the information of my Honourable friend there are various kinds of rumours which we have not been able to verify.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: In repulsing the raiders do our troops go into the territory from which these raids are made?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, Sir.

Shri Biswanath Das: In view of the sudden and serious nature of these raids have Government taken, or do they propose to take any effective action in near future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have already stated that we are taking adequate steps.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know what those steps are?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am sorry I cannot disclose them.

SHORTAGE OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN INDIAN FORCES

617. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what is the shortage of Commissioned Officers in the Indian Navy, Army and Air Force respectively?

(b) How is this shortage distributed between the various categories?

(c) What steps are Government taking to make good this shortage?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a), (b) and (c). I lay a statement on the table of the House.

Statement

Royal Indian Navy.—(*a*) The shortage of Indian Commissioned Officers for all branches in the Royal Indian Navy is 111.

(*b*) This is distributed over the different branches as follows :—

Branch	Shortage
Executive	40
Engineering	44
Electrical	18
Shipwright	2
Instructor	7
Total	111

(*c*) (i) Grant of Short Service Commissions to suitable released Reserve Officers and other

(ii) By taking in a larger number of cadets.

(iii) By borrowing a few officers from the Royal Navy and by obtaining the services of suitable ex-British Officer of the R. I. N. temporarily for short periods.

Indian Army.—(*a*) On 31st March 1948 the shortage will be about 400 officers (excluding 182 British Officers who are volunteering for a period longer than three months.)

(*b*) This shortage is distributed as follows :—

Indian Armoured Corps	40
Royal Indian Artillery	100
Royal Indian Engineers	150
Indian Army Ordnance Corps	40
Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers	70
Total	400

(c) The following measures are being taken to make good this shortage :—

(1) Released Officers are being granted Short Service or Permanent Regular Commissions.

(2) Civilian Engineers are being employed on a contract basis in certain technical services.

(3) About 350 cadets will complete training at the Indian Military Academy and be available by the end of this year.

Royal Indian Air Force.—(a) The R. I. A. F. is short of about 390 officers (excluding 6 R. I. A. F. vacancies which are at present being held by R. A. F. officers).

(b) The shortage is distributed as follows :—

General Duty Branch	207
Technical Branch	68
Equipment Branch	27
Education Branch	42
Legal Branch	2
Medical Branch	11
Accounts Branch	33

(c) The deficiencies are being made up as follows :—

(1) Recruitment of civilians to the G. D. Branch.

(2) Senior N. C. Os. possessing requisite qualification and experience are being Commissioned.

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) BILL

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the rationalisation of the production and supply of electricity and generally for taking measures conducive to the electrical development of the Provinces of India.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—*contd.*

FIRST STAGE—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume the general discussion of the budget. I again find before me a long list of Honourable Members who desire to speak. Therefore, as I said yesterday, the ordinary time limit will be ten minutes except in very special circumstances in which I will permit more time.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): Sir, I am afraid that the budget proposals relating to the relief of direct and indirect taxation and the imposition of new taxation were not wholly unknown to the interests concerned before they were disclosed here by the Honourable the Finance Minister,. I understand that some of the proposals were accurately known.....

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, am I to understand the Honourable Member's statement to mean that the budget secrets were disclosed before they were made here?

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What I said was that I understand that some of the proposals were accurately known?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Were they guessed?

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: I do not know, but the fact is this. I understand that the beliefs entertained before the budget was presented have turned out to be correct. The other proposals were only partially known. In the latter class of proposals is the reduction in respect of the business profits tax; and that is the reason why when the budget proposals were known there was a slump in the share market. Sir, it has been a matter of surprise and distress to us that during the last few months there have been frequent leakages of confidential information. But that any part of the budget proposals should come to be known, is a matter that requires the immediate and urgent attention of Government. I hope that arrangements will be made in future to prevent the slightest leakage of any part of the budget proposals.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I must emphatically repudiate any suggestion that secrets of this year's budget leaked out in any manner or from any source. When the Honourable Member says that it must be prevented in future it is an implication that it has leaked out this year.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Sir, I have already informed the House of the impression that prevails everywhere in Delhi. I am not charging my Honourable friend the Finance Minister with corrupt practices. But surely when we find rumours abroad which throw discredit on Government we must—as he will agree—bring them to his notice. I hope, Sir, that I have done nothing but my elementary duty in informing him and the House of the general belief that the budget proposals have not remained a complete secret as they should have

Sir, the estimates of expenditure were criticised yesterday as being shown to be lower than they should have been. I agree with the observations that were made yesterday with regard to the debit of about 15 crores on account of the expenditure on the acquisition of new ships and certain stores and equipment to capital. As this expenditure has not been incurred in pursuance of a large programme to be executed in a number of years, I personally do not agree with the view taken by the Finance Minister that the expenditure should be debited to capital.

I regard the practice followed during the war was unsound, and I hope that unless the amount involved is really very large, that practice will not be followed in future by my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister.

As regards the crediting of the advance payments of income-tax to revenue. I personally see no serious objection to it. This may not be desirable from the point of view of strict financial propriety but as advance payments are made every year. I do not see that our revenues would be substantially effected by the step taken by the Finance Minister.

Sir, it may be that the expenditure debitable to revenue should have been placed at a higher figure. But I think that considering certain factors, the estimate of our revenue given by the Finance Minister might also have been higher. Government have already notified that Pakistan will be treated as foreign territory for the purposes of import and export trade owing to the unfortunate termination of the standstill agreement. But my Honourable friend. the Finance Minister has not told us what the effect of this on our revenues would be. We are likely to get a substantial sum from the export duties and from the ordinary customs duties levied on the goods sent from here to Pakistan or coming here from Pakistan. I think that it is likely to be a substantial sum, and I hope that my Honourable friend will enlighten us on the subject when he winds up the debate.

Again, Sir, there is the interest on the debt which Pakistan owes to India, to which reference has been made in the budget speech. Whatever the amount of the agreed debt owed by Pakistan to India might be, it seems that we shall get something in the neighbourhood of Rs. 9 crores. which was the figure mentioned by the Finance Minister by way of interest. This again improves our revenue position.

Then, Sir, I find that no information has been supplied to us with regard to the capital gains tax. I do not know whether the machinery for its imposition has yet been brought into existence, and whether any revenue has been derived from this source. It was expected by the previous Finance Minister in his budget speech, that his propoal as it stood wou'd yield about Rs. 3½ crores. Now I should like to know what is the state of things at present. Where do we stand in regard to this tax? I suppose it is to be continued. We should

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru]

therefore be told what is expected from this source during the current year and what is the estimated yield from it during the next year: that is, during the budget year.

Lastly, I should like to refer to the food subsidies proposed to be paid to the provinces on the import of food from abroad and the internal procurement of food in accordance with the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee. The subsidy that is proposed to be given, which amounts to about Rs. 20 crores, is very nearly equal to the subsidy given in the current year. Now, owing to the improvement in the prospects of the wheat crop in the United States, I understand that the price of wheat has begun to decline. We hope that this decline will continue and we may therefore well expect that the expenditure on food subsidies so far as the import of food is concerned, will be less than what it has been during the current year.

Again, Sir, as the Government have considerably reduced their responsibilities in regard to rationing, it is obvious that the subsidy which will have to be paid, either for the procurement of foodgrains, or for their export from one province to another, will be considerably less than it has been this year. As the sum involved is a large one, and the economies may well be expected to be substantial, I trust that the Honourable the Finance Minister will tell us what his expectations on the best estimates that he can make at present are?

Sir, if the financial position, as it appears to me, is based on sound foundations, then I submit, Sir, that the proposals which my Honourable friend has made in respect to the remission of taxation, or its imposition should have taken a different form. I agree with the criticism that so far as the reduction of taxation is concerned, it will very largely benefit the richer classes. And as regards the relief granted in respect of the business profits tax which will, after taking into account the increase in income-tax collection, amount to one crore only, it too will I am afraid reach only the privileged few at the top. I do not therefore think that this particular remission can be welcomed by the House. My Honourable friend, the Finance Minister, did say the present taxation was hampering the industrial development of the country. We should have been glad had he gone into the matter in some detail and give us some illustrations of the manner in which our industrial development was being retarded. But as he has not done so, I can only discuss the matter on general grounds. I take the same view with regard to the abatement of or reduction in the tax on undistributed profits, the loss on account of which will amount to two crores. We are unable to obtain machinery and without the necessary equipment and machinery new industries cannot be started. If the orders that have already been placed cannot be executed soon, is there any advantage in granting this reduction at the present time, however sound in theory it might be? It seems to me that on the whole the result of the proposals outlined by the Finance Minister wil be to give only a meagre relief to the middle and poorer classes and to give a substantial relief to those who do not stand in need of it.

I wish that my Honourable friend, in order, in some measure, to equalise the benefits and the burdens had raised the income exempt from taxation from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,000 a year. His predecessor raised it from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500 and my Honourable friend would have earned the gratitude of the lower middle classes had he also taken his courage in both hands, if the financial position did not appear to him to be quite as satisfactory as it appears to me and raised the taxable minimum to Rs. 3,000.

I suggest further that in regard to the excise duty on matches, in respect of which the reduction made was of such a character that it could not reach the consumer, he should have gone further so that there might be at least a reduction of half a pice per box. That would have been another way of helping the poorer clases. Other illustrations can be given but I would refer just to one or two other points before I sit down.

I do not want to dwell any more on the financial feature of the Budget. But Sir, I hope that you will permit me to refer very briefly to one or two matters connected with the Defence Budget. Our total expenditure on defence would amount to about 136 crores. In dealing with this subject I consider it my first duty to pay a tribute to the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army for the magnificient work which they have done in Kashmir. Having come into contact with the officers and the troops alike I can say with absolute confidence that notwithstanding the hardships to which they have been subjected their morale is high and that whatever trials they might have to face they are determined to do their duty by their country. I wish I could say that Government had done their duty by them. Frankly I do not feel that Government have shown the same energy in dealing with the situation in Kashmir as was expected of them. I would just refer very very briefly to two or three matters in order to show why there is a general feeling in the country that the situation in Kashmir has not been fully realised by the authorities.

Sir, there is only one road connecting India with the State of Jammu, and Kashmir and that is the Madhopur-Jammu Road. Fighting has been going on there for over five months and yet this road which is of vital importance and which is in a very bad condition has not yet been metalled. And notwithstanding what my Honourable friend the Defence Minister said in reply to my question this morning I feel that Government have not yet given adequate protection to the labour that is employed on the metalling of this road. We have a right to expect that Government will take energetic steps in this connection and I refer to this matter with all the force at my command, because the delay in the construction of this road has given rise to a feeling of dissatisfaction not only among the people at large but in the Indian Army itself. I hope that my Honourable friend the Defence Minister will not accuse me of exaggeration when I say this, for he knows that I am not talking on the subject without some knowledge of it.

The second instance that I will give is that of the stalemate at Uri in the Kashmir valley. Our troops in the beginning behaved with exemplary bravery. The raiders were driven back to Uri almost from the gates of Srinagar in the course of a few days and we expected that they would be driven out of the Kashmir valley altogether in the course of a few weeks and yet during the last four or five months we have not advanced an inch from Uri. It may be said that owing to the state of things as they developed in Jammu the Government was unable to send more troops there. But five months have elapsed and yet the position there continues as it was. In the Jammu province itself it seems to me that the Government minimised the situation and did not send a sufficient number of troops and when they woke up to the need of strengthening the armed forces a reference was made to the U. N. O., which though made with the best of motives, though made in order to preserve that peace between India and Pakistan which every sane man desires, intensified the feeling that the Government were not alive to the urgency of the situation. These are matters of great and vital importance which ought to receive the attention of the Government and I hope that my Honourable friend the Defence Minister will in the course of the debate say something which will give reality to and thus add to the force of the speeches made by him and the Prime Minister recently and assure the people of India and the Defence Forces that while we all desire peace, we are not going to slacken in our efforts to drive the raiders out of the Jammu and Kashmir State.

Dr. P. K. Sen (Bihar: General): Sir, in venturing to offer a few observations on the budget I feel that my speech coming after a number of speeches, is bound to be open to the charge of repetition in certain respects, howsoever

[Dr. P. K. Sen]

I might try to look at it from a new angle and offer independent observations. In form and in matter we have a right to expect that the present budget should be a unique one. We realize that it is the first budget of independent India and therefore we expect perhaps more than can be given. But at the same time I cannot help feeling that in form first of all it is defective inasmuch as it does not give a concrete picture, so far as budget proposals can do, of the ameliorative measures that are contemplated and the expenditure that is to be incurred on those particular measures for the relief of the common man. We do want to know whether it is a budget for the common man or not. And what does he care for? Food, raiment, shelter over his head, safety: that is all. The question is whether, judged from these criteria, this budget can possibly be accepted as a satisfactory budget. So far as I am concerned I must confess that this budget is a jig-saw puzzle to me. Excepting the budget for the Defence Department which has given fairly elaborate explanatory notes you cannot find throughout this budget sufficient explanatory notes in order to be able to make out what is it that we are going to expect, what are the ameliorative measures for the common man and what are the items of expenditure which are contemplated under those heads.

I do not think I should try to traverse the whole ground. Very many Honourable Members have already expressed their views on it and I will not repeat them. I will concentrate on the Food Department. First of all, one must exist before one can carry out his duties of citizenship. The first necessity is to live and therefore there can be no question at all—and the Honourable the Finance Minister was quite right, in stressing that point about production and particularly production of food. We all know that very recently the Honourable the Food Minister has struck a very refreshing note in his address to the Foodgrains Policy Committee. In that address he definitely told them that the schemes that are to be made must be based on things that we can command in the country. It is no good talking of big schemes. The big schemes are all welcome. As a matter of fact this House has given testimony of its hearty appreciation of the big schemes—two of them have already gone through—which have been placed before this House. But they will after all bring forth fruit in abundance in future years—about twenty years from now perhaps we shall reap the fruits of those schemes. Take any of the big hydro-electric schemes either in Bihar or Bengal or South India. We cannot expect big irrigation schemes or big electric schemes being carried out for the purpose of cottage industry, or whatever it may be, until years have elapsed. What we want is that some measure should now be initiated which would lead to production of food immediately. Therefore the Honourable the Food Minister put before them definitely that in regard to tools, instruments for irrigation, manure or whatever things are necessary for agriculture and food production we must be self-sufficient, we must be independent. In regard to this there is also that factor which has to be considered namely the cooperation between the Centre and the Provinces. It was the definite plan that 25 per cent. should be contributed by the Province, 25 per cent. by the Centre and the rest by the beneficiary. In this regard the only satisfactory thing that can be done is to have definite schemes for the purpose of carrying out this idea. Do we get anything in this budget which can tell us in what way this scheme is to be worked out and in what way the food production may be made immediate, self-sufficient and adequate? We do not get any the least idea. Therefore I should submit that the Honourable the Finance Minister should satisfy us as to what means and what resources we are relying upon and what expenditure is contemplated so that this idea of food production in the near future and in adequate quantities may really be given effect to.

In connection with this the question arises about the assistance from the Centre to the Provinces, because after all the work must be done by the Provinces and with sufficient help from the Centre, if need be. In Bihar, from which Province I come, there is the complaint—and it is a longstanding complaint—that we do not get our fair share of the assistance that we ought to receive from the Centre. We find that in regard to the residual tax on incomes Rs. 135 crores were distributed and out of that Bihar got Rs. 13 crores only whereas on the basis of population it should have got at least Rs. 17 crores. According to the Report submitted by Sir Otto Niemeyer—the Report on the Finance Inquiry Commission—the allocation of the

12 NOON. money should be on the double basis of population as also residence. If it were on the population basis Bihar would have got Rs. 17 crores. If it was on the basis of residence it should get only Rs. 13 crores. And it was only on the basis of residence that Bihar got it. I may explain this in a very few words. Bihar is very peculiarly situated. There are firms—large industrial firms, mining establishments and concerns—which have their work in Bihar, which earn their money in Bihar but whose head offices are in Calcutta or in Bombay. The result is that on the basis of residence the whole of that residual tax on income goes to other Provinces. These are certain inequities which have got to be looked into and I do request the Honourable the Finance Minister to deal with this because, it bears on that important question, namely: what should be the help which the Centre should give to the Provinces in order that the Provinces may be self-sufficient and work on independent lines for the purpose of carrying out this food production scheme?

I will not, Sir, trespass upon the other points inasmuch as they have been dealt with very elaborately by other members.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I consider the budget of the Honourable the Finance Minister a very able performance. In my view, it is a masterly analysis and a comprehensive review of the financial position of this country. I am very happy to find that he has produced a balanced budget. In my view, in the context of the peculiar circumstances, I think it is a very good budget. I do not propose to go into details on the budget proposals. I would like to make some general observations which, I consider, are of paramount importance.

Criticism was levelled yesterday that the budget did not contain any plan of national policy. I myself was inclined, at the beginning, to agree with that view. But I find that, anticipating those criticisms, the Minister said at the close of his speech "The next step is enough for us". We were in a state of fluid condition and it was not possible for us to pre-determine with any amount of certainty, because many factors had got to be taken into consideration, and before we could actually put it into operation, a particular plan may become archaic. Secondly, Sir, it was perhaps well that he did not do so because he has given us, Honourable Members, an opportunity to inform Government of what sort of plan we would like: and thirdly—I think that is a very weighty reason—it is well within the knowledge of Honourable Members that the All-India Congress Committee had appointed a sub-committee on this question and the sub-committee has submitted its report which has yet to be finalized, and therefore it is proper and fair for the Government to await the considered views of the All-India Congress Committee, and that might be one of the reasons that might have weighed with him. Fourthly, Sir, there was really no plan which he had set.

