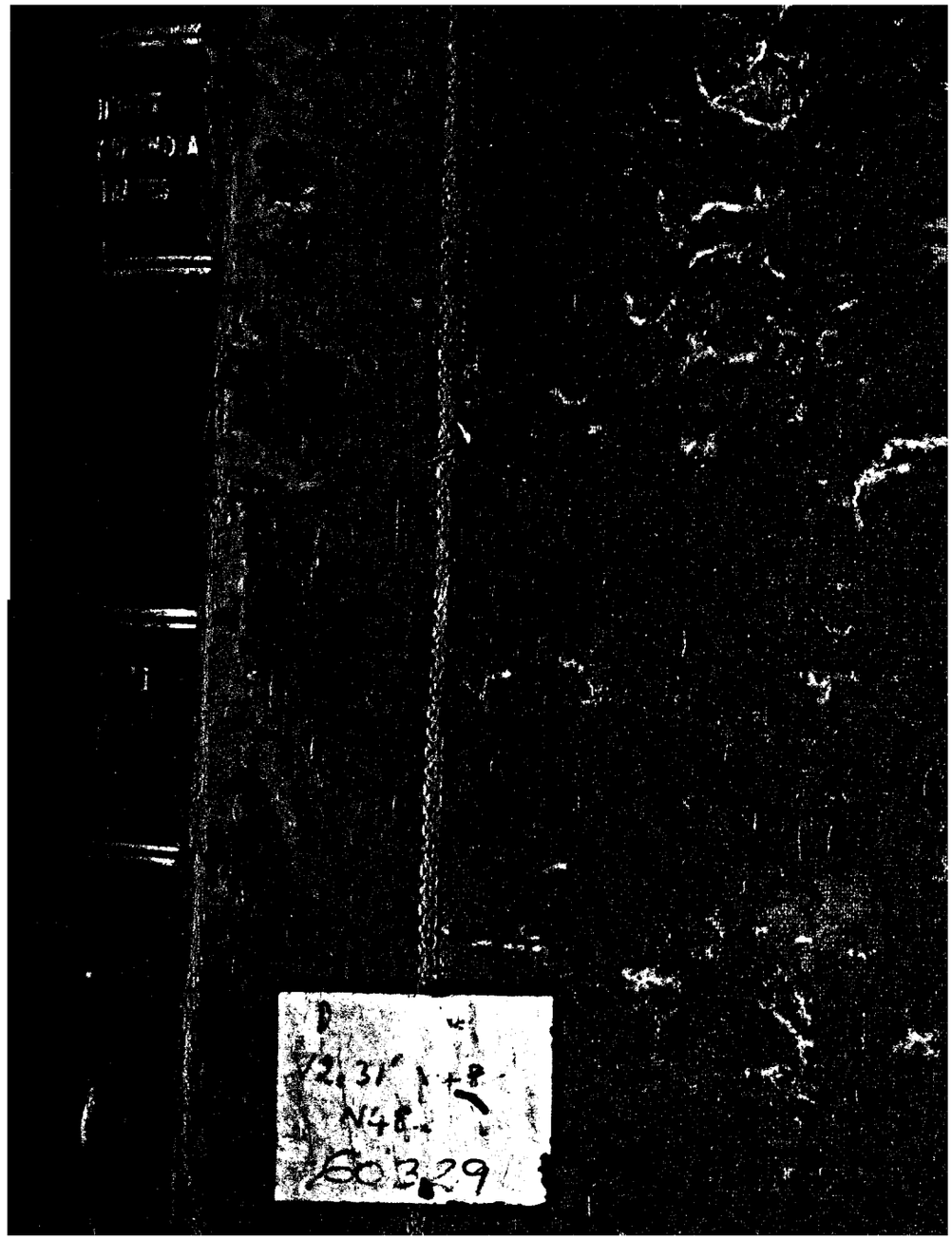

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE DEBATES)

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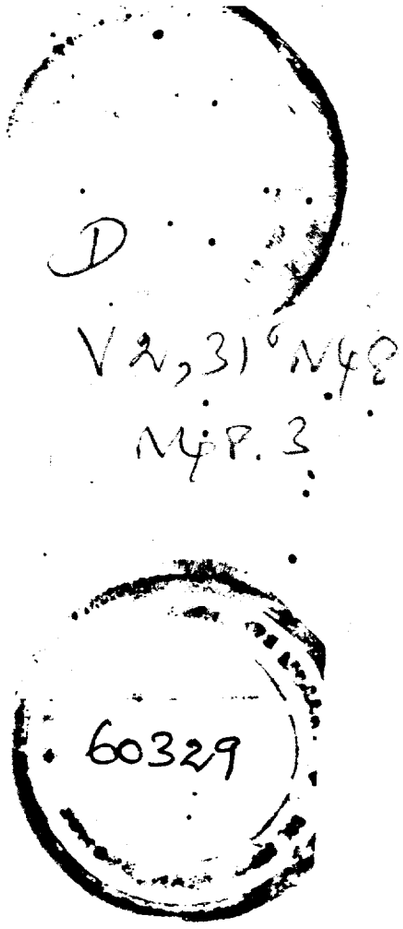
SECOND SESSION

of the

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

1948




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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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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Friday, 5th 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:

Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha (Bihar: General).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 618.†

(The Honourable Minister for Communications was not in his seat when the question was called.)

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am sorry, Sir, I forgot that the House is meeting nowadays fifteen minutes earlier. I thought it was meeting at eleven.

LATE DELIVERY OF AIR MAIL

618 *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the average time taken by the Postal authorities after the arrival of aeroplanes carrying mails, to deliver the mail to the addressees?

(b) Are Government aware that invariably letters sent by air mail are not delivered until twenty-four hours, and in some cases even later after their arrival at the destination?

(c) In cases where companies run more than one service a day on the scheduled routes, are air mail letters carried by all the services or only once during the day?

(d) Do Government propose to issue instructions to the Postal Department that air mail letters arriving by planes before sun-set should be delivered the same evening?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (d). Delivery of air mails is made generally within 3 hours of the arrival of the planes. In the case of planes arriving in the afternoon, if the mail bags reach the post office before 4 p. m. their contents are included in the general delivery. When the bags reach after 4 p.m., and before the closing time of the post office, window delivery is effected. When they reach after sun set, the contents are issued for delivery on the following morning. No fresh instructions are necessary.

(b) No.

(c) All the scheduled Air services are utilised for conveyance of mails when there is any saving of time.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Did the Honourable Minister say that the mails received before sunset are delivered on the following day?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I said if they are received after 4 p. m. and before sunset window delivery is effected. If they are received after sunset they are delivered on the next day.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are there special delivery peons for air mail?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: No.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Why not?

†This question was actually taken up after starred question No. 621. It is however printed serially in the Debates.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether in the case of mails received after 4 p.m. the peon delivery is not made?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I said window delivery is made.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will Government consider the desirability that air mails which are posted for expeditious delivery are delivered by peon that day itself if they arrive here before sunset?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is only a suggestion for action.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I ask if any actual investigation has been made in the city of Delhi as to how the air mail letters are delivered?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes. Sometimes it has been found that the letters that ought to have been delivered the same day are delivered the next day. Action is being taken to enforce the delivery according to instructions.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Can the Honourable Minister tell the House if air mail letters are delivered quicker than telegrams?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Sometimes it so happens.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Minister considered the necessity for engaging special peons for delivery of air mail?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Then the charges will have to be increased.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Has the Honourable Minister satisfied himself that air mail bags placed in a plane at the starting point are not allowed to be detained *en route* to make room for other forms of freight?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I have no knowledge of such occurrence.

Mr. R. K. Sidva: In regard to the practice that letters received after 4 p.m. are not delivered, may I know whether the same practice prevails in other parts of the country, for instance in Bombay and Calcutta?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: As I have said, if the air bags are received after the last delivery has been distributed to the post men, then window delivery is arranged. In Bombay, due to the hour of the last delivery, the air mail may be delivered up to 6 p. m.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member has not perhaps caught the answer of the Honourable Minister. His reply was that in case the last delivery had been made and mails are received afterwards then window delivery is arranged. In Bombay if the last delivery is as late as up to 6 p.m., naturally the air mail letters will go with it.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: If a letter is sent by air mail to a particular person and that person is not there at home and has come, for instance, to Delhi to attend the Constituent Assembly meetings will that letter when forwarded here be carried by air mail or by ordinary mail?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I do not know the procedure exactly, but I think it will come by ordinary mail.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: May I know the reason why?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: In view of the fact that some of the aeroplanes of the scheduled services come later than half past three, will the Honourable Minister consider at least the desirability of changing this last delivery hour from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. so that those air mail letters may also be included in that delivery?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I will consider that suggestion.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether air mail leters marked for express delivery, with two annas additional postage for the purpose, are delivered by the telegraph peon?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That is true.

PRICES OF SUGAR BEFORE AND AFTER DE-CONTROL

619. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to refer to the reply given to my starred question No. 129 asked on 6th February 1948, regarding the price of sugar in various places in India before and after de-control and state whether there are any places in India where the price of sugar has fallen below the controlled price? If so, which are those places and what was the price prevailing there on the 15th of January 1948 as compared with the controlled rate?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: In the course of supplementary questions I had made it clear that prices of sugar had not fallen below the control rates at any place.

INTRODUCTION OF CROP INSURANCE.

620. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware of their promise given during the 1947 Budget Session to enquire into the possibilities of introducing Crop Insurance in India?

(b) If so, what steps have so far been taken and with what effect?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). Yes. Sanction for a post of an Officer on Special Duty for preparing a detailed scheme for Crop and Cattle Insurance on an experimental basis has been recently secured. The selection of a qualified actuary for this post is under consideration.

Seth Govinddas: On which date was this selection made?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government intend to advertise for the post again. We have been finding difficulty in securing a suitable actuary. We intend to issue an advertisement asking for names for the post.

Seth Govinddas: Did not the Honourable Minister say just now that the services of one person has been secured for this purpose?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No. The selection of a qualified actuary does not refer to any particular person.

Seth Govinddas: Have any qualifications been fixed for this purpose?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No specific qualifications have been fixed, because this is entirely a new scheme. We have been trying to secure a man from the Commerce Department, where they have an insurance section. We have been in touch with certain provincial governments, we have been in touch with the Actuarial Association of India and we have been finding difficulty in securing a suitable person. We are negotiating with the Government of Bombay for a suitable person. On the whole we have come to the conclusion that we should advertise for this appointment.

Seth Govinddas: Has any Provincial Government made any suggestions in this respect so far?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware of any.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Government aware that any experiments in this direction have been made in India anywhere?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The Government is not aware.

Seth Govinddas: Are the Government aware that in one of the States in Central India—it is a small State—I believe it is Dewas Junior, they are insur-

ing crops in the State and under these circumstances will Government take certain facts from that State and see what can be done in this respect?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Evidently the experiment must have been on a small scale, as the Honourable Member did not at first even know the name of the State. I am prepared to go into the facts.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if the Department of Agriculture has gathered information from agricultural departments in other countries?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Have Government drawn up any tentative scheme about this crop and cattle insurance?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No. We are going to make an experiment in a selected area. So far as India is concerned it is more or less an experiment. Therefore we have no data. We want to collect data and after the experiment is made we will extend the scheme.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government get into touch with the Department of Agriculture in Canada where this experiment has already been made and has proved to be a success?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government have got information about the Canadian experiment.

Seth Govinddas: Will Government first make the experiment in the province where generally crops fail?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: This will have to be considered. An expert will be appointed.

MANUFACTURE OF SYNTHETIC PETROL.

621. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government contemplate the manufacture of synthetic petrol?

(b) If so, what is the result of any research made in this direction?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The question of the manufacture of synthetic petrol is engaging the attention of Government. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has set up a Committee to go into the question in detail, obtain the advice of foreign experts, and formulate a scheme at a very early date for the consideration of Government. This Committee is now examining the question. The report was submitted yesterday.

(b) No substantial research has so far been made.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will Government state the sources at present available to the Government of India from which they draw their supply of petrol?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the manufacture of synthetic petrol is concerned the sources of supply will be the coal area.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What are the recommendations of the Committee that submitted its report yesterday?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The report has only just been received and the report suggests that it will be desirable to bring out some foreign experts for the purpose of exploring the possibility of the manufacture of synthetic petrol from coal. We are satisfied that there will be abundant supply of the kind of coal that is required for the manufacture of synthetic petrol and we are taking active steps to get the services of foreign experts, so that our entire scheme may be ready in the course of the next few months.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Is the Honourable Minister in a position to tell the House whether this Committee had the assistance of any expert in devising its report?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, we had and we also have secured advice by sending cablegrams to foreign countries. Preliminary information is available but we must explore it further.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Which foreign country or countries are today manufacturing synthetic petrol?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In Germany and also in America this is being done.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has Government considered the possibility or desirability of importing German experts here for this purpose?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are already taking steps in that direction.

Mr. Hussain Imam: May I know if any arrangement has been made for the import of the necessary machinery?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I think it is not desirable to go into details at this stage. As soon as the scheme is ready the House will be taken into confidence.

CONTRACTOR-CASHIER ON N. W. RAILWAY

622. * {Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: / Shri K. Santhanam:} Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one Lakshmi Narayan was employed as a contractor-cashier in the North-Western Railway prior to the 15th August, 1947;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said Lakshmi Narayan continues to be a contractor-cashier in the East Punjab Railway;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan have complained that the said Lakshmi Narayan has not rendered accounts to the extent of several lakhs of rupees belonging to the North-Western Railway in the pre-partition days;

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what is the amount involved and whether Government have taken any steps to recover the amount; and

(e) what would be the share of the Government of India in the loss, in the event of the amount or any part of it becoming irrecoverable?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). The position is that the firm of Messrs Dina Nath Sheo Pershad were the Contractor-Cashier and Shri Lakshmi Narain was their Manager and the same arrangement continues on the Eastern Punjab Railway.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Chief Auditor, N. W. Railway (Pakistan) had originally intimated that the amount involved was Rs. 54,73,253 which includes Rs. 24,88,576 for which payment appeared to have been made but for which payees' receipts were awaited. The Chief Auditor has since intimated that vouchers for about 1½ lakhs have since been traced in his Cash Office. The Cash Contractors have been asked either to present themselves in person or direct their accredited agent to attend the office of the Chief Auditor, N. W. Railway at Lahore so facilitate a speedy assessment and settlement of their liabilities.

(e) As the question is still under examination it is not possible at this stage to determine the ultimate irrecoverable loss and the Government of India's share of it.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Can the Honourable Minister say whether there will be a loss ultimately though he is not sure about the amount?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is impossible to say at present. The matter is still under examination. The contractor in question had to leave Lahore about the middle of August under very difficult circumstances. He had been trying ever since to get back there to settle this matter with the North Western Railway, Pakistan. He was unable to do so for a long while. Recently he has been there and the matter is under detailed examination. Pending that examination it is impossible to say whether there would be any real loss and if so what our share would be.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Can the Honourable Minister tell the House whether this particular firm of contractors are engaged in a similar capacity in other railways as well?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

Shri K. Santhanam: Is it not risky to continue them with this thing hanging over their heads?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That matter is under examination, and I propose to have it considered.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the financial status of this firm or the individual working under them?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to go into detail over this question, but this firm has been in charge of this job on the North Western Railway, as far as I can gather, for a period of thirty years and this is about the first time, as far as I know, that there has been any complication of this kind.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Has he given any cash security?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: He has given a fairly heavy security.

Mr. Hussain Imam: May I ask whether all this outstanding is for the pre-partition period or for the post-partition period?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is in respect of the pre-partition period.

TRANSPORTATION OF U. P. MUSTARD SEEDS FOR VILLAGE GHANI INDUSTRY, BENGAL

623. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the transport of mustard seeds from the United Provinces to Bengal for utilisation by the Cottage and Village Ghani industry, as specially organised by Khadi Pratistan of Sodepur near Calcutta, has been given only IV class priority, whereas second priority is given to the seeds purchased by oil mills;

(b) if so, what is the reason for this discrimination;

(c) whether Government have received any representations from the Khadi Pratistan and if so, when; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of raising the priority of mustard oil seeds for cottage industry from IV class priority to II class priority?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a), (c) and (d). No. Mustard seeds when consigned as raw material to oil mills are accorded priority Class II, whereas other less important trade movements are normally allotted priority Class V; specific urgent requirements of Khadi Pratistan of Sodepur have however been upgraded to priority Class I and on a representation dated 3rd February 1948 from Khadi Pratistan, the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Calcutta assisted movement by allotting 59 wagons in Class I Priority. In similar cases of sponsored movements Government will be prepared to upgrade priority for Mustard oil seeds.

(b) Does not arise.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the priority given to oranges, may I know?

ROADS UNDER RAIL-ROAD CO-ORDINATION SCHEME.

624. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) at what places and for what distances road services are operated by the different railway administrations in India under the Rail-Road Co-ordination scheme; and

(b) whether there is any programme of extension of this scheme?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Presumably information is required only in respect of road services operated by Railways as opposed to road undertakings in which Railways are participating financially. If so, the only case of this kind is the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway which operates departmentally a goods transport service between Madras and Bangalore, covering a distance of 220 miles.

(b) No Railway at present has under consideration any scheme of departmental operation of road transport services but almost all railways contemplate participating financially in road transport companies, the formation of which is engaging the attention of the Provincial Governments in connection with their schemes of re-organisation of road motor transport services.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what has been the experience—whether the running of the road transport has been profitable or not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In this particular thing it has been profitable.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is not the profit made at the cost of the public?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I may answer that question—in the same way as any surplus earned by railways is at the cost of the public.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What proportion does it bear to the previous fares before the system was introduced?

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government received any complaints from any organizations in regard to the running of the bus services?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Not to my knowledge.

REPORTS OF COMMODITIES PRICES BOARD.

625. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state how many reports were submitted to Government by the Commodities Prices Board?

(b) How many of these reports have been published?

(c) Do Government propose to lay copies of the remaining reports on the table of the House?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister for Finance. It has accordingly been transferred to the List of Questions for the 12th March 1948 when it will be answered by Honourable Minister, Finance Ministry.

SURVEY OF PROJECTS ON B. N. RAILWAY.

626. ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House showing the details of the following Survey Projects so far done on the Bengal Nagpur Railway: (i) Raipur-Jeypore Railway; (ii) Sambalpur-Kondagaon Railway;

(iii) Rupsa-Talbandh conversion with extension from Bangriposi and Raireingpur; (v) Talchar-Rourkela Survey; (v) Jeypur-Padur-Kottavalesa Survey; (vi) Khurda Road-Sonepur-Lochipore Railway Survey; (vii) Nanpada Gurupur conversion; (viii). Gopalpur-Berhanpur Russel Konda Traffic Survey; and (ix) Rayagada-Nawarangpur Jagdalpur-Byramgarh Broad Gauge Survey?

(b) How far has the work on these projects progressed and when is the work on each of these lines expected to be completed?

(c) When will the Railways begin to work.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) A statement showing details of the nine survey projects referred to is placed on the table.

(b) The position of the survey work for each of the projects has been indicated in the statement. No construction work has yet been commenced on any of these projects. Construction work on two of the items only, *viz.* Sambalpur-Kantabanji and Talchar-Rourkela is proposed to be undertaken during the next five year period.

(c) The Government are not in a position at this stage to state when these railways are likely to be completed and opened to traffic.

Statement

Details of the survey projects.

(i) *Raipur-Jeypore Railway.*—This project involves the conversion of the existing narrow gauge line between Raipur and Dhamtari from narrow gauge to broad gauge and construction of a new broad gauge line between Dhamtari and Jeypore *via* Jagdalpur. The survey has been completed and reports have been received. It has been decided that this project should be examined jointly with Nagpur-Vizagapatam project after the survey reports for the latter have been completed.

(ii) *Sambalpore-Kondagaon Railway.*—The survey of this project was carried out in two sections *viz.*: (i) Sambalpur-Kantabanji and (2) Kantabanji-Kondagaon, and the reports have been received.

The Central Board of Transport have placed the Sambalpur-Kantabanji section in the tentative programme of construction over the next five year period. The rail link from Sambalpur up to the Mahanadi River, including a bridge over it would be required for the transport of materials for the Hirakund Dam Project and the line from the Mahanadi Bridge to Kantabanji would be essential for the movement of new traffic, both industrial and agricultural, which should be developed by the Mahanadi River multi-purposes scheme.

The Kantabanji-Kondagaon section has, however, been placed in category (b), *i.e.*, projects on which work should not proceed at present, in view of the limited resources available in the country.

(iii) *Rupsa-Talbandh conversion with extension from Bangriposi to Rairangpur.*—The field work for the engineering survey has been completed and 67 per cent. of the traffic survey has been completed. Reports are awaited. The project has been placed by the Central Board of Transport in category (b).

(iv) *Talchar-Rourkela Survey.*—The survey for this line is in progress. The Central Board of Transport have placed this project in the tentative programme of construction during the next five-year period, since this line would open up new coalfields and provide a direct connection for movement of coal to the south.

(v) *Jeypore-Padua-Kottavalasa.*—This section forms part of the project of providing a direct rail connection between Nagpur and Vizagapatam. The survey work is in hand. A decision on this project will be taken after the survey reports have been received and considered by the Central Board of Transport.

(vi) *Kurda Road-Sonepur-Lochipur.*—The survey of this project has been completed and reports have been received. The Central Board of Transport have placed this project in category (b).

(vii) *Naupada-Gunupur Conversion.*—This forms part of the larger project of conversion of the narrow gauge line between Nanpada and Gunupur to Broad Gauge and its extension to meet Raipur-Vizianagaram line. The survey has been completed and the reports have been received. The Central Board of Transport have placed this project in category (b).

(viii) *Gopalpur-Berhanpur-Russelkonda Traffic Survey.*—The survey has been completed and report has been received. The Central Board of Transport have placed this project in category (b).

(ix) *Rayaghada-Nowrangpur-Jagdalpur-Bairamgarh Broad Gauge Survey.*—This forms part of the proposed East-West connection from Ramgundam to Rayaghada *via* Bairamgarh, Jagdalpur and Nowrangpur. The survey between Ramgundam and Bairamgarh was carried out by the Nizam's State Railway, and of the portion between Bairamgarh and Rayaghada by the B. N. Railway. The survey reports from the B. N. Railway have been received. The Central Board of Transport have placed the project in category (b).

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Does it contain the Bobbili-Salu Railway to be constructed again?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The statement that I have placed on the table contains details of all these projects which are either under survey or in respect of which survey reports are under examination. The Honourable Member will get the details from that statement.

Shri B. Das: Is the Honourable Minister aware that some of the railways were proposed to be constructed in 1929-30 and thereafter those projects were dropped owing to economic crisis? And is the Honourable Minister aware that promises were given by the Political Department two years ago when the foreign government was ruling that most of the projected railways would be constructed in these States of Orissa which are now part of Orissa Province?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is no lack of sympathy as far as Government is concerned, but the question is partly one of finance and partly one of material resources.

Shri B. Das: What about priority of development of communications in Orissa? As Orissa is not represented in the Cabinet.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know if the Honourable Minister is aware of the fact that most of the areas, and specially the Jeypore-Nowrangpur area is most inaccessible and there are very great transport difficulties?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am aware of the position.

Shri Biswanath Das: Is it not a fact that this railway has long been surveyed by the Government and promise of it was also given long before?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes. As a matter of fact, as the Honourable Member no doubt is aware, there was a fairly extensive scheme of railway development which was drawn up about three or four years ago, but it has been difficult for Government to implement many of these schemes for reasons which are to a large extent beyond our control.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not because that some of these railways have proved to be unprofitable because their size is much smaller than even metre-gauge, and have Government considered the possibility of getting better results by increasing the gauge from the very small thing to metre and from metre to broad?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That raises rather a difficult technical and engineering issue on which I would not like to commit myself.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has it been considered?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The question of gauges has been under constant examination for a long while.

Shri Biswanath Das: Arising from the reply given by my Honourable friend regarding finance, may I know whether he is aware of the fact that the Maharaja of Jeypore has offered lands free?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact the cost of the land is on the whole a relatively small proportion of the total cost of the project.

RAILWAY PASSENGER TRAFFIC EARNINGS DURING 1946-47.

627. ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what was the total passenger traffic earnings in the year 1946-47 for each of the following classes:
(i) first class, (ii) second class, (iii) inter-class, and (iv) third class?

(b) What is the budgeted income for the same, class by class, in the year 1947-48?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House giving the information required.

Statement

(a) The earnings from passenger traffic in 1946-47 of all Indian Government Railways, excluding the N. W. and the B. A. Railways were, in thousands of rupees,

First class	...	2,87,11
Second class	...	5,71,18
Inter class	...	3,91,81
Third class	...	44,96,27
Total	...	57,46,37

Figures by classes for the N. W. and B. A. Railways for 1946-47 are not available as the returns from these railways are incomplete, but the total passenger earnings of the B. A. Railway (in thousands) were 7,22.94 and of the N. W. Railway 16.50.71. Total passenger earnings were thus Rs. 81,20,02 (in thousands).

(b) Estimates of earnings are not made separately for each of the upper classes, but only for all upper classes together and the third class. The budget estimates for the whole year 1947-48 for Indian Government Railways as they stood at the time of the framing of the estimates for that year were, in thousands of rupees,

Upper class	...	15,80,00
Third class	...	63,10,00
Total	...	78,90.00

These estimates took into account the increase in fares which became effective from 1st March 1947.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What were the earnings from air-conditioned passengers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Does that arise?

Mr. Speaker: No, it does not arise.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the difference in percentage between (a) and (b)?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I must work out the arithmetic but taking the position generally I think III class passenger earnings would be 3/4 of the total passenger earnings.

Seth Govinddas: What is the difference between I and II class earnings?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I must have it worked out.

Mr. Hussain Imam: May I know whether the figures which he has given is for the divided India or as before partition?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have included both in the statement.

628. *[Withdrawn].

RAW MATERIAL FOR CALCUTTA JUTE MILLS.

629. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what are the plans of Government to supply raw material to the Calcutta Jute Mills as most of the jute growing area is in Pakistan?

(b) Is any research being made to find a suitable substitute for jute?

(c) Are Government aware that a Burmese scientist has been able to find out a substitute for jute?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Government have been considering the problem created by the partition of the country resulting in most of the jute growing area being included in Pakistan. The question was discussed recently at a meeting of the Indian Central Jute Committee and a conference in which the Agriculture, Industries and Supply, Commerce, Food and Finance Ministries and the Indian Central Jute Committee and the Indian Jute Mills Association will participate is proposed to be called to examine all aspects of the question for early action.

(b) The question of finding possible substitutes for jute was discussed by the Advisory Board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in January 1948 and certain substitutes suggested will be examined.

(c) Government's information is that the examination of a substitute for jute by a Burmese Scientist is yet incomplete.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that fibres other than jute are actually being grown for ages and ages in Southern India and their production can be further strengthened?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That will also be examined from this point of view.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Has the Government any plan for substituting the production of jute in other provinces of the Indian Union?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That question also will be considered by this conference.

STRENGTH OF OFFICER'S CADRE ON RAILWAYS.

630. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what was the strength of the officer's cadre on the railways before partition and what is the strength at present?

(b) Have Government any proposal to appoint a Commission to examine the question of reducing the number of officers? If not, do Government propose to consider the question?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Before partition, the gazetted cadre of the Indian Government Railways consisted of 2434 posts of which 1787 were permanent and 647 temporary. The existing strength is 1958 of which 1449 posts are permanent and 509 temporary.

(b) As the Honourable Member is aware, Government have already appointed the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee the terms of reference of which cover the point raised in this question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many pre-partition officers have opted for Pakistan and left the Indian Union?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to give the number offhand.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: May I know, Sir, if any one of the Railway employees who opted out for Pakistan has come back to India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It depends on what the Honourable Member means by "opting". If a person has opted provisionally then he has the right to cancel his option and come back; if on the other hand a person has opted finally then he cannot come back.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: My question is whether anyone has come back to India or not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Of those who have opted provisionally, some have come back.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: May I know the number?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot give the number offhand.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know what is the meaning of provisionally opting and why such an option was given?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That arrangement was made by the Government of India on broad general considerations, not merely in respect

of the Railways, but in respect of all Departments of Government; that is to say, before conditions became normal and settled, we thought it was fair to give employees a chance of making up their minds after a certain amount of experience of the actual conditions under which they were required to work. Therefore option was given on a provisional basis; but a certain period of time was fixed within which it was incumbent on them either to go back on the option or confirm it.

Seth Govinddas: Was such option given to everyone who wanted to go to Pakistan or only for particular persons?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: To everybody.

Shri Biswanath Das: Apart from the fairness of the problem, which I dispute and many will dispute, I should like to know how many officers have made use of this provision and returned back from Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member will put down a question. I will give a detailed answer.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: In the case of those members who opted to Pakistan and whose places have been filled up by other people, have such places been given to those people who have come back or who opted from Pakistan?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He asks about what happened.