Sir, as I said, I shall not go into details. I was very much impressed with the last sentence in the opening paragraph of the Finance Minister's speech. I have no doubt whatever that all the Honourable Members must have been impressed with it. It is not the tribute to which I refer. He said, Sir, with

[Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi]

a touch of deep emotion and poetry about it—"In the faith that looks through death, we shall shape the destiny of our nation on the pattern which he cherished and lead it from the dark abyss of hatred and despair to the sunlit pastures of eternal life."—a very beautiful sentiment couched in the best of language. I have no doubt that on the application of this grand idea the success or failure of the administration—nay the life of the whole nation—depends. It is only from that point of view I would like to examine the budget. Sir, that is the master key to all the ills we are suffering from. Once we apply this to the sphere of administration,—the pattern which he, Gandhiji, cherished—I have no doubt whatever; all will be well with this country. The budget is not a mere enumeration of facts and figures. It is to be a social policy and the government must be able to adjust the maladjustments in the economic system of the country. There is no doubt whatever, there is a great disequilibrium or maladjustment in the economic situation of this country. I find, Sir, that this is due to the non-realisation of certain important factors which govern the national life of this country. It is well within the knowledge of everyone that the poverty of the country is proverbial. In the recent Industries Conference, the Honourable the Industries Minister in opening the Conference said:

"It is indeed tragic that a land so richly endowed as ours with resources and man-power should be the home of abject poverty. We have to solve the riddle of a rich country inhabited a starving people."

The riddle has been solved by a man of God who is not with us today, and yet I feel we have not heeded to the clarion call of that man of God. I shall be able to explain briefly within the limited time at my disposal how and where we have failed.

Sir, it is well known that India is a land of villages. 90 per cent. of the population live in the villages. 90 per cent. of the population are engaged in agriculture and agriculture is not at all a paying concern, and if people are to live, the poor villager, the poor peasant, must have a subsidiary industry. It is all so well known and so patent, and yet none of us seems to have recognized this fact and acted in terms of that. Mahatma Gandhi said times without number that this is a fundamental proposition and advised the country to go ahead on lines suggested by him. Sir, I would like to confine myself to only one matter, *i.e.*, with reference to cloth. I have not much time and I do not want to encroach upon other's time. I shall finish within a couple of minutes. When the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy went to Wardha, this is what Gandhiji said in a press statement. Very surprisingly enough, he did *not* say—"We should step up production, by having more textile mills; and all would be well." But that great man said: "No. Therein lies the ruination of this country. I have not the slightest doubt about that." He said: "Augmentation of the capacity of mills to supply all the cloth required should cease, in face of the calamity which is existent, and daily growing in intensity. Mills cannot find employment for the millions of unemployed villagers. The educative value of the *charkha* cannot be surpassed. But for the spell of hypnotism which rules our minds today, we shall all realize the obvious truth, set ourselves working out the concrete proposition, and thereby restore confidence to the millions, nay even to the whole world."

Sir, there is one other thing which he said a few weeks before he passed away, which is also very important. On the 7th of November he said as reported in his *Harijan*:

"It was a most surprising thing to him (Gandhiji) that now that they had come to their own, nobody seemed to have faith in the possibility of *Khadi* and that they could think of nothing but mill-cloth for clothing India. He had not the slightest doubt that *Khadi* economics was the only sound economics for India."

In my opinion it should be worthwhile to follow it. Sir, I have faith in that. At the same time Gandhiji said that the mill industry, in the essential necessaries of life, shall not be permitted to compete; yet we find mills being allowed in these spheres.

I therefore feel that "the pattern which he cherished" is this: "central planning and direction, based on self-sufficiency in the villages in spheres of food and cloth." Let it not be understood that he was against any large-scale industries—no, when there are large numbers of villagers in need of employment it is criminal to deny them employment. Therefore, Sir, we shall be judged only as to how far and to what extent we carry out this *khadi* economics.

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U. P.: Muslim): Sir, it is customary to congratulate the Finance Minister on the presentation of the Budget; I do so with even greater justification on account of it being the first annual Budget of Free India.

Sir, the tragic death of Mahatma Gandhi has caused an irreparable loss to the country; the void which he has left will be felt not for years but for generations to come. In the words of the poet,—

Hazarun sal Nargis apni be nuri pa roti hai,
Bohut mushkil se hota hai chaman men dedawar paida.

Sir, finance to most of us is a dull and dreary subject and we are not accustomed to look in the speech of the Finance Minister for emotional colour or warmth. But this year's Budget seems to me to be lacking in vision and long-term planning also. It may be rightly called, as it has been called, a capitalist's budget as special efforts have been made to give relief to industry and capital in the form of reduction of Business Profits Tax and Super-tax which is wholly unjustifiable.

One Honourable Member yesterday in his speech said that this Budget was a zamindar's and talukdar's Budget. Sir, I strongly refute that suggestion because it is wholly untrue. These are the people who are the most hard-hit on account of rise in the cost of living index, non-participation in black-marketing.....

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Poor fellows.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: .....and now on account of the agricultural income-tax that is being imposed on them by some Provincial Governments, where is relief offered to them, may I know?

Sir, the resentment against the imposition of tax on coffee, tea, matches and tobacco is universal because it hits the largest number of consumers, especially the middle class and the poorer classes. The policy of taxation should be such that it raises revenues in the least objectionable manner. If I may be bold enough to suggest to the Honourable the Finance Minister a very justifiable and fair source of revenue, I might suggest to him the compulsory registration of marriages and births with a small-tax. This will have a double advantage; it will provide Government with proper statistics.....

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim): What about those who have already been married?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let her proceed.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: ...As I said, Sir, this will provide Government with a double advantage, statistics regarding marriages and births which are absolutely unavailable in our country and money which they are so much in need of, and to the public will be provided certificates and if a small registration fee is imposed upon it, I do not think that they will grudge giving money to Government on that account. In the matter of birth certificates I suggest an increase

[Begum Aizaz Rasul]

of a small amount on every additional child, which will have an all-round benefit. Keeping in view the rapid increase in population, I need not dilate upon this point.

Sir, one thing that I feel strongly about is the question of good nutritive food for our people. I do not know why this very great need of our country has been so much neglected. We have heard of committees and commissions being appointed, we have also heard of research being made in this field; but the results so far as the public is concerned have been nil. India is essentially an agricultural country. We are rich in agricultural resources, and, yet we are poor as far as the information goes regarding the value of nutrition. I would therefore urge upon the Finance Minister to immediately appoint a Research Committee to recommend to Government the best form of food from the nutritive point of view and available for the least price to the average man. It is a well-known fact that the health of our people is deteriorating every day, and there is no doubt that this unplanned feeding is greatly responsible for it. Sir, we know that in England during the war years and afterwards even in spite of severe rationing the health of the nation is not only maintained, but in many instances it has actually improved. Why cannot we have some such planning here?

I am glad that a sum of Rs. 10 crores has been provided for the rehabilitation of refugees. These are people who deserve our deepest sympathies and help and whatever we can do for these people who have been driven away and uprooted from their homes, should be done. I hope this money will be properly utilised.

I also welcome the removal of the tax on betel nut. My Province, containing the largest number of consumers of this commodity, I think will be the gainer in this respect.

In regard to granting money to Provinces for post-war development schemes, I think it is a very unfair stipulation on the part of Government to ask Provincial Governments to contribute an equal amount as that being given by the Central Government before they can claim that amount from the Central Government. I think it is a bit hard on the provinces, who have already drawn up their post-war development schemes in anticipation of the grants to be given by the Central Government. I do not say that the Provincial Governments should not bear a share of this expenditure, but what I say is that this stipulation is not very fair to them.

Sir, one minute more and I am done. I am very glad that the Honourable the Finance Minister has kept in view the suggestion that I made last time in regard to retrenchment in Government expenditure and has put down a figure of Rs. 2½ crores under this head. But, Sir, this is not enough. I congratulate him on the beginning he has made, and hope that this retrenchment will be made on a planned and organised basis, so that all wastage will be avoided, and every channel for saving and retrenchment explored.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: General): Sir, I am very glad that in spite of all our preoccupations, the Honourable the Finance Minister is trying to have some means of putting our finances on a proper footing. The question was raised as to whether we should depend on direct taxes for all our requirements or whether we should distribute our taxes widely between direct and indirect taxes, so that in times of emergency as well as in normal times we may not be left in the lurch. There are countries, and there are economists who will even go to the length of saying that all the finances of a State should be based on one single tax. The danger of such a procedure has been demonstrated in the past. I think, Sir, that the system of having diversified taxes

and distributing taxes between direct and indirect taxes is one of the means by which the difficulties that are ordinarily lurking in the framing of Budgets of States may be overcome.

Again, Sir, there has been some criticism in regard to the reliefs that have been given. I am not here to support the provision for increasing the minimum amount on which the super-tax and the Business profits-tax are levied at the highest level, but with reference generally to reducing taxation on incomes, I wish to say that my friends who have attacked the relief given are not in possesion of facts. I took the trouble of going through the share registers of three companies. The result was this. Not even half the amount of capital that is subscribed is subscribed by the rich people. More than half the capital of each concern is subscribed by small shareholders—people holding five shares, ten shares, fifteen shares. In one Company, it was curious that we could not find sufficient number of Directors at all, because there was a qualification of share-holding fixed for the Directorship. Of all the shareholders we could find only six or seven, of whom three were related to the Managing Agents. We could not find even three or four others who held the requisite number of shares. Others were all shareholders who held very few shares to their credit. So my friends miss this fact, namely, that big concerns are not the concerns in which only the capitalists have got interest. It is very largely the small men who save a few tens of rupees or hundreds of rupees and put in the money in shares depending on the integrity and prestige of the Managing Agents. I find also that in many cases, it is the women, the charities and minors who purchase large numbers of shares, because the income they derive from these concerns is a little more than what they can get from depositing money in the Banks.

Well, Sir, such being the case, if any relief is given it is not given only to the big man, the big capitalist, but mainly for those small shareholders who put in their money in these shares with a view to getting more money than they can get if they deposit it in the Banks. There are, no doubt, a few capitalists in every concern, who are the promotors and who are the Managing Agents of these Companies and hold big blocks of shares. They are also benefited, but with reference to them these higher taxes, like super-tax and so on, are put in. So, the way in which we begin to attack every provision that is made for giving relief to those who invest in busines is not correct; nor is it likely to lead to any positive improvement or development in our industries. As I said, Sir, a large number of people are small shareholders and if these are encouraged to put in their money in these industries, it is possible to get what we want for the development of these industries.

I would turn now to the Budget proposals, and here I have only one thing to say, namely, that in developing the indirect taxation the Honourable the Finance Minister has brought in coffee and tea as luxuries and he has proposed to increase the taxation on these. I would only tell him that coffee and tea are not luxuries in our country: they have become the necessaries and as such the tax on these is contributed not by those who go in for luxuries but who go in for their ordinary food and ordinary living. So I would suggest to him that later on he may agree to give up these taxes on tea and coffee when the Finance Bill is taken up.

Then, Sir, I would like to refer to a matter which I consider is of supreme importance to the safety and well being of our Union. I refer to the location of the Capital of our Union. It is a very important thing and it is not realised by people how important it is. There have been Empires, there have been Republics, there have been other States, which suffered the moment the guiding hand or the controlling hand was withdrawn. Why? Because, Sir, those Empires or States were not real Empires or States of the whole area. If the capital of a State or an Empire is in one corner, the result is that all the

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outlying portions feel that it is not their Empire. They do not feel that they have got an equal stake with those living close by to the Capital. Every Empire broke up and the constituent units which broke up were always those who were lying far away. This, Sir, is a danger which I think should be guarded against. Of course, I know the argument which will be advanced. In the case of those Empires, it was always one part of the country controlling or dominating over the others. I feel, Sir, Delhi, as the capital of India is located in a far away corner and it is therefore that people living like me in the far South are thinking that we have been conquered by Punjab rather than that we are all living together here in one common Republic. Sir, it is not a matter to be laughed at for this reason. It was only recently, Sir, in some of the local papers—Hindi and Urdu—and in one of the English papers, it was said that the time has come for people in Delhi to take steps to do the right thing with the Madrassis first and then with the Maharattas. Two or three days back *The New Times* had an editorial in which it said openly that the Madrassis are to be sent back. We have got such things going on.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member's time is taken up by other things. He has to finish in about half a minute.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Well, Sir, I was saying that there is a feeling that the location of Delhi is so far away from various provinces that people do not feel that the state that is functioning here is a state in which they have got equal rights. Secondly, the climate of the place is so bad and at least five months in the year, it is not very comfortable. Even in the old days when the European Government was here seven months in the year they went out.

An Honourable Member: Madras?

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: I am not suggesting Madras at all. I never suggested that. I always thought that a more central place would be better. It is a very important matter, Sir, I do not think it is a matter to be laughed at. On the other hand, I consider it a most serious matter.

Mr. Speaker: The point is that the matter is no doubt important, but the time is still more important and I find that the Honourable Member is going into details which are not necessary. He has already made out the point that Delhi should not be the capital. He need not go into details.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: I only want to say that climatically and also strategically it is a most inconvenient place. It is within 150 miles of Pakistan and every invasion from the North-west has reached Delhi and Delhi has suffered more times than any other place in India. Apart from these considerations, time is important now on account of the urgency of the matter. In the budget there is a provision for 8½ crores for expansion of buildings and locality in Delhi. If these improvements are going to take place, we would have spent money which we cannot recoup, in case we want to change the capital later on. This will be money wasted. It seems to me urgent that the Government should consider this question immediately so that before they begin to spend this money of 8½ crores on the expansion of Delhi, they may come to a conclusion whether they are going to have the capital here at Delhi or they are going to change it; that is the point, Sir, I want to make.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Which is the alternative capital?

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: I am not particular.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not feel as a party man, it is proper or necessary for me to congratulate the Honourable Minister on this budget, but as something has been said by my Honourable friend, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, I would only like to draw his attention and of the House to the fact that one single factor in determining whether a budget has been intelligently anticipated or that adequate information has been vouchsafed to interested people in the share market and if my friend had followed the papers, he would have found that the share market was sadly disappointed with the contents of the budget of the Honourable the Finance Minister. Sir, undoubtedly there are a number of facets of this budget with which I may not entirely agree; we have all got our ideals, and I would like the Finance Minister to do many things which he has not done; but that only criterion cannot be made the basis on which we could condemn the budget. It seems, Sir, from the general trend of public opinion and what is happening in the share market that the Finance Minister has more or less attempted to achieve the golden mean. Sir, there are a few matters in regard to the taxation proposals about which I would like to have a say, but as my Honourable friend on my right said yesterday, the proper place for it is the finance bill.

But in my view there is one really important matter about which I would like to refer before I examine the other aspects of the budget. That is, Sir, with regard to the Sterling talks that we have had recently and the interim arrangement that the Government of India has come to with the United Kingdom. The House is probably aware that on a previous occasion when the budget was discussed, the House expressed its desire that this matter must be quickly dealt with, so that our position so far as our sterling assets are concerned could be adequately safeguarded, and I have no doubt that the Finance Minsiter had this in view all the time. But circumstances were such that we could only enter into a talk for an arrangement to come a limited period of six months with the United Kingdom. At the time when it was decided that the United Kingdom Delegation was to visit India, my Honourable friend the Finance Minister mentioned to the Standing Finance Committee that he would like the Committee to nominate a sub-committee to be associated with him in these talks and he suggested that they should elect such a sub-committee. The Committee, however, left it to the discretion of the Finance Minister and he chose three people, Mr. M. S. Aney, who is now His Excellency the Governor of Bihar, my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall and myself. I am not giving away anything which ought to be kept secret when I mention that just a few days prior to the delegation arrived here, there was a conference in which the members of the Indian delegation, the Honourable Minister for Commerce and some of persons of his department, the Governor of the Reserve Bank and the three of us participated and discussed the particular angle of view to be taken by our delegation; what proposals we ought to put forward consistent with the obligations that the Indian Government had entered to, when those talks were conducted on the last occasion and what happened subsequently thereon. Sir, it is a difficult subject and it is not one in which satisfaction could be achieved even so far as we were concerned. At any rate the idea of the Finance Minister was that we should not enter the discussion in a bargaining spirit, that we should consider all the facets of the situation and place our demands, which will not be capable of any reduction and I must say that the instructions given to the delegation were such that they admitted of no serious deviation. Sir, thereafter, we had meetings with the delegation in company with the Finance Minister on more than one occasion right until the time the arrangements were concluded. It would not therefore be fair for my Honourable friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar to say that members of the House were not associated in this matter. Sir, so far as the actual terms of

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this settlement are concerned, I do not say I am happy. I would only say that the terms of the settlement were such that there has not been serious variation from our original proposal. The variation has been in the region of 6 to 7 per cent. of our own demands. In fact I do not propose to give the details of the amounts here or to mention the balance that was carried over from the last half year because the revealing of this figure would possibly affect the general position of the import and the export programme. But all that I want to say is that we are not particularly pleased with what we had to agree. In fact the Honourable the Finance Minister himself said on page 12 of his budget speech:

"Nevertheless, I cannot help feeling that it should have been possible to avoid introducing this very undesirable and harmful principle of a limit on the convertibility of sterling for members of the sterling area who are pledged to holding sterling without limit of amount and so on."