Mr. Speaker: No, he does not 'ask'—he assumes.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: May I know, Sir, whether if those employees who opted out permanently for Pakistan now want to come back, and there is a vacancy for them, Government will be prepared to take them back?

Mr. Speaker: That is also hypothetical.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know how many officers finally opted out of Pakistan and have been employed on the Indian Railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot give an answer offhand.

RAILWAY RESEARCH INSTITUTES

631. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is any research institute under the aegis of the Ministry of Railways?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what steps do Government propose to take in the immediate future to study the special problems of the Railways requiring research?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) There has been in existence since 1935 a nucleus research organization as part of the Central Standards Office for Railways. At present it consists of Civil, Mechanical, Metallurgical and Electrical Research Officers. It primarily deals with railway problems in the field of Civil and Mechanical Engineering and connected Metallurgical and Electrical matters.

The expansion of the Railway Research Organization into a comprehensive research institute is now under consideration. But since it covers almost every aspect of railway activities and requirements, its development is intimately connected with the availability of trained technical staff. The paucity of such staff is retarding progress.

(b) Does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that many if not most of the people who have been engaged on this research have been recruited only on a temporary basis and no one is given an opportunity of specializing in research alone as a matter of career there in this office?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Does the Honourable Member refer to appointments in the Central Standards Office?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They are not on a temporary basis.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, whether railway materials are to be tested only at the Alipore Test House and that there is no testing house for the Railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In regard to certain materials that is the position.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know what materials are tested by the Railways themselves?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I would like notice of that question.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to bring in foreign experts to assist our Railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a very wide issue. On certain aspects of railway working it may be necessary and we are considering it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that though the officers employed in this office are otherwise permanent employees of the Railways, they are brought in here only for a temporary period of two or three years?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In the same way as people drafted in the Government of India Secretariat are on a temporary basis.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But in view of the fact that one has got to concentrate on this research for a considerable period in order to become an expert, have Government not considered the advisability of appointing these people for research as permanent officers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is considerable advantage in appointing officers who have had a certain amount of research experience to normal operational duties.

POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT OF LIGHT ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES

632. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the post-war plans of Government in the matter of light electrical industries, especially the manufacture of batteries, condensers, transformers, electric bulbs and valves?

(b) What is the annual expenditure incurred on importing this type of goods?

(c) Has the question of giving tariff protection to the electric bulb manufacturing industry been considered by Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Government have not yet taken a decision on the development of light electrical industries.

(b) The average annual value of imports of batteries, condensers, valves and electric bulbs during the three years ending 31st March 1946 was about Rs. 56 lakhs.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Honourable Minister got at the back of his mind any plan for the manufacture of radio sets in this country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: With regard to the radio industry, we are already giving assistance to a number of private firms to undertake the assembly of radio sets and manufacture of radio components on a planned production basis, and we are consulting them as to how far we can help them in manufacturing radio valves for which also there will be a demand in the country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that an Indian firm which was started in Bombay for the manufacture of cheap radio sets, has been complaining of want of sufficient assistance from the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am not aware of this.

NON-AVAILABILITY OF TICKETS AT SOME RAILWAY STATIONS

633. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that at many Railway booking offices, tickets to some railway stations are not available?

(b) Do Government propose to issue paper tickets in all such cases to the passengers so as to avoid the necessity of their buying tickets for stations beyond their destination?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Stations are normally supplied with printed card tickets for those destinations for which there is an appreciable and regular demand for tickets. In addition, every station is authorised to prepare blank paper tickets to destinations for which printed tickets are not available. Printed card tickets have on occasion been in short supply owing to supply difficulties.

(b) Stations are required to prepare and issue paper tickets when printed card tickets are not available and railways are being directed to see that this is regularly done.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the shortage of printed card tickets been the cause of ticketless travel?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: To some extent yes.

REVISED EDITION OF WATTS' DICTIONARY OF ECONOMIC PRODUCTS

634. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are aware that many years ago, a Dictionary comprising several volumes which principally dealt with medicinal herbs found in India and known as Watt's "Dictionary of Economic Products" was published under the auspices of Government?

(b) Is there any proposal to bring out a revised edition of this publication?

(c) If not, do Government propose to consider the advisability of arranging for the publication of a revised edition of this work?

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

(b) and (c). Since 1942, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has been engaged in the task of revising the Dictionary. In addition to up-to-date information and the topics already dealt with in Watt's Dictionary, the new work will also include articles on Indian industries and industrial resources. The first Volume of this new Dictionary is in the Press and is expected to be available by May 1948.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will it be published in Hindi also?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The present edition will be in English, but the suggestion may be considered.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will this Watt's book be put on the shelf then?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question does not arise.

EUROPEAN TECHNICIANS ETC. FOR SERVICES IN INDIA

635. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply 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 Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) First class experts are difficult to get from European countries on account of the post-war rehabilitation of industries that is going on there, but some experts are available, especially from Germany.

(b) In regard to German technicians the Government of India have already obtained release from the British and American Zones of Germany of some of the experts required by Indian industries. In other cases where firms have been able to secure the services of experts, travel facilities and other assistance have been given by the Government to bring them to India.

(c) Yes, applications have been received from a few Germans. It is the intention of the Government to recruit such of them as are suitable provided they are politically unobjectionable and Indians with similar qualifications are not available.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have the four Powers who are today exploiting Germany, namely Britain, Russia, America and France, placed any obstacles in the way of our getting German technicians?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There is a common pool from which we get the men we require, and we have had considerable difficulty in getting the men.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have all the four Governments placed obstacles in our way or only one or two of them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is difficult to say whether the obstacles put were deliberate or not, but we have experienced difficulty in getting what we wanted.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Is it not a fact, Sir, that politically objectionable technicians have been recruited by those very countries who are occupying Germany and are utilising them in their countries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: But we tried to avoid the recruitment of politically objectionable technicians.

Shri B. Das: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the United Kingdom is putting difficulties in the way of Germans coming to India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are trying to negotiate so that we can get whom we want.

Shri Khurshed Lal: May I know, Sir, what the factors taken into consideration in classifying a person as politically objectionable?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I believe views held to be politically objectionable by the Home Ministry.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Is Government aware of the fact that German scientists are looking for jobs in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am not aware, Sir.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: May I know the nature of the difficulties placed in the way of such individuals coming to India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Naturally the best men who are available are in demand from every country; that is our main difficulty.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know the number of men for whom we are negotiating and their names also, if possible?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have received a request for about 200 experts and we are negotiating in order to get as many as we can.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are German Jews also included among them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I suppose so.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Would it not be better to send our own men to foreign countries for advanced technical training than to import foreign experts?

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of opinion and cannot be allowed.

DEATH OF DR. B. S. MOONJE.

Mr Speaker: Before the House proceeds with further business I have to refer to the sad demise of an ex-honourable member of this House, Dr. B. S. Moonje. He was a member of this House for over three and a half years and he was a veteran fighter in the cause of Indian liberties. The House knows that he had a special liking for military pursuits and has also established a Military School. We mourn his loss and offer our condolences to the family of the deceased. The House will do him honour by standing for some time.

STATEMENT ON KASHMIR

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister and Leader of the House): Sir, I crave your leave and the indulgence of the House to make a statement on Kashmir. I would beg the House to bear with me for a while, because there is a great deal to say, however briefly I might say it,—not that I am going to make any sensational disclosures, there is nothing very secret about what I am going to say and the facts have appeared in the public press and in other places frequently enough during the last few months. Nevertheless it is right that I should place before the House some kind of a consecutive account of what has happened. In order to lessen my task and to help members of the House, we have prepared a White Paper on Kashmir which will be distributed to members. This White Paper does not bring matters right up-to-date. It is practically up to the period of the reference to the Security Council. It is not an absolutely complete paper in the sense that every telegram and every letter is included, but, on the whole, most of the messages that passed between us and the Government of Pakistan or connected messages have been given in this White Paper.

Now, before I speak on this particular Kashmir issue, I should like by your leave to say a few words on a wider issue of which the Kashmir issue is a part. We have been living through strenuous days; we have been passing through a period of dynamic history in India. Much has happened during the past six months, much that was good and much that was very bad. But, perhaps, when the history of India comes to be written, when much of the horror of today has been forgotten, one of the biggest things that will be mentioned, will be the change that has come over India and that is coming over India in regard to the Indian States. We see something very remarkable happening. It is perhaps difficult for us who live in the middle of this change to appreciate the bigness of what has happened. But it is an upsetting in a very curious way—a peaceful way—of a structure that has endured in India for the past 130 or 140 years, more or less ever since the beginnings of the 19th century.

We see the sweep of history suddenly coming, the big broom of history, and changing this 130 years' old structure and putting something else in its place. We cannot definitely and absolutely say what the final and precise outcome of all this will be, though the picture is clearing up fairly rapidly. It would almost appear that there is the hand of destiny functioning. What is happening is nothing that we did not expect. In fact, many of us for the last many

years have had certain objectives in regard to the Indian States and we have worked for them both through our political and other organisations in India, through the people of the States, through the people of the provinces and otherwise. And, on the whole, what is happening today is in line with the objectives we had laid down. So, it is not surprising. Yet, may I confess to you, Sir, that even I who have been rather intimately connected with the States peoples' movement for many years, if I had been asked six months ago what the course of developments would be in the next six months since then, I would have hesitated to say that such rapid changes would have taken place. Many factors have gone to bring about these rapid changes. Ultimately, I suppose, they are the forces of history working,—the unleashing of all manner of forces which had been repressed for so long. For we had during these 130 years a strange phenomenon. The British Government had constructed a State structure in the course of a quarter of a century in the early days of the 19th century. Whether it fitted in, in reality, with conditions then existing in India or not, it is a little difficult to say, that is to say, minus the British Government what would have happened. Anyhow, that dominant power of the British created this system, no doubt, for their own advantage as they thought it. That system continued, not because of any inherent strength, as is obvious today, but because of the continuance of that dominant power, of the paramount power as it was called. All manner of changes were going on in India and in the outside world and yet this Indian States structure continued. Many of us said that it was rather archaic, it was out of date, it had to change and must change and so on and so forth. But now that protecting hand of a foreign Government having been removed, the repressions are removed. The forces that had been kept in check suddenly began to function and we see them in action,—in rapid action. The forces are there, of course; they have not been curbed by any of us, but I think in the manner of dealing with this situation,—an intricate and difficult situation—this House will agree with me that we owe a debt of gratitude to my friend and colleague, the Deputy Prime Minister.

So it is in this mighty context of a changing India in regard to the States that we have to view any particular aspect of it. We saw unfortunately six months back a partition of India, a splitting up of India, a part of India going out of India. Immediately after that process of cutting off, another process started, or rather, always we have had these two processes—the process of integrating India. We have seen this process of integrating India going on in regard to the States, and not only in regard to the States but to some extent even in regard to the Provinces, but much more so in regard to the States. So, these two things have gone on together,—a process of cutting away and a process of integration,—and in the balance it is difficult to say how far we have gained and how far we have lost. It is difficult to say also how far this process of integration will go and whether it will take us ultimately. Nevertheless, it is interesting for us living through this rather strange and dynamic period of India's history to look at it in some perspective, not as actors in the drama but rather as historians looking back on what has happened. The historian who looks back will no doubt consider this integration of the States into India as one of the dominant phases of India's history.

Well, Sir, the process is taking various shapes. There has been an actual merger of a large number of small States into India; there has been a bringing together of a number of States into Unions of States which form units of the Union of India and a certain number of major States remain as separate entities. But what is equally important—and if I may say so, even more important—is not this integration externally but an inner integration, that is, the growth of democratic institutions and responsible government in the States, because that brings about a real integration, not at the top levels of Government

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but at the level of the people. Both these processes have gone on and both these processes, may I remind the House, are in line with the objectives for which we have laboured for many years.

Now it is in this context of changes in the States system that I would like this House to consider the particular case of Kashmir, although it stands apart and many other factors come in the play. To day in India two States stand quite apart from the rest in regard to these processes. Those States are Hyderabad and Kashmir. I am not going at this moment to say anything about Hyderabad. In regard to Kashmir, it stands apart for many reasons, partly because it has got entangled in a certain external politics, that is to say, it has got entangled in the relations between India and Pakistan and so the two essentially State issues there, are somewhat submerged. It is an odd thing that it should get so entangled. That it got entangled is not odd, but the manner of its entanglement, because the Government of Pakistan have assured us time and again that they have nothing to do with recent events in Kashmir, raids and invasions etc.,—they go on repeating that—; nevertheless, they seek to profit by those events. They seek political advantages out of those events, so that while disclaiming all responsibility for what has happened they do want to share in whatever they might get out of it. Anyhow, the Kashmir problem stands apart.

But for the moment, leaving out this external implication of the Kashmir problem, if you consider it, it is essentially the same problem, that is to say, a problem of the growth of the freedom of the people and the growth also of a new integration. Now, we have been aiming,—the Government of India and the States Ministry have been aiming—at the growth of this inner freedom of the people of all the States. If many of the States have agreed to merge in India or come into closer contact, it is not because the States Ministry took a big stick and threatened them with consequences. It is because of those forces, rising up from the people, other forces, and, fundamentally, the sudden withdrawal of an external force which had kept the States together, or rather the States system together, the might of the British Government and the sanctions behind it. That disappearing, immediately the structure began to collapse and it is an astonishing thing—this sudden collapse of a structure which seemed so solid just a few months or a year ago—, not surprising to those who knew the facts, but undoubtedly surprising to those people who take a superficial view of things. So, essentially we have been aiming at the freedom of the people, knowing and realising that ultimately it will be for the people of the States to decide what their future will be. We are not going to compel them. We do not propose to compel them, and indeed we cannot compel them in the context of the world today in any State. There are other compulsions, the compulsions of geography, That is true; one cannot ignore that. There are many other compulsions. And naturally in considering the problem, we, that is, the Government of India, have always to consider the interests of India as a whole,—the interests of India in regard to security, defence etc.,—but apart from that, we do not wish to exercise any other compulsion in the slightest over the growth of freedom. In fact, we want to encourage it in the people of the States. We know well that if there is that growth of freedom and freedom of decision by the people of the States, that it will be a powerful factor to bring them nearer to our people, because we hope that whatever constitution we might adopt in India, it will be based completely on the will of the people.

Now, may I say a few words before I go on to the Kashmir issue and that is this: In this matter I feel a slight difficulty because the matter is being or going to be again discussed in the Security Council of the United Nations and I would not like to say anything which might be construed, shall I say,

into putting any difficulties in the way or coming to a settlement either in the Security Council or elsewhere. Because we earnestly desire a settlement, we earnestly desire that these great forces should be allowed to function normally and to achieve their results, because any other result will be an artificial result. We cannot impose a result—certainly Pakistan cannot impose a result; ultimately there is no doubt in my mind that in Kashmir as elsewhere, the people of Kashmir will decide finally, and all that we wish is that they should have freedom of decision without any external compulsions.

Now, there is one other factor which I should like to put before the House in regard to Kashmir. We have got too used in India unfortunately to thinking of every problem or many problems in terms of communalism, of Hindu *versus* Muslim or Hindu and Sikh *versus* Muslim and so on and so forth. That has been an unfortunate legacy of ours and the extent to which it took us cannot be forgotten by us and the tragedies that it has led to. We are trying, I hope, to get rid of the spirit of communalism in this country, in India at least. We hope to put an end to it, not suddenly perhaps, but certainly fairly rapidly.

Now in this context of communal conflict the case of Kashmir stands apart, because Kashmir is not a case of communal conflict; it may be a case of political conflict, if you like; it may be a case of any other conflict, but it is essentially not a case of communal conflict. Therefore this struggle in Kashmir, although it has brought great suffering in its train to the people of Kashmir, it has placed a burden on us—on the Government of India, and the people of India; nevertheless it stands out as a sign of hope that there we see a certain co-operation, combination and co-ordination of certain elements: Hindu and Muslim and Sikh and others on an equal level and for a political fight for their own freedom I wish to stress this because it is continually being said by our opponents and critics on the other side that this is a communal affair and that we are there to support the Hindus or the Sikh minorities as against the Muslim masses of Kashmir—nothing can be more fantastically untrue. We could not for an instant send our armies and we would not be there if we were not supported by very large sections of the population, which means the Muslims of Kashmir. We would not have gone there in spite of the invitation of the Maharaja of Kashmir, if that invitation had not been backed by the representatives of the people of Kashmir and may I say to the House that in spite of our armies having functioned with great gallantry, even our armies could not have succeeded except with the help and co-operation of the people of Kashmir. Now we are charged by people outside beyond the borders of India for going to Kashmir to support an autocratic monarch. The House will remember that one of the conditions that we made at that critical moment, when we had to decide whether to send the Indian Army or not, whether to accept accession or not, one of the conditions was that there must be a popular Government there, and not as a goal and an ideal, but immediately. It was an immediate thing and it was given effect to immediately in so far as it could be given effect to. So, it is strange that this charge should be brought against us. Look at this charge in another context. Those people, men and women of Kashmir, who are with us and who are fighting for their freedom and liberty there, they are not newcomers in the struggle for freedom; for the greater part of a generation, they have fought for the freedom of Kashmir, in Kashmir; they have suffered for it and some of us have deemed it a privilege to be associated with them in this fight for the freedom of Kashmir against autocratic rule. These people are with us today. Who are their opponents, who are against them in Kashmir or elsewhere? What has been their record in the past ten, twenty years in regard to the freedom of Kashmir? It is an interesting speculation and an interesting inquiry, because these gentlemen who talk about the autocracy of the Ruler of Kashmir, who talk about autocracy there, what did they do during these last ten, twenty years? They never

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fought for the freedom of the people of Kashmir; most of them supported that autocracy; most of them opposed the freedom movement in Kashmir. Now because of entirely different reasons, they became the champions of the freedom of Kashmir. And what is the type of freedom they have brought into Kashmir today? The freedom so-called that they have brought into Kashmir is the licence to loot and murder and burn that lovely country and to abduct and carry away the beautiful women of Jammu and Kashmir State; and not only carry them away, but place some of them in the open market place for sale! So, let us have this background before us when we consider this Kashmir story. It is a stirring background of events and many of us have been distressed at the strangely narrow view that people in the Security Council have taken on this matter. I do not desire to enter into the details of what happened in the Security Council or not, but I do feel that this background must be appreciated. It is not a Hindu-Muslim question in Kashmir; it is not a question of certainly our standing for any autocracy or anything. We have already not only during the last fifteen, twenty years shown where we stand in regard to the states with the people and the rulers. In regard to Kashmir, more particularly, we have shown by our actions from the very first day we went there in October last upto today and I shall have something more to say about it before I finish as to how we feel about the freedom of Kashmir.

Now, Sir, I shall go into some slight detail about events in Kashmir.

The House will recall the statement I made on Kashmir on the 25th November 1947. In that statement I recounted briefly the course of events in the Jammu and Kashmir State upto that day, the part played by the Government of Pakistan in these events, and our own objectives.

Our complaint against Pakistan was that it incited and aided tribesmen from outside and its own nationals to wage war on Jammu and Kashmir State. The month of December showed an intensification of military pressure on the State. Nearly 19,000 raiders had been reinforced in the Uri area. 15,000 raiders were operating against the western and south-western borders of the State. Incursions by the raiders into State territory, involving murder, arson, loot and the abduction of women were continuing. The booty was being collected and carried to tribal areas to serve as an inducement to tribesmen to swell the ranks of the raiders. In addition to those actively participating in the raids, a large number of tribesmen and others estimated at 100,000, had been collected in different places in the districts of West Punjab bordering upon Jammu and Kashmir State, and many of them were receiving military training under Pakistan nationals, including officers of the Pakistan Army. They were being looked after in Pakistan territory, fed, clothed, armed and otherwise equipped and transported to the territory of the Jammu and Kashmir State with the help, direct and indirect, of Pakistan officials, both military and civil. The equipment of the invaders included modern weapons such as mortars, medium machine guns, the men wore the battle dress of regular soldiers, fought in regular battle formation and used the tactics of modern warfare. Men-packed wireless sets were in regular use and even Mark 'V' mines were being employed.

More than once, the Government of India had asked the Pakistan Government to deny facilities to the invaders, facilities which constituted an act of aggression and hostility against India, but without any satisfactory response. On the 22nd December, I handed personally to the Prime Minister of Pakistan in New Delhi a letter in which the various forms of aid were briefly recited, and his Government were asked to put an end to such aid promptly and without reservation.

As no reply to this letter was received for some days I sent a reminder by telegram on the 26th December. On the 31st December the Government of India informed their Ambassador in Washington to convey a message to the Chairman of the Security Council of the United Nations. This message was a reference to the Security Council under Article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations. On that same day the full text of the message was sent to the Prime Minister of Pakistan by telegram.

On the 1st of January I received a reply from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, to my letter dated 22nd December. The contents of this letter revealed no helpful approach to a solution of the Kashmir problem. They consisted only of a series of fantastic charges against India, *e.g.*, a determination to crush Pakistan, organise genocide of Muslims in India, and the procurement of the accession of Kashmir by force and fraud. This letter, even if it had been received earlier, could not have modified our decision to request the Security Council of the United Nations to ask the Government of Pakistan:

(1) to prevent Pakistan Government personnel, Military or civil, from participating and assisting the invasion of Jammu and Kashmir State; (2) to call upon other Pakistan nationals to desist from taking part in the fighting in Jammu and Kashmir State; (3) to deny to the raiders; (a) access to and use of its territory for operations against Kashmir; (b) military and other supplies; (c) all other kinds of aid that might tend to prolong the present struggle.

The House will remember the circumstances in which we had sent our forces to Kashmir. Kashmir State territory, that is, after accession Indian Dominion territory, was being invaded to the accompaniment of murder, arson, loot and the abduction of women. The whole countryside was being ruined. Fresh raiders were continually coming from Pakistan territory into Kashmir State. All the fighting was taking place in Indian Dominion territory. The invaders had their principal bases across the border in Pakistan, received supply and reinforcements from them, and could go back there to rest and recuperate in safety. Our troops had strict orders not to enter Pakistan territory. The normal course to prevent raids on Indian territory would have been to deny the use of any bases to them in Pakistan. Since Pakistan was unwilling to cooperate with us in this manner, the alternatives left to us were to send our armed forces across Pakistan territory for dealing effectively with the invaders, or to request the United Nations to ask Pakistan to do so. Any resort to the first course would have involved armed conflict with Pakistan. We were anxious to avoid this and to try every available method to find a peaceful solution. Therefore the only course left open to us was to make a reference to the Security Council.

I shall not take up the time of the House with a detailed account of the proceedings of the Security Council; these have been fairly fully reported in the press. I must confess that I have been surprised and distressed at the fact that the reference we made has not even been properly considered thus far and other matters have been given precedence. If the facts we stated in our reference were correct, as we claim they were, then certain consequences naturally flowed from them, both in law and from the point of view of establishing peace and order.

On behalf of Pakistan there was a repetition of the fantastic charges against India which had been made previously in the letter of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to which I have referred. Pakistan refused to act at once, to deny assistance in men and material to our enemies in Jammu and Kashmir, to prevent further incursions through Pakistan into the State, and to ask the tribesmen and Pakistanis now in the State to withdraw unless a previous agreement was reached and announced to the effect that the Indian Armed forces should be withdrawn completely from Jammu and Kashmir State

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and the administration of the State should be replaced by another administration. There were some other matters in dispute also but the principal ones were the two I have mentioned above.

In effect Pakistan not only admitted that they were aiding the raiders but made it clear that they would continue to do so till certain political objectives of theirs were achieved by them. This was a proposal to which the Government of India could not agree. For such an agreement would have been not only a betrayal of the people of Kashmir to whom they had pledged their word, but also a surrender to methods of violence and aggression which would have had disastrous consequences both for India and Pakistan. It was impossible for us to withdraw our forces without grave danger to the State and without handing over the people of the State who trusted in us to an unscrupulous and cruel invader who had already brought so much misery to the State and its people. Nor could we share the responsibility of protecting the people of Kashmir with any other outside force. It was equally impossible for us to agree to the replacement of Shaikh Abdullah's administration by any other. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir is now no longer an autocratic government; it is a government representing the largest popular party in the State and is under a leader who, during these many months of unparalleled stress, has sustained the morale of his people, has maintained an effective administration over the greater part of the State, and generally, has inspired effective resistance to the brutal attempts of the invaders to overrun and destroy Kashmir. There is no alternative administration possible in Kashmir, unless that administration rested on coersion. If Shaikh Abdullah were not there by the will of the people, he could not have survived, much less could he have accomplished what he has done during these difficult months. It is for him to choose any national of Kashmir to assist him in his government and it would be improper for us to interfere with his discretion in this matter.

I regret greatly that the representative of Pakistan before the Security Council should have made many statements and charges against India which have no foundation in fact. A great deal has happened in India and Pakistan during the last six months or more which has brought shame to all of us and I am prepared to admit at any stage and at any time the errors of our own people, for I do not think that it is good for the individual or the nation to lapse from truth. That is the lesson our Master taught us and we shall hold to it to the best of our ability. Many horrible things have happened in India and Pakistan during these past months and while we hold strong views as to the initial responsibility for all the frightfulness that has occurred, all of us in a greater or lesser degree have a certain responsibility for it. But so far as the events in Kashmir are concerned, I am convinced in my mind that every action that the Government of India has taken has been straight and above board and inevitable in the circumstances. Our going there at the end of October was thrust upon us by the course of events. Not to have rushed to the rescue of the people of Kashmir when they were in dire peril would have been an eternal disgrace, a gross betrayal and a deep injury. We feel deeply about this matter and it is not merely a question of political advantage or disadvantage. It has been and is a moral issue with us apart from other aspects of the case, and because of this at every stage and at every step I consulted Mahatma Gandhi and had his approval. In the confusion of a welter of charges and exaggerated statements, the basic facts are apt to be forgotten. I should like to know from anyone who studies our record in Kashmir since that fateful day when the raiders swooped down at Muzaffarabad and started their career of rapine and arson, I should like to know what major step we took that was morally or otherwise wrong.

The role of the Indian Army in this conflict, which I repeat was not of our seeking has been conspicuous for its discipline, impartiality, endurance and gallantry. They have extended their protection to every section of the people of the State. To suggest that they should be withdrawn before complete order is restored is to suggest something which is neither practicable nor reasonable and which is further a reflection on the exemplary record of our forces in Kashmir. We are in Kashmir and our forces are there because legally we are on unassailable ground. But even apart from law the moral case of the Indian Union in Kashmir is equally unassailable. If we had not gone there and if our armed forces had not been rushed at great peril into Kashmir, that lovely country would now have been sacked, destroyed and ruined and its men and women who have been noted for ages past for their intelligence and their cultural traditions would have been crushed under the heel of a barbarian invader. No Government in India could tolerate such happening so long as it had the strength to resist it with all its might and if such a fate befell Kashmir what freedom or security would we have in the rest of India?

We have only two objectives in Jammu and Kashmir State; to ensure the freedom and the progress of the people there, and to prevent anything happening that might endanger the security of India. We have nothing else to gain from Kashmir, though Kashmir may profit much by our assistance. If those two objectives are assured to us we are content.

Our making a reference on this issue to the Security Council of the United Nations was an act of faith because we believe in the progressive realisation of world order and a world government. In spite of many shocks we have adhered to the ideals represented by the United Nations and its Charter. But those very ideals teach us also certain duties and responsibilities to our own people and to those who put their trust in us. To betray these people would be to betray the basic ideals for which the United Nations stands or should stand. Even at the moment of accession we went out of our way to make a unilateral declaration that we would abide by the will of the people of Kashmir as declared in a plebiscite or referendum. We insisted further that the Government of Kashmir must immediately become a popular government. We have adhered to that position throughout and we are prepared to have a plebiscite, with every protection for fair voting and to abide by the decision of the people of Kashmir.

Our delegation has gone back to Lake Success after full discussions with us. They have gone back with a clear appreciation of the position of the Government of India and of Indian opinion and fortified with the knowledge that they have our full support. I should like to express my gratitude to Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar and his colleagues for the ability and firmness with which they presented our case before the Security Council. Sheikh Abdullah has not gone back because his work lies with his people at this grave juncture. He has to assume a heavier responsibility. I feel confident that he will discharge this new responsibility with that strength and vision which have endeared him to Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs in Kashmir. His place in the delegation has been taken by Shri Girija Shankar Bajpai, Secretary General of the Minstry of External Affairs, who has been a tower of strength to me during these difficult months.