So I can say categorically that it is not a matter in which we felt we have achieved something wonderful. All that I have to say is that we were associated with the Honourable Minister while the talks were going on and we are prepared to take full responsibility for anything that has been done. If the U. K. delegation has been less accommodating perhaps the negotiations would have broken down and something else would have to be done in that case; we have prepared to take full responsibility along with the Finance Minister even if that contingency should have occurred.

There is one aspect of this matter on which I would like to lay emphasis. The agreement was ridiculed. What is the alternative? Supposing we are not prepared to agree to this interim arrangement, the alternative is that we should be prepared to go out of the sterling area. We can go out of the sterling area if our foreign exchange position was such that we are breaking even on exports and imports. Then we could straightaway say that notwithstanding the possibility of our realising our sterling balances in the future being affected, for the purpose of upholding our dignity we could have gone out of the sterling area arrangements. But unfortunately that is not the position. The Finance Minister has shown you his speech categorically that our foreign exchange position is adverse and therefore any action on these lines might have resulted in upsetting our economy. We would have had to do it if the arrangements were less than satisfactory and honourable. That is what I wanted to say primarily. The second aspect of the matter I should like to mention is this. Some Honourable Members have asked, what about this borrowing from the International Monetary Fund? I can very well understand that that is a matter in which all the details which could not be disclosed. After all you cannot ask Government as to how much they are going to borrow: that will be revealed perhaps after they have actually borrow some amounts from the IMF, but they may or may not borrow. Another matter on which I should like to enlighten the House is to reply to the question,—what about interest and other charges on this loan? Actually Great Britain has agreed in this particular matter to pay gold where service charges and interest has to be paid as we have to pay these in gold; but so far as the burden of interest and other charges are concerned, it is negligible, for the reason that whatever balance we have in the shape of sterling will earn interest and only something very similar will have to be paid to the I. M. F.

My Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar made one point in this connection to which I should like to refer. He said that the Egyptian Government have in these negotiations with U. K. on the payments out of their sterling balances got away with it; they made a wonderful bargain and we in India have failed. Sir, I have compared the figures and I find that it is not so bad as all that. Egypt undoubtedly has now gone out of the sterling area; but so far as the amount of 40 millions pounds that was vouchsafed to her for the last year is concerned, the limit on convertibility which was put by Britain on the 21st August 1947 has resulted in the bulk of that 40 million remaining inconvertible; and in this settlement for the year 1948 the convertible sterling allowed to them is only 6½ million.

While speaking on this question there is one other matter that I should like to refer to. My Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar objected to the delegation being on a Secretariat level, and he also objected to Mr. Narahari Rao our Finance Secretary, having to face Sir Jeremy Raisman who was formerly his superior officer. Sir, I have had the privilege of having enjoyed the friendship of Sir Jeremy Raisman and I do consider that nothwithstanding the limitations under which he was serving he served this country well. I am sure that he is not a man who would take advantage of his past position; nor is it a fact that a Secretary to the Government of India who is entrusted with this great and responsible task of having to negotiate on behalf of his country would not realise the dignity of the position in which he is placed and use it well and wisely. Sir, Mr. Narahari Rao and his two able colleagues,—Mr. Nehru and Mr. Keith Roy,—conducted these negotiations in August, 1947; and it should be said that they conducted them very well and for the benefit of this country. They had to follow it up because the delegation from U. K. that came here was on a Secretariat level. You cannot ask a Minister of the Government of India to go and discuss with a delegation sent by the U. K. which is on a Secretariat level. Surely that is not the position made on by my Honourable friend. So it had to be conducted on a Secretariat level, and I think in fairness it is only just and proper that this House should acknowledge the services rendered by Mr. Narahari Rao and his colleagues in this connection and regret the idea that they were suffering from any inferiority complex because they had to face a former Finance Member of the Government of India as on the whole they have done extremely well.

Sir, that I think is one aspect of the matter which I was bound to mention to the House because I was associated with the Finance Minister, along with Dewan Chaman Lall, while the discussions were going on. My colleague and I never felt that we were either in an inferior position or that we could not have taken a different stand. Actually if we had taken a different stand our views would surely have been given due weight.

In regard to the rest of the budget I will deal with only one aspect, namely. I welcome my Honourable friend's reversal of the policy of the previous Government and offering to the provinces the *quantum* of money originally promised to them for post-war development. In fact it is good that he had done so, as now that we have a very nearly balanced budget it is only fair that the provinces should be asked to go ahead with their plans for development. I am also glad that he has put in a condition to which my Honourable and fair friend Begum Aizaz Rasul objected. I think it is very proper there should be such a condition. As a matter of fact, if the provinces find money the Central Government will give an equal amount for the purpose of development. But in this connection I feel that something more has got to be done. The responsibility of the Central Government in regard to the economic position of this country as a whole cannot be minimised. In fact in 1945 one of the predecessors of the Honourable Minister while making a review of the entire economic and financial position admitted the responsibility of the Central Government to provide enough finances for the provincial Governments to carry on with their welfare programmes. I therefore feel that some mechanism should be devised which should facilitate consultation with Provincial Ministers and if necessary the provincial Governments should be asked to advance

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their budget dates so that the Central Government's budget may be more or less adjusted to the prevailing spirit of the provincial Government's budgets. In this connection I should like to say that so long as we are planning for an expansionist programme and want more money for that purpose we cannot avoid taxation. Taxation has to be there in some form or other and it is bound to be at an increasing rate. It was suggested some time back that a taxation inquiry committee should be constituted. I now feel that that is an out of date and an outmoded method of finding out exactly the taxable capacity of the people. So I should like to suggest to the Finance Minister that he should create a department attached to his Ministry which shall be a tax research division, which should not only investigate the possibilities of augmenting the resources of the Central Government but at the same time do likewise for every provincial Government. And such research has to be kept up to date. It cannot be done by a periodical commission which will sit once in five years and decide things, because we are living in an economy which is rapidly changing. I think that is a matter which we have to press on the Government of India, and I have no doubt that that matter will be given serious consideration by the Finance Member.

Sir, the other criticisms that I have in mind will probably have to be dealt with as and when occasion arises if I have an opportunity; for the time being I have to content myself with what I have said.

Shri A. P. Pattani (Western India States Group): Sir, I wish to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Minister on the general feeling of confidence that his proposals have evoked in the country. I am not quite sure whether these proposals will increase agricultural production, nor am I quite certain that they will stop the spiral of rising prices. And in view of this I wish to make very briefly and in record short time some concrete proposals. One proposal I wish to submit for the consideration of the Finance Minister is that since prices are rising the lowest incometax level should be raised, as has already been suggested by my Honourable friend here.

I think the Rs. 2,500 is not high enough.

The other proposal, or suggestion, I wish him to consider,—it is for this House to consider also—,is that we are today framing, or wishing to frame, a constitution for the Union of India. There is a very compendious draft constitution before the Constituent Assembly; but I am afraid I have so far seen no indication or suggestions regarding Union finance from the Finance Minister. We have the report of the Expert Committee on Union finance and the draft constitution suggests that the recommendation of that Expert Committee should be accepted for delaying its proposals for five years. I wish to submit that conditions have greatly changed in the last few months, especially in the States, and so it should be easy for the Finance Minister before this debate is over to give the House some indication as to when and the directions in which these proposals, or some proposals, on Union finance for the Union Government are likely to develop.

That is all I have to say.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid there is hardly any time for any Honourable Member now to address the House. So we may adjourn now and re-assemble at 2-30 P. M.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Shri Bikramlal Sondhi (East Punjab: General): Sir, there is one thing in this budget which has pleased me and that is the idea that I got after hearing

the Finance Minister's speech, *viz.*, that after all we are trying to get out of the unhealthy tradition which almost became a fashion last year of soaking the rich simply for the sake of soaking itself, irrespective of as to how it would affect the general economy of our country. We have been told by so many ministers on the treasury benches that the crying need of the hour is production and more production. But may I ask what we are doing in that direction?

Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): What do they produce?

Shri Bikramlal Sondhi: The marked reactions to the new Budget are represented in the lowering of the market rates in all the stock exchanges of the country. The capitalist or the businessman is not pleased; he thinks that the Finance Minister has not given them a square deal, though he had made many promises. The total relief given to the capitalist class is only one crore in the form of super-tax reduction. There is nothing more, nothing less.

Regarding the business profits tax reduction 70 to 80 per cent. of the shareholders who are going to participate in it are small investors. It does not go to them entirely.

Regarding the undistributed profits on which a rebate of one anna has been given by the Finance Minister, it is expected that this money will flow back for further investments, either in the expansion of the existing industries or for new avenues of industrialisation.

Coming to big business, they get only one crore and that is to be divided between 8,000 people who are earning more than 30,000 in the whole country. It does not come to more than 1,200 per rich man or the big business magnate whom every body here wants to fleece.....

An Honourable Member: Please?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Fleece, not please.

Shri Bikramlal Sondhi: I would also like to mention here that our Finance Minister has a plan for raising 150 crores from the public. I do not know how much money he will be able to get from the market but I know it for a fact that of the last loan which he wanted to raise and did raise, 80 per cent. was taken by his own concerns, the Reserve Bank and the Imperial Bank. There is hardly any incentive for businessmen, because they do not know about the future. People everywhere are talking of nationalisation. My own view is let these big business people produce something for us to nationalise and even if we are to nationalise them, why talk about it? We wanted to nationalise the Imperial Bank. We did it in a minute, though it may take sometime to be actually translated into action. By talking about nationalisation we are only instrumental in scaring away capital which the businessman would otherwise invest in the industrialisation of the country. It is no use raising slogans which do not mean anything in the new context of independence. It is high time that we should grapple with the facts as they are and not as they should be or what we would like them to be.

Regarding the reductions in the Budget I must say that the Finance Minister has tried to give some relief to small companies, which are not in a position to earn more than Rs. 25,000. But my fear is that the big businessmen would divide their own companies into smaller companies and they may take away what we want them not to take away. From that point of view I would request the Finance Minister to keep an eye on the new floatations which big business would like to float in order to get advantage of this relief that is not meant for them but for somebody else.

I must say one thing which has appealed to everybody big and small. Taking into consideration the building societies and their programmes and the lack of housing accommodation in the country at large, especially in the towns, this reduction of 75 lakhs on account of municipal taxes is something for which I can heartily congratulate the Finance Minister.

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Sir, having said all this, I have to do my duty as a common man which I am. There is one class of people, the middle class people, who are the only people who have come out empty-handed in this whole budget. These are the people who form the backbone of our country. They were with us when we fought our battle for freedom for years together. I cannot face them either in a crowd or in their houses. People ask us "What has your new Finance Minister done for them?". Therefore I am here to request the Finance Minister to do something for them. All that I propose is nothing more than that the exemption limit should be increased from 2,500 to 3,500. Keeping in view the index price today, which is 309, I am not asking for too much and I think, knowing the Finance Minister as I do, I am sure he will agree to my little request on behalf of the middle class people to whom he can always look not only for investment but also for backing up the Government when the time comes.

The Finance Minister while reversing the excise duty on matches has said that he has found out that this 12 annas reduction has not been given to the common man in the street and the manufacturers and dealers had eaten it up and had adjusted it beautifully between themselves. The reversal is, therefore, unexceptionable but I would press him that he must give an assurance to us that the prices of the match sticks in the bazar should not be allowed to be raised. I am sure he can still manage this. The manufacturers are in India, the dealers are in India. He can surely make it safe for the common man, even if it comes to controlling the whole stock or even to purchasing all the stocks of these companies to buy his matches at the present current prices.

There is one important point which I would like to mention in this connection, *viz.*, the additional surcharge that the Minister has proposed on trunk telephone calls. I am sure it is going to affect adversely the business people largely. But even if we cannot reduce or withdraw this surcharge I have to make to him one submission in this respect. He should not forget the fourth estate of the realm, I mean the press. We will not be true to ourselves, Sir, if we do not in this House recognize the services rendered to us by the press at large, whether it was in the good old days when we were fighting for our cause of freedom or now when we need full support to our national Government for the completion of its work. It is a small amount and I hope the Finance Minister would not grudge us that.

I do not know as to what help he can give us regarding capital goods which every good capitalist in the country needs so badly either for the replenishing of old machinery or for starting new industries in this country. I would very much like him also to give us some information on that point in his next speech.

One thing more I have to mention. Like a clever financier that he is, the Finance Minister has not said a word about the export duty which we may realize on the goods which the Government of India have agreed to supply to the Pakistan Government. A big slice of this duty must come to us especially when we have agreed to give them a very big quantity of our cotton cloth. As to what it would come to exactly, I do not know; but it must be a very big sum.

Regarding certain points raised by.....

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member a large number of points to make? He has already taken up his time-limit.

Shri Bikramlal Sondhi: I may be given two more minutes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Two minutes have already been given to him over his time limit.

Shri Bikramlal Sondhi: Then I resume my seat.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first full year's budget of Free India as introduced by my Honourable friend the Finance Minister has been given a mixed reception in the country. It has been described in one quarter as a socialistic budget, in another as a capitalistic budget, in a third as a bold budget and in a fourth as an indifferent budget. Sir, there is an element of truth in all these descriptions though none of them adequately describes the budget as it is before us. Those who expected from this budget more huge amounts of expenditure for productive purposes and other ameliorative works failed to grasp the peculiar position in which the budget of this year had to be framed. I think from that point of view the Honourable the Finance Minister deserves the sympathy of this House. The whole budgetary proposals have to be viewed against the economic background emerging from the political background of the last few months. If one were to take the proper perspective of the whole picture, the different angles from which each particular problem in the country had to be viewed, I think the conclusion is irresistible that it would not have been possible to produce in the circumstances and within the limitations a more satisfactory budget. I congratulate the Finance Minister for the simple reason that when in the whole country there was an element of uncertainty and doubt as to the financial stability of the country, when capital was halting and hesitant and even fugitive and when production in the country had gone down in every direction, he has by his budget re-established the credit of the country not only in the Indian market but also in the international market. Let us not forget this basic fact. Sir, when we in India are in need of capital and other goods for industrial development, when we are in need of foodstuffs to feed our people which we have to import to the tune of something like Rs. 100 crores a year, the whole world would naturally scrutinize our financial position, our financial credit, before they think of supplying them to us in adequate quantities. I therefore think that we have fully demonstrated to the world by our Budget that the position of the Indian exchequer is radically sound. But while I say that I do not commit myself to any and every proposal that he has put there. My general appreciation does not mean that I give a blanket approval of all the proposals that are contained in the budget.

Within the few minutes at my disposal it is impossible to deal with the whole budget. But speaking generally I say that I greatly differ from the Honourable the Finance Minister if he thinks that there was to be a deficit to the extent of Rs. 22 crores which he has sought to cover by all manner of adjustments and impositions. I am definitely of the opinion that there is going to be a substantial surplus at the end of the year. The budget of the current year has already shown that the deficit has been much less than he anticipated. Many of the unproductive and productive items of expenditure he has put in are not going to materialise for a variety of reasons to which I cannot go at the moment. It is not possible. I would not like him to carry on with big programmes of constructions of buildings and things like that. Now, Government will lay themselves open to the charge of directly helping further inflation in the country. As one who had closely watched the inflationary trend in its early stages in this country I may tell the House that it had its origin in the politics of the day. The British Government started inflation with a political motive. When the war was on and the efforts for its effective prosecution were to be intensified, the only way by which they could do it was to give fantastic prices for the limited supply of goods and services in this country, as the two great political organisations, the Congress and the League, were both opposed to the war. The only alternative to the Britishers in those days was to pump money into circulation indefinitely and get all their things done. My Honourable friend has got a legacy of that. I realize his difficulty. But let him not

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra]

himself add to that inflationary spiral. I am afraid some of the proposals made by him will have the inevitable effect of raising that inflationary spiral. What was the purpose in imposing a further tax on coffee and tea? I do not think these are luxury goods. They now form part of the regular dietary of the rank and file in the country. And what is the amount you are going to get out of it? Nothing substantial. What is the reason for taxing tyres? I know it will be said, let the rich people who drive in motor cars pay for it. But by doing this you are indirectly taxing the road transport system in the country which requires encouragement and development. You are taxing "the poorman's carriage",—the cycle, which he has to use everyday for all manner of purposes including the earning of his livelihood. Do you realize that the extent to which the poor man is affected, and his cost of living increased to that extent you are raising the inflationary spiral? You have not thought fit to give him a relief in other directions which you could have easily done. I believe in the present scheme of things there is a great deal of anomaly. For instance, in the postal rates Sir Archibald Rowlands made a concession and reintroduced the two pice post-card. But he made a mistake which is still being pursued. Why has not the rate for book post or sample-post been brought down to the level of the post-card? You cannot spread education and civilization in the country unless you keep your postal rates at a low level. My Honourable friend Mr. Sondhi raised a point which demands consideration. I think it is the feeling of most Members in this House that middle class people—people with fixed or low levels of income—should come in for some favourable or sympathetic treatment at his hands. The income-tax exemption limit should have been raised to Rs. 3,500. Between two-pice post card and six-pice letter there should have been an intermediate rate for letters weighing upto half a tola. It could be charged 4 pice and the rate for a letter weighing more than half a tola upto 1 tola it could be six pice. That way also he could have given some relief to the middle-class man, a relief that has been denied to him in all other directions.