I shall not say much about the military situation in Jammu and Kashmir. We have had our moments of anxiety but at no time have I had any doubt about our capacity to meet the enemy and defeat him. Our officers and men are in high spirit, ready to meet any challenge. We have good reason to be proud of our officers and men both of the Army and the Air Force. In particular, I should like to pay a tribute to Brigadier Usman, whose leadership and success have been in keeping with the highest traditions of India's army.

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The representative of Pakistan before the Security Council has brought in many charges against us which have little bearing on the Kashmir issue. He has talked of what he called our aggression in Junagadh and genocide and of much else. I do not wish to take up the time of the House in dealing with these matters. We wish to conceal nothing and if the Security Council desires any investigation we shall welcome it.

Now I should like to inform the House that today the Maharaja of Kashmir is issuing a proclamation and I shall briefly place the contents of that proclamation before the House; or I might as well read the whole proclamation.

2 NOON

"PROCLAMATION OF HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA HARI SINGH INDAR MAHINDAR BAHADUR OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, THIS FIFTH DAY OF MARCH, ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY EIGHT."

"In accordance with the traditions of my dynasty I have, from time to time, provided for increasing association of my people with the administration of the State with the object of realising the goal of full responsible government at as early a date as possible and in pursuance of that object have, by the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution Act of 1996 (XIV of 1996) established a constitutional government with a Council of Ministers, a Legislature with a majority of elected members and an Independent Judiciary;

I have noted with gratification and pride the progress so far made and the legitimate desire of my people for the immediate establishment of a fully democratic constitution based on adult franchise with a hereditary Ruler from my dynasty as the constitutional head of an Executive responsible to the Legislature;

I have already appointed the popular leader of my people, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, as the Head of the Emergency Administration;

It is now my desire to replace the Emergency Administration by a popular Interim Government and to provide for its powers, duties and functions, pending the framing of a fully democratic Constitution;

I accordingly HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

1. My Council of Ministers shall consist of the Prime Minister and such other Ministers as may be appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister. I have by Royal Warrant appointed Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah as the Prime Minister with effect from the 1st day of March 1948.

2. The Prime Minister and other Ministers shall function as a Cabinet and act on the principle of joint responsibility. A Dewan appointed by me shall also be a member of the Cabinet.

3. I take this opportunity of giving once again a solemn assurance that all sections of my people will have opportunities of service, both civil and military, solely on the basis of their merits and irrespective of creed or community.

4. My Council of Ministers shall take appropriate steps, as soon as restoration of normal conditions has been completed, to convene a National Assembly based upon Adult suffrage, having due regard to the principle that the number of representatives from each voting area should, as far as practicable, be proportionate to the population of that area.

5. The Constitution to be framed by the National Assembly shall provide adequate safeguards for the minorities and contain appropriate provisions guaranteeing freedom of conscience, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.

6. The National Assembly shall, as soon as the work of framing the new constitution is completed, submit it through the Council of Ministers for my acceptance.

7. In conclusion I repeat the hope that the formation of a popular Interim Government and the inauguration, in the near future, of a fully democratic Constitution will ensure the contentment, happiness and the moral and material advancement of my beloved people."

I am placing this Proclamation on the table of the House.

I should like to congratulate His Highness the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir on this decision that he has taken. But the burden now lies on Sheikh Abdullah and his colleagues and the people of Kashmir. I have no doubt as to how they will discharge their burden, because they are not newcomers and we have seen them functioning in the face of all manner of difficulties during the last few months. So I look forward with a certain measure of assurance to the future of Kashmir in spite of all difficulties.

I am, Sir, also placing a copy* of the White Paper on the table of the House.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): May I request the Honourable the Prime Minister to allot one day for the discussion of this issue?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am in the hands of the House but I should have thought that a vague discussion would not serve the purpose, more especially when the matter is being discussed by the Security Council, and it is difficult to avoid saying things which might create difficulties. That is in fact one of the reasons why I have avoided for sometime past to make any reference to this question in this House, because of this matter being before the Security Council. But I am entirely in the hands of the House in the matter.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): While agreeing with the Honourable the Prime Minister in the very sane advice that he has offered to us, out of the two questions that he has spoken about, namely Kashmir and Hyderabad, he has stated about Kashmir all that has been done and nothing has been said about Hyderabad. May I request him to allot sometime for Hyderabad?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think we should carry on this discussion or questioning any further. The opinion in the House is quite clear on the point and it will not be advisable to discuss these questions in the House when there are many other difficult matters outside.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have to announce that under sub-order (1) of Standing Order 80 of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Standing Orders, the following Honourable Members will form the Committee on Petitions, namely: (1) Mr. Hussain Imam, (2) Shri K. Santhanam, (3) Mr. R. K. Sidhva, (4) Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan, and (5) Shri B. Das.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS

SECOND STAGE

Change in Procedure regarding the Moving of Demands for Grants

Mr. Speaker: The House will now discuss the Demands for Grants in respect of General Budget. I understand that a list showing the Cut Motions which will be moved by the Congress Party to-day 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 or more for the Honourable Ministers replying. I trust this suits Honourable Members.

*Not printed in the Debates. A copy placed in the Library of the House.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir in view of the changed procedure I would suggest that ordinarily you may allow ten minutes to each speaker and you may in your discretion allow an extra five minutes to any particular speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I gladly accept that amendment. Ordinarily the time limit will be ten minutes and I may give more time if necessary.

There are two changes which it is proposed to introduce this time. One is on my own and that is that we may follow the Parliamentary practice, according to which all these Demands are put from the Chair instead of the Honourable Finance Minister moving each Demand separately. In fact, on the guillotine day, that practice is followed, when it is from the Chair that all the demands are put to the House.

The other change is this. A request was made to me that it is the desire of Honourable Members that, along with the demands, all the cut motions that are to be discussed on a particular demand should be moved, so that Honourable Members will have an opportunity of dealing with all cut motions at the same time and the Honourable Minister may finally reply. There is, I believe, an agreement on that point. So we shall proceed in that manner.

The Demands that are coming up for discussion today are Demands Nos. 22, 29 and 55. I will therefore place these Demands before the House.

DEMAND NO. 22—MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,19,000, 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 'Ministry of Labour'."

DEMAND NO. 29.—MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,96,000, 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 'Ministry of Industry and Supply'."

DEMAND NO. 55.—INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,93,71,000, 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 'Industries and Supplies'."

DEMAND NO. 29.—MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY

Stepping up of Production of Large and Small Scale Industries

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Disposal Policy

Shri Ramnath Goenka (Madras: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Creation of a Commercial and Industrial Service and Pooling up of Technicians

Shri C. Subramaniam (Madras: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

DEMAND NO. 55.—INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

Director General of Disposals, Textiles Commissioner and India Stores Department, London.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Industries and Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 50,00,000."

This is an Economy Cut.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Industries and Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 50,00,000."

DEMAND NO. 29.—MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY

Administration of State Industries in General and Sindhri Factory in particular

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I believe these are agreed cut motions. I understand no other motion is going to be moved now. Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar may now speak.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, industry is the backbone of economic life in any country. Almost all countries in the world have industrialised. It is only an industrialised country that can raise the standard of life of its citizens. In America more than 50 per cent of the population are engaged in industry. So is the case in regard to other countries. But in this country the standard of life of the ordinary man is very low on account of the fact that we have for nearly 150 years been pinned to an agricultural economy, being producers of raw materials for the mills and the machines in Lancashire, Manchester and other places. Fortunately the stranglehold has been removed and we have come by our own. We have to industrialise our country immediately. There are a number of factors necessary for this. As in private industry, the entrepreneur, the managerial staff, the machinery, power, technicians, labour and raw materials are necessary, likewise in an economy where a portion of the industry is taken by the state and the other portion is reserved for private enterprise we have to allocate these resources between the two.

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First of all I shall address myself to the need for an economic planning in this country, a need to which I have already referred in my speech on the budget a few days ago. There have been stray attempts to plan with respect to industries here and there, but no co-ordinated plan has yet been evolved. An Industries Conference took place two months ago and Members of this House must be obliged to the book that has been printed and circulated to the Members, containing a lot of information regarding the plans that have already been evolved. At page 38 of the brochure from the Ministry of Industry and Supply relating to the Conference on Industrial Development in India it is admitted that with respect to some industries no plans have been evolved at all. With respect to some others for which Panels were already constituted they did not go into the matter as they were still under consideration. I would like that a Planning Commission should immediately be appointed to co-ordinate all the plans. A policy must be evolved by the Government at an early date indicating what industries the Government proposes to take under state ownership and state management, what others are to be under joint participation of the state and private enterprise, and thirdly what ought to be given as field for private enterprise absolutely. Without that kind of policy nothing can go on and no stepping up of production is possible. Having enunciated that policy the next step is to carry it out in a period of, say, five years. I am glad that the Honourable the Finance Minister found that even five years was too long a period having regard to the context of world circumstances in which we are placed; he thought three years would be enough. Therefore, with a plan running over a period of three years we should work out a programme for each year from now. This we can no longer delay and all the efforts of the members, including the Finance Minister, must be devoted to this one purpose of immediately enunciating the Government's policy in this direction, to chalk out a coordinated plan having regard to all the reports furnished till now on various industries and ask the other Panels to submit their reports also, co-ordinate them and draw up a programme and see to it that the programme is executed year after year. That is the first desideratum. Inasmuch as we are leaving a number of industries to private enterprise and our first necessity is that they should step up production, we must insist upon their doing it. In the case of any default in this direction I want that officers of the state must take charge of the industry and run it.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi (Madras: General): Will that improve matters?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Suppose in the case of a private motor car the driver does not drive it the owner will certainly take charge and say "I am not going to be stranded in the streets because the driver does not drive the car; I shall certainly drive it myself."

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: There will be danger ahead.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is no danger ahead; the danger is only in the rear. It is for that purpose I have been suggesting and I do suggest again that a Commercial and Industrial Service should be started by the Government of India. We have started the Administrative Service for all India to keep up the level of administration and to run it as a harmonious whole and a single unit. Likewise in the case of commercial and industrial undertakings which are not run properly or consistently with the interests of

the country in stepping up production, Government must be prepared to step in at a particular time. It is no novel suggestion I am making. The principle has already been accepted. In piloting the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill my Honourable friend the Finance Minister accepted the principle that in certain circumstances where loans have been granted to industrial concerns and they are not managing them properly the Corporation should intervene. Power has been given to the Industrial Finance Corporation in such an event to take charge of the management and itself run the industry. If perchance certain industrial concerns default in repayment and the Honourable the Finance Minister is obliged to take charge of the management himself, where is he to go for men? It is necessary therefore, having regard to the statute which we have already created, that an institution or an Industrial Bank should be brought into existence to run such concerns efficiently. Whenever it is necessary to take over their management we must have this industrial service.

I am glad to note that, as anticipated, the establishment of the Industrial Finance Corporation has been followed up by similar Corporations in the Provinces. The first attempt was envisaged by the Bengal Government. In his Budget speech the Finance Minister of Bengal said that they were also thinking of establishing an Industrial Finance Corporation for Bengal to cater to the needs of smaller industries, as the Central Finance Corporation will address itself to the needs of bigger industries. With the managerial staff and the entrepreneur section the Government itself should provide facilities for bringing into existence such a service.

The next thing is finance. The Finance Minister ever since he took charge of his office has been openly declaring that he was prepared to subordinate all other interests to the one main interest of stepping up of production so that we may have both consumer goods and also speeding up defence industries wherever necessary. I agree that that is the main consideration to which all of us should address ourselves. He has not spared any pains and he has brought into existence an Industrial Finance Corporation for big industries. In the matter of giving relief by way of taxation he has tried to reduce the Business Profits Tax. With respect to smaller companies also he has tried to help them by reducing the tax. But I would urge upon him to have a watch and see to it that these facilities are used to the best advantage. If necessary, he may patronize or help by way of subsidies such industries which fit into the scheme of planning that I have already thought necessary. The plan must envisage priorities to various industries and he must give help by way of reducing import duties and other subsidies also.

Next come coal and power. So far as machinery is concerned, some machinery may be released by Japan. Some men have been sent to find out what machinery is available for us by way of reparations from Japan and from Germany also. In addition some machinery has been ordered from foreign countries. Apart from that, some efforts must be made immediately here to utilise all the war surpluses. A number of pieces of machinery were sold away without regard to their being switched over to civilian industries. Now I wish that the Government appoints a sub-committee to go into this matter and find out what pieces of machinery may be used or switched over for civilian purposes.

I have already submitted that import duty may be reduced to some extent and the merchants or industrialists may be helped that way. Then coal and power are absolutely necessary for running these machines. Coal is no doubt produced in some large quantities, but transport is the bottle-neck. Though large quantities of coal are produced at pitheads, they have not been removed quickly and it is not possible for removing them from time to time quickly. The day before yesterday I suggested that during the war the wagon miles was 37 per day but it has got reduced now to 33. Some kind of penalty may be

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imposed on those people who take four or five wagons and do not utilise them immediately either by unloading or reloading them. Some penalty—per hour or per day—may be imposed in such cases. Mere demurrage is not enough. If a man does not use the wagons properly, the number of wagons allowed to him must be reduced. Coal alone would not solve the problem and railway transport alone must not be looked to. I would still insist upon the Honourable the Industries Minister and the Honourable the Commerce Minister, both of them jointly chartering some ships so that coal from the collieries close to Calcutta may be taken over on the sea route to Bombay if necessary to give additional facilities for transport. Not only coal, but other methods of introducing power will have to be started. In south India, Sir, some inducements were given some time ago by the Electric Supply Corporation and by the Madras Government, under the Mettur project, to start industries on the inducement that they would supply power cheaply. But they have increased the rate that they originally offered to charge for power supply. That makes a set-back in the productive industries. Recently I find western countries, particularly those concerns in America which are oil kings and are in charge of oil production in the Middle East, have reduced the quota of oil supplies to our country. Fuel and oil are other bottle-necks. I would say that we must enter into negotiations with Russia if America would not come to our rescue. I read in the papers some time ago that Batavia was found to be a useful source of oil supply. Australia enter into a contract with Batavia. We and Indonesia are good friends and we can explore that source and enter into a long-term agreement for the supply of fuel and oil to our country. As regards raw products, I do not know what steps have been taken. As yet no steps have been taken in regard to the reduction of freight for the carriage of raw products from one province to another province or to the mill from the place of production. Early steps should be taken in that direction. I ask the Honourable Minister for Industry and Supply what steps have been taken to implement the resolutions and the reports of the various committees that were appointed. One among them is the report of the Textile Committee. Control over textiles has been removed to some extent, but control is still continued over stores which are required for textiles. Bobbins and spindles are still controlled. Persons in foreign countries are not allowed to utilise them. I shall read a few lines from the Report of the Committee on Textile Industries appointed to advise the Conference on Industrial Development in India last December regarding card clothing, bobbins and shuttles. They say:

"We note that the Textile Commissioner is operating a measure of control over these with a view to ensuring that imported supplies, which are mostly from the U. K., are fairly distributed among mills. We recommend that, where any importer can obtain supplies from soft currency areas other than the U. K., he should be allowed an import licence against such an offer, and Government should leave the distribution of the supplies thus secured to the discretion of the importer. We consider that this will encourage importers to tap new sources of supply."

Sir, having removed control on cloth, I do not think it necessary to continue control on storage and other materials. I commend my cut motion to the acceptance of the House, and I support the cut motion regarding disposals and others which my friends have moved.

Mr. Speaker: Before further discussion, I may just invite the attention of the Honourable Members to the further limitations in the agreed programme on account of the time taken up by the Kashmir statement. We shall have two hours instead of 2½ hours for the Department of Industry and Supply. That means the discussion will come to an end at 4 O'clock. Under the procedure I propose to follow, I have reserved half an hour for the Honourable Minister to reply. That means the debate will end at 3-30.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When we do not speak much, where is the room for a reply?

Mr. Speaker: The debate on Labour Department will be reduced by 15

minutes *pro rata* so that it will start at 4. I shall take for each of these demands, this time as guillotine time and then I shall put the demand to the vote of the House and cut motions except such, as are sought to be withdrawn. That will be the procedure that we shall be following now.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): Is there not room for one more announcement that those who have moved cuts will have precedence over other speakers?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I was about to say that. I shall also request Honourable Members to be very particular about the time limit now. Time is very short and many members may wish to speak. Therefore, they should not take more time, though those who have moved cut motions may have 15 minutes.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I did not know that, Sir. Otherwise I would have continued for five minutes more.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: My only complaint in regard to disposals is that the Government have no coordinated policy or plans. We find, Sir, that many materials which are necessary for the national life of this country and many materials which are necessary for the defence of this country are being sold away for scrap. For instance thousands of motor vehicles which are today required in the country have been sold away for scrap value. A lot of other useful materials also are being sold away. In fact the department has got no list of what they have, what they sell, what they want to sell and what they do not want to sell. This is the state of affairs in regard to disposals; Sir. Let me cite a small example. When they sell disposal goods they get a higher price than the market price but deliver double or treble the quantity which they actually sell. I had a personal experience of it. As secretary of the Refugee Relief Committee in Madras, I bought some utensils; I was told that it was at scrap value. The scrap value which I was charged was double the scrap value ruling in the market. I enquired and found that that was the price which they were getting; further enquiries showed that the price was much higher but the quantities delivered were something more than what they actually purchased. This is the state of affairs which goes on all over the country. You get one permit, say for five tons; you take delivery of five tons. If somebody asked you, you say everytime that the permit is alive. You take delivery once, you take delivery twice, you take delivery thrice, and the permit is still available. (*An Honourable Member*: "No checking at all?") Checking goes on as long as you have no money in your pocket!

Sir, that is the state of affairs in regard to disposals. I should like the Government of India to have a co-ordinated policy and plan in regard to these disposals. They ought to make up their minds as to what they want to sell. They must have a stock account of all that they have and they must see that the disposal is made only after a scrutiny of the stocks which they have. This is in regard to stocks.

Then, Sir, in regard to general industry. As I said the other day transport was the real bottleneck. May I request my friend the Industries Minister that he sees to it that the Provincial Governments do allow motor lorries to be used by industries and businessmen for transport purposes? There is a great restriction about it. If you have no petrol, tell your Provincial Governments that if they want to run on gas plants they would be allowed to do it. Today you have to pay as much as Rs. 10,000 for a permit for a lorry in the Provinces; for a bus you have to pay as much as Rs. 7,000 or 8,000. This is the state of affairs; whether we like it or not it does exist.

I would ask the Honourable the Industry Minister that if he is really serious about stepping up production, he must see to it that transport is eased. I know that it is not his portfolio, but he is a Member of the Government. He has got to see that the industries are not bottlenecked on account of transport. There have been cases day in and day out when the produce is not delivered at the consuming centre; raw material is not carried to the factory and coal

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which is the fuel is rarely available in the factories. This is the state of affairs of our transport, and if this is the state of our transport, then the fact is that without transport you cannot really step up production. Then, is it not right, is it not fair, that without deminishing the petrol stock of the country you should allow motor vehicles to run on gas plants? If you would allow motor vehicles to run on gas plants, a lot of your problems will be over. May be it is a little bit costlier, but the industrialists and businessmen will look to it; at least they will have some transport and the factories will not stop production for want of transport.

Yesterday, the Honourable the Finance Minister, in regard to the stepping up of production, gave a warning to the investors and said that investors were trying to blackmail the Finance Minister. I say, Sir, that is far from true. The fact that the Stock Exchange has gone down is due to the fact that the relief given for B.P.T. is 6-2/3 per cent, but he has allowed five per cent. to be spent for charity by these companies. Now, the Finance Minister stated yesterday that 70—75 per cent. of the shareholders are middleclass men. They are the backbone of industries, they are the backbone of investors. I ask you, Sir, if you give 6 2/3 per cent relief out of the B.P.T. and allow the company to give five per cent for charities, whether it is not actually a transfer from a poor man or a middle class man to a rich man? This is the middle class man's money which the rich people will spend and you know what the Managing Agents, are and what the Managing Agency system is. If you go and ask a Managing Agent, "Will you please give Rs. 10,000 for charity", he will say, "I cannot"; but he would pay the shareholders' money. So, Sir, the investor will profit by these Budget proposals, if you take away five per cent for charity, to the extent of one more per cent only in the total profit; and what is that one per cent when it is divided as profit to the shareholders? It is practically 1/20th per cent of their investment. Is that the relief over which the Stock Market or the investors will be happy and jubilant. The position today in the country is that unless and until we encourage these middle class investors whom the Finance Minister called the backbone of the industry—the backbone of the investing public —, unless they are assured of some reasonable dividend there can be no expansion of industry on a large scale. If you take away five per cent from them for charitable purposes, it is they who pay; today the rich men are paying, today the capitalists are paying; tomorrow it will be the poor or the middle class investor who will have to pay this five per cent, as charity. That will be the result of providing this five per cent, for payment towards charities.

Then, Sir, in regard to industries, if you want to put up any machinery firstly you have no steel. The distribution of steel—I would not like to say anything more about it—is far from satisfactory. It is the pull which you have which will get you the steel; it is the influence which you have which will get the steel; it is the influence which you have which will get the cement—not the merits of each case. *An Honourable Member*: "Black-market." Black-market and 'white' market. Today in Madras you can buy up to two to three thousand tons of steel in the black-market if you are prepared to pay three times the price ruling in the country. There is no difficulty in getting the steel, but only you have got to pay the price. The fact is that today the steel or the cement or other materials which you want for industry you really cannot get unless you pay through your nose for it or unless you have some influence with the powers that be.

This is the state of affairs in regard to the industry. Now, if that is the state of affairs in regard to procurement of steel, cement, materials and transport, how do you think you can step up production? Also take the case of labour. There also we have no real plan or policy. We had decided three months back in the Industries Conference that we will have a sort of arrangement and all other sorts of things, but nothing has been done so

far. We cannot lose really good time, we cannot afford to wait, we have got to expedite, we have got to hurry up, we have got to see that these industries do flourish in the country.

Now, Sir, all the proposals which the Honourable the Finance Minister introduced in regard to tax relief were for people who were making more than a lakh and twenty thousand rupees. He said that they will all plough back into the industry; how they can plough back into the industry I cannot realise for the life of me—it will be taken out of the industry. I will just give you an instance. People are entitled to ten per cent for depreciation of capital. There are innumerable companies who take out ten per cent depreciation in the account for purposes of income-tax and actually allow only three per cent or four per cent in their books and distribute the rest to the shareholders. Is this ploughing back into industry? They ought to see that depreciation is provided for to the maximum figure and not the minimum figure. If they put depreciation at the maximum figure and only allow such rebates as are provided for in the balance sheet and not on the basis of the Income-Tax Act, you will see that all that money will plough back into the industry and will not be distributed. That is not being done.

Then again, Sir all that the Honourable Finance Minister has been saying yesterday and day before, on his proposals is that this Budget is for the development of industries. If he is not for developing industry, he is not doing his job, but I cannot see anything in the Budget which actually goes to improve the industry. It was the last Budget of Sir Jeremy Raisman which did provide that if you put up a new plant, you will be allowed to have larger depreciation because that will go into the industry.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): On a point of order, Sir. What has this to do with the disposal policy?

Shri Ramnath Goenka: This is General Discussion.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: But my Honourable friend is . . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is the General Discussion, but the Honourable Member's point seems to be to give some tips for stepping up production and he says that unless you enlarge industrial concerns it is not possible to step up production.

Will the Honourable Member finish his speech?

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Yes Sir. There are two minutes more and I shall conclude by that time.

Sir, in Pakistan they have recently allowed a larger depreciation for new buildings and new industries, and they have said that for three years new industries will not be charged any income-tax, unless they pay more than five per cent dividend. That is what I would call ploughing back income into the industry. Mere assertion that we are ploughing back income into the industry will not do. Actually, we have got to plough it back and see that the money remains in the industry and does not go out of it.

The Honourable Finance Minister warns us that unless production is stepped up he will see to it next year that he will take very serious notice of it. I do not know, Sir, how he can expect production to be stepped up unless you do something to help the industries, to help the businessman and see that the money is ploughed back into the industry and all the facilities necessary for stepping up production are provided.

Sir, there are available in the country today about 30,000 to 40,000 motor vehicles. Cannot these motor vehicles be requisitioned by Government and run by Government as road transport? The other day, I made a suggestion and I would beg the Honourable the Industry Minister to take note of it. That suggestion is this. There are available in the country today pipelines for the

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transport of petrol and oil from one place to another. Why should he not lay that pipe-line from Calcutta to Delhi and transport oil and petrol through it, and thus relieve the railway tracks of that burden? Sir, it is a very ordinary proposition. 17,000 miles of pipeline were put up by the American Engineers in the course of a few months through impossible territory, namely, Burma and China. All those pipelines are available today. I would ask the Honourable the Industry Minister to requisition that pipeline. Is it an impossible proposition, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Will the Honourable Member bring his remarks to a close? It is time to adjourn and his time is also up.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Thank you, Sir.

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

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

Shri C. Subramaniam: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter which I want to discuss in my Cut Motion is one which I consider absolutely essential for the purpose of implementing the industrial policy of the Government. It is accepted, Sir, that the objective of the Government is to establish a Socialist Republic, and that involves that the State should own all the means of production; not only own, but also manage them. While that is the objective which is kept in mind, the short-term objective has been defined in the Conference which was held a few months back. It has been decided in the Conference that certain industries should be exclusively owned by the State, that in certain other industries there should be State participation and in the third category, private enterprise should have ample scope. Sir, in any view, the economic functions of the Government is bound to expand in scope in diversity and in intensity, and if the State wants to run any industrial concern, it should be prepared for it. Whenever the question of nationalization is raised, the question is asked, and that too pertinently, where are the personnel to run these industries if they are taken over by the Government. It is for the purpose of preparing the State, Sir, to run these nationalised industries that I have moved this Cut Motion, to impress upon the Government the necessity to create the personnel, which would be essential for the purpose of running the industries. For the purpose of running the industries, I think three classes of personnel are required: first is the technical personnel; second is the administrative service; and the third is the commercial service.

I will just refer to the administrative and the commercial service first. Sir, the ordinary department of a Government, in my view, is not an appropriate instrument for running any industry. The Civil Service, even though it may have many admirable qualities, by its training, tradition and conventions, is not fitted for the job of running an industrial concern. They have been trained in certain routine matters; they are bound by red tapism, which will not do for the purpose of running industrial concerns. In industry, bold thinking and quick decisions are essential, and after taking those decisions, they should be immediately implemented too. To have that quality, a separate administrative service should be trained and so far, I am afraid, no serious attempt has been made to create this service. Our professions about nationalization of industries could be judged whether they are made in the true spirit or not only if we are prepared to create a machinery, which is essential for the purpose of this nationalization of industries. It is, therefore, Sir, of the

utmost importance that the Government should take steps even now to draw up a scheme for the purpose of training this personnel for administrative and commercial service. For this purpose, it is necessary for us to compare and to study the various schemes of training which are given to this sort of personnel, to this administrative and commercial service in other countries and especially I would like that we should have a complete picture of how this personnel are trained in Russia, because that is the one country where all the industries are nationalized and they are run by the State. So, before we draw up a scheme for training this personnel we should send our men to foreign countries, to America, to the United Kingdom and Russia and study the various schemes of training which are given to these services and in comparison with them draw up a scheme for training this personnel in our country, so that they may suit our conditions.

Then I come to the technical personnel, which has got a wider aspect than the administrative and commercial service. Sir, it is admitted that we are very much in short of technical personnel. As a matter of fact, it is said that it is the lack of equipment and the lack of this technical personnel which stand in the way of further expansion of industry. We have got only limited resources in the technical personnel. Therefore, wisdom requires that we should use this limited available personnel to the maximum and to the best use possible. For that purpose, we should have a pool of these technical personnel which should be under Government control. This pool should be available not only for the Government State industries, but also for private industries. Sir, we have recognised that we are going to give some scope for private enterprise in certain sectors at least and the expansion of the industries in those sectors could be controlled by Central legislation. If that be so, for the purpose of proper expansion we should have the proper technical personnel also and private enterprise should be helped by Government in getting the necessary technical personnel. This want of technical personnel is felt in every industry; and in this connection I have a personal experience to relate. We wanted to put up a small printing machinery in our place. We imported it and for erecting it we had a person who we thought was best fitted for it. He went on erecting it but after some time he said that some parts were missing and it could not be erected at all. Then another person came in who said that all parts were there and he entered into a contract with us for erecting it for a certain sum. After working for some time he wanted more and we had to pay more. So that if in such a small industry as printing there is so much difficulty felt for want of technical personnel, it must be much more so in greater industries. It might be all right for concerns like Tata's and Birla's to have their own technicians to help them, but so far as new entrants in the field of industry or smaller concerns are concerned, they necessarily have to depend upon outside help. The best fitted machinery would be a Governmental machinery wherein there would be a pool of technicians available for all purposes to advise industrialists as to the machinery they should get and also provide technicians who would help them in putting up this machinery when available. It is with this purpose that I want that a pool of technicians should be created. Not that all these technicians should be full-time Government employees, we can have a second line also. In private industries there may be persons most fitted for certain jobs. We should have a list of them; we should enter into contract with them or with the concerns in which they are serving that the services of these persons should be made available for others also whenever Government requires them. In that way we could create a second line of technical personnel also. Sir, today in the provinces there are many first-class men who are doing very unimportant jobs. For example, there might be an engineer who is an expert in the construction of dams. In a province that happens once in a way,

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After that is over that engineer is put on to some other job in which his talents are not at all required. So it should be the duty of the Central Government to pool up all these technical resources available and keep a list of them so that they might be available for all persons and provinces who need their help. That is for the purpose of helping private enterprise. And in regard to State enterprise also this technical personnel is all the more essential. It is only with that view that I have moved this cut motion so as to impress upon Government the necessity and the urgency of creating an administrative and commercial service and a pool of technicians. I hope that while planning for the expansion of State industries and private industries this will be taken into consideration and the necessary machinery will be created which would be essential for the expansion of State industries as well as private industries.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Sir, my motion is intended to discuss the administration of the State industries in general and the Sindri factory in particular. Most of what I had to say has been said by the Honourable Member who spoke just now. One of the things we have inherited from the British Government is a most expensive administration and along with it red-tapism without any responsibility to see whether the object for which they are working is served or not. Their only object is to make up the file and prepare explanations for any omissions they might have made. Sir, just now my Honourable friend Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena has given me copies of some correspondence from which it appears that one businessman applied for a trade mark in 1944 and as yet nothing has been done about it, though four years have elapsed. It seems that the same policy of red-tapism has been followed in carrying out this sulphate of ammonia factory scheme, the product of which is so much required in this country for increasing the production of food-grains. This had engaged the attention of some industrialists so far back as in 1943; they found that there was great dearth of manure in this country and there is scope for exploitation of the raw material in India instead of depending on foreign countries for these things. They made certain investigations and approached Government with a request that they should be allowed to send their experts to America and other places to find out the possibility of these things with the help of technicians in other countries. But they were not allowed; still they were trying to find out these things. I had occasion to go through some of the correspondence going on between some industrialists here and those in foreign countries. From that I could see that all the machinery required for this was available; though not new machinery, it was at least reconditioned machinery in good order which would give us good results. They could be had from France Czechoslovakia, America and such other countries. But they were not allowed to get them, and in 1945 Government took this industry in hand and since then they have been going on with this scheme. But in these four years nothing has been done. The scheme prepared by Government was that 659 lakhs of rupees would be required for machinery, 229·5 lakhs for the setting up of the machinery, 190·5 lakhs for buildings. Altogether about rupees eleven crores will be required for that. Since 1945 we have imported manure from foreign countries to the extent of Rs. 17 crores. It means that if the Government had taken upon themselves to start this factory and taken all the resources in their hands, and taken the help of such people who could run this factory, this factory could have been ready in 1945 and we would not have had to import so much manure from outside countries and thereby put the balance of trade against us. Apart from this, the manure, which we have been importing from foreign countries is costing us twice the price as it would have cost us if we had produced the same here in India. The result is that we have added to the cost of production of foodgrains. Apart from that we have not been able to supply manure to the extent which it could have been possible to supply if we had been able to produce it in our own country.

From the reply given in answer to a question in the assembly by the Hon'ble minister it appears that the factory will not be able to give full

production till the year 1950. To one of the questions put to the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Supply as to how much money has been spent till now on this concern and under what heads, the reply is that altogether the money spent till now is about Rs. 264 lakhs odd. Out of this sum Rs. 52 lakhs and odd has been spent on machineries and Rs. 27 and odd lakhs on buildings. Machinery and building are the main items of expenditure on which most of the capital has to be spent. Now remains about 197 lakhs which it appears might have been spent on administration—a huge figure for the purpose.

As I said before, one of the things which we have inherited from the British Government is the most expensive machinery. (*Shri Ramnarayan Singh*: "Which must go!") And the qualifications of this administrative machinery is red-tapism and to prepare files with all sorts of explanations and to give excuses for anything. This is a most serious thing. Apart from Railways, which is a national undertaking and about which the other day there was a cut motion to the effect that Rs. 25 crores have been spent for foodgrains which, as it appears from the discussions in the House could have been sufficient to feed all the labour classes of the Railway Department, this is another national industry which we have started. As I have already said, the progress which this industry has made does not show that the fate of this industry is very bright. This is being run by the most expensive administrative people whose concern is not so much as to whether the object with which this concern is going to be started is fulfilled or not, but just to prepare the files and give explanations that if a particular thing has not been done these are the explanations. These explanations are not required at present. We are short of food. We are short of so many consumer goods that if all these things will be going on with these explanations, if we shall have men at the top, who will give us nothing but explanations; in that case we do not know where we shall be.

If this industry is to be run properly, enquiries should be made through persons who understand business to find out as to why it was delayed so much and why so much money has been spent?. When the machineries were available in other countries, apart from the countries from which they were anxious to purchase, why were these and other requirements not procured from places from where it was possible to get and save so much money of the country?

As some of other things regarding personnels etc. I would have liked to speak on has been touched upon by the previous speakers I would not like to take the time of the House. I feel that if things go on in this way, it will be said hat we cannot manage any nationalised industry and it will give others an argument against nationalization of industry. It is high time that we should take up this matter and enquire into it as to why those people who were in charge of this administration neglected this affair in such a way.

Shri B. Das: Sir, mine is an economy cut of Rs. 50 lakhs in a demand of Rs. 3,93,71,000 in the budget of 1948-49. When the previous Finance Minister budgeted for 1947-48, he had a budget figure of Rs. 3,44,00,000 under this head. How is it with Pakistan separated, India is having bigger and bigger budgets unless irresponsibility and light-heartedness can be attributed on the part of our Ministers and the Cabinet as a whole? The Finance Minister introduced a budget where he showed a deficit of Rs. 27 crores. Had the Government fallen in with the idea on this side of the House, there should have been a Committee of this House to look into this matter and there might not have been any necessity of further taxation. I have made my humble efforts and I have given economy cuts to the extent of Rs. 15 crores. Even yesterday when the Honourable Finance Minister was talking, he said there will be no necessity of providing for the Rs. 27 crores to meet the deficit on the head of subsidy over purchase of food. Owing to the fall in the price of

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wheat, rupees seven to eight crores would be saved on the subsidy to food. Of course I gave a cut not on those grounds but because we have to tighten our belts and not sent our money to foreign countries and fritter away whatever little sterling or dollar balances we have.

Whatever observations I make on these three heads,—Director General of Disposals, Textile Commissioner's Directorate and India Store Department London—they are equally applicable to the Department of Industry and Supply. The principal test which I apply in this department applies to all the departments under the 104 heads under which the Finance Minister has budgeted and surely if we really function not in the old traditions but in the traditions of a free country, we should easily cut off the Rs. 27 crores that has been deficit.

I will come first to the Director General of Disposals. The budget is for Rs. 1,43,34,000. The Finance Minister has given in his explanatory memorandum an increase of roughly 70 lakhs of expenditure, because he has added the U.S.A. war surplus materials to the Civil Budget and has placed them for the disposal of my Honourable friend the Minister for Industry. He is the man who has to carry all the unwanted goods that are lying anywhere in the world. He must increase the staff and bear the criticism that I am levelling on him and at his department and at the store of goods that may or may not exist.

3 P. M.

What alarmed me most when I read a *Reuters'* message from London on the sterling balances. That gave me a tremendous shock and I wonder if the Honourable Minister also experienced it. It said that if every thing is adjusted India may get the balance in 25 years at the rate of 15 million per annum. It is British perfidy! We are all accustomed all our lives to British perfidy and yet I cannot understand the following passage in that message:

"Of India's £1,000 million, an appreciable slice would go in settlement of the British Government's military material and other stores in India. These have already been sold, but their price has not yet been fixed. Another comparable deduction could be made by the British Government taking over the liability for pensions for Britons formerly in India's service."

During at least the last six months the Government of India have been functioning as a free Government and they could certainly settle all their dues with the British Government. The U.K. Government might say that the Government of India have not settled the price of the British war materials and on account of that the £1,000 million will be scaled down. The suggestion is that a substantial slice of the £1,000 million as reported by *Reuters*, inspired by the British Exchequer office will be reduced. This is a most surprising thing that one should wonder at!

We are maintaining an office of Director General of Disposals and we are trying to dispose of all the scrap heap that U.S.A. and U.K. have left. I hope that my Honourable friend will throw some light as to how much we owe to England and why we have carried these stores in our account without assessing the price. Perhaps the materials do not exist in this country. Why should we be burdened with 150 crores of U.S.A. surplus stores. It was reduced, as my Honourable friend told us during the last session, by a few crores. Why should be create an establishment of 70 lakhs per annum. All the troubles in the country, all the immorality and the bad atmosphere of bribery and corruption resulted from the perpetuation of the Supply Department. Instead of putting petrol and setting fire to this Disposal Department, we are maintaining an office and trying to create further responsibilities for ourselves on account of the American surplus stores, which the U.K. could have assumed. Why should we sell these surplus stores of U.S.A. and the U.K., it is beyond my comprehension. Why should the Government of India instead of minding their own house talk of minding the house of U.S.A. and the U.K. I fear the

U.K. is wanting to transfer the U.S.A. surplus stores to India's account thus reducing the sterling balances that will be due to India, so that she can tell India she will get 15 million per annum for 25 years. This is disgraceful and the Government is responsible to us and they owe this House and the country an explanation.

We thanked the Honourable Minister when he introduced the policy of decontrol. We all wanted decontrol. It is in line with the wish of him who is no more but that does not mean that the Honourable Minister should perpetuate in the department, the number of staff and the expenditure on this Disposal Department.

Take for example the Textile Commisioner's Department. It costs Rs. 58,70,000. I do not know why we should spend this huge sum of money for the Textile Commissioner and his staff as a measure of security. That reminds me that the Honourable Minister's predecessor appointed a Committee called the Disposals Enquiry Committee. It consisted of two ancients who did not know what they have to face at present. My Honourable friend Dr. Mookerjee was not responsible for this Committee and for the report. No action has been taken on it. The report observes, at one place something, which indicates the kind of large surplus staff that is still being maintained in the Supply Department.

"Many are preoccupied with their future and several officers with technical qualifications have frankly confessed to us that they are 'passengers' on the look out for employment of a kind offering greater scope for the use of their technical knowledge."

The Government of India have increased the staff three times from what they were before the war. The Supply Department has increased its staff ten times more than what it was before the war and yet the Supply Department, in spite of this report of the two ancients (Sir Maurice Gwyer and Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar, the dear one) is being perpetuated and the cost is increased.

I thought we were free and a Dominion, although Russia is telling us all the time that we are not even a dominion that we are being controlled and henpecked by the U. K. I do not know why the India Stores Department in London is billed here for Rs. 42,82,000. I do not think formerly it was under the Minister of Industry and Supply. Now all that is wrong in the Government of India is being thrown on the head of my Honourable friend and he is made the target of criticism. The London Stores Department consists of 200 British officers or so and they are being maintained to help continue the stranglehold on India. They should have been dismissed after 15th August 1947 and I do not see why they were not. If we are a free Dominion, let us have a Trade Delegation by all means. Let us have a trade delegation, an Indian Council or a Commercial Attache controlling everything. Why is it placed under the High Commissioner's Office. The High Commissioner of India in London seems to be a Jack of all trades and master of none. He dabbles in politics, he dabbles in trade and customs. He is perpetuating the employment of Britishers and paying them a salary of Rs. 42,82,000. This is a disgrace to my country. I am ashamed of it. I hope the Honourable Minister and the Cabinet will see to it that the India Stores Department in London is abolished and a separate Trade Delegation is established. The thing is we still want to purchase everything from England. That was the old policy. Is that old diehard policy to be continued? Then Russia is right when it says that India is not only a Dominion but a slavish Dominion.

I have applied certain tests and I want the Honourable Minister to enlighten us whether the Ministry and the Cabinet as a whole discussed and expounded the policy of expenditure that a free country must carry on in the various departments of administration. I find rupees five lakhs is subsidised to the British Commonwealth Ministry for doing agency work for India. How are we free from the clutches of the British diehards when we still use the British

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agency? It means the Cabinet did not analyse the question. It means no attempt was made to evolve a system of budgetary demands which will fit in with the Indian outlook, with the outlook of a free country. What the British have left, everything we are to carry on and perpetuate. I do not know when we will be independent enough not to be burdened with British exploitation, whether through the Office of the High Commissioner, London or through the instrumentality of these hidden grants of British exploitation in almost fifty of the hundred and odd grants. This is a most alarming situation and I hope the Honourable the Minister for Industry will accept this Rs. 50 lakhs cut and also persuade his colleagues in the Cabinet to accept other similar economy cuts in every Department where it has been tabled. I hope also that next year the Cabinet will see that the House resolves itself into a Committee and tries to reduce the demands of the budget: then only the Finance Bill or any measure for taxation should be introduced.

Sir Padampat Singhania (U. P.: General): Sir, I know that our Government has come into power only a few months ago and it was not possible for them to do anything within such a short period. But I think the present setup of our country is quite different from what it used to be at the time when the British Government was ruling this country. Previously the Ministry of Industry and Supply was there in the Government of India for the purpose of discouraging industry in this country. But the time has now come when the Ministry should change its setup: instead of discouraging industry they should come forward as the guardian of industry and to help industry.

We have got before us the budget and have to vote demands for grants without knowing what the Ministry is doing. There is no paper before us by which we can judge what work has been done by the Department of Industry and Supply. As an industrialist I feel—and if the Minister will approve of my suggestion—he should hereafter circulate a progressive report of the industrial development in this country showing what has been done by his Department. The position of the Department ought to be that they should know in which Province which industries have been established and why industry is not in a position to produce or increase production. There is no such arrangement in the Industries Department. The present position is if I have to develop an industry I should appoint an officer of high level to run about the Secretariat Department from one road to another, and if I put an application it may take two years to get disposed of, going from one section to another, and even in the Department nobody knows where the file is. That setup must be changed. Otherwise I feel that there will be no industrial development. The Industries Department has got one of the greatest responsibilities today in our country, because everywhere there is a great need for industrial production. If there is no industrial production you will see that you will be able neither to run the railways, nor work the telephones efficiently, nor supply in a proper manner the stores required for our Defence Services. Without industrial production how are you going to run this country efficiently? Therefore my first suggestion is that the Department should produce every month a Progressive Report and their Secretaries and officers should be knowing in which Province what industry is developed and what progress has been made in that particular industry.

My second suggestion is this. When I enquire from the various Government Departments what are the stores which are being purchased today from foreign countries for running our own Government Departments like the Railways, the Post Offices and so many other requirements of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments, they do not know. When I enquired from the Railway Department the Honourable the Railway Minister says 'I do not know. Our duty is only to send an indent.' It is a great surprise to

me. Here is such a big national undertaking as the Railway where capital more than Rs. 800 crores had been spent, and the Honourable Minister in charge does not know from where the stores are coming! In the case of an ordinary businessman even if it be a small amount of stores he cannot sleep without knowing from where his stores are coming, and he would try to manufacture the things inside this country itself. But what is the position in respect of the Railways? They say they have written to the Supply Department or the Commerce Department, and nobody knows from where the stores are coming. The first duty of the Honourable Minister for Industry and Supply should be to make out a list and put it before the House showing so much stores are required, we are buying so much in this country and so much from outside. It should also show why so much has to be bought from outside. I do not see why the Government of India should not make up their mind to manufacture everything they want in this country itself except big equipment like locomotives, aeroplanes and such other big things. The small things they must manufacture in this country and they must make up their mind to produce them within six months. They should make up their mind in that manner and set up a Production Board and see that every item of stores which is a necessity to run this country is manufactured within the next six months. This is the work of the Industries Department. Otherwise, when the budget comes we will simply move a cut motion, discuss it for half an hour, the Minister will give some reply and we will go away from here with the feeling that we have discussed the budget in the Assembly. That will not satisfy us. So I hope the Honourable Minister will take the suggestion in the light I have made it and within six months tell us "I am now in a position to get more than 80 per cent of the supplies I require from this country". Five years before, that is before the war, I remember, we used everytime to make the complaint here about the Industries Department or the Commerce Department that Indian industries should be encouraged and the stores required should be brought in this country. Of course in those days it was a foreign government. But the position is that the specifications have been changed to such an extent that even if somebody is able to produce the goods it will be impossible because the specification is not available in this country.

Times have changed. Whatever raw materials we have, we have to make our own standard according to the goods available in this country. There is no reason why we should still stick to those specifications. I think the greatest difficulty is that they have not got any experts to design out for them the type of goods available in this country. For that purpose also they should make some investigation. They should appoint an investigation commissions and for each item there should be some body to look after things and there should be coordination by which they could get the things required by the government of India if not by the public.

Next I come to the Defence Department purchases. I do not know whether the Defence Department purchases are made through the Industries Department. In the old days they used to say this is a matter of secrecy. It should not go to the Ministry of Industries, but today I am quite sure this charge cannot be levelled because our Ministry is one, and even if it is not, the job of the Ministry of Industry and Supply at present, the Minister in charge of that portfolio should interfere and find out what are the things the military are buying, and he should try to manufacture those things in this country. These are my suggestions and I hope the Honourable Minister will try to satisfy this House after six months and to show us that they are able to produce some tangible results.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is quite a lot that one would have liked to say on this subject and the various cut motions that I have tabled would give an indication of what I wanted to

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

say. The time that is available to me to make a speech is so limited that it would be impossible for me to do justice to either the subject or to my own views. Sir, we are discussing at the moment the Department of Industry and Supply. For a long time we debated the issue whether India should industrialize or whether she should ruralize. That issue has once and for all been settled. Although we have not taken a deliberate decision in this House, it is quite apparent that we are all bent upon industrialization. That being so, Sir, it is worth examining as to how serious an effort we have been able to make in this direction and it would be for us to examine what progress we have achieved since we have decided to industrialize. I for one am conscious that the Honourable the Minister in charge of Industry and Supply is very keen and intent upon achieving the best results that he possibly could, and yet Sir, we cannot hide our dissatisfaction that all that was possible does not appear to have been done. First and foremost, Sir, if we want to industrialize, we must have the machinery. Now the House is not aware if there is any plan for the manufacture of machinery. As everybody who is familiar with the development of Russia knows, the first thing that the then industrially backward country took up was the manufacture of machinery. We have yet to know, Sir, what the Honourable Minister has been able to achieve in this direction. We have, as everybody knows, immense man-power, and there is no dearth of raw materials; and all that we require for manufacturing finished goods is machinery; and if that machinery is once produced, there will be no need for us to look to other nations for assistance. So, unless the Honourable Minister is in a position to tell me that he has a definite plan of action in this direction, I would suggest to him that he must bend all his energies to having a quick plan. It should not extend over more than three years, because those days of five year plans are gone; time and space are now contracting rapidly; we are moving much faster than Russia did 20 years ago. So he should have a three year plan and see that within this span of three years, India will produce almost every possible machinery excepting those which require very delicate and minute parts. That is Sir, the first suggestion I would like to make.

Secondly, in order to man those industries, it is very necessary that he should, in co-operation, if necessary, with the Education and other Ministers, have a complete plan for the training of technical man-power. That is another thing. There are I know, big schemes: schemes of technical education in India costing the colossal sum of some 35 crores of rupees. And yet nothing tangible, has actually come out of them at all I would suggest to the Honourable Minister that if he cannot produce first rate experts, highest class technicians, let the country produce fitters, draftsmen, boiler engineers, electricians etc. I mean a lower class of technicians so badly needed everywhere. There is a great demand for this and for want of them much of our work of industrialization has slowed down

Then I would also invite his attention to the comment which some American industrialists are said to have made so far as our textile industry is concerned. This is one of the biggest industries in the land and yet we are told that our machinery is at least 20 years too old. That also is one of the factors which the Industry Minister ought to set right and try and replace as much of this old-fashioned machinery by new ones as possible.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend who just spoke, Sir Padampat Singhania, has made some valuable suggestions. Although he is a capitalist and I am not, I am at one with him so far as his suggestions are concerned. I am particularly in favour of his suggestion by which he asked that the Minister should carefully watch and diligently pursue what progress is being made from month to month and week to week. What he was referring to is what is

known in England as "Progress-chasing." There are it seems a class of persons who are known as "progress-chasing" officers. No sooner a plan is made and started, it is necessary to supervise it from time to time and see that it is speeded up to the utmost possible extent.

The next point I would like to refer to is in connection with the Disposals Department. Everybody is aware of the scandalous nature in which this department is managed and how most valuable food and articles of consumption such as cheese, butter, cigarettes, tea, etc. were allowed to rot for months and years without any care whatsoever. This is a scandal which must be stopped at all costs and no cost would be too high for putting this thing right. One cannot understand why the Disposals Department makes it a point to sell the material in very big lots so that the ordinary average man can not possibly make an attempt to purchase them. As a matter of fact the things that were lying with the Disposals Department were of everyday need. I was told there were mountains of cycles still lying undisposed. I do not know whether this is a fact or not, but I had it from the Prime Minister of my own province that he has seen with his own eyes huge stocks of cycles and other things, and yet in spite of the fact that he was clamouring to have some of them he could not have any! So, Sir, if the Disposals Department even now can get hold of a complete list of the articles and circulate it to the provincial governments, it would be possible not only to meet the crying needs of the people but the Government would also obtain prices which would be much higher than what any of these big capitalists would like to offer. We all know how during question time the Minister was questioned about loans and advances given to certain people who took huge lots of these disposals articles. All these things I hope the Honourable Minister will look into and see to it that we have no complaint to make within the next couple of months.

Then, Sir, we are all familiar with the difficulties of transport. A suggestion has already been made, with which I agree, that all the transport vehicles that are available in the Disposals Department should be put on the road immediately. If petrol is not available, they should be worked by coal, and if that is made available, the difficulties of the Railway Ministry will also diminish and people's conveniences met.

Then, about decontrol of petrol! I am conscious that so far as petrol is concerned we are probably in great difficulties. But here also I am not sure if de-controlling will not ease the situation rather than lead to more trouble. In any case, as my Honourable friend (Mr. Sondhi) points out, anybody who wants to and is intent upon running his car can get all the petrol he needs. I think in all probability the de-controlling of petrol will act in the same way as the de-control of *gur* and sugar and other articles. So it is worthwhile my Honourable friend's giving his attention to this matter also. I know this point has been made and a lot of people have taken it up with the Department; probably it is the Defence Department that is the greatest obstacle in the way. Even so, I feel the matter is worthy of serious consideration once over again. As my time is up I must close my speech.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister for Industry and Supply): Sir, I am thankful to the members of the House for criticising some of the activities of my Ministry, although some of the remarks which have been made are not entirely based on facts. But still I know, Sir, that the motive behind the criticisms is to secure an all-round improvement in the administration of our own National Government.

Sir, I would divide the criticisms into two parts: the first relates to general questions of policy and the second relates to some matters of detailed administration.

[Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee]

With regard to the main question of industrial policy, it is unfortunately true that it has not been possible for Government yet to definitely announce it. I convened a Conference last December which was attended by representatives of almost all the important industries in the country, by representatives of the Provincial and the States Governments, and also by spokesmen of different labour organisations. My idea was that we should put all the facts before such a Conference and ask for advice as to the policy which the Government of India should adopt for the purpose of speedy industrialization of this great land of ours. The results of that Conference you will find embodied in a small booklet which we have published. The Resolutions which we arrived at were unanimous, although they dealt with many controversial matters. The Cabinet has appointed a Committee to consider the question of future economic development and I expect that in the course of the next few days, at any rate before the Legislature concludes its Session, the Government of India will be in a position to announce its industrial policy. The Prime Minister has also agreed to allot a special day in order to enable Members of the House to express their opinion on this very vital problem. It will not therefore be expected of me to go into a detailed discussion on this question, but I can say something broadly.

Naturally, we stand for as quick an industrialization of our country as possible. So far as the question of nationalization goes, the Conference has recommended that the Government should divide industries into three main categories: the first should deal with industries which will be State-owned and State-managed; the second will relate to industries which will, at a subsequent date, be State-owned and State-managed but the existing units may not be disturbed though so far as future development of those industries are concerned it will be under the management and ownership of the State; the third category will be industries which will be controlled and regulated centrally, industries on the development of which future prosperity of India depends,—in this sphere also it will be open to the State, and when I say 'State' I do not mean the Central Government alone. I also mean the Provincial Government or any other local organisation, it will be open to the State to come and start a particular industry if it is considered desirable. Then, the remaining sphere of course will be left to private enterprise. Which industries will be put in categories 1, 2 and 3 is now being discussed by Government, but as I said just now I am hoping that in the course of the next few days the entire policy of the Government will be placed before the House and the country.

Here I should say that although I am speaking here as the Minister in charge of Industry, we cannot think of economic development of India only in terms of industrial expansion. Obviously, economic planning will include the development of departments like agriculture, food, health, and education so that we can have the all-round prosperity of the country in connection with which industrial development is bound to play a very large and prominent part. That alone can raise the standard of living of the common man in India. We are therefore envisaging the appointment of a Planning Commission which will be permanent body and which will be entrusted with the task of co-ordinating the plans of the various Ministries and ensuring that the development of this country takes place in all the various spheres in a manner consistent with our national needs and aspirations.

I would now come to the remarks made on the Cut Motions; I shall just try to take each Member one by one. Mr. Ayyangar has referred to some matters which are of a general interest relating to future industrial development. When he says that there should be some sort of planning, I agree with him. I have indicated what the policy of the Government is. I have also

indicated that the Government is considering the recommendations of the Industries Conference as also the report of the Economic Committee appointed by the Indian National Congress, and that it will shape its policy after consideration of these and other recommendations.

Mr. Ayyangar has referred to Disposals. I can take that item first because not only had Mr. Ayyangar referred to it but several other Members also. Now, Sir, so far as the working of the Disposals Department goes, the House will recall that the policy of the previous Government was somewhat different; the previous Government decided to dispose of the goods as quickly as possible irrespective of their possible application to the needs of the country. I was rather amused to find that my friend Mr. B. Das also wanted to burn so many things from the disposals—that was what the previous Government also wanted to do. Mr. B. Das wants to burn, Mr. Goenka wants that we should use them for national advancement as far as possible; we cannot burn and at the same time use them—if we burn them the ashes of the goods which we burn will not be useful for national advancement. Sir, the present policy of the Government is entirely different. We have decided that we shall examine the stocks and utilise them to the best advantage of the country. (*An Honourable Member*: When?) In fact I have appointed a Committee already and that Committee is going to examine this question from the point of view of the best utilisation of the stocks which are now available. Of course the bulk of the stocks is gone but those which remain will not be disposed of in a haphazard manner but will be examined with a view to seeing how far they can be utilised for the industrial and other development of the country.

But even now the Governments have the first priority. If they want any of these goods which are in the Disposals, we give them the first preference. In fact, during the last few months I have tried to help several Provincial Governments by giving them portions of these disposal stocks which would help them in carrying into effect some of their plans for economic expansion. Then we have also laid down that we shall give special preference to educational institutions, universities, research institutions, etc., so far as the use of the scientific apparatus and other materials are concerned. Many of the goods which were declared as 'disposals' are being taken back by the Defence Department, because they consider that although they were declared as surplus they may be capable of being used now by the Defence Department. I should make, Sir, the position of my Ministry clear in this respect. Only that portion of the stocks which is declared to be surplus comes to the Disposals Department; that which is kept with the Military still continues to remain with them. Mr. B. Das read out some statement which was issued by *Reuter*. Well, apparently, that refers to stocks which are still with the Military. I cannot say, I am afraid, how financial adjustments have been made between India and the United Kingdom in respect of military stocks, but so far as I am concerned, when the stocks come to my Ministry they are sold and naturally whatever is sold goes to the credit of the Government of India.

Now, here special reference was made to the American disposals. I think, Sir, Mr. B. Das was completely off his track when he referred to the American disposals and asked me to dispose of them as quickly as possible. In fact, the agreement which has been reached between India and the United States of America is: Whatever is sold up to 50 million dollars will remain with India. The U.S.A will have no claim whatsoever up to 50 million dollars. Whatever is sold beyond 50 million dollars, half of it will go to the U.S.A. and half will remain with India. The value of that half which will go to the share of the United States Government will not be taken to the U.S.A. but will be spent on some purposes which will be beneficial to India, in consultation with the Government of India. We have already sold American stocks worth more than 50 million dollars, and my information is that the share due to the U.S.A. today is somewhere between five and six crores of rupees; in other words, this

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sum which is bound to increase in the months to come, will be available for use in India for certain beneficial purposes.