Sir, I am racing against time. I have many other points to make but there is no time. Sir, we have not taken note of the fact that there has been an abrupt termination of the Standstill Agreement with Pakistan. If the Honourable Minister had taken that fact and its implications into consideration, we would have got a reflection of that in the budget. It is wanting in it. We may be called upon to launch a tariff war, or at any rate, impose of customs or tariff duties, as in the nature of things it would be inevitable. If the Pakistan Government continues to levy duty on jute, cotton and other articles, we shall be compelled to introduce customs duties on exports to Pakistan of steel, iron, coal, sugar, cloth, minerals and a variety of other things. If it came to that, then he would have a tremendous additional income. However, I will not develop that point here. Sir, I will now deal with a matter which has been raised by my Honourable friend Dr. P. K. Sen. He made a grievance that Bihar had a bad deal with regard to the allocation of her share from the divisible pool of income-tax. Sir Otto Niemeyer laid down two criteria. One was population and the other collection. Now, Sir, in 1936, when Sir Otto Niemeyer gave his award, he came to the conclusion that on the basis of the income and population he should fix the ratio for Bombay and Bengal at 20 per cent and for Bihar at 10 per cent. Today I find in the explanatory notes of the budget that the Honourable the Finance Minister has allocated to the province of West Bengal only 12 per cent. I want to know from him how he came by that figure of 12 per cent. West Bengal has an income-tax income almost equal to that of Bombay. She has no doubt been reduced in size, but in Sir Otto Niemeyer's formula, area was not a consideration. Even today West Bengal has got a population greater than that of Bombay. If Bombay could get 20 per cent, I see no reason why Bengal should be given only 12 per cent. Bihar makes a grievance that she has been given 13 per cent. now though she was

allotted only 10 per cent in the Otto Niemeyer award. The point I want to urge before the Honourable the Finance Minister with all humility is this that so long as he does not scrap up the Otto Niemeyer award, so long as he does not evolve a new formula and give effect to it, he ought not to depart from the fixed percentage of the Niemeyer Award. Over the territory lost in East Bengal, the Central Government has lost only 38 lakhs. The rest of the 6 crores ought to come to West Bengal. I do not believe in any rule of thumb in these vital matters. So long as the new scheme which has been recommended in the expert committee's report and embodied in the new constitution but has been deferred for five years, and probably for good reason, so long as that formula is not adopted, I see absolutely no reason why my friend should adopt a wholly arbitrary method and allocate only 12 per cent. to West Bengal. Bengal has been torn by war, and by famine and pestilence that came in the wake of the war, and after the war came the devastating communal disorders culminating in the terrible disaster of partition. We expected that the Central Government would come to her rescue when she was prostrated by the series of calamities and disasters. Instead of that, it has snatched away 8 per cent of her share of income-tax that was her legitimate due and made a present of it to the other provinces of India. I appeal to the Honourable the Finance Minister that in equity, justice and good conscience, this 20 per cent should be restored to West Bengal. If that is not done, Bengal cannot stand on her own legs. I appeal to him to do justice to that province which today has a population more than that of Bombay, which has income-tax collections equal to that of Bombay and which has problems which no other province has got. Unlike Bombay, Bengal, for a series of years under the Muslim League Ministry, had huge deficits, and after partition, she has been loaded with the entire debt of undivided Bengal, which the Muslim League left as a legacy. Sir, I hope that to enable Bengal to liquidate that legacy and to start on her new career on a sound economic basis, justice should be done to Bengal in this respect.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, In discussing the budget I am almost over-whelmed by a sense of unreality. I find that almost all speakers begin in chorus by congratulating the Honourable the Finance Minister for an excellent budget. Then in the next breath, almost unanimously they say the budget is bad from beginning to end; and then before sitting down again they congratulate the Honourable Minister for the excellent budget and then in the end they have to vote solidly for it. That is the sense of unreality which pervades this debate, even inside this section of the House who do not belong to the Congress. We have not come here to oppose but speak or sit down and vote with the government almost as a matter course. Sir, the Honourable Minister has been accused of being a capitalists' man. But on a careful examination of the budget, his proposals and the carefully selected phrasing in his speech, it seems to me that on the one hand he encourages the capitalists but in the other hand he has a knife to cut the capitalists. Be it understood that I am not a capitalist myself. The position is this: he gives the capitalist some meagre relief in respect of Business Profit tax or super-tax. He has made a mistake in fixing the same limit with regard to earned and unearned income. I believe that with regard to earned income, the exemption should be more. With regard to unearned income it should be less. The two incomes obviously stand on different footings. The Honourable Minister has very sweet words for the business men, namely that the existing level of taxation will 'seriously affect any incentive for saving and investment' and there is a 'paramount need to stimulate production, and any measure which restricts or curtails industry will stunt our development and add to our future difficulties.' That is the way he expresses his sympathy for the capitalists. He says there must be a genuine margin of saving. This sentiment is magnificent. Then he says this saving will lead to investment and add to the productive wealth of the community—I draw the attention of the Honourable Minis-

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

ter and the House to this—what for? For this: so that they could be fattened; so that the State itself could subsequently tap them. So the attitude of the Honourable Minister is just like that of a butcher who likes his cattle to be fed properly and fattened so that he may kill them and sell the meat at the highest price. The Finance Minister wants the capitalists to be prosperous so that he may be able to tap them once again. Sir, I submit that the budget has not satisfied the capitalists. But does it satisfy the ordinary man? Yes, he has made a fine gesture of a total exempting taxes on betel nuts. This has delighted all. It is meant as a great benefit to the common man who can appreciate only fine phrases. The tax on betel nuts has been absolutely exempted, and the common man is absolutely grateful—there is a chorus of praise about it. But I beg to point out the real reason. The Honourable Minister has carefully added at the end and it is this: that this tax is "administratively difficult to realise." That is the kind of forced and paltry generosity which has been applauded as a fine gesture for the poor. After all,

3 P.M.

what does it mean? A man who eats *pan* can pay for it; *pan* is a kind of luxury, it is not a necessity; but it wastes his teeth and probably the dentists will get more occupation by the exemption on betel nuts. And we have already passed the Dentists Bill, and that is the class of businessmen who will be benefited by the abolition of this tax.

With regard to the export of cloth, he has reduced the tax from six to four annas; thereby he encourages the export of cloth, though we suffer from want of cloth. In fact it is illogical—it benefits some people—not Indians—but outsiders. Then, Sir, I submit that the exemptions, so-called benefits, are hedged in with countervailing 'but's' and 'if's' and conditions which are ill concealed in the Budget speech.

With regard to the tobacco tax, I am not a smoker myself and therefore I am not in a position to appreciate its effect. But I think a man who smokes has a little surplus money and he should not grudge the extra tax. The Honourable Minister might have put it like this—that when a man smokes, or takes a cup of tea or a cup of coffee, he has the patriotic satisfaction that he is helping our National Budget. That is the way he should ask us to forget the little injury that he has inflicted on the smoker or the man taking his cup of tea or coffee.

Sir, the Honourable Minister has not really helped this side or that side—he has attempted to help himself. One Honourable Member, Mr. Chaudhuri from Assam, said yesterday that the Honourable Minister really acted like a magician. He wanted to take everything for himself but nothing to his audience. But I am reminded of a different analogy altogether. I am reminded of the story of a coquetish girl who flirted with several admirers and ultimately disappointed them all. I believe this analogy is more applicable to the Budget speech. I submit that the suggestion of Begum Aizaz Rasul to tax marriages was a humourous hit at the obvious tendency that the Honourable Minister is ready to tax anything and everything. Sir, if marriage is taxed,—I do not know whether the Honourable Minister will not think of it next year—but if marriage is taxed, it will produce a difficulty. Already we find our young men and young women are not very much anxious to marry. If there is this additional barrier imposed on marriages, the tendency will be enhanced. On the other hand if marriage is taxed, logically children should also be taxed; in fact the crying evil today is over-population and under-production—we have less food, less goods. So, production of children should also be regulated. Now State control is going to be introduced in everything and by putting some kind of a tax on children I think the production of children should also be restricted. That way, just as he has been able to produce a balanced Budget, he will be able to produce a balance between the production of children and the production of food and other necessities of life.

Sir, with these few words, according to the custom and tradition established in the House—although I agree that the Budget is nobody's Budget and it satisfies none—yet, according to the convention established in the House, I have to congratulate the Honourable Minister for an excellent Budget. I wish him success this year and I wish him to produce a more vigorous Budget next year which will immediately satisfy everybody but in the long run will disappoint all.

گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر : سبھا پتی جی ! یہ بجٹ پیش کرتے ہوئے ہمارے ارتھ منتری صاحب نے ہندوستان کی ارتھک اوستھا پر جو review کیا ہے - وہ قابل تعریف ہے - آزاد ہندوستان کے پورے سال کی اس پہلے بجٹ میں آنریبل منسٹر نے اس بات کا خیال رکھا ہے کہ کل کا غلام بھارت جو دنیا کی انڈسٹری میں برا backward سمجھا جاتا تھا - اب دوسرے ملکوں کے ساتھ شانہ بشانہ چل سکے اور industrial field میں دنیا کے باقی ملکوں کے ساتھ چلکر ہندوستان بھی مان پراپت کر سکے - انکی یہ جو خوبی ہے یہ واقعی قابل تعریف ہے - انہوں نے اس بجٹ کو ایکسار کرنے کے لئے بڑی قابلیت کے ساتھ حساب لگا کر ہمارے سامنے ایسی شکل میں پیش کیا ہے - کہ ظاہری طور پر تمام اس کی خوبیاں ہی نظر آ رہی ہیں - اس کے اندر جو نقص ہیں وہ سارے مشکل سے نظر آ سکتے ہیں یعنی انکو اس ڈھنگ سے چھپایا گیا ہے کہ انکا پتہ نہیں لگ سکتا - اس بجٹ کو دیکھ کر خوامخواہ میری زبان پر ایک شعر آتا ہے - وہ یہ -

سامنے بیٹھکے اگر دل کو چرائے کوئی
ایسی چوری کا پتہ خاک لگائے کوئی -

یعنی اس طرح سے یہ نقائص چھپائے گئے ہیں کہ انکا پتہ لگانا مشکل ہو گیا ہے - آمدن جو اس بجٹ میں show کی گئی ہے - وہ ۲۵۶.۲۸ کروڑ اور خرچ جو show کیا گیا ہے وہ ۲۵۷.۳۷ کروڑ ہے - یعنی آمدن میں ریلوے کی 4½ کروڑ آمدن ملا کر اسکو بڑھا دیا گیا ہے - لیکن خرچ کی مد میں capital expenditure کو جو کہ defence میں ہے show نہیں کیا گیا ہے - اس کی وجہ سے خرچ میں کمی بتائی گئی ہے - اگر capital expenditure کو خرچ میں جمع کر لیا جائے تو خرچ ۲۷۲.۳۶ کروڑ بن جاتا ہے - اور اگر آمدن میں ریلوے کے 4½ کروڑ نئے لگائے گئے ٹیکسوں کی رقم کو کم کر دیا جائے تو وہ ۲۳۰.۵۲ کروڑ بن جاتا ہے - اسی طرح سے یہ جو بجٹ پیش کیا گیا ہے اور جس میں صرف ایک کروڑ کی کمی بتائی گئی ہے اگر اس کو دیکھا جائے تو اصل میں اسمیں ۴۱.۸۴ کروڑ کی کمی ہے - اب اس کمی کو اگر دیکھا جائے تو معلوم ہوگا کہ اس بجٹ میں جو کمزوریاں تھیں انکو بلوان کرنے کے لئے یعنی پورا کرنے کے لئے اور اسمیں جس خون کی کمی تھی اس خون کو پورا کرنے کے لئے ہمارے ارتھ منتری صاحب نے بہت کچھ کیا ہے - میرے دوستوں نے یہاں پر کہدیا کہ ہمارے فنانس منسٹر صاحب نے غریبوں کی طرف کوئی دھیان نہیں دیا ہے - لیکن مجھے اُن سے اس بات میں اختلاف ہے - انکا دھیان غریبوں کی

[گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر]

طرف ضرور گیا ھے - لیکن اُلٹا گیا ھے - یعنی انہوں نے اس بچت کی اس کمی کو ان غریبوں کے خون سے پورا کرنے کی کوشش کی ھے - جن کے پاس پہلے ھی خون نہیں ھے اور اسکی کمی ھے -

میرے دوستوں نے بہت سی مثالیں اس بارے میں دی ھیں اور اب میں انکو دھرانا نہیں چاھتا ھوں - سگریٹ اور تمباکو پر ٹیکس بڑھایا گیا ھے - اس بارے میں جب آنریبل فنانس منسٹر اپنی تقریر کر رھے تھے - تو میرے ایک بھالی نے انکی تقریر میں سے ایک فقرہ تمباکو پر ٹیکس بڑھانے کے متعلق سن کر ایک مبارکباد کا چٹ مجھکو بھیجدیا اور اسمیں لکھا کہ یہ خالصہ بچت ھے - تو میں نے کہا کہ بیشک خالصہ بچت ھوتا اگر اس ھمارے دشمن تمباکو کو قطعی طور پر ختم کر دیا جاتا - لیکن ٹیکس لگا کر اسکی شان کو اور بھی چمکایا گیا ھے - آنریبل فنانس منسٹر نے ادھر اُدھر ھاتھ مارے ھیں تاکہ وہ اس بچت کو ایک balanced بچت بناویں - آخر تمباکو اور سگریٹ نے ۹ کروڑ روپیہ دیکر انکی امداد کی - اسکا اثر غریبوں پر پڑیگا - بہتر یہ ھوتا کہ وہ ان غریبوں پر اسکا بوجھ نہ ڈالتے -

دیا سلائی کے بارے میں میری گذارش یہ ھے کہ پچھلے سے پچھلے سال اس پر ٹیکس گھٹا کر ڈھائی روپیہ سے پونے دو روپیہ فی گروس کر دیا گیا تھا - اب پھر اس کو ھمارے فنانس منسٹر صاحب نے ڈھائی روپیہ فی گروس کر دیا ھے - اس کو بڑھانے کے لئے جو وجوھات انہوں نے اپنی تقریر میں بتائے ھیں وہ یہ ھیں کہ جب قیمت پہلے کم کر دی گئی تھی تو اس کا فائدہ صرف سرمایہ داروں اور کارخانہ داروں نے اُٹھایا - اور غریبوں کو اس سے کوئی فائدہ نہیں ھوا - اس کا مطلب یہ ھے کہ بندر کی بلا طویلے کے سر - کرے کوئی بھرے کوئی - یعنی سرمایہ داروں کی وجہ سے غریبوں پر اب یہ بوجھ ڈال دیا گیا ھے - مناسب تو یہ ھوتا کہ بجائے اس ٹیکس کو بڑھانے کے اور کسی ڈھنگ سے سرمایہ داروں کو مل رھے فائدے کو غریبوں کے حق میں تبدیل کیا جاتا - دیا سلائی پر ٹیکس بڑھانے سے غریبوں پر خوامخواہ کا اور بوجھ ڈال دیا گیا ھے -

ھمارے فنانس منسٹر ارتھ ساشتر کے بڑے پنڈت ھیں - یہ غریبوں پر بوجھ ڈالنے کے بغیر بھی اور طریقے سوچ سکتے تھے - ان کے پاس اس کے لئے بہت سی مثالیں موجود تھیں - یہ بڑی بڑی تنخواھوں کو کم کر سکتے تھے - میں سمجھتا ھوں کہ اب ھماری یہ اپنی سرکار ھے اس لئے اس میں

سرکار میں جتنے بھی ملازم ھیں ان کی تنخواہ ھمارے منسٹروں سے کسی صورت میں بھی زیادہ نہ ھو - اگر آپ بڑی بڑی تنخواھوں میں کمی کریں گے تو آپ کو معلوم ھو جائے گا کہ اس سے کتنا فائدہ ھو سکتا ھے - یہ تھی ایک بات جو میں گذارش کرنا چاھتا تھا -

دوسری بات جس کی طرف میں خاص طور پر آپ کا دھیان دلانا ضروری سمجھتا ھوں وہ یہ ھے کہ کئی مدوں میں خرچ بہت زیادہ بڑھا دیا گیا ھے - مثلاً پولیس کی مد میں خرچ بڑھا دیا گیا ھے - external Affairs کے خرچ کو بڑھا دیا گیا ھے - براڈ کاسٹنگ میں خرچ کو بڑھا دیا گیا ھے - وغیرہ وغیرہ - میرے پاس زیادہ وقت نہیں ھے - مگر صاحب صدر ! میں آپ کی اجازت سے ایک بات ضرور کہنا چاھتا ھوں وہ یہ کہ پولیس کا خرچ بڑھانے کی وجہ صرف یہ ھو سکتی ھے کہ ھمارے دیش میں internal peace اور آرام ھو - اس بارے میں میں یہ عرض کروں گا کہ دیش کے internal peace اور آرام کی طرف موجودہ حالات کے پیش نظر ھی توجہ دینی چاھئے تھی، ھمارے دیش کے موجودہ حالات ابھی سادھارن نہیں ھیں - میرے کہنے کا مطلب یہ ھے کہ جب تک شرنارتھیوں کو اچھی طرح بسایا نہیں جاتا ، صرف پولیس کے خرچ بڑھانے سے امن نہیں ھو سکتا - شرنارتھیوں کے بسانے اور ریلیف کے لئے پچھلی بچت میں جو کہ صرف آٹھ ماہ کی بچت تھی اسمیں ۲۲ کروڑ روپیہ منظور ھوا تھا - لیکن اسمیں سے صرف ۱۴۰۵۸۹ کروڑ روپیہ خرچ کیا گیا - اور بقایا روپیہ کو ان شرنارتھیوں پر خرچ کرنے کی طرف دھیان نہیں کیا گیا ھے حالانکہ اس کی از حد ضرورت تھی - اس سال یہ مد اور بھی گھٹا کر ۱۵ کروڑ ساڑھے تین لاکھ کر دی گئی ھے اس لئے میں جناب! صدر آپ کی وساطت سے اس ھاؤس کی اور آنریبل فنانس منسٹر کی توجہ خاص طور پر اس طرف دلانا چاھتا ھوں - یہ ٹھیک ھے ھماری سرکار اور ھمارے پرائم منسٹر صاحب نے شرنارتھیوں کے متعلق خاص interest show کیا ھے لیکن اغوا شدہ عورتوں اور پاکستان میں رہ گئے دیگر پیڑتوں کو Rescue پہنچانے کا کام ڈھیلا ھے - اب تک صرف اسی جگہ مدد پہنچائی گئی ھے جہاں سے پتہ لگا ھے کہ وھاں پر پیڑت ھیں - اپنی طرف سے تلاش کر کے ان کو مدد پہنچانے کی کوئی کوشش نہیں کی گئی ھے صرف جہاں سے پتہ لگا ھے وھاں

[گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر]

پر ہی کچھ کیا گیا ہے - مثال کے طور پر عرض کرتا ہوں کہ پنڈت سندرلال نے مجھ کو ایک جگہ فیروزآباد (یو - پی) کے متعلق کہا کہ وہاں کچھ شرنارتھی پنجاب سے آئے ہیں وہاں پہلے سے مسلمان ہندو دونوں مل کر امن سے رہتے ہیں - انہوں نے کہا کہ وہاں کے شرنارتھیوں کی حالت کو سدھارنے اور امن کا اپدیش دینے کی ضرورت ہے - چنانچہ پچھلی اتوار کو میں وہاں گیا اور وہاں پر میں نے لوگوں سے امن کی اپیل کی - ایک آدمی نہال چند جو ضلع گوجرانوالہ West Punjab سے آیا تھا - میرے نزدیک آیا - اس کی آنکھوں میں آنسوں تھے اور وہ مجھے رو کر کہنے لگا کہ آپ ہم کو شانتی کےلئے کہتے ہیں اور کہتے ہیں کہ شانتی کی جائے - یہ ٹھیک ہے - ہمارے جو آدمی مارے گئے وہ تو مر گئے - لیکن ہماری جو نوجوان لڑکیاں ظالموں کے قبضے میں ہیں ان کو چھڑانے کے لئے ہماری سرکار نے کیا کچھ کیا ہے - اس کے بارے میں ان کی ایک چٹھی بھی میرے پاس ہے - لیکن میں اس پوری چٹھی کو اسمبلی کے ریکارڈ میں نہیں لانا چاہتا ہوں - مگر پھر بھی اتنا ضرور کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ یہ جو واقعہ میں سنا رہا ہوں یہ لاہور کے نزدیک کا واقعہ ہے - یہ چٹھی نہال چند کی لڑکی نے ہندی میں اپنے ہاتھ سے لکھ کر بھیجی ہے - اس چٹھی کے کچھ فقرے یہ ہیں - اس لڑکی کا نام پونتس کور ہے - یہ لڑکی اپنے باپ کو لکھتی ہے "میں آپ کو پانچ چٹھیاں ڈال چکی ہوں - میرا دل بہت اُداس ہے اور یہ بھی خط لکھ رہی ہوں کہ بھرجائی راج رانی اب کے پاس آئی ہے یا نہیں میرے نصیب تو پہلے ہی دن سے پھوٹ گئے تھے جبکہ آپ سے بچھڑ گئی تھی اور اب تو سات مہینے بچھڑے ہوئے ہو گئے ہیں ابھی اور نہ جانے کتنے سال بیت جائیں گے جیسے ہو مجھے یہاں سے آکر لے جائیں" نہال چند کی اس لڑکی کا اب انہوں نے خورشید بیگم نام رکھا ہے یہ ۱۶ سال کی کنواری لڑکی ہے - نہال چند کی ایک بہن ہرکور بھی اُسی جگہ ہے جس کا نام اب مختیار بیگم ہے - رشتہ داروں میں چونی لال کا نام چراغ دین کندن لال کا علم دین ہے اسی طرح نوشہرہ ورکاں اور کہارا گاؤں کے ۴۰ آدمی ہیں جو زبردستی مسلمان کر کے رکھے گئے ہیں -

صاحب صدر! یہ جس گاؤں کا ذکر میں کر رہا ہوں وہ لاہور سے کچھ دور نہیں ہے - جب ہمارے پرائم منسٹر صاحب جالندھر گئے تھے تو ان کے سامنے وہ بوڑھی بوڑھی عورتیں پیش کی گئی جن کو پاکستان سے واپس لایا گیا - پاکستان سے جو عورتیں واپس بھی کی جا رہی ہیں وہ صرف بوڑھی عورتیں ہیں جو اپنے بوڑھاپے کی وجہ سے وہاں بیٹھی رہیں اغوا شدہ نوجوان لڑکیاں کم واپس ہو رہی ہیں - ضروری ہے کہ ہم نوجوان لڑکیوں کا پتہ لگائیں - اگر یہ ٹھیک ہے تو جناب والا میں عرض کرونگا کہ اب خالی وعدوں سے کام

پورا نہیں ہو سکتا پاکستان والے وعدے بڑے کرتے ہیں :-

وعدہ تو آساں ہے مگر وعدے کی وفا مشکل ہے
جن کے رتبے ہیں سوا انکے سوا مشکل ہے

اس وقت اس کی ضرورت ہے کہ اس طرف زیادہ دھیان دیا جائے - کیونکہ یہ برا ناسور جبتک ہمارے ہندوستان کے ان لوگوں کے اندر رہے گا جن کی لڑکیاں آجتک پاکستان میں ہیں اور ان کے والدین - ماتا پتا یہاں ہیں تو ان والدین اور ماتا - پتا کو نیند نہیں آ سکتی - اگر وہ لڑکیاں مر گئی ہوتی تو دوسری بات تھی مگر زندگی میں کوئی کسی کو نہیں بھول سکتا میرے پاس صاحب صدر! اس کی بہت سی مثالیں ہیں جن کو میں پیش کر سکتا ہوں مگر میں ہاؤس کا زیادہ وقت نہیں لینا چاہتا ہوں ان الفاظ کے ساتھ تقریر ختم کرتا ہوں - اگر کچھ زیادہ وقت میں نے لے لیا ہو تو اس کی ہاؤس اور آپ سے معافی چاہتا ہوں -

(English translation of the above speech)

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir (East Punjab: Sikh): Mr. Speaker. The review made by the Honourable the Finance Minister on the financial position of India while presenting this Budget is very commendable. The Honourable Minister while framing this first Budget of free India for the full year has kept in view that India which was till lately under the foreign yoke and considered as the most backward in the industrial world may now be able to keep pace with other countries; and thus it may command respect in the industrial field along with other countries of the world. The qualities are really praise-worthy. For balancing this Budget he has shown great ability in presenting it in this shape before us after making elaborate calculations so that all its good points may be apparent. The defects contained in the Budget are hardly obvious. These have been camouflaged in such a manner that they cannot be noticed. After seeing this Budget I am just reminded of one couplet, *i.e.*,

"Samne beth kar yar dil ko chorai koi
aisi chori ka pata khak lagai koi."

(If one sitting before you steals your heart, it would be a mockery to find out the thief.")

These defects have been concealed in such a way that it is difficult to spot them. The revenue and expenditure in this Budget is Rs. 256:28 and 257:37 crores respectively *i.e.*, the revenue has been increased by Rs. 4½ crores representing the contribution from Railway revenues. But under the Expenditure Head the Capital Expenditure which relates to the Defence Department has not been shown. On account of this, reduction in expenditure has been explained. If the Capital Expenditure is included in the 'Expenditure', then the amount under the latter head would come to Rs. 272·36 crores. And in case the contribution from Railway revenues amounting to Rs. 45 crores and the additional revenue from the taxes proposed in the Budget is reduced from the total amount of revenues, then it comes to Rs. 230·52 crores. It therefore, follows from this that actually there is a deficit of Rs. 41·84 crores in this Budget, and not Rs. 1·09 crores as explained. Now referring to this deficit, it would be observed that the Honourable Minister for Finance has done a great deal to make good the shortcomings existing in this Budget and infuse blood in it so as to cure it of anemia. My friends here have pointed out that the Honourable Minister has not looked after the poor. But I differ from them

[Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar]

in this respect. He has certainly paid attention to the poor, but in the reverse direction *i.e.*, he has tried to cover the deficit in this Budget from poor people's blood who already lack it and are suffering from anemia.

My friends have cited many examples in this connection and I do not want to repeat them now. The tax has been increased on cigarettes and tobacco. When the Honourable Ministr was delivering his speech in this connection one of my friends after hearing a sentence in his speech which referred to the levy of tax on tobacco sent me a chit conveying felicitations. It was written therein that it was a Khalsa Budget. —On this I remarked that it would have been undoubtedly a Khalsa Budget had this tobacco—which we regard as our enemy—been totally wiped off. But by the imposition of tax it has been given further importance. The Honourable Minister has tried to explore all avenues so as to make this a balanced Budget. Ultimately tobacco and cigarettes came to his rescue by yielding a revenue of about Rs. nine crores. This will hit the poor adversely. It would have been better if he had not put the burden of incidence on the poor.

As regards matches, I may submit that in the Budget for the year before last (1946-47) the excise duty on Matches was reduced from Rs. 2/8/- to Rs. 1/12/- per gross. Now again our Honourable the Finance Minister has increased this duty to Rs. 2/8/- per gross. The reasons explained by him in his speech in support of this increase are that when previously the price was reduced, the benefit accrued to the capitalists and factory owners only and was not passed on to the poor consumers. It means "to rob Peter and pay Paul", and this burden has now been thrown on the poor. It would have been more appropriate if instead of increasing this tax the profits accruing to the capitalists would have been utilized in some manner for the benefit of poor. The increase in excise duty in matches has resulted in the imposition of unnecessary burden on the poor. Our Finance Minister is a great authority on Economics. He could have devised some other means without burdening the poor. He knows many ways of doing so. He could have reduced the big salaries. I feel that now it is our own Government. Therefore it should at least be seen that the salaries of all its employees should not in any case exceed those drawn by our Ministers. If you reduce the big salaries you will be able to assess the extent of saving resulting out of this. This was one thing which I wanted to mention.

The second thing to which I would like to invite your attention in particular is that there is a heavy increase in expenditure under certain heads. For example expenditure has been increased under the head 'Police'. The expenditure relating to 'External Affairs' and 'Broadcasting' Departments has been increased: and so on. There is not much time at my disposal, but Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to say that the obvious reason for an increase in expenditure under Police may be that there should be internal peace and rest in the country. In this connection I would say that attention must be paid towards the internal peace and rest in the country only after keeping in view the present conditions. Normal conditions have not yet been restored in our country. What I mean to say is that so long as the refugees are not satisfactorily rehabilitated, the mere increase in the 'Police' Expenditure cannot help in the maintenance of peace. A sum of Rs. 22 crores was sanctioned in the last Budget which was for eight months only for the resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees. Out of this only Rs. 14·89 crores was spent and no steps have been taken to spend the balance of this amount for refugees. Although it was very vitally needed. This year the expenditure under this head has been further reduced to Rs. 10·04 crores—Therefore, Mr. Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the special attention of the Honourable Minister and the House to this aspect. It is true that our Government and the Honourable Prime Minister has shown great interest.

in the refugees. But the organization for the rescue of abducted women and the evacuation of refugees left in Pakistan is moving at a slow pace. Uptil now aid has been rushed to those places only where it is known that the refugees are stranded. No efforts have been made to search them out and render them necessary assistance. Some action has been taken only in respect of those places which came to notice. For example I would submit that Pandit Sunder Lal told me that in Ferozabad a place in U.P., some refugees had come from Punjab. The Hindus and Muslims were living there peacefully for long. He suggested that it was considered necessary to ameliorate the condition of the refugees living there and also to preach them harmony. Thus I happened to visit that place on Sunday last and I made an appeal to the people there to promote peace. A man named Nihal Chand who was a resident of Gujranwala District in the West Punjab approached me. His eyes were full of tears. He broke down and said that if I was exhorting them to live peacefully, it was right, as people who have been murdered are finished. But what action has our Government taken to rescue our young girls who are in the captivity of the cruel men. I have received a letter from him in this connection. But I do not wish to place the whole contents of that letter on the record of the Assembly. But even then I would say that the incident which I am narrating took place near Lahore. This letter has been sent by Nihal Chand's daughter, written in Hindi in her own hand writing. Here are some sentences from this letter. The name of this girl is Harbans Kaur. She writes to her father as follows:

"I have sent you five letters. I am feeling very sad. Kindly do write me a letter if sister-in-law Raj Rani has since met you or not. My fate was doomed from the very first day when I was separated from you. Now seven months have elapsed since I was separated from you. God knows how many years more will pass. Please come and rescue me from this place in any manner."

They have now renamed this daughter of Nihal Chand as Khurshaid Begum. She is a virgin aged 16 years. Nihal Chand's sister named Har Kaur is also kept there who has now been renamed as Mukhtiar Begum. Amongst the relations, the names of Chuni Lal and Kundan Lal had been changed to Chiragh Din and Ilam Din. Similarly there are about 40 people belonging to the villages of Naushera Virkan and Khar who have been forcibly converted to Islam and kept there.

Mr. Speaker, the village to which I am referring is not very far from Lahore. When our Honourable Prime Minister last went to Jullundur, aged women were brought before him who were recovered from Pakistan. The women who are being returned from Pakistan are only aged ones who continued to stay there on account of their old age. Very few abducted young girls are being returned. It is quite imperative that we should trace the abducted young girls. If this is true, Sir, then I must submit that mere blank promises won't serve the purpose now. The Pakistanis are used to make many such promises.

'Waida to asan hai' magar waide ki vafa mushkil hai:
Jin ka ruthe hen sava un ka sava mushkil hai.

This is necessary at this juncture. More attention should be paid to this aspect. Because so long as this canker of grief exists in the hearts of those people living in India whose young girls are left in Pakistan today and their fathers and mothers are here, those parents can never rest. It would have been a different matter had those girls died. But it is difficult to forget anyone in life. Mr. Speaker, I know of many instances which I can quote but I do not want to take much time of the House. With these words I close my speech. I must apologize to you and the House if I have taken somewhat more time.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya (Mysore State): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Honourable friend, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru said that there was leakage of budget secrets. Of course, he did not level the charge personally against the Minister or the Ministry as such. If that had been so, it would have been a very serious matter. But many of us, after that allegation was made thought over the matter and discussed with each other and I may say with the approval of many of my friends that no such rumour has reached our ears. I do not know where the Honourable Pandit Kunzru gathered this piece of information and if he has gathered such an information—I know he is a very truthful and honourable man—it is for him to pursue the matter and to bring to book the offender whoever it may be whether an official or a non-official.

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Minister was the very first person in India who brought the question of sterling balances for the consideration of the public and all credit in this behalf is due to him. It is good luck that our National Government has his services at this juncture, when the question of negotiations of sterling balances is being taken on hand by the Government of India and the Government of U.K.

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Minister being a man of such ability, knowledge and experience, we expect him to secure for us a better agreement than the one he has been able to get us so far. I learn that the United Kingdom has in principle agreed to allow Argentina to purchase British investments and assets in that country. I would suggest the same procedure to be followed in the case of India also in its negotiations with the United Kingdom. There are very many companies, firms and some mines owned by British capital and if we are able to buy them out of our sterling balances, I feel that our financial position would to a very great extent become beneficial to the country. Particularly, in Mysore State, Sir, there is a gold mine and it is owned by a British firm and the Government of India and the Government of Mysore if they think together and are able to purchase this gold mine, we will be able to have what is called the "bullion", which is very much in demand in the international market. To possess gold is to possess currency which we can cash in any part of the world. We are very greatly in need of purchasing for the purpose of industrialization and other production various kinds of machinery from America and European countries. It is therefore better that we proceed along these lines and acquire gold that is produced in the country for ourselves. The Honourable Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar made a point that members of this House should be associated with the negotiations and in a way another member answered that such associations in fact took place. I would suggest, Sir, that the association may be a formal one instead of an informal one. If the Honourable the Finance Minister selects some members of the House for the purpose, they would be able to make a study of it and when the occasion arises, they may be able to render such help as may be found to be necessary. It is such kind of formal association with these negotiations that we want and not the kind of informal ones that my other friend put forth. The Finance Minister very appropriately and feelingly referred to Mahatma Gandhi in the beginning of his speech and I want to make a suggestion in connection with that Prophet's name. It is usual to print some picture on our stamps, postal as well as general and on coins also. Why should we not take advantage of this occasion and print Mahatma Gandhi's picture both on the stamps, postal as well as general, on coins and on currency notes. Yesterday we went to the Postal Stamps Exhibition and there we found in the catalogue of the Department stamps being described as our tiny ambassadors, who carry the name, fame, art and culture of our country all over the world. If that is so, Sir, we cannot find a better symbol in the whole world than Mahatma Gandhi's bust for the purpose of imprinting on the coins, notes and stamps. I would respectfully urge the Ministry to take this suggestion and carry it out. I am sure all the Members, and in fact the whole country will applaud this suggestion.