Shri B. Das: May I know where that amount is shown in the budget?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am afraid the Honourable Member should address that question to the Honourable the Finance Minister because that is entirely a matter of budgetary arrangement.

A question was raised—which I may dispose of here—as regards possible economy in the disposals staff. Now, we are also fully aware of the necessity of making retrenchment in the staff which we have got for the administration of the Disposals Department. I may tell the House that already the process of retrenchment has started. In fact, notice has been served on about 2,000 persons—they were served only a week ago—and I received two telegrams from the Unions which control the activities of the members of the staff threatening dire consequences if this notice is not withdrawn. But I can assure members of the House that Government is fully aware of the need of economy. We shall again in the course of the year examine the question every two or three months and give effect to the general wishes of the House.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): How is it then that for the coming year the Disposals Department is going to cost three times the cost of the previous seven and a half months. Will the Honourable Minister please refer to page 150?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Well: even without looking at that item I can perhaps give the answer: the simple reason is that there were no American stocks in the previous year and the expenses for this section have been added to the cost of administration this year. In fact already nearly one-third of the officers have been retrenched and retrenchment of the lower staff is proceeding at a rapid pace, but the danger of the repercussions coming from the staff being dispensed with hurriedly, I have just explained. I have already referred to the telegrams that I have received—I am not looking at Professor Ranga particularly—which indicate the danger that we have to be aware of.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Is it fair to the members of this House that the Honourable Minister in charge of Industry and Supply should refer us on important questions such as this to the Honourable the Finance Minister, and the Honourable the Finance Minister should refer us back to the Minister in charge of Industry and Supply? These are very important questions and I think either he or the Honourable the Finance Minister should give us the information.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have answered so far as the question of American surplus stock is concerned, but so far as the budgetary arrangements are concerned, obviously, I plead guilty, I cannot say how the budget has been framed.

Mr. Speaker: He does not know how the posting of accounts is made. It is entirely a matter for the Finance Minister.

Shri Biswanath Das: It is not a question of posting of accounts. It is a question of giving very necessary and essential information, in the course of the budget discussion, to the Honourable Members of this House which the Government is bound to do. We are not concerned whether it belongs to the Minister in charge of Industry and Supply or to the Finance Minister.

Mr. Speaker: I think the question may be put to the Honourable the Finance Minister when he replies.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Now, I come to the question of transport. This also has been referred to by several members. There is no doubt that transport is one of the chief bottle-necks today. It has been suggested that we should explore the possibility of sending some of our goods by sea. I may tell the House that already we have done it. The process has

started and we are exploring how we can increase further movement in that direction. The main commodity which is affected by reason of lack of movement is coal, and lack of movement of coal is affecting a number of industries. We recently appointed a special committee—it is sitting in Calcutta every week under the Chairmanship of Sir S. N. Roy—where the Railway Department, the consumers, the colliery people, labour and also our Department are represented. I am glad to report that in the last two months some improvement has been indicated. But even today there will be about two million tons of coal which are lying accumulated in the coal area and unless we can take effective steps to remove the coal and send it to other areas where they are needed, there is no doubt that it will seriously affect the future industrial development of this country.

A suggestion was made, Sir, that we might make more use of transport by lorries. Now, this attempt was made by the West Bengal Government at some critical period about three months ago. They tried to move about 1,000 tons of coal per day by lorries and we found a few weeks later that it was costing them nearly half a million gallons of petrol which of course was very costly. We had therefore to stop that experiment. Now the use of gas plant by lorries is not prohibited by the Government of India and I see no reason why, as was suggested by Mr. Goenka and others, it should not be considered by any Provincial Government. But I should like to give this assurance that if any proposal comes to me for the movement of any essential commodity under my charge by any means of transport, we shall certainly help so far as we can.

I have already dealt with the question of disposals. Mr. Goenka, a reputed journalist, made a rather bad slip. He says no list is maintained of what disposals are available and what are not. At lunch-time I found that there were several bulky volumes lying in the office and everything was noted there. May be the Madras office has not kept the list accurately, but any member who wants may come to my office and check the list without giving any time to anybody to manipulate the list in any way whatsoever. The list is there. Of course, it is a very bulky one involving as it does goods worth about 200 crores of rupees.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Are these two lists like the people in the business keep?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, nothing like that is possible here. Then comes the question of the availability of steel, cement etc. Here the main trouble is shortage of these commodities. If we had more steel, if we had more cement, Mr. Goenka would not have grumbled, but if you have a limited quantity available, you cannot satisfy everyone in respect of all his demands, and some sort of control and check has to be imposed.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In regard to steel, is it not again a matter of lack of transport?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is true to some extent. During the last two months, production of steel has slightly improved. It has gone up by nearly 15,000 tons, but unfortunately there are some difficulties with regard to transport, although even here there has been improvement during the last fortnight.

Here, Sir, I should like to make one point clear. It struck me in the course of my short period of office that perhaps it would be better if we take the Provincial Governments more into our confidence—and also representatives of the industry—in making our allotments. The new policy which we are adopting now is this. In respect of important commodities which are distributed by my Ministry we ask for the opinion of the Provincial Governments

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and are also encouraging industries to form themselves into Associations, so that a particular Association representing as many of the industrial units within that category as possible should be able to approach us and put forward some sort of joint demand. When we arrive at our decision and make the allotment, we shall inform the Provincial Governments also as to what we have done, so that at every step the Provincial Government will know about the decision taken by the Government. If we have made any alteration ourselves after consultation with the Provincial Government, that also will be made available to the Provincial Government.

Then, Sir, with regard to black-marketing, Mr. Goenka said that he knew that 2000 to 3000 tons of steel were available in Madras in the black-market. If he knows where that market is and if he lets me know, I shall be able to do something about it.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Only contact the stockists. You will find it in their godowns.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If that is so, if he can give me the names of the stockists of steel. . . .

Shri Ramnath Goenka: You consult them. You know them very well.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Mr. Goenka knows very well that the Central Government does not control them. It is the Provincial Government which does it, but if any member knows that there is a particular firm which is doing black-marketing, instead of encouraging and getting something from the black-market, it is much better to report the name of such black-marketeer to the Government and we shall be prepared to take suitable action. Here, Sir, I should like to make one point clear. I have also authorised the Provincial Governments to go and examine these stores in any of these places and check the accounts and if any such case comes up where black-marketing is going on, then we shall be prepared to take drastic action.

Then, Sir, with regard to pipeline for passage of petrol, this is nothing new. We knew that in fact, two months ago, Dalmias brought that to my notice. We investigated it, but the report which we received from the W.M. & P. Ministry was that this was entirely uneconomical and it could not be pursued. However, I am prepared to go into this question again with my Honourable colleague Mr. Gadgil and see whether anything can be done about it.

Then, Sir, with regard to the remarks made by Mr. Subrahmanyam, I welcome the suggestion which he has made. It is essential that Government of India should make some arrangement for securing the necessary personnel. If there is going to be any large-scale policy of nationalisation, if big units of industry are going to remain under the control of the Government, obviously we cannot carry on such factories or units with the help of the old bureaucratic machinery. We must have a new Service and that Service we shall be able to form in some suitable manner. Whether it can be done in the manner suggested by Mr. Subrahmanyam, is a matter which will have to be considered, but I can assure him and the House that this is a matter which we have already taken up. Of course, one difficulty is with regard to salary. Some Honourable Members said that the members of the Government service draw a much larger salary, but actually what I have found is that the salaries of officers associated with industry are much higher than what the Government can pay. For instance, Mr. Singhania would be prepared to take away any of the officers and agree to pay them a salary much more than any Government would be prepared to pay.

Shri Padampat Singhania: But not every officer, Sir.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Not all, but some? Then, Sir, Mr. Jhunjhunwala spoke about the Sindri Factory. Now, here I am afraid the Honourable Member is under some misapprehension. I myself visited the Sindri Factory last December. Considerable progress has been made and I am expecting that in the course of 1949 the factory will be completed. Of course there was delay—I found that—but it was due mainly to the non-availability of land and other causes. I do not know whether the Honourable Member has himself visited that area, but coming as he does from Bihar, I would like him to go there and if he finds that anything is happening which is not to his satisfaction, he can certainly tell me. We are shortly going to set up a Committee quite apart from the Government machinery whose business will be to remain in touch with the progress made at Sindri. I am fully aware of the need for expediting the progress of the construction of this factory and everything possible will be done.

Then, so far as Mr. B. Das is concerned, I am glad to tell him that in the Textile Commissioner's office, retrenchment has already started. Only four days ago, notice was served on nearly 500 people and that process will continue. As I said a few minutes ago, Government will go on examining the staff of these particular Departments which need not be kept at the same level at which they used to be previously.

Then, Mr. Deshmukh referred to the question of securing machinery. Now, that Sir is a very important question but not one which is free from difficulty. It is extremely difficult for us to get the capital goods. We placed orders for textile machinery nearly two years ago, but every few months we get some excuse or other and the machinery has not come. We are however, getting nearly 100,000 spindles from Japan. That transaction has been completed between Government and Government and we are expecting that that stock will soon arrive and we will be able to help the textile industry.

So far as manufacture of machinery in India is concerned, that is undoubtedly a part of the long-term plan which Government has before it. I am hoping that as soon as our new plan is out, we shall be able to do something about the matter.

Then, Sir, Mr. Padampat Singhania made a suggestion that there should be more co-operation between Government and industry. I welcome that suggestion. There is some co-operation now, but there is always room for improvement. My proposal is to set up a Central Advisory Board which will be attached to the Ministry of Industry and Supply. It will include representatives from all the important industries, the Provincial Governments and also representatives of consumers' interests and labour. We shall have similar Boards in each Province and I propose to have one separate Committee for each of the important industries, so that we may remain in constant touch with each other and see that one common policy is adopted by the Government as a whole. So far as small industries are concerned their importance also is obvious and it is proposed to appoint a Board for cottage and small industries.

4 P M. I hope to be able to announce the composition of that Board in the course of the next few weeks. As I said, Sir, the task before us is a gigantic one. We had to face considerable difficulties in the past, and this fact is clear that unless and until we are able to produce more, at any rate, if we are not at least able to produce all that we now can, the future before us is extremely dark. I have before me figures which I have not the time to place before the House, but if I get transport facilities, if the assurance of the Honourable the Transport Minister that we have now turned the corner and things will improve in the course of 1948 actually comes to happen, and labour

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does not create much trouble, then with regard to most of the industries, I expect to get an increased production by at least 25 per cent. in the course of 1948, not to speak of big expansion schemes which we also have for the future. I hope, Sir, in view of the assurances which I have given, it will be possible for the Honourable Members to withdraw their cut motions.

Mr. Speaker. Before taking first the cut motions, I should like to know the intentions of the Honourable Members as to whether they press their motions to vote.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Sir, I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Sir, I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Sir, I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Messrs. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Ramnath Goenka, Subramaniam and Jhunjhunwala want leave of the House to withdraw their motions. Have they got the leave of the House?

The cut motions were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: What about the economy cut? I am putting that motion to vote.

Shri B. Das: The Honourable Minister may accept it. He had already said that he is reducing staff in the Textile Commissioner's Department

Mr. Speaker: If the Honourable Minister accepts, I have no objection.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There is already a provision of reduction of Rs. 25 lakhs in the Budget. I think the Honourable Member should be satisfied in view of the assurance I have given.

Shri B. Das: Sir, 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.

Mr. Speaker: I put the two demands to the House for vote.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,96,000, 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 'Ministry of Industry and Supply'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,93,71,000, 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 'Industries and Supplies'."

The motion was adopted.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

DEMAND NO. 22—MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Implementing of Labour Policy and Legislation

Shri B. Shiva Rao (Madras: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Labour Policy of Government and the manner of observance of Industrial truce

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Policy re. better Co-operation between Labour and Capital.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Labour', be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member's motion does not find a place in the papers circulated. In the agreed list, I find there are only two motions, one by Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena and another by Mr. Shiva Rao. May I know where from the Honourable Member is reading his motion?

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Page 6, Sir, in the consolidated list (Incorporating Lists 1 and 2); item 53.

Mr. Chairman: In the consolidated list there are many other motions, but in the agreed list there are only two motions.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister for Labour): He has moved his motion. Let him proceed.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim): What will be the time-limit for each speaker, because there will be 55 minutes left and there are three cut motions and some of the members may want to speak?

Mr. Chairman: Ten minutes are allowed for each member, as the time is very short.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Sir, at the outset, I would like to express a sense of disappointment that for the discussion of so important a subject as the Government's policy in regard to industrial labour, the House cannot find even an hour during this Budget session.

My motion relates to two matters: the implementing of labour legislation already on the statute book and Government's programme for the future Looking back over a period of 30 years, one can say that there have been considerable additions made to the statute book to improve the conditions of industrial labour. Sir, even during this session, we have had ample evidence of the solicitude of the present Labour Minister to advance the interests of labour; and if he will permit me to say so, I have watched the work of various members of the Government of India in charge of labour during these thirty years, and I think I can say that there has been no one who has shown that insight into the problems of labour, that sympathy for labour interests and that determination to advance the cause of labour, as the present holder of that office.

Our social code in so far as it relates to industrial labour as it is and as it is likely to be during the next few months when the House has disposed of the various measures that are before it, is certainly impressive on paper. But the real question is as to what is being done to implement these various measures that are placed on the statute-book. Let me take the most imporatnt one,—the Factories Act, which has now been referred to Select Committee. For many years it has been pointed out by Commissions which have gone into the

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matter that the administration of the Factories Act is gravely unsatisfactory. During the last few years the number of industrial establishments has increased phenomenally. I think it is true to say that at the present moment the majority of our large-scale industrial establishments are not inspected even once,—certainly not more than once in a year. I know from personal experience during the years I spent in the Trade Union movement that particularly in the smaller towns the Factory Inspector is often the guest of the Manager of the factory he is going to inspect; in such circumstances you can understand what kind of inspection it is going to be. Provincial Governments have put forward the difficulty of finding skilled personnel to man their factory inspectorates. I believe during the last 12 months the Government of India have made a certain beginning in this respect. But I should like the Labour Minister to consider the establishment of a central training institute to train factory inspectors of two categories,—an elaborate course for inspectors who are to be charged with the duty of looking after large-scale establishments with complicated machinery, and a simpler course for men of a lower grade to look after factories like *bidi* factories, glass and shellac factories, tanneries and the like.

I must draw the attention of the Labour Minister to another aspect of this problem of labour administration, and that is with particular reference to the scandalous misuse of child labour at the present moment. We have had on the statute-book two or three measures dealing with this subject. We had in the early thirties a measure to prohibit the pledging of child labour; and on the eve of the war we had the Employment of Children Act. I shall quote to the House a brief passage from a report by an officer appointed by Dr. Ambedkar only two or three years ago.

"In spite of legislation the employment of children between the ages of 6 and 12 in fairly large numbers is prevalent on an amazingly wide scale in open defiance of the law, and employers make no secret of it. Surprising though it may seem, child labour is found even in Government factories and the practice is widespread in Rajputana, Madras and Bihar."

An Honourable Member: Which Government factories?

Shri B. Shiva Rao: The Government factory at Pachamba in Bihar. I would like to suggest to the Labour Minister in this connection that his department should prepare a bulletin or even a series of bulletins giving in simple non-technical language the contents of the various measures that are placed on the statute-book; and these bulletins should be made freely available to organisers of trade unions and to those who are in charge of registered trade unions, so that an educative propaganda may be undertaken. One of the greatest difficulties in implementing legislation of this kind is the ignorance of workers of their rights.

Now, Sir, my time being very short I must pass on to another very important problem, and that is the Resolution on industrial truce which was adopted last December by the Conference which was presided over by the Minister of Industry and Supply. Towards the end of his speech only a few minutes ago he said that provided labour does not make much trouble he hoped to see a substantial increase in production all round. That, Sir is going to be the crux of the whole problem.

Let me recall for the benefit of the House the main points of this Resolution on industrial truce which stressed the fact that increase in industrial production cannot be achieved without the fullest co-operation between labour and management and stable and friendly relations between them. Sir, what did this Resolution ask for, and what did it promise to industrial labour? In the first place it recommended "the establishment of machinery,—central, regional and functional,—for the study and determination of fair wages and conditions

of labour and fair remuneration for capital, and methods for the association of labour in all matters concerning industrial production through the formation of joint production committees."

I am sorry the Finance Minister is not here; otherwise I would have asked him whether in squandering away six and odd crores of rupees on businessmen he had made those preliminary inquiries for a study and determination of fair wages and a fair remuneration for capital.

In the second place this Resolution also recommended the constitution in each undertaking of works committees representing both management and labour for the settlement of day to day disputes. I hope the Honourable the Labour Minister when he gets up to reply will indicate what progress has been made in this direction.

Lastly, I come to the point to which I attach the greatest importance, and that is the programme of housing of industrial labour. This Resolution said:

"As a first step towards improving the standard of living of workers immediate attention should be devoted to the problem of housing of industrial labour."

The Labour Minister in commending this Resolution to that Conference expressed his determination to see that Government would give the fullest effect at the earliest opportunity to the various classes involved. I hope when he replies to this debate he will tell us what actual steps he has taken or proposes to take to carry out the terms of this last item. Sir, the housing problem has been with us ever since India started on the road to industrialisation. In 1917 the Industrial Commission said:

"Better housing is a most urgent necessity. No industry can be permanent which is built on such unsound foundations as those afforded by Indian labour in its present conditions".

The population of industrial centres has increased enormously during these 30 years. Take Cawnpore; its population in 1941 was under 5 lakhs; in 1944 it was over 8 lakhs, and I understand at the present moment it is nearly a million. A sub-committee of the Committee on Post-war Public Health after visiting various industrial centres came to the conclusion that the result of further development of industry in the post-war period will only be to aggravate the existing conditions of overcrowding.

Sir, there is not much good in the Labour Minister coming forward with sickness insurance schemes or the Health Minister inaugurating a campaign against tuberculosis so long as our industrial centres pour out into the life of the country a stream of deadly poison in the shape of tuberculosis venereal disease, malaria and leprosy. And there is another reason why I ask the Honourable Minister to give immediate attention to this problem. Sir, when we started the trade union movement in 1919 there was no communist influence in this country. Thirty years ago Mr. Montagu's description of the Indian masses held good; he spoke of the docile, pathetic contentment of the Indian masses. That description is completely out of date today; and unless the Government of India go ahead with a big all round housing programme I personally see nothing but disaster ahead, not only for industrial production but for much more.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: My cut motion is to discuss the general policy of the Government of India about labour with special reference to the industrial truce. Only half an hour back the Minister of Industry and Supply told us that he had thrown out 2,000 clerks in his department on the streets and 800 others also. I want to know whether the Government of India has any policy for these retrenched people. I think our Government should provide every able-bodied man with enough work to do. I find that even the Government of India employees who have served this Government for the last

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eight or 10 years, and put in the best in them and who were not now fit to go in for any other new job, even they have been thrown out without being provided with alternative employment. This is due to the absence of any labour policy.

Dr. V. Subramaniam (Madras: General): Do they come into the category of labour?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Of course they are labourers. If Government wants to retrench them, they must give them alternative employment elsewhere. I think the Government has got thousands of people in their employ. If they want to get rid of them I think they will have to frame some scheme for alternative employment. In June 1946 the Railway Federation threatened a general strike. There were three lakhs of people to be retrenched and when the question came up for discussion before the Railway Board, the Board yielded. They knew the Federation could paralyse the whole country. Now all those three lakhs of people have been absorbed in the Railway Department. But these 3,000 people have no Federation behind them. That shows that you will listen only to those who will give you trouble.

I was therefore pained to see that when our Minister said that he had retrenched people, the House did not even think it necessary that there must be some method for doing something for them. If you cannot do that for your own employees how can you do anything for the nation.

My point is about industrial truce. The Honourable Minister of Labour feels for the labouring class. All his measures which he has put through the Assembly have been good measures. But our country needs to advance at a much more rapid pace and I hope that he shall be able to do it. But when he here enacts measures, is he aware that they are implemented as they ought to be? I will take the industrial truce. You said that the principles enunciated at that conference were accepted. The conference called upon labour and capital to agree to maintain an industrial peace, to avert lock-outs and strikes, etc., during the next three years. The conditions were that the profits shall not be excessive, that there shall be these protection committees, there shall be works committees in which duly elected representatives of labour will be taken and they shall be able to discuss daily affairs.

I want to tell you, Sir, from my own personal experience of industries, especially of the sugar industry. In that industry this year you have given them so much profit that probably no industry has ever got so much. Last year there was a profit, according to the schedule of Rs. 1/2. This year the price has increased by Rs. 15/- whereas the expenses were only Rs. 9/-. So the have an additional profit of Rs. 6/-. But you have not given labour any thing. You have given them a minimum of Rs. 45/- which comes to -/8/- a maund: and then you want labour to be contented. But what happens? The most horrible thing is that that you are trying to create discontent amongst them. Here is an agreement with one union and it says that works committees will be formed with an equal number of representatives from labour and the management and this is a Federation which is sponsored by the Syndicate and it is said that only those unions in this Federation shall be represented there.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: May I know what paper my friend is referring to?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: The agreement between the sugar industry the Syndicate and the Sugar Federation. What I want is that your Government should call a conference of all Ministers. The works committees must be composed of men who are elected by labour and not have unions just because the syndicate recognises them. The most important point is this.

Unless labour feels that they have a right to organise themselves, there can never be any proper advancement of the labour cause.

What I want is that you must have a real labour policy. Just now the Minister said they are to have a Planning Commission. Six months have passed. Labour is impatient. Otherwise the whole budget is without any policy or plan behind it. Without labour, of course, you cannot have anything. So this Government should first of all have a general policy, and in that labour will have its place. I am sure the Honourable the Minister of Labour is really sympathetic to the labourcause. He feels for it. He should be complimented for that. But this must be done in a manner that the whole of the country supports him. The statement issued by the General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress on the 27th February 1946 says.

"It is unfair and misleading that labour organisations and their leaders should be criticized by the Government and employers for the alleged breach of the terms contained in the Industrial Truce resolution. The resolution clearly imposed certain conditions to be fulfilled before labour is expected to give effect to the operative part of the resolution. It is highly improper to put one-sided blame on labour."

"One of the necessary conditions to be fulfilled is the speedy nationalization of the basic industries, banks, etc., which would give a feeling to the workers that production is for the public good, and not primarily for private profits."

They also want that immediately there should be this nationalization of key industries. There must be some policy announced about it. I hope these things shall be done. Unless these things are done, the truce will not be in operation. I have said that instead of having this sort of resolution, you must give conditions to labour so that they will not be forced to go on strike. They must also feel that profits on industries are going to the nation-building works and not to the coffers of the magnates. At present, as I said, the profits do not usually go to national development. People should feel that the profits of industry go to the nation and the surplus towards the maintenance of the workers. If such a policy is evolved and executed the whole labour will fully co-operate with the Government and the Government will rise to its proper place in the comity of nations.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण साहू : सभापति जी, मैं यह संशोधन मूव (move) करता हूं। इसका मतलब यह है कि लेबर (labour) और कैपटल (capital) में झगड़ा रहता है इसको कैसे मिटाया जाय, अभी हम देखते हैं और सबको मालूम है कि जहां २ फैक्टरियां हैं वहां प्रोडेक्शन (production) में कमी हो गई है और इसका क्या सबब है, उसका सबब यह है कि लेबर (labour) और कैपटल (capital) में जो मनोवृत्ति है, उसको दूर करने के लिए हम लोगों को कोशिश करना चाहिये इसलिए में प्रस्ताव करना चाहता हूं कि जो रीजनल लेबर कमीश्नर (Regional labour Commissioner) होते हैं वह जब दौरे में जाते हैं तो उनकी मदद देने के लिए बड़े और छोटे २ इन्सपैक्टर (inspector) रहने चाहिये तो लेबर (labour) को इससे मदद सी मिल जायगी और इस तरह से उनकी हालत बदल सकती है, तो इस तरह जो सारा झगड़ा होगा वह दूर हो जायगा।

दूसरी बात यह है और जिसकी तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिये वह यह है कि जहां फैक्टरियां हैं वहां लेबर (labour) और फैक्टरियां ओनरज (factory owners) में झगड़ा होता रहा है, लेबर लेजिसलेशन (Labour Legislation)

[श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण साहू]

को कायम करने और काम में लाने के लिए वे मदद नहीं देते इसलिए हम लोगों को इस तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान देना होगा जिससे जो कुछ हम लोग बनाते हैं वह कैसे कायम हो सकता है, महात्मा गांधी जी भी वर्कस (works) और गनाइजरज़ (organisers) की राय देते थे, मैं सोचता हूं कि गवर्नमेंट जो प्रस्ताव भी करेगी उसके साथ-साथ ऐसे अफसर उन जगहों पर रखेगी जहां झगड़े ज्यादा होते हैं तीसरी बात यह है कि गवर्नमेंट की जो नेशनलाइजेशन (nationalisation) के लिए पौलिसी (policy) है इससे जो प्राइवेट (private) कैपटलिस्ट (capitalists) है वह आहिस्ते २ खत्म हो जायेंगे, इसलिए मैं प्रस्ताव करना चाहता हूं कि धीरे-धीरे लेबर (labour) लोग तन्खाह में से एक-एक शेयर (share) खरीद लेंगे और धीर-धीरे ऐसे कैपटलिस्ट (capitalists) जो हैं वह खत्म हो जायेंगे और वह फिर दूसरे का काम हिन्दुस्तान की भलाई के लिए शुरु करेंगे, मैं ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता हूं; मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि जो छोटी २ इंडस्ट्रीज़ (industries) और बड़ी २ इंडस्ट्रीज़ (industries) में झगड़े होते हैं वह भी खत्म हो जायेंगे, इससे हम लोग कॉटेज (cottage) इंडस्ट्रीज़ (industries) का जो सवाल है उसको भी पूरा कर सकेंगे, आखिर में इतना कहना चाहता हूं कि हमको ठीक तरह से कल्पना करनी चाहिये और ऐसा काम करना चाहिये जिससे देश में कैपिटल (capital) और लेबर (labour) में झगड़ा खत्म हो जाय ।

(*English translation of the above speech*)

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Sir, I move. This cut motion aims at finding out its solution to the labour *versus* capital disputes. We have seen, and every one knows it, that production in factories has decreased. What is its reason? It is the conflict between labour and capital. We should try to resolve these differences. I, therefore, like to recommend that senior and junior Inspectors should accompany the Regional Labour Commissioner, when he goes on tour. This will help labour and change its plight. This will end all disputes.

The second thing which requires greater attention is the labour *versus* capital discords which impede the operation of framing and enforcing labour legislation. We must, therefore, think out how we can enforce the laws that we make. Mahatma Gandhi too had advised the appointment of 'works organisers'. I hope, whatever the measures Government may adopt it will also appoint officers to settle disputes at places where disputes are frequent.

The third thing is that the policy of Government regarding nationalisation will result in a gradual extinction of private capitalists. I therefore like to suggest that workmen should be enabled to buy one share each out of their salaries. By and by the capitalists of today will become a non-entity and in future they will devote their time to the service of India. I will content myself with saying that this will end conflicts between the small scale industry and the mill industry. This will also go a long way in solving the problems of cottage industries. In the end I would say that we should make up our minds to find out a solution of the labour *versus* capital disputes.