Then, Sir, the question of capital was raised incidentally today. For most of us, at any rate, from South India, Bengal and other far off places it is our considered opinion that capital must be shifted from this place to some other place. We are not fanatics as to say that it must be located in our province or in anybody's province. Let the Constitutent Assembly or a Committee of it or let a committee of this House consider this question and select a suitable place from the point of view of climate as well as strategy. Here, Sir, in Delhi out of 12 months the climate is tolerable and pleasant only for 2 months. The rest of ten months either we have to sweat or shiver and that is not a congenial atmosphere for us to do any honest or hard work. I do not know whether that is responsible for the inefficiency and delay that is alleged against the Secretariat in the Government of India. At any rate, Sir, this is a matter for very serious consideration, for most members feel very strongly on the matter that the question of shifting of the capital from Delhi to some other suitable place must be immediately gone into by our leaders and by the Ministry. It is alarming for us to see that nearly 3¼ crores of rupees is allotted in the budget for the purpose of capital outlay of the city. Let it be there, but that should be the nucleus for building a new capital somewhere else.

Sir, it was hitherto the policy of the Congress that prohibition should be introduced throughout the length and breadth of India and in obedience to the Congress ideal, Provinces and States are introducing prohibition, some by stages and some at a stretch. I do not understand why in Delhi, where the Congress High Command rules, prohibition has not yet been introduced; not only Delhi, Sir, there are centrally administered areas like Coorg, Ajmer-Merwara and other places. I do not understand—and our leaders owe an explanation to this House and the country—why prohibition has not been introduced in the areas in which they directly rule.

Kunwar Shamsher Jang (Residency States Group): Mr. Speaker, Sir I hail from Bundelkhand, where the betel nut is very great use and therefore I hasten to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Minister for lifting the duty on betel nut; because Bundelkhand would be greatly benefited by this move. There has been a feeling outside the House that the policy of Government is dictated by Tata's and Birla's and a perusal of the budget strengthens that belief.

[*At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (one of the panel of Chairmen).*]

I have gone through the budget very carefully and minutely but I have been unable to find any provision for the benefit of the common man. There have been reliefs given, as several speakers before me have said, but these reliefs go mostly to the richer classes. It has been rightly observed by the Finance Minister that the primary need of the hour is to stimulate production, but I am afraid the means by which he wishes to do that will not take us very far. The only solution of this problem lies in the satisfaction of labour; if labour is satisfied production will *ipso facto* increase. But how can labour be satisfied? To my mind there is only one solution. Labour can only be satisfied if it is assured that it will become owner of the Industry, by process and in course of time. That is the only way out. This three years' truce or some settlement here and there will not do.

Looking at the expenditure side I feel that the budget is a top-heavy budget. There are so many Secretaries, so many Under and Deputy Secretaries, and so on, but it seems that the man who is the hardest hit in the office—the Babu or the clerk—is not getting any benefit, with the result that there is corruption prevalent in almost every department of the Government of India; and we cannot blame them because we cannot expect honesty, dignity and perseverance on the part of men getting Rs. 100, a month or less. I would therefore draw

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the attention of the Honourable the Finance Minister to the fact that the clerks are very much oppressed while the men sitting above them are getting more and more.

I am glad that an amount of 10 crores has been ear-marked for relief and rehabilitation of refugees, but I have very grave doubts as to whether that amount will be rightly spent and used. I have had very sad experience of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, and I can say without fear of contradiction that the whole machinery is full of corruption, jobbery and red-tapism. I for one believe that any amount spent by the Government of India will not benefit the refugee,—the really needy man,—unless the whole system is overhauled in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. There is a department in this Ministry which is known as the Fact-finding Department. This department was introduced about five months ago and the primary duty of this department was to collect facts regarding losses, atrocities and other things. But so far as my information goes this department has not been able to go very far. Out of 27,000 villages involved in this trouble I am told—though I am open to correction—that only 400 villages have been touched so far. with the result that we have got no material and no background and nothing to show and say to the Security Council against the accusations made by Pakistan against India. I do not know how the U.N.O. delegation is doing their job without these facts. So far as my information goes they are collecting facts now but it is now too late. This is a great need and a genuine need that this fact-finding department of the Rehabilitation Ministry should be strengthened and brought on proper lines, because that department would give us a history which would be of great propaganda value in foreign countries and which would be our record for the future.

Lastly, I was pleased to find the name of the Father of the Nation mentioned in the beginning of the budget speech, which was unfortunately omitted by the Finance Minister in his previous budget speech. But I am sorry to note that nothing has been provided for the uplift of the *Harijans*. That is one thing which should have pleased the Father of the Nation most, as the *Harijans* were his beloved children; and I am therefore sad to find that a budget presented just four weeks after his tragic death should have no provision for the *Harijans*. By this omission, I feel, the soul of Bapu would be in distress. I beseech the Honourable Finance Minister kindly to consider this question.

Madame, I will not take more time of the House but I should like to draw the Honourable Finance Minister's attention to what was said my by Honourable friend Begum Aizaz Rasul that marriages should be taxed; I am sure that will bring crores of rupees to the Government exchequer, but at the same time I must say that the Honourable Minister for Supply should be ready with a Marriage Bureau; to facilitate at least the members of this house.

Shri S. Nijalingappa (Bombay: General): The Honourable Finance Minister has presented a budget which has received abundance of criticism and compliments. Like the tight rope dancer he has tried to keep a balance and succeeded in doing so.

Madam, as I went through the budget speech, one discomforting fact was that we are spending out of an annual income of Rs. 256 crores an amount of Rs. 186 crores for our defence. That is nearly 53 per cent. It is a paradox that a country which has gained its freedom without firing a shot and with truth and non-violence as its shield and spear, should expend so much for protecting itself. Perhaps situated as we are, and times being critical and politics in the world anything but satisfactory and nations all round filled with greed, avarice and suspicion, it is but natural and desirable that we have to expend this large amount on our defences. So we must pass by that portion of the budget.

The next important point is the States. I take this opportunity of congratulating the States Ministry and its shrewd and practical head, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the way in which the States have been managed. The British, when they left India, left the matter of the States in a mess. It was most complicated and most of the reactionary Rulers were unwilling to be guided by any nationalist instincts. But the matter has been so well managed that most of the smaller States are disappearing and many have already disappeared.

In this connection I would like to say that I am not very happy over the way in which some Unions are being set up here and there. Unions are likely to continue autocracy in the States. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry concerned, and in particular of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, that a resolution has been passed at a meeting in Udaipur in January 1946, presided over by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to the effect that States with a population of 50 lakhs and a revenue of three crores only should be allowed to be parts of the Federation. I think that principle may be adopted and the smaller States merged.

And in this connection I have to state that the Princes also should now realize that their continuance will be tolerated only if they move with the national current, and the test by which they will be judged is to what extent they can serve the interests of India and the people of the States. If they fail in that test, they stand to lose. I am glad that most of the Princes, especially some of the bigger States, like Mysore and Gwalior, have moved with the times and granted responsible Government. But the only fly in the ointment is Hyderabad. The people in Hyderabad are suffering untold miseries. In the last eight months they have put up a magnificent fight against a most autocratic rule and what is happening today is worse than what it was at the beginning of the year, and especially the standstill agreement which was entered into between the Indian Government and the Hyderabad State Government, instead of helping the people of the State I am sorry to say, has strengthened the hands of the reactionary Government. They with their Ittihad-ul-i-Mussalmien and other reactionary groups are doing uncalled for things. There is no justice, no order or law in the State. In fact, one Minister, Mr. Ramachar and thirteen Councillors have resigned and I am glad to say that lawyers, who have great respect for law—have decided to suspend practice in Hyderabad as an indication that there is no respect for any law or order in Hyderabad and this is having repercussions outside. The way in which arson, loot and rape is being committed is well known. I will take this opportunity of giving my personal experience.

In the third week of January I was touring in some of the areas of Bijapur district, adjoining Hyderabad. In the village I met a woman. She was sitting with two children. She had youth. She had looks. She was downtrodden. She was helpless and crying. I made enquiries. The story that I heard from her was something I cannot narrate here. I felt it very much and when we asked her to go to a place of refuge, she said she was unable to walk. What has happened is better imagined than said.

So these things are happening every day and I wish the Ministry will immediately solve this problem. It is an all-India problem and I am sure it will receive the attention of the Ministry.

The next point I want to deal with is the question of production. Of course the Minister has drawn the attention of the House to the necessity of production. True it must be increased but the psychological approach of the Minister has always been in favour, throughout his budget speech, of centralization of industry, by starting big industries. In a country like ours, where 90 per cent of the people live in rural areas, under conditions which are sub-human, unless we make their living worthwhile, and create opportunities for them to

[Shri S. Nijalingappa]

earn better, this talk of starting factories and of production, is not going to solve the problem. Therefore, when we stand by Gandhiji's principles and when we offer lip-service to him, the only practical way is to encourage decentralisation of industries. There is a large amount of work to be done and I am sure if decentralization is accepted as a policy, much of the evil of the fight between capital and labour will disappear.

I have to take the opportunity to tell the House that there are lakhs of Congress workers who are excellent organisers and who, if given an opportunity, can do the work in the villages and organise village industries.

From my own experience, in a village a man who lost his all in the 1942 struggle, is working in that village and since his coming, not a single case of trouble has gone outside that village. Not an ounce of cow-dung or night-soil is wasted. The people have increased production. The villagers there have made up their mind to see that they do not purchase any cloth from outside and that they become self-sufficient in all things of life.

So that amount of energy is with us, which can be utilised and canalised for the uplift of the village industry.

Lastly, I wish to say a word about the centrally administered areas. Though Coorg has a Legislative Council, it is not well-treated by the Centre, whereas places like Delhi, Piploda and Ajmere-Merwara are receiving help from the Centre. But Coorg is getting very little help and I agree that prohibition must be introduced there. I happened to have gone there and I must say that the drinking evil is so abnormal there that the sooner prohibition is introduced there the better.

Now about Delhi. I entirely agree with the sentiments expressed both by Mr. Chettiar and Mr. Hanumanthia. Delhi from no point of view deserves to be the capital of India and I wish there should be another place selected and that will be called Gandhinagar.

श्री दामोदर स्वरुप सेठ : स्पीकर साहब, कुछ ऐसा दस्तूर सा हो गया है कि सालभर में जब हमारा सालाना बजट सामने आता है तो बजट पर बहस करते हुए आम तौर से फाईनेन्स मिनिस्टर पर चारो तरफ से बधाई और मुबारक-बाद की बौछार होती है। मैं चाहता था कि इस दस्तूर में मैं भी शरीक होता अगर बजट का मतलब सिर्फ इतना ही होता कि साल भर के बाद आमदनी और खर्च के आंकडों की एक तस्वीर हमारे सामने रख दी जाय, गरीब और अध भूखे लोगों के पेट की रोटी छीन कर पूंजीपतियों की थैलियों में और पैसे जमा कर दिये जायें। लेकिन मैं समझता हूं कि दोसौ वर्ष की गुलामी का जुआ उतार फेंकने के बाद आजाद हिन्दुस्तान में, उसकी आजादी के पहले सालाना बजट में कुछ खास प्रोविजन (provision) होना चाहिए था कि हिन्दुस्तान के लाखों भूखे आदमियों के पेट भरने को रोटी, लाखों नंगे आदमियों के बदन को ढकने के लिये कपड़ा देने, हजारों और लाखों उन भाइयों को जो बिना दवा और इलाज के अपनी जान तोड़-तोड़ कर मर जाते हैं उनकी दवा और इलाज का इस बजट में खास इन्तजाम होना चाहिये था और प्रबन्ध होना चाहिये था पर लोगों के खर्च के बोझ को हलका करने को, बीच के लोगों के और कोमन मैन (comman man जिसकी हर तरफ दूहाई दी जाती

है, उसके स्टैन्डर्ड आफलिविंग (standard of living) को, रहन सहन के स्तर को ऊंचा करने का। इस दृष्टि से अगर हम इस बजट को देखते हैं तो हमें सिवा निराशा के, सिवा मायूसी के और किसी चीज का सामना नहीं दिखाई देता। फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब को इस बात का पता होगा कि यूपी के सब से मशहूर और पुराना नेशनलिस्ट अखबार 'नेशनल हेरल्ड' ने बजट पर रायजनी करते हुए इस बजट को कैपिटलिस्ट बजट के नाम से पुकारा है। इतना ही नहीं इस अखबार ने आगे चल कर लिखा है कि यह बजट उस बजट का जो हमारे पिछले फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर लियाकत अली साहब ने पेश किया था जवाब है। जहां लियाकतअली साहब के बजट में अमीरों की भरी हुई थैलियों में से कुछ पैसा निकाल कर गरीबों के पेट में डालने की कोशिश की थी वहां इस बजट में अधमरे और अधभूखे लोगों के पेट के टुकड़े निकाल कर अमीरों की भरी हुई थैलियों में और पैसा जमा करने की कोशिश की है।

आप देखिये इस बजट में एक तरफ पूंजीपतियों के साथ काफी रियायत की गयी है, एक्सेस प्राफिट टैक्स (Excess Profits Tax) तो आखिर बृटिश फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर खत्म कर ही चुके लेकिन उसका क़रीब बारह करोड़ रुपया अब तक वसूली में पड़ा हुआ है। यह काबिलियत का सुबूत है हमारे इनकमटैक्स डिपार्टमेंट (Income Tax Department) का नए बिजनैस प्राफिट् टैक्स (Business Profit Tax) की प्रिलिमिनरीज् (Preliminaries) अभी तय नहीं हुई हैं, और उसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि वह उठा कर ४८-४९ के बजट में डाल दिया गया। उसके एबेटमेण्ट (abatement) की हद एक लाख से दो लाख कर दिया गया है और टैक्स की दर को सिर्फ दस फीसदी रख दिया गया है। सुपरटैक्स (super-tax) की सीमा लिमिट (limit) उपार्ज़ित और अनोपार्जित दोनों तरह की आय पर साढ़े तीन लाख तक बढ़ादी गई है। एक तरफ बड़े-बड़े लोगों के साथ, पूंजीपतियों के साथ यह किया जाता दूसरी तरफ जैसा कि हाउस को मालूम है चाय पर, काफी पर मैचिज् पर सिगरेट और तम्बाकू पर अप्रत्यक्ष टैक्स (tax) की वृद्धि हो गई है। इस तरह एक तरफ हम देखते हैं कि जिनको पैसे की कमी नहीं है जिन को दुनिया की हर तरह की सहूलियतें हासिल हैं उनको और सहूलियतें दी जा रही हैं। और दूसरी तरफ जो भूखे मर रहे हैं जिनके पास पैसा नहीं है जिनको अपनी जिन्दगी का निर्वाह करना दुर्लभ हो रहा है उनके ऊपर इन्डायरेक्ट टैक्स (indirect tax) लगाया जा रहा है, और अप्रत्यक्ष कर इन्डायरेक्ट टेक्स (indirect tax) जैसा कि आनरेबुल मेम्बर महसूस करेंगे, एक अनपोपुलेरिटी (unpopularity) का कारण होता है, जिससे जनता में बेचैनी फैलती है। इस तरह के बजट से मुल्क

[श्री दामोदर स्वरूप सेठ]

को किसी प्रकार सन्तोष नहीं होना चाहिये। हमारे एक भाई ने अभी कहा है कि इस बजट के जरिए से इन्टरनेशनल वर्ल्ड (international world) में हमारी साख कायम हो गई है। मुझे दुःख है इस बात का कि हम कुछ जरूरत से ज्यादा इन्टरनेशनलिस्ट (internationalist) हो गये हैं। हमें पहले देखना है कि जो बजट हमारे फाईनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब ने रक्खा है उसकी साख हमारे मुल्क में क्या है। हमारी जनता उसे किस दृष्टि से देखती है। जनता के लोग इस बजट को किस दृष्टि से देखते हैं। क्या इसमें वह अपने लिये कुछ सहूलियत महसूस करते हैं। मैं देखता हूं मुझे रोज जनता के बीच में जाने का अवसर मिलता है। आज़ाद होने के बाद हमारी जनता यह महसूस ही नहीं कर रही है कि हिन्दुस्तान आजाद हो गया इसमें कोई नया दौर शुरु हो गया है। इसमें स्वराज्य या आज़ादी की हवा है। मैंने बड़े बड़े जल्सों में लोगों से बात की है, लोगों से पूछा है कि क्या आपको मालूम है कि हिन्दुस्तान आज़ाद हो गया? क्या आपको मालूम हो गया कि अंगरेज हिन्दुस्तान से चले गये। वह कहते हैं— हम सुनते हैं कि अंगरेज हिन्दुस्तान से चले गये, हम सुनते हैं कि स्वराज्य हो गया मालूम नहीं हुआ है या नहीं। यह हालत है हमारी जनता की। और जनता कैसे महसूस करती कि यहां कोई नया दौर शुरू हुआ है। इसे महसूस कराने का सबसे अच्छा तरीका यह था कि इस बजट में लोगों को ऊंचा उठाने के लिये उनकी गरीबी को दूर करने के लिये, उनके खाने पहनने का इन्तज़ाम करने के लिये और सबसे बढ़कर कामनमैन (common man) के स्टैन्डर्ड (standard) को ऊंचा करने के लिये खास प्रोविज़न (provision) होता। —लेकिन जैसा मैंने अर्ज़ किया है, इस किस्म की कोई खास बात इसमें नहीं है। जो रियायतें पूंजीपतियों को दी गई हैं उनके सम्बन्ध में कहा गया है कि वह इसलिये दी गई हैं ताकि उपज, प्रोडक्शन (production) को इम्पीटस (impetus) मिले, उसे इन्सैन्टिव (incentive) मिले। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि लोग इस प्रकार की परस्पर विरोधी बातें क्यों करते हैं। अगर हमें प्रोडक्शन (production) बढ़ाना है तो क्या पूंजीपतियों की जेबों में कुछ पैसा डालने से वह बढ़ जायगी। प्रोडक्शन (production) कौन बढ़ाता है। श्रम करने वाले लेबरर्ज़ (labourers) होते हैं। मज़दूर होते हैं उनको इन्सेन्टिव (incentive) देना चाहिये हर तरह का। आज के हमारे मज़दूर आज से दस बरस, बीस बरस पहले के मजदूरों की तरह से बेज़बान नहीं हैं। वह जब देखेंगे कि एक तरफ आप पूंजीपतियों के साथ रियायतें कर रहे हैं, उनकी जेबें भर रहे हैं तो बजाय प्रोडक्शन (production) बढ़ाने के, मुझे डर है कि प्रोडक्शन (production) और घटेगी उनकी कोशिश होगी कि जब मालिकों को माली फायदा होता है तो उसमें हमारा हिस्सा भी होना चाहिये और ऐसा न होने पर हड़तालें बढ़ सकती हैं और इन्डस्ट्रियल ट्रूस (industrial truce) जो हम लोगों ने कायम करना चाहा है वह कामयाब न होगा। यदि हम चाहते