श्री० गोकुल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट : माननीय सभापति जी, मैं चन्द बात बतलाना चाहता हूं। यह सवाल इतना अहम है। जैसा कि हमारे माननीय शिवा राव साहब ने अभी कहा है कि इस काम के लिए समय रखा गया है वह कम है लेकिन रकम रक्खी गई है वह बहुत कम रक्खी गई है। हम देखते हैं कि मिनिस्टरी आफ लेबर के लिए २२ लाख रूपया रक्खा गया है और मिनिस्टरी आफ इंडसट्रीज के लिए २१ लाख रुपया रक्खा जाता है इसके सिवा इस महकमें के लिए ३ करोड़ की और रकम रक्खी जाती है, तब हमारे विचार में मजदूर लोग कब तक नंगे और भूखे रहेंगे। यह मालूम नहीं।

मजदूरों के लाभ के लिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि उनके लिए एक सेन्ट्रल इन्स्टीट्यूशन आफ लेबर (Central Institution of Labour) बनाना चाहिये। यह दिल्ली में न बनना चाहिये क्योंकि दिल्ली में बहुत सी चीजें बनी हैं और उसको ज्यादा रोशन करना ठीक नहीं है। लेकिन यह इन्स्टीट्यूशन (Institution) ऐसी जगह पर होना चाहिये जहां पर सचमुच मजदूर रहते हों और जहां उनका केन्द्र हो इस और ऐसे केन्द्र के मकान सेवाग्राम की झोंपड़ियों जैसे होने चाहिये। आलिशान मकानों में खर्च नहीं होना चाहिये। इससे हमको दो चीजों का फायदा होगा। एक तो मजदूरों की स्थिति का अभ्यास जो करते हैं और हमारे मजदूरों के जो नेता हैं वह वहां रहेंगे। वे लोग उनके साथ रहकर उनके झगड़ों को भी दूर करसकते हैं और उनके रहन सहन के बारे में भी बहुत ज्यादा अभ्यास और जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकेंगे। इससे मजदूरों की जो कठिनाइयां हैं वह दूर हो जायंगी और मुल्क की आम जनता को जो उनके प्रश्नों से दिलचस्पी रखती है, उनको भी फायदा होगा। मेरा यह सुझाव है और लेबर मिनिस्टर साहब इस पर सोच विचार करेंगे और एक ऐसा प्रस्ताव लायंगे जिससे यह योजना बन जाय तो इससे हमारे मुल्क को काफी फायदा होगा।

दूसरी बात जो मुझे कहनी थी वह यह है कि इसमें लेबर मिनिस्टरी के लिए पैसा कम रखा गया है। बेचारे स्टैण्डिन्ग कमेटी (Standing Committee) के जो मेम्बर हैं उनको साहित्य चाहिये, लिटरेचर (literature) चाहिये, लिटरेचर (literature) चाहे कोई मेरे दोस्त पढ़ते हों और न पढ़ते हों लेकिन उनको लिटरेचर (literature) के लिये पूरी रकम देनी चाहिये। इसमें उसका कोई मींजान नहीं रक्खा गया है। लेबर मिनिस्टरी को अच्छी तरह से काम करने के लिये उनके पास पैसा भी होना चाहिये ताकि वह नई योजनायें बना कर अमल में ला सकें। तो मेरे इस प्रस्ताव का यह मकसद है जैसा मैंने ऊपर बतलाया है। दो, तीन बातें मैंने आपके सामने रक्खी हैं। मजदूरों का जो सवाल है वह एक अहम सवाल है। उसको पैसा भी ज्याद मिलना चाहिये। और ऐसे प्रश्न की चर्चा करने के लिये और उस पर प्रकाश डालने के लिये हमें ज्यादा समय मिलता रहेगा। इतना कहते हुए मैं लेबर मिनिस्टर के सामने यह तजवीज़ रख रहा हूं।

(English Translation of the above speech)

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt (Eastern Rajputana State Group): Sir, I want to say a few things. This question is so important that not only insufficient time has been allotted for its discussion, as has been said by Shri Shiva Rao, but the amount provided for it in the Budget is also not enough. We see that rupees twenty two lakhs have been provided for the Ministry of Labour and rupees twenty one lakhs for the Ministry of Industries. In addition to that another sum of rupees three crores has been allotted to the latter Ministry. We cannot say how long then poor labour class will have to go without food and clothing.

In the interest of labour I want to say that a Central Institution of Labour should be established. It should not be located at Delhi because this city is already overcrowded with so many other things and it is not advisable to have any more things here. This institution should be built at such a place where the labourers actually live, and which should be the centre of their activity. The buildings and houses of this centre should be constructed on the model of Sevagram huts. Money should not be wasted on making palatial buildings. In this way we will be killing two birds with one stone. Firstly we will be studying the conditions of labour and secondly the labour leaders will be residing there. Living with them, these leaders will be able to settle their disputes, make an intimate study and acquire a good knowledge about the conditions of labour. That will help in removing the difficulties of the labour, and the people of this country, who are interested in the labour problems, will also be benefited. This is my proposal which I commend to the Honourable Minister for Labour and I hope he will bring before the House a resolution which might provide for this institution. Our country will gain much by it.

The second thing which I have to say is that sufficient funds have not been allotted to the Ministry for Labour. The poor members of the Standing Committee need literature. Some of my friends may read this literature others may not, but funds must nevertheless be provided for this literature. No provision has been made for this. To enable the Ministry of Labour to work properly it should be given money so that it may carry out new schemes. This is the object of my proposal.

I have placed before you two or three things. I want to say that the Labour problem is quite important. More money should be allotted for this purpose and more time should be given us to discuss this question. With these words I make this proposal to the Honourable the Minister for Labour.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I am thankful to the Honourable Members for making constructive suggestions for improving my Ministry. I am also thankful to them for this reason that these cut motions are not meant for any reduction in the demand but, as has been made clear by the previous speaker, they feel that the demand under this head should rather have been increased. I do feel, Sir, that the House might have been given some more time for discussion under this demand, but we cannot help it at this stage.

At the very outset I want to make it clear that we are functioning here not without any labour policy. We do have a definite labour policy and every action that we in the Ministry of Labour take is guided by that policy. My Honourable friend Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena said that because the industrial policy or the economic policy of the Government is not clear the labour policy is also not clear. I do not agree with that view. Whether we finally decide upon nationalisation or not, whether we decide upon a purely nationalised economy or a mixed economy, there will not be very much change in the labour

policy in the near future. So we have a definite policy, and if my friend Mr. Saksena will care to follow the trend of the labour legislation and the administrative actions that the Labour Department has been pursuing he will find for himself that there is a definite policy.

I do agree with my friend Mr. Shiva Rao that the inspection under the Factories Act has not been very efficient. The reason is quite obvious. As Honourable Members in this House are aware, the Factories Act or the factories find a place in the list of subjects assigned to Provincial Governments. It is not a direct responsibility of the Central Government and our handicap lies there. In spite of that we have maintained here a Chief Adviser of Factories and his staff who not only advise the Provincial Governments but also take up the training of the factory inspectors of the Provincial Governments. We are running, so to say, a regular course of training for training the factory inspectors of the Provincial Governments. But I admit, Sir, that the cadre of the inspectors which the Provincial Governments maintain is not sufficient for enforcing the Factories Act, not in remote and far off small towns but also in the big centres of industries. We have always been insisting upon Provincial Governments to increase the strength of their factory inspectors. But, as Mr. Shiva Rao is already aware, the bottle-neck lies in the fact that we are so short of the requisite personnel. In spite of the fact that we create posts and advertise for them we do not find suitable persons, *i.e.* trained persons, to take up these posts. That is why we have started a short course or a refresher course for training the factory inspectors. It is under my active consideration whether we can establish a Central institution for the training not only of factory inspectors but for the training of factory inspectors, welfare workers and other categories of officers and staff that may be required for the inspection of factories and for welfare activities.

As regards child labour the same difficulty arises. There are certain subjects for which we have in this Parliament can legislate but the administration and enforcement of those Acts is a responsibility of the Provincial Governments. Though child labour is still to be found in spite of the Act, it is on the decrease. Recently we have enforced the Employment of Children Act in the mica mines and mica factories where child labour was much prevalent, and we have already requested the Provincial Government of Bihar to take necessary measures in this direction. We are thinking of starting some welfare activities in the mica mines and we will have welfare officers and inspectors for the welfare work. I am examining the question whether I can empower my welfare officers and inspectors under the Employment of Children Act and give them power to see that no child labour is employed in those factories. So it cannot be said that we simply pass pieces of legislation here and do not enforce them. We make every honest endeavour to enforce them with the material that we have got at our disposal at the present time. I must, however, frankly admit that these are not so strictly and so thoroughly enforced as they ought to have been. But there are limitations. The first limitation is about personnel, that is finding the qualified staff for the purpose. The second difficulty is about the financial resources of the Provincial Governments. That consideration has also to be taken into account.

Another suggestion has been thrown that periodical bulletins may be issued, giving in brief the gist of the various measures or pieces of legislation that are passed here. That proposal is also under my consideration and I want to give effect to it in the near future.

Shrimati G. Durga Bai (Madras: General): How do Government propose to engage the children which they have?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: That question does not arise because child labour is prohibited. The question of alternative employment does not

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

arise. As regards the mica mines, in mica fields we have got our Welfare Fund and from the Welfare Fund we may start some institutions for training the children either in general education or in some art and craft. But for other places I am afraid the responsibility as regards education is a provincial subject and I cannot give any undertaking here on that point.

Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena has raised the question of alternative employment for the staff which is likely to be retrenched by the Central Government Sir, it becomes very difficult for any spokesman of the Government to reconcile the two views of this House—the view of retrenchment and economy on the one hand and finding employment for every able-bodied person in this country on the other. (*An Honourable Member*: "In government service".) Yes, in government service. I do realize that it is primarily the responsibility of this Government—or as a matter of fact for any government—to find suitable opportunities of employment for every able-bodied person in the country. That is a principle which cannot be disputed and we do not say that we do not stand by that principle. But it will take some time of the House if I were to explain how in spite of our best efforts and determination to find employment for every person in this country we are not in a position at present to fulfil that obligation. It is a matter of common knowledge that during the war very large numbers of people were engaged in government services and in other industries as well and with the restoration of normal conditions very large numbers of people have got to be retrenched. Howsoever unpleasant and painful the situation might appear to be, the Government cannot afford to continue all those people in employment. They will have to retrench them.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: We have schemes like the Damodar Valley and other schemes where they can be employed.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have explained just now, howsoever we wish that we could find employment for every person, we are not today in a position to fulfil that obligation and it will become very difficult when people insist that those who are retrenched from government service should be given alternative employment in the government department itself. That is another difficulty. We cannot do that. He has given the example of the railways. It was not due to the pressure of the railway employees that government agreed to continue their services but because there were other considerations as well. The considerations were that in the railway services there are many persons whose hours of work are not regulated and it is just possible that if we were to insist on statutory working hours being observed as in the case of all other workers, a very large number of additional staff will be required in the railways. That was the main consideration which actuated the Railway Board to continue the services of those employees till the final examination of all those questions. So I do not agree with that view. Rather I repudiate that it was under pressure from railway employees that we agreed to continue them in service.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: On the eve of 27th June.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: My friend is not making any new point, I am afraid.

My friend raised the question of works committees. If he will carefully go through the Industrial Disputes Act and the industrial truce resolution which was adopted in December, he will find that works committees are to be formed with duly elected representatives of the workers. The question of unions does not arise at all. I want to make it clear here, Sir, with all the emphasis at my command that in the formation of works committees I am not going to recognize any unions. The workers will have full liberty to choose their own representatives. I want to develop workers unions on very healthy lines so that outsiders may not go on spoon-feeding workers for all time to come. I

want workers to be represented on the works committees so that they can realise their duties and responsibilities, and so that they may be in a position to negotiate with their employers and settle their differences without the interference of labour leaders whose considerations in settling and negotiating these matters are not purely trade unionism but some other considerations as well. This sometimes leads to unfortunate and unpleasant situation which today is impeding production to such a great extent. So I think that complaint of his is unjustified and unjustifiable.

Mr. Saha has raised the question of our conciliation machinery. I may inform the House, Sir, that there exists a conciliation machinery in the Ministry of Labour headed by the Chief Commissioner of Labour. We are strengthening that machinery. So long there were posts of only three Regional Commissioners. We have raised that to five, and I am soon going to increase the number to seven. One Regional Labour Commissioner will be posted each at Calcutta, Dhanbad, Cawnpore Madras, Bombay and C.P. I am going to increase the number of railway inspectors, as he has suggested, from 20 to 36. We have also increased the number of conciliation officers who come in between the Regional Labour Commissioner and the inspectors. Since the passing of the industrial truce resolution, Sir, I have taken up this question with the provincial governments and the organizations of the workers as to how best to implement the industrial truce resolution. I propose to set up a number of Regional and Central Committees. These committees will study the questions which have been raised by my friend Professor Saksena namely what profits should be given to industry, what wages should be given to labour, and how the surplus of profits should be distributed between labour and capital or between labour, capital and government. That will be the function of these various committees to study and suggest a formula to us which can be given effect to by legislation or executive action as may be deemed necessary. So we are very anxious to implement the industrial truce resolution. I may inform the House, Sir, that I have already finalized the proposal to set up five permanent Adjudicators or Tribunals at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Dhanbad and Cawnpore, and one of them has already been appointed at Dhanbad and has started its work. So, as far as government is concerned, we are very anxious to implement the industrial truce resolution. I hope the same response would be made to that resolution by capital and labour; but I may take this opportunity, Sir, to say that, so far as labour is concerned, a section of the labour leaders—I will not say labour—a section of the labour leaders have not behaved properly or in the same spirit in which they accepted the industrial truce resolution because they are not working in the labour field with the sole view to advance the cause of the workers but with a view to advancing their own political motives and party politics. I want to make it clear at this stage, Sir, that in the present conditions when the country is faced with a shortage of every type of consumers' goods, government cannot afford to tolerate the interference in production by any group or party or leaders, and if we will have to take severe actions, we will not falter in that.

The question of housing is really a very important question. My friend Mr. Shiva Rao has quoted and made it clear that no amount of health insurance or health measures will improve the conditions of the workers unless concentrated attention is given to solving their housing problem. Sir, the time at my disposal is very short. I would have liked to deal with this important problem in some detail, but I may inform the Honourable Members in this House that we are determined to solve this problem.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Why not we go on for some more time?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am entirely in the hands of the House.

Mr. Chairman: Certainly, you can go on for some time more.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: All right, Sir, thank you. I do na-

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

rise that this is a very important problem, and unless we solve this problem, the question of increased production cannot be very much affected. But while considering the question of housing, we will have to take into consideration so many various factors which contribute towards the solution of this problem.

The first question is of the shortage of building materials like cement, iron and steel and coal. Some of the materials are in short supply, for others transport is the greatest bottleneck. Whereever we have to launch any building programme, the first thing that we require is coal for burning bricks. Though I am glad to inform this to the House, the labour force in the coal-fields has been stabilised to a very great extent and today we are not faced with that scarcity of labour in the coal fields as we were in the past years and though we are producing coal the one bottleneck is the transport; the coal that is being produced in the coal fields is not transported in time with the result that the space for stocking and stacking is overflooded and production has to suffer.

5 P.M.

The other question is about cement and iron and steel. The members in this House are already aware that we are in short supply in iron and steel and cement as well. I am not putting forward all these difficulties, Sir, with a view to say in the end that, faced with all these difficulties, faced with all the shortage of building materials, we are not in a position to launch upon any big housing programme,— that is not my view; rather I have pleasure to announce that we recognise that it is the primary responsibility of the State to house the workers and I accept that responsibility. I may inform the House that I am soon going to constitute a Housing Board which will examine in detail the possibility of overcoming the difficulties of shortage in building materials and launch upon a big programme of industrial housing. I may take this opportunity to inform the House that we have fixed a target of ten lakhs of houses to be built during the course of the next ten years for the working classes in this country. It is possible that in the initial years the progress may not be very satisfactory due to want of building materials. All these questions will be examined by the Housing Board and this Housing Board will fix the quota of houses that may be urgently required in Provinces and industrial centres in consultation with the Provincial Governments and Provincial Housing Boards.

The one handicap that may face us in giving effect in its entirety to this programme will not be any want of funds on the part of the Central Government, but want of building materials which we want to overcome by the substitution of alternative building materials such as timber in place of iron and steel, mud-plaster and other things in place of cement. That will be a question for the Housing Board to examine in detail, which will be very soon constituted and will be associated with two or three expert engineers to investigate all these things.

So as regards housing I may announce that Government is very anxious to do away with the shortage of housing accommodation for the workers and with that end in view we have a programme of housing to build at least ten lakhs of houses in the course of the next ten years.

As regards the last point that has been made by my Honourable friend Mr. Gokulbhai Bhatt about the Central Institute of Labour, I could not quite follow what he meant by the Central Institute of Labour and for what purpose he wanted this institute to be set up. If his intention was that workers or welfare workers should be trained in those Institutes, I may inform the House that we are taking advantage of the existence of the Tata School of Social Sciences and a short course in the Calcutta University on Social Science and Social Services, and we are training some of our workers in these two

institutes for doing welfare work among the labourers, in the various employing Departments of the Central Government as well as by private employers.

Shrimati G. Durga Bai: May I ask the Honourable Minister one question? May I ask if Government thinks it desirable to bring into existence a Central Institute like the one suggested by Mr. Bhatt, it will be possible to train also many women labour welfare officers? We do not at present have many of them. Some time ago there was an advertisement calling for applications from women candidates, but when they actualy applied they were told that since they did not know Hindi language they could not be taken. But if it is a Central Institute all women from all Provinces will take advantage of getting this training which is very necessary in view of the large number of women labour employed and in view also of the necessity of having such women welfare officers.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I was examining that point, whether that Central Institute of Labour is solely with a view to train welfare workers. As I was informing the House, there are already existing two institutions for this purpose and the Central Government is taking advantage of those institutions for training some of their workers. If the demand of welfare workers increases to an appreciable extent, certainly we will examine the possibility of having a Central institution of our own where we can train lady workers as well—we attach greater importance to that. But so far the demand is not so great either in the Government concerns or from private employers. In the Factories (Amendment) Bill which is already before this House a provision has been made that employers or industrial concerns employing 500 workers or something like that—I do not exactly remember—will have to engage one welfare officer at least in their concern. After that, I think, the number of welfare workers that may be required in the country will be greater and I will certainly examine this question whether we can start a Central Institute of Labour ourselves.

Sir, I have not many things to say. The House and the speakers have paid compliments to me for which I feel thankful to them. With their cooperation we may do something for the workers. It is not a question of doing something for the workers, as I have remarked on previous occasions; it is not alone capital, it is not alone the improved variety of machinery, that is going to help production; unless we pay due attention to the human material that is required, it is not possible to increase production. The human material is the labour. Let capital realise that, let Government realise that, let everybody realise that, that they owe something to the human material that adds to the prosperity of the country. Let labour, on the other hand, also realise that they have not only their rights, they have not only their privileges, but they have their duties and responsibilities not only to the employer and to the capitalists, but to the country and the community at large. So long as this Government is here,—the Government which is pledged to a party which stands for ameliorating, not only ameliorating the condition of the common man but of raising his standard of life, I may assure the House that every action which this Government takes will be in pursuit of that object.

I hope, Sir, the members will be good enough to withdraw their cut motions.

Mr. Chairman: May I know the intentions of the Honourable Members who have moved the cut motions? Do they wish me to put the cut motions to the House?

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: I also leave to withdraw, Sir.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I beg also, Sir, with the permission of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Members Messrs. B. Shiva Rao, Lakshminarayan Sahu and Shibban Lal Saksena wish to have leave of the House to withdraw their cut motions. Does the House give them the leave?

The cut motions were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: Then I put the Demand. The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,19,000, 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 'Ministry of Labour'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 8th March, 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Monday, 8th 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

HOME GUARDS AND RIFLE CLUBS FOR DELHI

638. ***Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the resolution passed by the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Council, Delhi, recommending to Government the organisation of 10,000 Home Guards for Delhi; and

(b) whether Government are aware of another resolution passed by the Advisory Council for the establishment of Rifle Clubs in Delhi and if so, what action has been taken by Government on the same?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. In regard to Rifle Clubs, the Deputy Commissioner has not yet received any application for permission to open a Rifle Club. When such application is received appropriate action will be taken by him.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: With regard to reply to part (a) may I know, Sir, what action has been taken by Government on the resolution passed by the Advisory Council?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I think some correspondence has gone on. There is no difficulty about the principle, because Government wants to encourage the formation of Home Guards in all the Provinces and in Delhi. Certain draft was sent and I think the Home Ministry sent them back to be amended in a particular way to bring them in line with the U. P. Home Guards Act, which we consider preferable. As soon as that is done, effect will be given to it.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will Government direct the Local Government not to delay taking action in the matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Certainly.

Shri H. V. Kamath: For recruitment to Home Guards, will Government give preference to those who have taken active part in our country's freedom struggle, specially to Congress volunteers, Congressmen and Members of the I. N. A., provided they are otherwise suitable for the job?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Certainly. The first consideration, obviously as the Honourable Member said, is fitness and suitability. Now fitness and suitability means that they have received previous training also. Members of the I. N. A. should normally be eminently suitable for this, but I am not quite sure if every political worker has had such training. It is a question of suitability.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the fact that no provision has been made in the present Budget for the Home Guards, will Government give an assurance that when the scheme is ready, they will provide for the necessary expenses in the supplementary Budget?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: You mean for Delhi: Certainly.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government give an assurance that they will not exclude suitable girls and women too?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: If there is a separate section of the Home Guard, they will be there; if not, they will not be there. Personally, I hope, there will be a women's section.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: May I know if such Rifle Clubs are being encouraged in the Provinces also?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as we are concerned, we should like to encourage them. It is for the Provinces to do it.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: May I know, in view of the reply just now given, the official position and status of the Home Guard and their relationship with the magistracy and the Police and the authority that would exercise control over these institutions?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid, it will require a long statement.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: But, Sir, we require some reply.

Mr. Speaker: That will be for another occasion.

DACOITIES, HOLD-UPS AND THEFTS, ETC. BY ARMED GANGS IN DELHI

637. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the big increase in the number of dacoities, hold-ups by armed gangs and daring thefts on organised scale during the last few months in Delhi area;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to combat the growing menace; and

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a Delhi hold-up which occurred on 2nd February 1948 and in which a sum of Rs. 19,000 belonging to the Ministry of Food was snatched away from an employee of the Ministry of Food in New Delhi, and if so, what action Government have taken in this respect?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) There have been a number of cases of dacoities, hold-ups by armed gangs and daring thefts during recent months.

(b) Goondas and bad characters are being rounded up; intensive patrolling has been introduced. Watch is being kept on undesirable persons and their likely resorts are raided. Vigilance Committees of respectable members of the public have been formed to assist the police.

(c) Yes, the case is under investigation.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know Sir, whether it is a fact that no special branch of the Intelligence Department has been set up to deal with such crimes, and will Government consider the desirability of directing the Intelligence Branch to set up a separate Department to prepare the character rolls of all such persons as have come here recently from other provinces and to keep a strict watch on them in as much as they are considered mainly responsible for such hold-ups and dacoities, etc.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The point is that this matter should be investigated fully. Whether it is to be done by calling a few persons a separate Department or labelling them otherwise, I do not know. The Honourable Member's point is that investigation should be thorough and rapid. I have no doubt that is appreciated. I cannot say off-hand whether that will be done by calling it a separate Department, but that is one of the main functions of the Intelligence Branch in Delhi.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Apart from the particular case, I want to ask whether in view of the fact that there have been so many cases, Government will consider the desirability of setting up a special branch of the C. I. D. to take preventive measure.

Mr. Speaker: I think the explanation is already given.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Is it not a fact that the lack of telephone facilities for the common people is acting as a great handicap in giving prompt information to the Police?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It may be so.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: If it is so, will Government consider the establishment of telephone booths in the various circles?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I suggest to the Honourable Member to point out the various places which he thinks might have such telephones and to communicate to the Communications Minister. We shall certainly try to put in telephones wherever possible.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, whether Government's attention has been drawn to a dacoity in which a lakh and twenty-five thousand rupees have been taken away from the Lloyd's Bank? If so, what steps have been taken?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Government's attention has been drawn to this matter. So far as we are aware, many of these dacoities have been committed by a certain particular gang functioning and so far as our knowledge goes it is a gang which has come from the direction of Rohtak.

NATIONAL MILITIA FOR INDIA

638. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has so far been worked out for establishing a National Militia; and

(b) what steps are being taken to give compulsory military training to all adults in India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). As the House is aware, this matter has been engaging the urgent attention of Government, and I hope to be able to make an announcement of Government's decision in this regard during this session.

Seth Govinddas: Has Government received any recommendations in this respect from different Provinces?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I do not think so. We have not received any recommendation from the Provinces.

Seth Govinddas: What practical steps have been taken by Government since the Honourable Minister gave an assurance to the House during the last Budget session on the Resolution of Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya that something definite would be done during the two months and the Assembly would be apprised of the same?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The Honourable Member is referring to the assurances that I gave in connection with the report of the National Cadet Corps Committee; a decision has been taken and it will be released to the Press in the next few days.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Do Government mean to publish the report of the National Cadet Corps Committee or not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, Sir.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: When do they propose to publish it? They have been saying so for months.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It will be published along with the announcement.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: When will that be?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: In the next two or three days before the 13th, I hope.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is there any scheme under the consideration of Government to give military training to Government officials just as it is being done in Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There is no such scheme, Sir. But this question refers to the Territorial Force and I have already said in reply to this question that Government have a scheme under consideration.

LOSSES IN MEN AND PROPERTY DUE TO BORDER INCIDENTS

639. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of border incidents so far occurred since the partition of India, and the loss incurred in men and material by the Union Government thereby; and

(b) what are the defence measures taken to safeguard the integrity of Indian territory and to prevent loss of life and property?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my answers to Starred Question Nos. 491 and 616 asked on the 26th February, 1948 and 4th March, 1948 respectively.

Seth Govinddas: With respect to clause (a) of the question, Sir, does the Honourable Minister remember that as far as the riots of Jaisalmer State are concerned, the Honourable Minister assured me that enquiries would be made from the Jaisalmer State about the compensation and has any enquiry been made whether the Jaisalmer State has given compensation to the persons who have suffered in these riots?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have no information whether the Jaisalmer State has given any compensation, but a representation has been made to the Pakistan Government.

Seth Govinddas: Are Government aware that in Jaisalmer State only Rs. 7 per head has been given as compensation which is most inadequate? In these circumstances will Government . . . . .

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the question relates to the internal administration of the State for which the Government of India do not seem to be responsible.

Seth Govinddas: The Honourable Minister assured me last time that he is going to induce the Jaisalmer State to give adequate compensation to sufferers in that raid. I am therefore asking him whether he knows that adequate compensation has not been given to the sufferers and whether he will make a move in this matter?

Mr. Speaker: The question in short is whether he has given any advice to the Jaisalmer Government.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As far as I remember, the question raised by the Honourable Member last time was whether any compensation has been demanded from Pakistan.

Seth Govinddas: No, Sir, that was not my question.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: With regard to the question about the Jaisalmer Government having given Rs. 7 per head, I know nothing; I will make inquiries.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With reference to part (a) of the question, does the number of incidents include the incidents that have taken place on the borders of Eastern Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The previous answers given by me to which I referred all relate to the border raids in East Punjab.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Did any incidents take place on the East and West Bengal border?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: They are not included in this list.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know who took part in these raids,—army men, policemen or civilian goondas?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is alleged that every one in the categories mentioned took part.

Shri Biswanath Das: In view of the serious nature of these raids, as reported in the press, have Government insisted upon the Pakistan Government to compensate for the loss that has accrued? If so, with what result?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: We have made representations to the Pakistan Government, but without any result so far. The matter is under consideration.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Did the Pakistan Government admit the responsibility of their people in this respect?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I do not think the Pakistan Government have admitted their responsibility.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Did the Government of India try to impress on them that these were not sporadic cases but part of a definite programme?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: We have impressed upon the Pakistan Government that they must take effective steps to check these raids.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Have the Pakistan Government been impressed?

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of opinion. Next question.

TERMS OF SERVICE OF BRITISH PERSONNEL IN INDIAN ARMY

640. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what special terms have been given to British military officers who preferred to serve in the Indian Army voluntarily?

(b) In view of the shortage of Indian officers in the army, do Government propose to consider the advisability of recruiting the members of the U. T. C. as officers of the Indian Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 268 asked by him on the 25th November 1947.

(b) This is already being done.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Does the Honourable Minister admit that there is shortage of Indian officers? If so, will he be pleased to state why he has released the Gurkha officers to join the British army and why he has discharged the Emergency Commissioned officers who were recruited from Assam?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: To my knowledge no Gurkha officers have been discharged.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: It was stated the other day that some Gurkha officers have joined the British army.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is quite a different matter.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Does the Honourable Minister admit that there is a shortage of Indian officers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have already stated in my reply that there is a shortage of officers. As regards Gurkha officers none of them has been released.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: As regards the Assamese Emergency Commissioned officers, may I know why they have been discharged and not taken back again?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: If the Honourable Member will let me have the particulars about the officers concerned, I will look into the matter.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With reference to part (b) of the question, will Government take steps to recruit individual officers of the I.N.A. on their own merits if they are suitable?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is a separate question and the Honourable Member knows that it will be dealt with separately.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: May I know how many officers have been recruited from among the officers of the U.T.C.?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I cannot say without notice.

Seth Govinddas: May I know if Government have written to the different U.T.C. centres and inquired as to who are fit persons among them to be recruited in the Indian army as officers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am afraid we cannot proceed otherwise than on the opinion of the local authorities. The selection is to be made by the military authorities and there is a selection board and all the candidates have to appear before that board.

Seth Govinddas: May I take it then that the recommendations of bodies like the U.T.C. are not considered?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid that does not logically follow.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: What steps are Government taking to increase the number of officers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: If my Honourable friend will see the reply to the question mentioned in my answer he will get all the information that he requires.

STRENGTH OF INDIAN AIR FORCE AND LOSSES IN KASHMIR OPERATIONS

641. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the present strength of the Indian Air Force?

(b) How many of our Aircraft have been destroyed or damaged in the Kashmir operations?

(c) What steps are being taken to strengthen the Indian Air Force?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a), (b) and (c). It would not be in the public interest to answer this question at this stage.

LISTENER RESEARCH SECTION OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

642. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state what is the work done, so far, by the Listeners Research Section of the All-India Radio?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: A note† on the work of the Listener Research Section of All-India Radio is placed on the table of the House.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether the Government of India have any proposal under consideration to have their own news agency operating under their own control?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid the Honourable Member is thinking of some other question; it does not relate to this question.

ALL INDIA NEWS AGENCIES

643. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state how many All India News Agencies are operating in India? What are their names?

(b) What are the facilities given to these News Agencies by Government?

(c) On what conditions are these facilities given?

(d) Which of these Agencies are operating outside India as well?

(e) Are Government aware that some of these Agencies are carrying on anti-Indian propaganda?

(f) If so, what steps do Government contemplate to take in such cases?

(g) Which of these Agencies are foreign-owned?

(h) What steps are being taken to make all these news agencies Indian-owned?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). A list of news agencies operating in India and a statement of facilities extended to them are placed on the table of the House.

(c) No specific conditions are imposed on news agencies as such.

(d) Government have no information about Orient Press of India. All other agencies are operating outside India as well.

(e) Some such instances have come to the notice of the Government.

(f) Government are taking all possible measures to counteract this propaganda.

(g) All except (ii), (iii), and (iv), mentioned in reply to part (a) above.

(h) It is for non-official news agencies and newspapers to make efforts in this direction.

(a) List of News agencies operating in India:
(i) The Associated Press of India;
(ii) The United Press of India;
(iii) Orient Press of India;
(iv) Press News Features;
(v) Reuter;
(vi) Glove, U. K.;
(vii) Exchange Telegraph, U. K.;
(viii) Associated Press of America, U. S. A.;

†Not printed in these Debates. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed. of D.*

(ix) United Press of America, U. S. A.;

(x) Agence France Presse, France;

(xi) Central News Agency, of China, China;

(xii) Indonesian News Agency, Indonesia;

(xiii) Arab News Agency, Egypt;

(xiv) Tass Agency, U. S. S. R.

(b) The following facilities are given to news agencies:

(1) Allotment of teleprinter circuits.

(2) on accrediation the correspondents of the news agencies are given the following facilities:

(i) access, for the purpose of eliciting information, to the Ministers and Secretaries of Government as well as the Principal Information Officer and Information Officers of the Press Information Bureau,

(ii) supply of publicity material issued by the Press Information Bureau,

(iii) use of the Bureau's Press Room and library for collecting background information,

(iv) booking a special class of inland press telegram known as "FLASH" at double the ordinary rate for inland private telegrams if addressed to a newspaper or news agency, the indicator "FLASH" being transmitted free. This category of telegram is given priority in transmission over express telegrams from the public,

(v) booking press telegrams at reduced rates.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: With regard to parts (e) and (f) of the question, what are the particular steps taken to counteract such attempts?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the House expects Government to do in the way of propaganda. Normally speaking, Government gives publicity to certain facts. If it indulges in propaganda it does not carry matters very far. Government official propaganda is always supposed to be tainted propaganda.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: My question was, what steps are Government taking against those agencies which carry on propaganda against us?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Normally the representatives of these agencies are called and the error of their ways pointed out to them, and so on. Ultimately the last step would be banning it or removing the representative.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do the Government of India grant any special concessions or facilities to these news agencies?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The statement that I am laying on the table of the House give the facilities that are afforded to them.

Shri B. Das: What action did Government take against those British agencies that circulated false news when India and Pakistan had separated and also in connection with the Kashmir incident? Were the representatives called and censored by the Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: As far as I know in many instances the representatives of those agencies were called upon to explain why those wrong statements had been made, and they gave some kind of explanation or excuse. It was not considered necessary by Government, even under provocation to take extreme measures against the propaganda of news even when it was not news.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether Government has received an application on behalf of the Press Trust of India Limited, formed by the leading newspapers of India for the grant of teleprinter lines for running a news agency? If so, may I know what action has been taken by Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am sorry I cannot give an answer to that straight off. I do not know all the facts. I will have to find out.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether any of these agencies which are given these facilities are also receiving subsidies from Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am suffering under a disability having to deal with my Honourable colleague's question. But I imagine there are no such agencies, unless the buying of a certain number of copies is considered a subsidy.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable the Prime Minister aware that subsequent to the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi many London newspapers carried on vigorous propaganda against our Government in India, and may I present to him this newspaper extract which suggested . . . . . .

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member can only put a question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable Minister aware that many London newspapers carried on propaganda against our Government subsequent to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government is fully aware that there are misguided people in the world that do not feel in a friendly way towards this Government.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Government aware that in this propaganda certain news agencies which are being helped by the Government were also involved?

Mr. Speaker: I think it has been sufficiently discussed. Let us go on to the next question.

POST OF JOINT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

644. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state when the post of Joint Director-General of Archaeology was created, and for what period?

(b) What were the reasons for the creation of this post?

(c) Is it proposed to abolish this post after the termination of the present period, or is it proposed to continue it or to make it permanent?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) ڈائرکٹر جنرل آرکیالاجکل ڈیپارٹمنٹ کی پوسٹ پہلے ۲۸ دسمبر سنہ ۱۹۴۵ع سے ۲۸ فروری ۱۹۴۷ع تک کیلئے بنائی گئی تھی پھر جون سنہ ۱۹۴۸ع کے آخر تک بڑھادی گئی -

(b) – اس پوسٹ کو پیدا کرنے کا جو کارن اسوقت گورنمنٹ نے خیال کیا تھا وہ یہ ہے - آرکیالاجکل ڈیپارٹمنٹ کو ری آرگنائز کیا جا رہا تھا اس لئے ڈائرکٹر جنرل کے لئے سب سے بڑا کام یہ ہوگیا تھا کہ نئے آدمیوں کو ٹریننڈ کیا جائے- کام کے سرکل نئے سرے سے ڈھالے جائیں اور تمام ملک میں پھیلے ہوئے مہدانی کاموں کی دیکھ بھال کی جائے - ظاہر ہے کہ ایسی حالت میں انتظامی کاموں کے لئے پورا وقت نہیں دیا جا سکتا تھا اور یہ ضروری ہوگیا تھا کہ ایک نئے آفیسر کی جگہ بڑھا دیجائے جو ذمہداری کے ساتھ ایڈمنسٹریٹو ڈیوٹی پورا کرنے میں مدد دے سکے - خرچ کم کرنے کا یہ ڈھنگ غلط ہوتا کہ پہلے ایک آدمی کو جو خاص طرح کا ٹیکنیکل کوالیفیکشن رکھتا ہو بلایا جاتا

[آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد]

اور پھر اُسے مجبور کیا جاتا کہ اپنا اصلی تکنیکل کام چھوڑ کر ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے انتظامی کاموں میں اپنا وقت خرچ کرے - سنہ ۳۹ع کی وولی رپورٹ نے بھی اسبات پر زور دیا تھا کہ ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے ہیڈ کوارٹر کا اسٹاف بڑھانا چاہیئے -

(ج) - بہت جلد اس بات کا آخری فیصلہ کیا جائیگا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The post of the Joint Director General of Archæology was first created temporarily from 28th December 1945 to 28th February, 1947, but the tenure of the post was subsequently extended upto the end of June, 1948.

(b) The reasons for the creation of the post of Joint Director General of Archæology were:

(1) It was considered necessary to have at headquarters during the general re-organisation of the Archæological Department an Officer with extensive experience to assist the Director General of Archæology in his task, relieve him of a number of exacting administrative duties which prevented him from carrying out his primary and urgent task of training new entrants and re-modelling the Circles, and to enable him to maintain sufficiently close contact both with work in field throughout India and with the Government at New Delhi.

(2) It was false economy to bring out as a short-term Director General of Archæology an Officer with special technical qualifications and experience and then to compel him to devote the greater part of his time to administrative duties.

(3) The Woolley Report of 1939 strongly stressed the need for a larger departmental headquarters.

(c) A final decision will be taken shortly.

شری دیشبندھو گپتا : کیا یہ امر واقعہ ہے کہ جو جوائنٹ ڈائرکٹر بنائے گئے تھے وہ لسٹ میں سینیارٹی کے لحاظ سے سلیکٹ نہ تھے -

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that the appointment of joint directors was not made according to the seniority list?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس وقت میرے سامنے جو معلومات ہیں میں اُن کی بناء پر اس کے جواب میں ہاں یا نہیں کہہ سکتا - اس کے لئے نوٹس کی ضرورت ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: On the basis of the information, available to me at the moment, I am not in a position to say 'yes' I want notice of this question.

श्री एच० वी० कामत : क्या माननीय वजीर साहिब यह बतला सकते हैं कि मोहन्जोदारो और हड़प्पा के बाद कौन कौन काम हाथ में लिया गया । -

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state what work has been taken in hand after the excavations at Mohenjadaro and Harappa?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : لیکن سوال سے اس کا کوئی تعلق نہیں ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: But this has no reference to the question.

MAINTENANCE OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL GARDENS BY ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

645. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is proposed that the Archæological Department should assume responsibility for the maintenance of Archæological gardens which have hitherto been maintained by the Provincial Governments?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ملک کی پرانی یادگاروں کے ساتھ جو باغ ہیں ان کی دیکھ بھال کی ذمہواری ابھی تک پراونشل گورنمنٹ پر تھی اب سنٹرل گورنمنٹ نے یہ پرنسپل مان لیا ہے کہ اس کی ذمہواری آرکیالجکل ڈیپارٹمنٹ اپنے ہاتھ میں لے لے - اسبات کا فیصلہ کرنا ابھی باقی ہے کہ کس تاریخ سے یہ نیا انتظام شروع کیا جائیگا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Government of India have already accepted in principle the responsibility for the maintenance by the Department of Archæology of gardens attached to ancient monuments which at present rests with the Provincial Governments. The date from which the Archæological Department should assume this responsibility has not yet been determined.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that this post was created after a European came to be appointed as a Director-General in order to help him?

Mr. S. Saker: That relates to another question!

EXPENDITURE ON UNIFORMS OF JAMADARS AND PEONS, ETC. IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

†**646. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the annual cost of liveries, uniforms, gold lace belts, crossbelts and other paraphernalia of the Jemadars, orderly peons and other public attendants of high officers of the Government of India and attached offices;

(b) whether there is any proposal to reduce this cost by eliminating expensive articles such as gold lace from the make-up of the livery; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of taking action in the matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The information asked for is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration.

INDIANS JAILED IN ANDAMANS FOR JOINING JAPANESE

647. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government are aware that some Indians in Andaman Islands who joined the Japanese forces and fought against the Allied Forces, are still serving their terms in the jails of Andaman?

(b) Is it a fact that they were tried as ordinary criminals and not as political offenders? If so, why?

(c) Is it a fact that they are not allowed to submit their appeals to any High Court or the Federal Court of India? If so, why?

(d) What is the policy of Government regarding the further detention of the persons in question?

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

(e) Have Government paid or propose to pay any compensation to their dependants?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No.

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

RECRUITMENT AS GOVERNMENT OFFICERS OF PERSONS WHO PARTICIPATED IN FREEDOM MOVEMENTS.

648. *Shri S. M. Ghosh: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether, while recruiting officers for the Government of India, any preference or special facilities are given to those who have taken active parts in the movements for the freedom of the country provided they satisfy other requirements?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: May I know the reason why?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There are no disqualifications. The question is whether in recruiting officers any very special facilities are given to those who have taken active parts in the movements for the freedom of the country. One prefers them, but the real test being suitability and merit, the other factors do not come into the picture quite so much. Either suitability and merit are the essential things to be seen to or they are not. If they are, then other factors, although we may like to consider them, take a secondary place.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In countries like America war veterans are given special preferences.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I believe so. But the question is whether preference should go beyond suitability for a particular post?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will Government consider, other things being equal that preference will be given to those who took part in the freedom movement of this country? There are two candidates: one who took part in the freedom movement and the other who did not. Will the Government consider the desirability of encouraging the man who took part in the freedom movement?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Certainly, other things being equal!

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will Government consider issuing necessary instructions. At present these people are being tabooed even though they may have superior qualifications. Will the Honourable the Prime Minister take steps to see that the necessary instructions are sent to the departments?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am prepared to do that, but qualifications do not mean merely educational qualifications. Qualifications mean experience, temperament, psychology; and it sometimes happens that a person who is eminently desirable in many ways and who has taken part in the movement for freedom is temperamentally not suited for that particular business. If I may give an instance: he is used to public meetings and not suited to an office.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has anyone with these qualifications and being a war veteran been so far appointed at all?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Many of them must have been. I cannot give an answer off hand.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Government aware that there were many persons in the employ of the Government of India who had been dismissed during their service as police reports relating to their political activities. Has Government decided to remove the ban in respect of them so that they may be eligible for reappointment in Government service?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I think many such bans have been removed. If the Honourable Member will bring to our notice any particular case, I will consider it.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I want to know whether the Government has issued any specific instructions that the ban which previously existed in respect of these persons, who had been dismissed on police reports about their political activities has been removed and that these people are eligible for re-appointment in Government service? How many have actually been re-instated?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member must appreciate the fact that not even the previous Government removed any person ostensibly for a political reason. That may have been the real reason but the reason they gave was some other reason. Therefore in fact there has been no such order unless you go into each case and find out the real reason. No general order to that effect will have any value.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: Does any disqualification attach to a candidate by reason of his having participated in the freedom movement?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I hope not.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is Government aware, Sir, that preference is being given to many people who have really obstructed the freedom movement?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes; Government is aware of these unfortunate anomalies.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will Government take steps to remove those anomalies?

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that very often irrelevant considerations, such as too much insistence on age-limits, office experience, etc., are brought in while recruiting new officers, with the result that political workers are naturally excluded from the range of recruitment?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Certain conditions are laid down in regard to recruitment and I should not think that age is an irrelevant consideration in regard to recruitment to an appointment.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is the Honourable Minister aware that before any Government appointment is finally made the case of each candidate is referred to the Criminal Investigation Department for a report, and if so, will the Honourable Minister instruct the C.I.D. not to disqualify a particular candidate on the ground that he had taken active part in the freedom movement?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I was not aware that every case is referred to the Criminal Investigation Department; may be some special cases might be referred. But it is not for the Criminal Investigation Department to bar a candidate. They may report as to what they know about a person. The decision has to come from higher levels, and the suggestions which Honourable Members have made will be taken into consideration.

BRITISH OTHER RANKS HOLDING DEPARTMENTAL COMMISSIONS.

649. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what was the total number of posts to which promoted British Other Ranks holding Departmental Commissions were appointed before the 15th of August 1947?

(b) What is the number of posts to which men holding Departmental Commissions are proposed to be appointed in future?

(c) How many promoted British Other Ranks holding such commissions are employed at present in the Indian Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) 1,088.

(b) In fuuture there will be no class of officers known as Departmental Commissioned Officers. Promoted other ranks and direct recruits will be granted the same type of commission. No fixed quota of posts will be reserved for promoted other ranks.

(c) There are now 56 Departmental Officers serving with the Indian Army for three months from 1st January 1948, and 34 for longer periods not exceeding two years.

COMMISSIONS FOR V.C.O. MILITARY ASSISTANT STORE KEEPERS.

650. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the total number of V. C. O. Military Assistant Store-keepers?

(b) How many of them have been informed that their services will soon be dispensed with?

(c) In view of their high educational qualifications do Government propose to consider the desirability of granting them departmental commissions and employing them in larger numbers?

(d) Have any of them been granted, departmental commissions? If so, how many?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The total number is 1,307.

(b) None.

(c) and (d). Departmental commissions do not now exist, and the question of their grant does not, therefore arise. These V.C.Os. are, however, eligible to apply for direct regular and short service regular commissions.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Will they have to appear before Selection Boards.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The usual procedure will be followed.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it proposed to give them any preference in regard to commissioned posts relating to arsenals and similar posts which were formerly held by promoted British other ranks?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not give a reply to that question off-hand. I will have to make enquiries and let the Honourable Member know.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Certain vacancies exist on account of the departure of British other ranks. Are the V.C.O's. eligible for them?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The following reservations have been made for the V.C.O's:

Direct Regular Commission—15.

Short Service Regular Commission—55.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that there is no longer a Viceroy in the country, will Government consider the advisability of changing the designation of V.C.O's?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That matter is under consideration.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of answer to part (c), how many of these V.C.O's in all will be retrenched?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not give the number of V.C.O's who have been retrenched, but the number of V.C.O's. which is surplus to our requirements is 1,500.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: The total number of V.C.O's was given as 1,307 and the number surplus to requirements as 1,500. How does the Honourable Minister reconcile these figures?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: 1,307 is the total number of V.C.O's who are employed as Military Assistant Store Keepers.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend, how, in view of the fact that the strength of the Indian army has not yet been fixed, he could give this figure of 1,000 and odd as the number who are liable to be discharged?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: On the present structure of the Army there are in all about 1,500 V.C.O's who are considered to be surplus. This number includes besides Military Assistant Storekeepers those employed on general duties such as office clerks, etc.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: On what basis has this figure been arrived at?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not give a reply to that question off-hand.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What is the strength of the army for which the V.C.O's are required?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The strength of the army has not yet been fixed.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: How then does the Honourable the Defence Minister come to know the number of V.C.O's who will be surplus to their requirements?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: These figures are based on the estimated strength of the army that was under consideration some time ago. They are, as I have already said, guess figures and the exact number cannot be given at present.

USE OF TEMPORARY STRUCTURES BUILT FOR ARMY DURING WAR.

651. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the policy of Government in the matter of disposal of the temporary structures built during the war for the Army?

(b) Is it a fact that the Provincial Governments have made representations that the buildings in their respective Provinces may be handed over to them?

(c) Have Government considered the possibilities of using these structures as hostels and if not, do Government propose to consider the question?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The policy of Government in the matter of the disposal of temporary structures built during the war for the Army is to offer such structures in the order noted below:

(i) Other Ministries of Central Government;

(ii) Provincial Governments or Indian States in which the property is situated; and

(iii) Owners of land.

Structures not required by these are sold by public auction.

(b) From time to time representations have been received from Provincial Governments in respect of individual properties and have been dealt with on the basis of the policy outlined above, *i.e.*, the property is offered to the Provincial Government concerned if not required by the Central Government.

(c) No; but Government have at the request of Provincial Governments transferred to them many vacant properties temporarily for housing refugees. It is for the Provincial Governments to decide to what use they should put the properties transferred to them.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that it is proposed to auction off the aerodrome and its buildings at Bahadurgarh and also it is proposed to dismantle the structures? Could it not be used for housing the refugees?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I require notice of that question; I have no information at present.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister make enquiries into the matter and stop the dismantling of these buildings if they could be used for housing refugees?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I shall consider it.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know if any representations were made to the Honourable Minister's Department requesting the government to prevent the dismantling of buildings which were specifically erected for military purposes, so that the acute housing shortage may be relieved? Was such a representation received from the Government of West Bengal?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I cannot say off-hand whether such representations were received but I can say this for the information of the Honourable Members, that no buildings belonging to the Defence Department are being dismantled at present.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Minister aware that most of these buildings put up in air fields have been sold to contractors, who are dismantling them and taking the materials away?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have already stated that according to the accepted policy of the Government some buildings were auctioned and they were bought by contractors and they may have been demolished.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it not proposed to stop that demolition?

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether any of these buildings are being used as hospitals?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Some may be used.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the policy referred to by the Honourable Minister was laid down by the previous Government or it is the policy of the present Government? May I further know whether in view of the changed conditions, Government is prepared to revise its policy and keep the air fields intact?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Originally the policy was laid down by the previous Government. It was revised by the present Government and suitable changes have been made.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if any steps are being taken by the Government in the Defence Department to see that those buildings which have not been handed over to contractors and which are still under their ownership or management are kept in proper repairs and are handed over to the refugees for temporary occupation?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is the policy.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that several houses and camps also are in a very bad state of repairs and are not being attended to nor allotted to the refugees?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: In the last two or three months we received applications for the allotment of these surplus buildings to refugees. These surplus buildings were handed over to the provincial governments and I believe they are being utilised and the necessary repairs are being carried out by the provincial governments.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Arising out of part (b), may I know how many such properties have been transferred to the Provincial Government of Bombay?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I want notice.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that the Bombay Government asked for the Kalyan camps for the purpose of accommodating the refugees and they have been refused?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As regards the Kalyan Camp I do not think my Honourable friend's information is correct. I cannot give a definite reply but I think it has been handed over to the Bombay Government.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know who pays the compensation to the landowner (a) when the buildings are purchased by Government and (b) when the buildings are purchased by other persons? Some of these buildings are on private lands and who pays the compensation to the owners?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The compensation is paid by the Government of India.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the policy outlined by the Honourable Minister apply to British and American structures alike or is there any discrimination?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There are no British or American structures: all the structures belong to the Government of India.

CANDIDATES RETURNED FROM ABROAD AFTER COMPLETION OF STUDIES

652. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of candidates who have returned to India after completing their studies under the overseas scholarship scheme, subject-wise?

(b) Have any of these candidates applied for assistance to find suitable jobs and if so, what have Government done in the matter?

(c) How many of them are unemployed at present and what steps do Government propose to take to suitably employ them?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) اسوقت تک ۴۲ اسکالر گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کے بھیجے ہوئے اپنی تعلیم پاکر واپس آچکے ہیں ایک سٹیٹمینٹ (Statement) ہاؤس کی ٹیبل پر رکھدیا جاتا ہے اس سے معلوم ہوجائیگا کہ کس کس سبجکٹس کے لئے یہ بھیجے گئے تھے -

(b)- پوسٹ وار ڈولیپمنٹ پلان (Post-war Development Plan) کو سامنے رکھکر گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کی منسٹریوں نے یہ بات سوچی تھی کہ انہیں آگے چلکر کن کن سبجکٹ کے لئے آدمیوں کی ضرورت ہوگی اوورسیز اسکالرشپ اسکیم کے اندر جو اسکالر بھیجے گئے تھے - پس جو اسکالر اب اپنی تعلیم پوری کرکے واپس آرہے ہیں اُنکے لئے یہ سوال پیدا نہیں ہوتا کہ

[آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد]

وہ نوکری کیلئے گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا سے درخواست کریں خود گورنمنٹ کا یہ کام ہے کہ وہ انکو کام پر لگائے -

(c)-۴۲ اسکالر میں سے ۲۲ کام پر لگائے جا چکے ہیں ۲۰ کا معاملہ ابھی باقی ہے جو ابھی حال میں آئے ہیں - امید ہے کہ بہت جلد یہ بھی کام پر لگ جائینگے- ان لوگوں کا معاملہ دوسرے معاملوں سے اوپر رکھا جاتا ہے اور ایک خاص کیس کی طرح دیکھا جاتا ہے- اگر کسی اسکالر کے لئے معلوم ہوا کہ اُسے فوراً یہاں کام پر نہیں لگایا جا سکتا تو اُس صورت میں کوشش کی جائیگی کہ پرانوں کی گورنمنٹوں میں ، یونیورسٹیوں میں، ریسرچ انسٹی ٹیوشن میں اور انڈسٹری میں ان کے لئے جگہ نکالی جائے- اس مطلب سے ایک خاص رجسٹر رکھا جاتا ہے اس رجسٹر میں لکھا جاتا ہے کہ کس جگہ کسطرح کے آدمی کی مانگ ہے اور کہاں کہاں انکی کھپت ہو سکتی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) 42 Government of India scholars have so far returned to India after completing their studies under the Overseas Scholarships Scheme. A statement showing the number, subject-wise, is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The scholars under this scheme are sponsored for advanced studies abroad mainly to meet the anticipated needs of the various Ministries of the Government of India in connection with their post-war development plans. A scholar who returns does not, therefore, have to ask for assistance to find a suitable job. Government take up the question of his employment of their own accord.

(c) Of the total number of 42 Government of India scholars who have returned so far, twenty, most of whom have very recently arrived in India, are at present unemployed. Their cases have been taken up with the sponsoring Ministries and a number of them are expected to get employment soon. The question of employment of these scholars is treated as a special case and is given high priority. If, however, for any reason, Government find that the services of a particular scholar are not immediately required by them, these will be offered to Provincial Governments, Universities, Research Institutions, Industry and Indian States according to their requirements. For this purpose Government maintain a register of the requirements of these authorities and organisations.

Statement

Showing Subject-wise the Number of Government of India Overseas Scholars who have so far Returned to India after completion of their studies.

Subject	No. of Scholars Returned
1. Agriculture	3
2. Animal Husbandry	3
3. Automobile Engineering	1
4. Civil Engineering	2
5. Chemical Engineering	1
6. Cinematography	1
7. Dairy	1
8. Economics	1
9. Electrical Engineering	2

Subject	No. of Scholars Returned
10. Fisheries	3
11. Forestry.	1
12. Geology.	1
13. Horticulture.	1
14. Industrial and Applied Chemistry.	2
15. Mechanical Engineering.	3
16. Metallurgical Engineering	3
17. Meteorology.	1
18. Plastics.	2
19. Public Health Engineering.	1
20. Radio Engineering.	2
21. Rubber.	1
22. Scientific Instruments.	2
23. Statistics.	1
24. Wood.	3
TOTAL	42

सेठ गोविन्ददास : क्या माननीय मंत्री इस बात का भी विचार करेंगे कि जब अभी भी बीस ऐसे विद्यार्थी बाकी हैं जिन्हें अभी नौकरी नहीं दी जा सकती है तो भविष्य में सिर्फ वैसे ही विद्यार्थी बाहर भेजे जायें जिनके सब्जेक्ट यहां की यूनिवर्सिटियों में पढ़ाने के लिये मुकर्रर नहीं हैं।

Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister please consider that as there are about 20 such students who have not so far been provided with jobs, therefore, only such students be sent abroad in future, for whom facilities for education in their subjects are not available in Indian Universities?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : کئی پچھلے سوالوں کے جواب میں آنریبل ممبر کے سامنے یہ چیز آ چکی ہے ، کہ اورسیئر اسکالرشپ کی یہ اسکیم پرانی گورنمنٹ کی تھی- نئی گورنمنٹ نے یہ محسوس کیا کہ کام ٹھیک طریقہ پر نہیں چلا ہے - اور اس پر نئے سرے سے غور کرنا چاہیئے - چنانچہ آئندہ کے لئے بھیجنا بند کر دیا گیا - اور ایک کمیٹی بٹھائی گئی تاکہ پورے معاملہ پر سوچ بچار کر کے رپورٹ پیش کرے - گورنمنٹ کو یہ رپورٹ مل گئی ہے اور آئندہ نئے ڈھنگ پر یہ اسکیم چلائی جائے گی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: In reply to a number of previous questions it has already been brought to the notice of the Honourable Member that the overseas scholarship scheme was a creation of the old Government. The new Government realised that the scheme was not being run properly and the scheme should, therefore, be reconsidered. Accordingly sending of students abroad was stopped for the future. A committee was set up to consider the whole matter and make a report. Government have received the Committee's report, and the scheme will now be run on new lines.

श्री एच० बी० कामथ : यह ४२ स्कालर जिनका ज़िकर पार्ट (c) के जवाब में कहा गया है वह दुनियां के किन मुल्कों में तालीम पाकर वापस आये हैं।

Shri H. V. Kamath: What are the countries where these 42 scholars who have been referred to in reply to part (c), obtained their education?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جو سٹیٹمنٹ رکھدیا گیا ھے اُس میں اسکی پوری تفصیل دی گئی ھے - کچھ یو - کے - اور کچھ یو - ایس - اے - بھیجے گئے تھے - اور مختلف سبجیکٹس کے لئے جیسے ایگریکلچرل کیمسٹری - کیمیکل انڈسٹری وغیرہ -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Details have been given in the statement placed before the House. Some of these students were sent to U.K. and others to U.S.A. for different subjects such as Agricultural Chemistry, Chemical Industry etc.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know how many out of these 42 students who have returned are women?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس میں کوئی وومین (woman) نہیں ھے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: There is no woman among them.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether any industrialists have asked for the services of these candidates?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس وقت میں اس کا جواب نہیں دے سکتا - جو بیس باقی ھیں ان کے لئے کوشش کی جا رھی ھے - اور امید کی جاتی ھے کہ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا منسٹریوں ھی میں ان کے لئے جگہ نکل آئیگی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot reply this question at the moment. Efforts are being made and it is hoped that suitable jobs will be provided for those remaining 20 in the Ministries of the Government of India.