हैं कि इन्डस्ट्रियल पीस (industrial peace) कायम हो, हम चाहते हैं कि और प्रोडक्शन (production) बढ़े, तो उसका एक ही तरीका है और वह यह है कि मज़दूरों को ज्यादा से ज्यादा ऐसोसियेट (associate) किया जाये प्रबन्ध (management) के साथ। उन्हें ज्यादा से ज्यादा अधिकार दिये जायें कारखानों के काम में यहां तक कि मालिक और मजदूरों का फर्क बिलकुल मिट जाय। यहां तक कि पैदा करने वालों और खर्च करने वालों का फर्क बिलकुल मिट जाय, यानी एक तरह से समाज का जो मौजूदा ढांचा है वह गरीबों की, मेहनत करने वालों की, मेहनत के आधार पर कायम हो। और गांधी जी के शब्दों में एक नया समाज कायम हो। एक नया सोशल स्ट्रक्चर (social structure) कायम हो जिसकी बुनियाद ईमानदारी, न्याय और श्रम होगी। जब तक इस किस्म का नया समाज हम नहीं बनायेंगे और जो लोग दौलत पैदा करते हैं उनके हाथ में हम सत्ता नहीं देंगे, ताकत नहीं देंगे, उस वक्त तक प्रोडक्शन (production) नहीं बढ़ सकता। आज की दुनियां में जिस चीज की जरूरत है वह यह कि दौलत पैदा करने के जो साधन हैं उनको खाली नेशनलाइज (nationalise) ही करने की जरूरत नहीं है, जरूरत इस बात की है उन्हें सोशलाइज (socialise) किया जाय, ताकि वह साधन उनके हाथों में आए जो दौलत उत्पन्न करने वाले हैं। तब दुनिया में अमन हो सकता है और तब हिन्दुस्तान की सच्चे मानों में हिन्दुस्तान में ही नहीं दुनियां के अन्दर साख कायम हो सकती है।

इन चन्द शब्दों के साथ मैं अपने इस कथन को समाप्त करता हूं।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Damodar Swarup Seth (U. P.: General): Mr. Chairman, it has become our practice that every year when our annual Budget is presented the Honourable Finance Minister is greeted with great enthusiasm from every corner of the House as the Budget is discussed. I should like to have participated in this practice had this Budget not been aiming at providing more money for the capitalists at the cost of the poor, and simply presented the figures of income and expenditure only for that year. It was expected that after overthrowing the two hundred year old foreign yoke Independent India's first annual Budget was going to disclose some special provisions. It should have provided for sufficient food for the millions of our starving men; it should have provided for sufficient cloth for the million of our needy men; it should have also provided for adequate medical aid for thousands of those who die a dog's death without being looked after or cared for. Then this Budget should have provided for decreasing the burden on the people; it should have also aimed at raising the standard of living of the middle class and the common man about whom we hear so much. If the Budget is looked at from this angle we find nothing but disappointment in it. The Honourable Finance Minister may be aware that the leading daily Nationalist Paper of U.P. the *National Herald* while commenting upon this Budget has called it 'a Capitalists' Budget'. Not only that it further describes that this Budget is a rejoinder to the one presented by our former Finance Minister, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan; while his Budget aimed at giving relief to the poor, providing money from the capitalists pocket, the present Budget is an attempt to bring more money to the coffers

[Shri Damodar Swarup Seth]

of the rich depriving the poor lamished and starving people, of their poor and scanty meal.

You will find that some concessions to the capitalists have been made in this Budget. The British Finance Minister had discontinued levying of the excess profits tax, but there is a sum of rupees twelve crores which remains to be recovered yet on that score. This proves the efficiency of the Income Tax Department. The preliminaries of the new Business Tax have not yet been decided and the work has been left over for the Budget for 1948-49. Then the limit of abatement also on this tax has been raised from rupees one lakh to two lakhs, and the rate of the tax has been fixed at only ten per cent. The limit of super tax on both earned and unearned income has been raised to 3½ lakhs. Thus on the one hand we see that the capitalists have been favoured while on the other an indirect increase in tax has been made on tea, coffee, matches, cigarettes and tobacco as is known to the House. Thus we see that facilities are being provided for those who are already enjoying every kind of facility in the world and have no want of money. Indirect taxes are being imposed on those who have no money and who cannot make their two ends meet. This indirect tax will bring unpopularity as the Honourable Minister will realize later on and it will create dissatisfaction among the people. A Budget like this can never prove satisfactory for the country. One of our friends has stated just now that we have through this budget established our prestige before the international world. But may I say that it is very regretable that we have become too much of an internationalist now. We should first find out the place of this Budget in our own country. How does our nation look upon it? What is the public opinion about this Budget? Do people find any facilities for themselves in it? I get opportunities every day of meeting the masses. India has become independent but our masses do not feel that we have attained independence, that we have turned a new leaf in the life of our nation or that they breathe the air of a free country. I have addressed many big public meetings, I have asked the people 'Do you feel that India has become free and that the English have left India?' Their reply is 'we hear that the British have departed from this country, we hear that India has gained emancipation, but we do not find any change'. This is the condition of our people. And how can people feel that a change has taken place? The best way to make them realise this change was that a provision should have been made in this Budget to uplift the masses and to end their poverty, to make provision for their food and clothing and above all to raise the standard of the common man. But as I have pointed out this Budget has no such special feature.

The concessions given to the capitalists are explained as an attempt to accelerate production, to give it an impetus or an incentive. I cannot understand how people make contradictory statements. If we desire an increase in production is it necessary that we should add to the treasures of the capitalists? Who increases production? It is the labourers and the workmen who toil. Incentive of every kind should be given to them. The modern labour is not dumb as it was twenty years back. I am afraid that production instead of increasing, will diminish further, as soon as the labour realises that you are trying to increase the wealth of the capitalists. They will try to demand a share in the increased profits of the industrialists. If they do not get that there may be frequent strikes which may render useless the attempts we have made to establish an industrial truce. If we desire production there is only one way for that and it is, to associate the labour with the management as much as possible. The workers should have maximum say in the affairs of the industries; so much so that there remains no difference between the employer and the employee, between those who produce and those who spend. In other words the present system of society should be based on the labour of the poor

workmen. A new system of society a new social structure should be created which in the words of Mahatma Gandhi should have honesty, justice and labour as its foundations. So long as we do not establish a new society of this kind, so long as we do not entrust power to those who produce wealth, we cannot increase production. The world of today requires not only nationalisation of the means of producing wealth but also their socialisation so that these means are possessed by the real producers. Then alone there can be peace in the world and in that way alone India can command the respect of its people and of the whole world.

With these few words I close my speech.

Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): Madam, I do not wish to take up the time of the House at 4 o'clock. I shall confine myself to a few remarks on some aspects of the budget that has been presented to us.

It has been remarked by some persons that budget secrets were known earlier. I would not say that they were known but I would rather suggest that the speeches of the Honourable the Finance Minister on different occasions as well as the past professions of certain important gentlemen had led to a belief that many of the provisions which had been brought forward in the last budget would be removed. I may say that to a large extent the capitalist felt more disappointed than pleased with the budget he has placed. The first item which was attacked vehemently was the Business Profits Tax.

4 P.M. I had occasion to listen from a secluded corner to the great fight which went on on this question. It was anticipated that it was an inequitous tax and that it should be removed on the first occasion that it could be done. The Honourable the Finance Minister has reduced its incidence and also made it milder by increasing the exemption limit to Rs. 2 lakhs. But I feel that in doing this he has not given away too much from the exchequer to the capitalist. The next bait which he offered to the capitalist was in the shape of a reduction in the super-tax. There too his contribution has been more nominal and notional than substantial. A man with an income of a lakh of rupees will get a relief of Rs. 3,000 reduction in the income-tax which he has to pay under the Chetty scheme compared to what he had to pay under the Liaquat scheme. A man with an income of about Rs. 20 lakhs will have to pay about Rs. 20,000 less than what he would have to pay under the last Finance Minister's scheme. So in those two respects, as far as the Business Profits Tax and the Super-tax go, he has made a gesture and not given up a good chunk from the exchequer. But I feel that in the matter of taxation he has gone into the quarters which could ill afford to pay the taxes—I am referring to the tax on matches. I feel that the increase of twelve annas per gross will involve an increase in the price to the consumer—an increase much more than what the exchequer will get. If you can make an arrangement whereby the price to the consumer is not increased to an extent more than the contribution to the State funds—if you can guarantee this—there is no harm if the common man is asked to bear a little more burden. A burden of one anna per dozen is not so much. But the question is how will the price structure remain. The present position is that there is practically no half pice. The mint is not now minting any half pice. So the price will have to be either two or three pice. That will mean an increase in the consumer price much more than the tax that has been imposed.

Similarly in the case of cigarettes with the play that has been left between the prices of Rs. 40—50 the tax will be Rs. 12-8-0, or it will be 25 per cent. on certain items but on others it will be more than 25 per cent.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: 25 per cent. on the lower rate. Between Rs. 40 and 50, we take 25 per cent. on Rs. 40.

Mr. Hussain Imam: It comes to a lesser rate on the higher price. It was inevitable and could not be avoided. But my submission is that after having taxed cigarettes, *hookah* should have been left because it is the common man's luxury. After having given up the salt tax you are very cleverly taking back what you have given last year. It is not so common as salt. Nevertheless it is much more common than any other taxation that has so far been imposed. The tax was already in existence there and it has only been increased. But the Honourable Minister is in happy company in that respect. The Pakistan Government has also done that. The Finance Minister there has also selected this head for taxation which means that both the Finance Ministers are out to tax not only the rich but also those who are supposed to be poor but who can afford to spend much.

The next point to which I wanted to invite attention was in the matter of investigations into the income-tax evasions. We had expected some big results. The Government of India has already appointed a Tribunal for that purpose. But no credit has been taken for any expected income from that source. In this connection I would invite the Finance Minister's attention to a practice which exists in U.S.A. where they call it 're-negotiation'. The assessments of certain big firms are reopened and by means of a mutual settlement a workable figure is arrived at by means of which a surcharge or additional taxation is received from the assessee on the ground that certain items had been left off. I would suggest that instead of waiting for the findings of the Tribunal we might try this method. Quite a number of people who are supposed to have made large sums of money in profits would, I think, be more reasonable if persuasive measures are adopted than if a legalistic stand is taken. Considering the ways in which accounts are kept and the exceedingly long period over which we will have to pass from the beginning of the war to the present day, it will not be possible to get hold of all the relevant material in spite of the new powers that are going to be bestowed on the authorities. It will not be possible for us to do anything in that respect. I therefore suggest the trial of this method of negotiation with the big people and thereby getting something for the exchequer.

The third item to which I wish to draw attention is a very small item. It is about the way in which the Rs. 10 crores has been anticipated. I quite agree that it is a thing which is due to us. But you are only adopting a method of accounting by means of which you are taking credit for a thing today which you would have taken tomorrow. Nevertheless it will have this effect, namely, that the expectations of tomorrow's income will be reduced. This year it will not affect the Provinces. But next year when you are taking credit for the income-tax the Provincial quota-holders, who are sharers to the extent of 50 per cent., may have a grouse, or you will have to take only 50 per cent. credit. That is the possibility which you have. But in the end it will mean no new income. We must strengthen our structure so that the taxable capacity increases, for there is no other royal road for it except this.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Jhunjhunwala. I may tell the Honourable Member that he has only five minutes.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): Madam, I will take only five minutes. Whatever may be said for or against the particular proposals or duties contained in the budget, the Honourable the Finance Minister deserves our congratulations on the way in which he has managed the budget at this time; but one thing which I have not been able to follow is why he has thought fit to relieve the share-holders of dollar and sterling companies from the tax which they under the present Income-tax Act are liable to pay. The relevant portion of the present Income-tax Act is clause (4), Explanation III—"Dividend

paid without British India shall be deemed to be income accruing and arising in British India to the extent to which it has been paid out of profits subjected to income-tax in British India." Under this Act, Madam, all the shareholders of the sterling and dollar companies who have their homes outside India were subjected to income-tax though these income-tax amounts were not realised and they were evading it. This question I had put in the Assembly in November 1947, and also in the Budget session of 1946, and it was said in reply that attempts were being made in order to realise those taxes and the reason given was that the list of the shareholders was not available. This point was raised in a supplementary question by me before the Honourable the Finance Minister and he said that the law was being amended in such a way so that the list of these shareholders would be available and these returns would be automatically filed. Now the amendment is: "In explanation III to sub-section (1) of section 4; after the words 'dividend paid', the words 'by an Indian company' shall be inserted". If this amendment is accepted, and put through the result will be that the shareholders of those dollar and sterling companies which have been making profits in India and which have been carrying on business in India will not have to pay any tax. I will quote one instance. Say a sterling company XY has made an income of Rs. 6 lakhs in India. They will pay income-tax to the extent of Rs. 2,60,000. But if there is one big shareholder holding share whose income comes to Rs. 2,40,000, this shareholder, under the present amendment, will not be bound to pay income-tax which he has to pay under the present law to the extent of Rs. 1 lakh.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Madam Chairman. Altogether 33 Honourable Members have taken part in this general discussion. After listening to these speeches I feel that I have no reason to complain about the general tone of the speeches or the criticisms that they levelled against my budget. Even though most Honourable Members congratulated me on the budget, I would expect them more to sympathize with me than to congratulate me. I do not know whether any Finance Minister in any country in the world has been faced, at the time of the presentation of his first budget, with the problems that confronted me when I started framing my budget proposals. I had to frame the budget proposals of a new born state, and unfortunately in the process of the birth, the state had to undergo a most painful amputation. A country which economically as one unit had functioned for ages had been cut asunder. That fundamental unity of the country had been broken and it was too soon to assess the more permanent results of the partition of India. These two problems were great enough, but within the first three months I was faced with a problem resulting from the migration of no less than 8 million people. In the biblical exodus there was Moses who commanded the sea to make way that the children of Israel might reach the promised land. But the unfortunate children of India in their exodus had to wade literally through rivers of blood and through the valley of death. I had the legacy of a period of inflation and a series of deficit budgets extending over 8 years. Added to all this I had to face the problem of restoring confidence which was shattered by the contents of the last budget. As if these were not sufficient, I had to frame the budget of our country in the context of world conditions of so fluid and uncertain a nature that one cannot be sure of what awaits the morrow. Madam, it was in these difficult circumstances that I had to face the problem of framing the first budget of India. And in making my proposals again, I was faced with conflicting and contradictory situations. While there was the problem of the deficits to be covered, I had to face the problem of giving relief in taxation, and these two do not go together. While I had to fight the problem of inflation, I had at the same time so to control public expenditure as not to increase inflation but result in more employment for our people. If Honourable Members will only look at this picture that faced us, I am sure

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they would agree with me that I am justified in expecting some measure of sympathy from the House. I think, Madam, it is evidence of that sympathy that even those Honourable Members who severely criticized some of my proposals thought it necessary to console me by starting their speech and ending their speech with some measure of congratulation. My budget has been criticized from three points of view. There are those who say that I have not pleased the capitalists nor have I helped the poor man.

Some say they could not see any plan in my Budget, and others go to the extent of saying that my Budget does not reflect the spirit of the new times. The last criticism was, I think, summed up by one Honourable Member who said that my Budget is like the old wife in a new *sari*. Well, Madam, I consider that as the greatest compliment paid to me. It is as one grows in years that one realises the value of an old wife; I have reached a stage in my life when I prefer the old wife to the new 'butterflies', and naturally I am very pleased when the old wife appears in a new *sari*.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Madam, I rise on a point of order. Is this all in order, all this reference to marriage and wives?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Madam, since the Honourable the Lady Member proposed even a matrimonial tax and a birth tax, I think it is perfectly in order to refer to the relationship between a man and his wife.

Well, in framing my Budget proposals it was never my intention to please the capitalists. I cannot claim that I have given any direct relief to the poor man. The one and the only objective that I kept in view is the need for laying the financial and economic foundation of our country, in the very first year of its existence, on absolutely sound and impregnable basis. I confess that in matters financial and economic I am extremely conservative. The experience of other countries in the world has demonstrated beyond measure the prudence of being conservative in matters relating to financial and economic policy.

My first task was to restore in the country the confidence that had been shaken. In searching for the methods to bring about a restoration of confidence, naturally I had to build on the existing structure. I was not planning an economy to fulfil the ideology that would come into fruition after twenty years. When I make this observation, I do not want Honourable Members to go away with the idea that I am not myself influenced by these new ideologies; in fact I would be the last person to advocate a static policy in our economic and financial relations—I am all for dynamic policies, dynamic action. But then when you are out to reform your whole social and economic structure on a new pattern, unless you believe in a sudden revolution that can be brought about overnight, the way in which you handle the situation in the transition period would really determine the success or the failure of your ideology. I yield to none in the desire to see established in our country a real democratic socialistic Republic. On a previous occasion I told the House what my own conception of a socialistic economy is: socialistic economy is judged by the ends achieved by policy, and not necessarily by the means adopted to achieve that end. If by a socialistic economy is meant an economy in which poverty, hunger and disease will not exist, an economy in which every honest man shall be given an honest piece of work, an economy in which undue accumulation of wealth is not allowed in the hands of a few individuals, then, Madam, I am all for a socialistic economy. If in the pursuit of that ideal and for its fulfilment we find it necessary to have under State control and ownership the means of production and distribution, let us by all means have it. But what I would ask Honourable Members to remember is this: merely to take under State ownership the means of production will not by itself bring about a socialist order.

An Honourable Member: You are right there.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Assume for argument's sake that we make up our minds straightaway to take under State control all means of production within the course of the next twelve months; am I to understand that Honourable Members expect by that process to see at the end of twelve months an India free from hunger, poverty and disease, in which there will be no inequalities of wealth? No. Assume for a moment that you are prepared to apply the surgeon's knife to the capitalist economy of our country in the most merciless manner that you confiscate 90 per cent. of the wealth of every rich man, would that bring about an equitable distribution of wealth, would that remove poverty, hunger and disease?

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No source sugested that.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I know Prof. Ranga will agree with me in this matter, that is why I make so bold to say these things.

Madam, the days of real capitalistic economy are really over in the world. The essence of the capitalistic economy was free exploitation by an individual or a group of persons, on a purely competitive basis, with the least and minimum interference from the State. Today, no country that can call itself a civilized country, can ever advocate that system of economy. Today the difference is not so much between the capitalistic and the socialistic economy, but a difference based upon whether your economy is a controlled economy or an uncontrolled economy.

If, therefore, we are to bring about a safe transition from the existing state of our economy into one which we all desire, then in the intervening process our main objective must be to create and create more of productive wealth in the country so that when the appropriate time comes that wealth can be equitably distributed. After all, the wealth of a country is in its products, not in the currency notes that circulate. No difference will be made in the wealth of our country, for instance, if I recalled all the currency notes and added one zero to each of the denominations of the currency notes.

Everyone who has got a one rupee note can feel that he has got a ten rupee note and a man who has got a hundred rupee note can feel that he has got a thousand rupee note, but that will not increase the wealth of the country. After all, it is wealth that is to be distributed amongst people and not currency. And that is what some of the leaders of the labour movement in India are not realising. When they want more and more increase in wages and in allowances, they are not really getting for the labourers anything of a tangible and real wealth, for, after all, it is the value of the currency that we give to the labourer that counts and determines his standard of life. I had therefore, Madam, in making my Budget proposals to keep prominently in mind the devices that are necessary to encourage, within the framework of our present economy, an increase in the volume of production, so that the distributable coups may increase and thereby result in the increase of the value of the currency held by the poor man. Now, if that theme of mine is accepted, then it follows that everything that is necessary to give an incentive to increased enterprise must be provided for in my Budget proposals.

Madam, one Honourable friend said that I was only fattening the cattle, so that I might slaughter it for my table. Well, that was not a correct metaphor. I was feeding my cow so that it might give me more milk. I have not the slightest intention of slaughtering that cow at all. There is no doubt at all that a great deal of damage was done to our economy by the proposals contained in the last year's Budget. Considered merely in terms of money, pro-

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bably, the burden imposed upon industry was not very great, but the psychological reaction of those proposals in the field of industry was something devastating. I had to do something to restore the psychology of confidence. After all, what is the relief that I have given in super-tax? On page 65 of the Explanatory Memorandum circulated with the Budget papers, Honourable Members will find a table showing the effect of my super-tax proposals as compared with the super-tax proposals of the last year's Budget. Right up to Rs. 30,000 income, there is no change. I have not given any relief. A man who earns Rs. 30,000 a year earned income in the last budget would be paying Rs. 6,000 tax, and he would be paying exactly the same tax under my Budget. If you come to a man who earns Rs. 50,000, while he had to pay Rs. 16,156 before, I would be asking him to pay Rs. 15,375. In other words, while the tax in the last year's budget represented 32·3 per cent. of his income, under my budget the tax will be 30.8 per cent. of his income. Go even to the very rich man—a man who earns Rs. 10 lakhs a month. Under the last year's Budget, he would have had to pay 92 per cent. of his income as tax, while under my budget he will have to pay 91·3 per cent. Madame, I do not want Honourable Members, therefore, to go away with the impression that I have been very extravagant in giving relief in the super-tax field.

But I do not want the capitalists to catch hold of what I say today and then complain that I have not given them any relief. In fact, I must express my surprise at the way in which the share market reacted to my budget. Actually, the share market in Bombay and in Calcutta recorded a fall.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I think it was inspired.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: They expected more.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not know, Madam, what exactly was the reason for this. They probably expected a good deal and pushed up the prices in the previous week and the fall was a natural reaction to that unhealthy bullish tendency. Sometimes, I wonder whether this is an attempt on the part of the investors really to blackmail me.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You have learnt it too late.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: But they will find to their cost that, however late the learning may come to me, they cannot easily cheat me. If the business world expected my taxation proposals to be so extravagantly altered, then I would say that they do not deserve any sympathy. In fact, I think we should give a warning. After all, I shall judge the effect of the relief in taxation that I have given by increase in production and by the increase in the collection of taxes. If at the end of the year I do not find these two hopes realised and I am still here, I would have to revise my attitude to this question of relief to the industry.

Madam, I claim that though in the field of super-tax the relief that I have given is not very substantial my scheme for taxation for companies is one that must really help investors, that must really permit the ploughing back of money into industry. There I was a little more liberal because in those proposals I was giving relief not to the few rich investors but to the vast multitude of the small or the middle-class investors in our industry. When we think of our industrial structure, we should not get away with the idea that the investor necessarily means a very rich plutocrat. If you analyse the list of shareholders of a number of Companies, you will find that probably not less than 70 or 75 per cent. of the shareholders can really be classified as the "middle-class" people. After all, it is the middle-class that is the backbone not merely of our social structure, but of our economic structure. My honourable friend Mr. Sondhi very rightly pleaded for some measure of relief to the middle-class people. Well, I thought about it myself in the Budget, but then

it struck me that after all I must give an opportunity for the House to take some credit for giving relief to somebody. I would therefore be prepared in the Select Committee to consider very sympathetically any proposal that will give relief to the lower middle-class.

My Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar wanted that we should now prepare our Budgets for a period of years and he suggested five years. In fact, I have been for a long time a believer in that theory of Budgeting and when I was preparing my Budget I visualised in my own mind the possible developments in our own country and in the world for the next five years, but seeing the phenomenal and the catastrophic changes that occur in the economy of the world from day to day I thought there was no use in looking even so far ahead. I therefore had in my mind a period of three years. In fact, Madam, though I have not expressed it in so many words in my budget, speech, my object was really based on that conception. In fact I gave the House a glimpse of what the budget might be in the year 1949-50 and I expect that the picture that I have made in my own mind can be realized even in 1950-51 and it is because I was preparing for a period of three years that I adopted the rather unorthodox method of taking the credit of revenue the 10 crores of rupees which stood in deposit account as the advance payment of taxes. Now if this source of revenue was available to me only during this year, then I would not have rest content with balancing my budget merely by the adjustment of account in this respect. But I may assure Honourable Members that this process will go on for the next three years. We have got in deposit approximately 50 crores of rupees on this account. If I wanted really to be a juggler as Honourable Members represent me to be, I could have taken all these 50 crores and proclaimed a huge surplus budget, but that would be wrong. What we propose to do is this: that spread over the next three years we will bring directly into the revenues the amounts paid as advance taxes by way of Corporation Tax and Income-tax. This year we have selected the Corporation Tax. Next year we would probably select a few circles of Income-tax and bring approximately the same amount into account and a similar procedure will be followed in 1950-51, so that so far as that item of revenue is concerned, you may take it that it is available for our budget for the next three years. Even though I adopted this rather unorthodox procedure, because of the special circumstances of the case, I have been more than conservative and over-anxious in other respects. Honourable Members rightly asked me in the course of the discussion whether I have taken any credit on the revenue side to the customs duties that will be realized on account of Pakistan being declared a foreign territory. I have not taken anything into account. For one thing at the time when I was framing my budget proposals and making my revenue estimates we were not yet clear in our minds as to what will be the outcome of the discussions that were proceeding between our own representatives and the Pakistan representatives; and apart from that, I thought that in view of the various uncertain factors that might at any moment upset all your calculations regarding revenue and expenditure, prudence required to keep this hidden reserve. It is very difficult to make a very accurate estimate of what will be our receipts by way of customs duties on goods going into Pakistan or coming from Pakistan. In fact, the Central Board of Revenue is now working on this problem. On the 1st of March, we have already posted our customs officials on the frontiers. The preliminary estimate that we have made is that it would be of the order of 9 to 10 crores of rupees per year. The House will, therefore, realize that even though there might be an upsetting of the revenue and the expenditure estimates during the coming year, you have got this source which will go more than to balance our estimates and result as, I hope, in a really surplus budget when we close our accounts. I have, therefore, Madam, kept very prominently in mind the problem of our budgetary position

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for a period of three years beginning from 1948-49 and I would suggest that in this changing world it is a long-enough period to be taken into account.

There are various other factors which ought to result in considerable savings on our expenditure side. Now I have provided for 19 crores of rupees on account of subsidies on the imported foodgrains. This subsidy is the difference between the price that we pay abroad for our foodgrains and the price at which we sell them here and also the procurement bonus that we give to the Provincial Governments. Honourable Members will be glad to know that there is now every hope of a very substantial reduction in the prices that we may be called upon to pay for foodgrains in future.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Have prices gone down or you expect less import?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am coming to that. Already during the last 2 weeks there has been a remarkable fall in commodity prices in the Chicago grain market. Whether this is a temporary feature or the precursor of events to come, it is too early to say. But whatever might be the case our delegates are now taking part in an International Wheat Conference. Now in that Conference we are arranging for an advance contract for the purchase of 750,000 tons of wheat at prices, the ceiling and the floor of which are fixed. The ceiling price will be about $2 and odd per bushel and the floor price will be $1 and odd, whereas the price that we have paid for our latest purchase of Australian wheat is $3 and odd per bushel. Fortunately for us, we have inserted a clause in our wheat agreement with Australia that if there is a reduction from $3 as a result of this International Wheat Conference, the Australian Government will give us the benefit of that reduction. If, therefore, this Food Conference goes through as we expect it would, even then on the wheat contract that we have made with Australia, we would save 1/3rd in the price. If, therefore, this tendency is in evidence during the next three years, there would be a very substantial saving under the item "Subsidy on imported foodgrains." Assuming that we import the same quantity, merely on price we ought to be able to save at least 7 or 8 crores of rupees. That is a very satisfactory feature. In my budget speech I referred also to another item, the 10 crores of rupees that we have provided for relief and rehabilitation. I think, Madam, unless something again goes radically wrong, we may reasonably expect a considerable falling off under this item of expenditure and in the next and the following year. So, taking all these factors into consideration, I feel that we can look to the immediate future, at any rate, in a spirit of real confidence. But in considering the deficit this year, I do not want that I should be carried away by this exuberance of optimism regarding our position for the next three years. It is in a period of inflationary tendency that every attempt should be made to balance the budget and if possible to produce a surplus. I was therefore very anxious that somehow or other I must balance the budget, and with that object in view I searched for new fields of taxation. I wish I had a discussion with the lady member on that side before I framed my proposals because I might then have seriously considered the possibility of a death duty and a birth duty. Whether ultimately I would have decided upon a marriage tax or a bachelor tax I could not say; but if I wanted that at least some members of the Cabinet must feel the weight and burden of taxation, I would have chosen a bachelor tax! Madam, I was very anxious in my search for new fields of taxation to ensure as far as possible that I did not affect the life of the poor man. Now I come to the second point of criticism of my budget, namely, that my budget does not give any relief to the poor man. I have never believed in the practice of playing to the gallery (*An honourable member*: "There is a gallery".) I am now playing to the dress circle and not to the gallery. I yield to none in my anxiety to better the lot of the poor man.

But let me tell this frankly on the floor of this House that if you are searching the Central Budget for reliefs to the poor man by taxation you will be searching in vain. Specially after the removal of the salt tax there is very little indeed in the Central Budget by way of taxation which you can reduce and give effective relief to the poor man.

Some Honourable Members: What about matches, kerosene, tyres?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The real evective help and relief to the poor man is to be given not by trying to tamper with those excise duties but by creating avenues of fruitful employment to our people and fruitful sources of income. And from that criterion I claim that I have more than cared for the poor man and the common man. A great deal has been said about the match duty. I shall explain probably in greater detail at the appropriate time how this restoration of the duty to its old level will not really increase the price of match-boxes. As a matter of fact today we have got four difierent kinds of match-boxes—those containing 40, 50, 60 and 80 sticks. Now I ask, when even intelligent educated people go and buy a match-box for half an anna, do they take care to see whether it contains 40 or 50 sticks? The result of this system is that the manufacturer, the wholesaler and the retailer simply cheat the consumer. When Sir Archibald Rowlands reduced the duty on 50's from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 1-12 he expected a reduction in price. As a matter of fact there was no reduction in price; it was exactly the same. And where did the 12 annas go? The exchequer lost and the manufacturer and the trader gained. I simply wanted to restore that position; and if the price was unaltered when there was a reduction of duty I claim that there is no justification for the manufacturer to increase the price when I restore the duty. As a matter of fact I have had my advisers to inquire in the bazar and find out if there has been any increase in the price of match-boxes since the 1st March, and I was glad to note that there was no increase.

An Honourable Member: In Bombay there has been.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Well, Bombay is a special place. In any case I may assure Honourable Members that all steps will be taken and control of price imposed, if necessary, to see and to ensure that this alteration in duty does not result in any increase in price. I said that the real relief to the poor man should be searched in my capital budget. I have provided no less than 165½ crores of rupees in my capital budget for our various programmes of development for the next year. Honourable Members seem to have suggested, or made a grievance of it, that they do not find any provision made for the relief of Harijans. These are fields exclusively reserved for the provinces; it is through the provinces that we expect all these constructive schemes to be put forth for the relief of the Harijans or the relief of the rural classes. I am not a believer in blindly providing lump sums of one crore and five crores for a particular purpose; you take it from me that the amount will go by the drain. We are providing for a free grant of 30 crores of rupees to the provinces; and if the provinces are to utilise the whole of that amount they have to spend another 30 crores. And with 60 crores for developmental purposes the provinces can do a great deal in this direction. I would invite Honourable Members to devote, in their study of the budget, a little more attention to the capital budget.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: We get no information and no details; the Explanatory Memorandum covers only 20 pages.

Mr. Chairman: The Finance Minister need not be interrupted.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: There is a great deal of information given in the Explanatory Memorandum supplied with the budget papers.

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The centre can only provide funds in the hands of provinces to carry forward these schemes of amelioration of the ordinary man. If I may use a metaphor, the Finance Minister of the Central Government is like the keeper of the sluice-gates of a big reservoir. It is his function to see that the reservoir is kept at its proper level and the sluice is opened in such a manner that the water is distributed in the proper season, in proper measure and to the proper places. And when once I open those sluices and let out water into the channels I expect the provincial Governments, like the agriculturist to utilise the waters of the channel and to irrigate the fields. That really is the relative function of the Finance Minister of the Central Government and the Finance Ministers of the provincial Governments. Some Honourable Member suggested —I think it was Mr. Krishnamachari—that there should be some co-ordination between the work of the Finance Minister of the Central Government and the Finance Ministers of the provinces. I welcome the suggestion; in fact that has been my feeling for some time. I think we should now start a practice of having periodical conferences with all the provincial Finance Ministers, and to have one master conference about a month or two before the provincial budgets are presented, so that the provinces might know exactly where they stand for the coming year and the centre also may know what exactly will be the demands that will be made on its resources. I hope to inaugurate this practice at an early date.

Various other suggestions have been made which I certainly will take into consideration. For example, a suggestion was made that we should have a tax research department in our Finance Ministry. Yes, we should also have a monetary research section. In the field of finance and economics also the work done by research scholars in modern days is something very valuable. I know by personal experience and contact the great work done by the monetary research section of the United States Treasury at Washington; I myself have seen that work. I am hoping that before long we would set up in the Finance Ministry these two research sections.

Before I conclude I would just like to say that in the context of the new constitution that might come into existence within the next year or two it would be our sacred duty to hand over to our successors a financial and administrative structure with the help of which they can really launch forth great and ambitious programmes of expansion and development. It is our sacred duty to conserve the resources that we have got and during the transition period to utilise those resources wisely and effectively and cautiously. And I look upon my own duty as the custodian of the finances of this country as that of one who is charged with the sacred duty of taking good care of a delicate mechanism during a transitional and a difficult period. And if when I hand over the reins of office to my successor, I can feel that I have handed over to him a mechanism of a more perfect and more enduring character then I feel that I would have done my duty to my country.

5 P.M.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 5th March 1948.

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எழும்பூர், சென்னை-600 008.

தவணைத்தாள்.

சே எண் : ப. எண் :

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