پنڈت ھردے ناتھ کنزرو : جب گورنمنٹ کے اسکالر ولایت سے تعلیم پا کراور دوسرے ملکوں سے تعلیم پا کر واپس آتے ھیں تو کیا اسبات کا لحاظ رکھا جاتا ھے کہ وہ ایسے عہدوں پر مقرر کئے جائیں جہاں ان کی اعلیٰ دوچہ کی تعلیم کام آئے -

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: When Government scholars return from abroad after receiving education do Government take care to see that they are placed in jobs where their high education can best be utilised?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ٹھیک ھے - یہی پلان (Plan) سامنے رکھ کر انہیں بھیجا گیا تھا - اور انہیں ایسی ھی جگہوں پر لگایا جائیگا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It is so. They were sent abroad with this end in view. They will be appointed to such posts.

پنڈت ھردے ناتھ کنزرو : کیا وزیر تعلیم صاحب کو معلوم ھے کہ بعض لوگ جن کو خاص طریقہ کی تعلیم ملی وہ ھندوستان واپس آنے کے بعد ایسے کام پر لگائے گئے جسمیں اُس تعلیم سے کوئی فائدہ نہیں پہونچ سکتا تھا -

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is the Honourable Minister for Education aware that some of the scholars who obtained special kind of education abroad, were appointed on their return to India to posts where no benefit could result from their education?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میرے علم میں اس طرح کا کوئی کیس نہیں آیا ھے لیکن اگر اس طرح کا کوئی کیس ھے تو اس پر ضرور دھیان دیا جائے گا

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I am not aware of any such case. but if there is any such instance, it will surely be looked into.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: When there is all round necessity for their employment in the agricultural and scientific departments, what is the necessity for the delay in the appointment of these scholars?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں نہیں سمجھا کہ سوال سے اُس بات کا کیا تعلق ھے - ۴۲ اسکالر واپس آئے - جن میں سے ۲۰ ابھی حال میں آئے ھیں - ان بیس کے لئے انتظام کرنے میں کچھ وقت ضرورلگے گا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I do not think the question has any connection with this matter. 42 students have returned, 20 of whom quite recently. It will surely take some time to provide them with jobs.

श्री एच० वी० कामत : क्या आगे चलकर गवर्नमेंट स्त्रियों को भेजने पर गौर करेगी ।

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government in future. consider the question of sending women abroad?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ پہلی کھیپوں میں استریاں بھیج چکی ھے اور آئیندہ جب کبھی اسکالر بھیجے جائیں گے - تو ضرور عورتیں بھی بھیجی جائینگی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government has sent some women in the first batches and in future if students are sent abroad women will also be included.

LICENCED LIQUOR SHOPS IN DELHI AND NEW DELHI

653. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number of licensed liquor shops in Delhi and New Delhi and the income under this head during the last financial year?

(b) Do Government propose to introduce prohibition in the city in the immediate future?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The number of licensed liquor shops in Delhi and New Delhi during the financial year 1946-47 was 34 and 39 respectively, and the income derived from the consumption of liquor was Rs. 42,35,739.

(b) The matter is engaging the attention of Government.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the attention of Government has been drawn in this respect to a resolution passed by the Advisory Council of the Chief Commissioner of Delhi asking that there should be progressive prohibition and that no new shops should be opened in any locality?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not think any new shop has been opened; as a matter of fact during the current year, that is 1947-48, we have closed a number of shops.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if the Honourable Minister's reply to part (b) means that the Government have accepted the principle of prohibition and are considering the method of its introduction, or whether they are still considering the question of acceptance of the very principle?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I think it may be taken for granted that the Government accept the principle of prohibition.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the contemplated prohibition extend to Europeans, Sikhs and Parsis and will it also prevent the distillation of liquor for domestic and private purposes; or will they be exempted with a view to saving revenue to Government?

Mr. Speaker: I think he is asking for details of the prohibition.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: When some of the Provincial Governments have made rapid progress in the matter of prohibition may I know what are the reasons which prevent the Government of India from introducing it?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The question relates to Delhi and New Delhi. One of the practical points to be taken into consideration is the proximity of other areas where prohibition has not been introduced. We have therefore to adopt our policy in such a manner that anything that we do is really effective.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Is it a fact that the income from this source is increasing every year?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I think in many cases the income increases. That shows that people who want to drink do pay more even when we tax them more.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is not it the reply of the Honourable Minister that "it may be taken for granted that Government is in favour of prohibition" somewhat evasive? Can the Honourable Minister not give a more definite reply?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: It is very positive.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Honourable Minister any information in his possession to show which class or section of the community patronize these liquor shops in Delhi and New Delhi?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think it arises.

PROVISIONS FOR STUDY OF AYURVEDIC SYSTEM OF MEDICINE

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

(a) what steps Government propose to take to promote the study of Ayurvedic sytem of medicine; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the question of instituting a chair for the comparative study of Ayurvedic and Allopathic systems in one of the centrally administered universities?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Government have appointed a Committee on Indigenous Systems of Medicine to report on the steps to be taken to promote the usefulness of the indigenous systems of medicine.

(b) This is a matter for the Universities concerned.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Committee considering the advisability of opening a separate Ayurvedic College in Delhi and work it as a model college for the whole of India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have to wait for the Report of the Committee.

Seth Govinddas: But has this subject also been suggested to the Committee?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Committee has received advice and heard witnesses from all the Provinces and all these things will be considered when their Report is ready. I have already stated on the floor of this House that the Report is delayed owing to the illness of the Chairman.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that the Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbi College, Delhi which was started by the late Hakim Ajmal Khan which is in a bad condition today? Has the Honourable Minister's attention been drawn to it and is Government taking steps to see that this college, which was an all-India institution, is made to function properly?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government is aware of the existence of the Tibbi College and representations have been made to Government. The matter will receive consideration when the question is taken up in its entirety.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: May I say something in regard to this question to supplement what my colleague has said? Government look upon this matter not as one of supporting Ayurvedic, Unani, Allopathic, Homoeopathic or any system: they look upon it as supporting science and the method of science. If by supporting the method of science, Unani prospers, well and good and Government will support it. But if Unani or Ayurveda is opposed to science, it will not be supported. It is the method that counts. These names are labels for various types of medicines. The whole progress of the last two hundred years in medicine, which has been labelled in various ways, has been owing to the application of the method of science. Any system might have failed occasionally, but Government does not propose to swerve by a hair's breadth from that principle. In so far as the application of that method of science to Allopathy, Homoeopathy, Ayurvedic or Unani system helps them, we shall help them to the uttermost limit. But in so far as the system is opposed to the method of science it will not be helped by Government. Government has no doubt that the Unani and Ayurvedic medicines are very good and therefore they can be used. But any system having secret medicines is bad and we are not going to encourage such a system whether it is Ayurved, Unani or the rest. The subject should therefore be looked upon from the point of view of bringing in all methods of approach in regard to the curing or prevention of disease from the scientific viewpoint and taking full advantage of all that Ayurved or Unani system or any other system has to offer.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that the Ayurvedic system of treatment is a science full in itself and stands by itself? May I ask why while the other systems of treatment, namely allopathy and other systems, are having State patronage in this country by instituting graduate, post-graduate and research courses and studies and Ayurved is having nothing?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid this is going into an argument.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that even now the allopathic system has not been extended far and wide on account of various considerations, may I ask whether a research institute will be started immediately to find out how far the Ayurved and other indigenous systems may be encouraged provided they come to the scientific standards? The Honourable Minister said it is left to the Universities to do this. May I ask the Prime Minister whether institutes sponsored by Government will be started to investigate how far these systems can be encouraged if they come up to the required scientific standards?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That, I take it, is one of the functions of the Committee that has been appointed.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that there are many magnificent scientific treatises on these indigenous systems, the only hiatus being that they have fallen into neglect owing to the lack of State patronage?

Mr. Speaker: It is an argument. The question need not be answered.

श्री राम सहाय : चीज़ों के गुण अवगुण जानने का जो प्राचीन तरीका आयुर्वेद में था उसके जानने की कोई स्कीम मिनिस्ट्री के ज़रे गौर है क्या।

Shri Ram Sahai: Have Government any scheme under consideration for the study of ancient Ayurvedic system for the determination of efficacy of derivaties from which medicine were prepared?

आनरेबल राजकुमारी अमृत कौर : मैं आगे भी आपसे कह चुकी हूं कि कमेटी मुकर्रर की गई थी और इस की रिपोर्ट जब आएगी तो उस पर गौर किया जाएगा।

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already stated that a committee was appointed and this matter will be considered on receipt of the report of this committee.

REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY TO SOME HOTELS AND CLUBS IN INDIAN UNION

655. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in some public hotels and clubs within the Indian Union, admission is restricted to people who wear the European type of dress; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to take steps to remove the restriction?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government is not aware of any such instance in so far as Centrally administered areas are concerned.

(b) Does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR VARIOUS CATIGORIES OF SURVEYORS OF M. E. S.

4. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the minimum technical qualifications and the grades of pay fixed for the various categories of the Surveyors of Works Cadre and the corresponding appointments in the Buildings and Roads Cadre of the Military Engineering Services?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

Statement

Surveyors of Works Cadre. — *Buildings and Roads Cadre.*

Serial No.	Category	Basic Technical qualifications	Grades of pay	Category	Basic Technical qualifications	Grades of pay
1	Surveyors Assistant Grade II.	(i) Engineering degree from a recognised University unless selected from Overseer. & (ii) A 'Pass' in the S. Ws. M. E. S. First professional examination.	*Old Scale* Rs. 60-4-100-EB-5-150-EB-5-175 *plus* Rs. 40 Technical Allowance. *New Scale* Rs. 100-8-140-10-200-EB-10-300.	*Overseer* Superintendent B/R Grade II.	Overseer Diploma from any recognised Engineering Institution.	*Old Scale* Rs. 60-4-100-EB-5-150-EB-5-175. *New Scale* Rs. 100-8-140-10-200-EB-10-300.
2	Surveyors Assistant Grade I.	(i) Engineering degree as for surveyor Assistant Grade II unless selected from S.D.O. & (ii) A 'Pass' in the S. Ws. M.E.S. intermediate examination.	*Old Scale* Rs. 150-10-300-FB-25/2-400 *plus* Rs. 80, Technical Allowance. *New Scale* Rs. 250-15-340-EB-15-400.	*S. D. O. B/R* Superintendent B/R Grade I.	Engineering degree from a recognised University or departmental examination for S. D. Os. B/R.	*Old Scale* Rs. 150-10-300-EB-25/2-400. *New Scale* Rs. 250-15-340-EB-15-400.
3	Surveyor of works/ Assistant Technical Examiner.	(i) As for S. A. Grade I. & (ii) A 'Pass' in the S. Ws. M. E. S. Final Examination.	*Old Scale* Rs. 400-25-550-EB-25-650-40-730-EB-40-850 *New Scale* Rs. 350-350-380-380-30-590-EB-30-770-40-850.	*Assistant Engineer* Assistant Executive Engineer/ Assistant Garrison Engineer/ Resident Engineer.	Engineering Degree from a recognised University.	*Old Scale* Rs. 400-25-550-EB-25-650-40-730-EB-40-850. *New Scale* Rs. 350-350-380-380-30-590-EB-30-770-40-850.

Serial No.	Category	Basic Technical qualifications	Grades of pay
			Buildings and Roads Cadre.
			Surveyor of Works Cadre
4	Deputy Superintending Surveyor of Works/Technical Examiner.	Same as for surveyor of works.	*Old Scale* Same as for S.Ws. *plus* Rs. 100 Technical Allowance. *New Scale* Rs. 600-40-1,000-1,000-1,050-1,100-1,100-1,150.
5	Superintending Surveyor of Works/Superintending Technical Examiner.	Same as for S.Ws.	*Old Scale* Same as for S.Ws. *plus* Rs. 200 Technical Allowance. *New Scale* Rs. 1,300-60-1,600
	Executive Engineer/Garrison Engineer/Deputy Superintending Engineer.	As above.	*New Scale* Rs. 600-40-1,000-1,000-1,050-1,100-1,100-1,150.
	Superintending Engineer	As above.	*New Scale* Rs. 1,300-60-1,600.

DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS BY ROYAL INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS

5. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount paid to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors as fees for the departmental examination conducted by them for the Military Engineering Services, and the reasons why such examinations could not be conducted under the aegis of the Institute of Engineers India; and

(b) the necessity of examining the candidates in the following subjects (i) English Law of Contracts, (ii) English Arbitration Act, and (iii) Analysis of Rates?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The total amount is approximately Rs. 3,300 of which nearly Rs. 825 are refundable, as some of the candidates have since withdrawn their names. These examinations are peculiar to the profession of Quantity Surveyors, who are at present employed only in the Military Engineer Services. The recognised examination is the one conducted by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, as the Institute of Engineers, India do not hold such examinations at present.

(b) I am advised that these subjects are very useful even to Indian Officers. The general principles governing the Law of Contracts and Arbitration are the same both in England and here. As regards Analysis of Rates, although there may be some variations in the labour constants of different countries, the relative proportions between the various constants remain the same.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

(INFORMATION PROMISED IN REPLIES TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS—LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE—TODAY).

Mr. Manu Subedar's Supplementary Question to Sir Cowasjee Jehangir's Short Notice Question of 12th November, 1946

REDUCTION IN PRICES OF MATCHES

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai stated in reply to Mr. Manu Subedar's Starred Question No. 382 answered on the 11th November 1946, that the quality of matches depends upon the quality of Potassium Chlorate and of wood.

Good quality Potassium Chlorate is produced in adequate quantities in India but the match manufacturers were not getting the right type of wood in sufficient quantities. The Andaman Islands were an important source of supply of matchwood and this supply was cut off after the occupation of the Island by the Japanese.

In regard to supply of wood, the Government of India addressed Provincial Governments and States, in November, 1946, for assistance in reserving certain species of wood suitable for the manufacture of matches. Almost all the Provinces and States which produce the appropriate species of timber have agreed to reserve them for the manufacture of matches.

Supplies of match timber from the Andamans are also coming in in adequate quantities. From the date of re-occupation to the end of 1946, the Island has supplied 5,329 tons of match logs and 656 tons of match splints to India, which is about 74 per cent. of the total match timber production of the Islands during this period. In 1947 the Islands have supplied 12,230 tons of match logs and 1,287 tons of match splints.

With the improved supply of match wood the quality of matches is also expected to improve.

Pandit Shri Krishna Dutt Paliwal's Starred Question No. 1174 (a) and (b) of 25th March, 1947

I.N.A. OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN PERMANENT SERVICES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

(a) *Nil.*

(b) Two.

At Gurdaspur (Punjab) *barani* area, bhang imported from other fields and burried showed high increases in yield of wheat between 76 to 119 per cent. over normal manure for increasing doses of 8·8 tons, 17·6 tons and 26·4 tons respectively per acre in the year of application. These results were confirmed by a similar experiment in another block, though the percentage increases this time varied from 39 to 74 only. But the residual effects observed for 6 years were not consistent in the 2 blocks.

At Samalkot Farm (Madras) for paddy crop green leaf @ 4,000 per acre *plus* bonemeal @ 224 lbs. per acre was better than cyanamide @ 224 per acre or fish guano @ 336 lbs. per acre. Also, green leaf (basic) @ 4,000 lbs. per acre *plus* bonemeal on cyanamide @ 224 lbs. per acre, gave no increases over green leaf alone.

At Palur Farm (Madras) for paddy green leaves @4,800 lbs. per acre was found better than cake @ 500 lbs. per acre.

At Manganallur Farm (Madras) for paddy green leaf @4,000 lbs. per acre *plus* ammonium sulphate @224 lbs. per acre, was better than green leaf or green leaf *plus* cyanamide @ 224 lbs. per acre.

At Aduthurai Farm (Madras) for paddy green leaf @ 50 lbs. nitrogen per acre was better than normal manure or nitrate.

At Alibagh (Bombay) *Karanj* leaves @ 4,000 lbs. per acre *plus* bonemeal at 46 lbs. per acre gave greater yield of paddy than *Karanj* leaves by 30 per cent.

As indicated by Allan, R. G. at Labhandi Farm (C. P. 1925-26 to 1929-30) *sanai* (cut and applied) gave 34 and 12 per cent. more yield of paddy than cattle dung and urine-earth respectively.

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3. *Harrison, W. H.*—Indigenous manures of South India and their application—Madras Dept. Agr. Bul. No. 65, Vol. 3.

4. *Gokhale, V. G. and Habbu V. S.* (1927).—Trees and shrubs for producing green manure in the Konkan and North Kanara. Bombay Dept. Agr. Bul. No. 141 of 1927.

5. *Lander, P. E., Wilson, B. H. and Lal, M. M.* (1923).—A study of the factors operative in the value of green manure—Agrl. Res. Inst. Pusa, Bul. No. 149.

6. *I. C. A. R.*—Analyses of manurial experiments in India, Vol. II 1933

7. *Sethi, R. L.* (1940).—Manuring of Paddy, I. C. A. R. Bul. No. 38, p. 13.

8. A consolidated record of the field experimental work carried by the Department of Agriculture, C. P. between 1900 to 1930.

Shri Mohanlal Saksena's Starred Question No. 232 of 21st November, 1947

VARIOUS AGREEMENTS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

List of Agreements referred to in Para. A (ii) of the Reply to part (a) of the question	Violations of the Agreements by the Pakistan Government
1. Agreement regarding no changes in the basic organisation and nomenclature of Army Formations, Units, etc., Until the completion of the reconstitution of the Armed Forces.	1. Ordinance promulgated by the Government of Pakistan constituting a National Guard Organisation in Pakistan.
2. Agreements Pertaining to refugees and their movement, etc.	
(a) Mass exchange of population between East Punjab and West Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province.	(a) Nil.

List of Agreements referred to in Para. A (ii) of the Reply to part (a) of the question	Violations of the Agreements by the Pakistan Government.
(b) Protection to refugees and evacuees in both East and West Punjab and getting them safely across the border under proper Military escort; top priority to safe and speedy movement of evacuee convoys.	(b) A number of attacks on refugee-trains in West Punjab took place and the Government of Pakistan failed to give adequate protection to non-muslim refugees. Matters improved subsequently when an agreement was reached regarding systematic evacuation by train.
(c) Refusal to recognise illegal possession of property; safeguarding of refugees property and the appointment of Custodian of Refugees property.	(c) Summary sales of shops and other property left by non-muslims in West Punjab by the Custodian of Evacuees' Property in West Punjab, are reported.
(d) Stopping of searches of persons and personal effects subject to each Government retaining right to prohibit bulk transfer of Merchandise.	(d) Searches of non-muslims leaving Pakistan continued unabated throughout the evacuation, except in Sind where searches were considerably reduced as a result of our protest.
(e) Refusal to recognise abduction of women and forced conversions and restoration of abducted women and girls to their families.	(e) In West Punjab forcible conversions took place in large numbers, also, to sum extent, in Sind.
(f) Responsibility for feeding for providing medical aid, and security of evacuees in camps awaiting transfer to the other Dominion.	(f) Refugees in certain of the camps in West Punjab were not fed for a number of days by the Pakistan Government, and in North West Frontier Province rations were issued only against payment.
(g) Restoration of peaceful conditions in the Punjab by both Central and Provincial Governments working together in closest co-operation, so that minorities can live in security.	(g) At a number of places in West Punjab non-muslim minorities have been subjected to brutalities.
(h) Protection to property held by religious, charitable and Cultural Institutions and restoration of religious places destroyed or desecrated or occupied by members of any other community.	(h) Several instances of violation have come to notice.
(i) Preventions of the publication of false and inflammatory material and avoidance of statements by responsible persons which are either bellicose or one sided.	(i) Do.
(j) Agreement relating to banks and bank records.	(j) Many complaints were received of interference with withdrawls of funds from banks evacuation of bank staff, prohibition of transfer of bank balances, etc., etc.
(3) Agreement on Economic Relations (Trade) and (Control).	(3) This agreement was violated by :— (i) the imposition of a ban by Sind Government on the movement of merchandise. (ii) the levy of an export duty on raw jute transported across the land frontiers of Pakistan; and (iii) continued import of luxury goods by Pakistan after 30-9-47 in violation of the agreement on economic controls;

List of Agreements referred to in Para. A (ii) of the Reply to part (a) of the question	Violations of the Agreements by the Pakistan Government
4. Agreements regarding.—	4. (i) to (iii) Nil.
(i) Clearance work connected with certain imports and exports;	
(ii) the placing of indents and the procurement of stores following the establishment of the two Dominions;	
(iii) Allocation to Pakistan or India or the rights and liabilities of the Governor General in Council in respect of contracts entered into by him before 15th August 1947,	
(iv) Standstill agreement for the maintenance of *status quo* in all matters affecting trade and movement of Goods as far as possible up to the end of current financial year.	(iv) No supplies of salt have been received from Pakistan since 15th August 1947.
5. Agreements to maintain *status quo* regarding customs, central excise and avoidance of double taxation on income.	5. The agreement has been violated by the imposition of export duty by Pakistan Government on jute exported from East Bengal to India. Several complaints have also been received regarding the levy, by the Karachi Customs, of duty on passengers baggage and other "in transit" goods to India from places outside India and Pakistan.
(6) (i) Agreement relating to the partition of Railways.	(6) (i) Stores due from the North-Western Railway have not been received.
	(ii) The full complement of locomotives due from Pakistan has not been received.
	(iii) Complaints received from staff who were serving in Railways which now fall in Pakistan and who had retired before the 14th August 1947 show that they have not received their settlement dues.
7. (a) Standstill agreement regarding railway priorities, petrol rationing and motor vehicle spare parts.	7. (a) Nil.
(b) Agreement covering reciprocal arrangements in regard to recognition of certificates and licenses issued under the Inland Steam Vessels Act, 1917.	(b) Pakistan Government have not yet implemented this agreement.
8. Agreements relating to	8. (a) and (b) Nil.
(a) Civil Aviation; and (b) Posts and Telegraphs.	
9. Arrangement s relating to foodstuffs.	Nil.

Seth Govinddas's Starred Question No. 286 (g) of 25th November, 1947

PUBLIC AUCTION OF UNSERVICEABLE AIRCRAFTS AT AIRCRAFT SALVAGE DEPOTS AT CHEKERI AND BAMRAULI IN OCTOBER, 1947

The total number of serviceable and unserviceable aircraft sold by the Disposals Organisation (Regional as well as Headquarters, up to the 9th January 1948 is as follows :—

Sold to	Serviceable	Unserviceable
Government Departments	57	Nil.
Indian States	27	Nil.
Other Parties	177	527
Total :	261	527

Shri Jadubans Sahay's Starred Question No. 362 of 26th November, 1947.

GRANTS TO PROVINCES FOR 'GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN'

Statement showing the grants allotted and the amounts actually spent for G. M. F. schemes during 1944-45 by certain provinces and reasons for excesses or savings.

Sl. No.	Provinces	Final appropriations or the amounts allotted	Actual Expenditure	Excess (+) or Savings (—)	Reasons for excesses or savings
1.	Bihar	9,72,248	9,45,158	(—) 27,090	Savings due to (i) non-availability of suitable Engineering staff (ii) labour shortage and (iii) delay in completing minor Irrigation Schemes.
2.	U. P.	3,74,543	3,35,810	(—) 38,733	Savings due to scarcity of labour and material.
3.	Madras	25,04,771	17,82,545	(—)7,22,226	Savings due to (i) Adjustment of expenditure upto 31-12-44 only instead upto 31-3-45 (ii) less subsidy to ryots in the newly reclaimed areas (iii) late starting of certain schemes.
4.	Bombay	15,20,483	15,20,483	Nil	
5.	C. P. & Berar	6,62,935	1,23,823	(—)5,39,112	Savings due to (i) paucity of staff (ii) transport difficulties.

Statement showing the grants allotted and the amounts actually spent For G. M. F. schemes during 1945-46 by certain provinces and reasons for excesses or savings

Sl. No.	Provinces	Final appropriation or the amounts allotted	Actual Expenditure	Excess + or Savings (—)	Reasons for excesses or savings
1.	Bihar	15,57,000	12,44,372	(—) 3,12,628	Savings due to (i) less distribution of seed and oil cake than anticipated and (ii) less recovery of improved paddies.
2.	U. P.	15,83,000	15,61,153	(—) 21,847	Savings due to scarcity of labour and material.
3.	Madras	12,55,000	16,02,405	(+) 3,47,405	Excesses due to the certain additional schemes undertaken during the end of the year to cope with famine conditions in the provinces.
4.	Bombay	32,46,000	27,15,210	(—) 5,30,790	Savings mainly due to (i) less purchase of seeds and manures and (ii) payment of less subsidy to cultivators for construction of wells and tanks.
5.	C. P. & Berar	6,79,000	6,01,268	(—) 77,732	Savings due to (i) short supply of seeds & manures inadequacy of staff and transport difficulties.

Statement showing the grants allotted and the amounts actually spent for G. M. F. schemes during 1946-47 by certain provinces and reasons for excesses or savings

Sl. No.	Province	Final appropriations or the amounts allotted	Actual Expenditure	Excess (+) or Savings (—)	Reasons for excesses or savings
1.	Bihar	12,81,000	10,36,626	(—) 2,44,374	Savings due to some of the Post-war Development Schemes being provided for, as G. M. F. Schemes.
2.	U. P.	22,42,000	21,17,699	(—) 1,24,301	Savings mainly due to scarcity of labour and material.
3.	Madras	1,98,29,000	1,76,37,932	(—) 21,91,068	Savings were mainly due to the late starting of certain schemes.
4.	Bombay	46,05,000	32,01,780	(—) 14,03,220	Savings are mainly due to (i) less purchase of seeds and manures and (ii) less subsidy to cultivators for construction of wells and tanks (iii) non-execution of the schemes during the year.
5.	C. P. & Berar	8,54,000	7,17,549	(—) 1,36,451	Savings due to (i) short supply of seeds and manures (ii) paucity of staff & transport difficulties.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra's Starred Question No. 365(f) of 26th November, 1947

MONETARY LOSS DUE TO DELAY IN RETROCESSION OF SECTIONS OF B. A. RAILWAY APPORTIONED TO INDIA UNDER BOUNDARY COMMISSION AWARD

A statement showing amount of traffic receipts remitted to the E. B. Railway (Pakistan) in respect of stations later transferred to India as a result of Radcliffe Award.

	Rs.	AS.	PS.
Receipts at stations transferred to O. T. Railway	243222	4	6
,, ,, ,, ,, Assam Railway	751785	0	0
,, ,, ,, ,, E. I. Railway	1136884	6	9
TOTAL	2131891	11	3

Seth Govind Das's Starred Question No. 423 of 29th November 1947

EXPENDITURE *re* GUN CARRIAGE FACTORY, JUBBULPORE

A. *Articles manufactured in the Gun Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore.*

(i) *Service Stores*:

A great variety of stores is manufactured including—

(a) Carriages 3·7″ Howr.

(b) Field light Forges.

(c) Carriage Ambulance Stretcher Single Wheel Mk. I.

(d) Chests S. A. No. I. Mk. 3.

(e) Axes Pick Light I. P. Helves.

(f) Terne-plate Cylinders for 2″ & 3″ Mortars.

(g) Carriers & Steel Boxes for 2″ & 3″ Mortars.

In addition, the bulk of all boxes and packing cases required for packing and storing military equipment is manufactured at the Gun Carriage Factory.

(ii) *Civil Orders*:

A great variety of stores is manufactured to meet civil orders. These include—

(a) Road Roller Components: Orders amounting to nearly Rs. one crore.

(b) Oil Expellers.

B. *Approximate cost of maintaining Gun Carriage Factory by way of indirect expenditure incurred.*—Rs. 64 lakhs.

C. *Approximate total cost of production.*—Rs. 122 lakhs.

It is not possible to furnish the market value as the bulk of the stores manufactured comprises service items and are not intended for sale.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh's Starred Question No. 467 of 1st December, 1947

REPAIR OF BADNERA STATION APPROACH ROAD

(a) The approach road at Badnera was last repaired in September 1945.

(b) The necessity for carrying out extensive repairs has been felt for some time but these could not be undertaken earlier on account of more pressing commitments elsewhere.

(c) As indicated in the reply given on 1st December, 1947, instructions were issued to carry out necessary repairs which were completed on 26th January 1948.

Shri Khurshed Lal's Starred Question No. 790 of 10th December, 1947

U. P. MEASURES TO KEEP PEACE

The Government of the United Provinces report that a few copies of the leaflet mentioned in the question referred to above came to notice in the past but there is nothing to show that 50,000 copies were in circulation in that Province. The leaflet did not bear the name of any signatories or of the press where it was printed and there is nothing definite to indicate that the circular emanated from Pakistan. A careful look-out is being kept for such literature in circulation and wherever found it will be considered for necessary action.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor's Starred Question No. 849 of 12th December, 1947

WEST PAKISTAN REFUGEES IN U. P.

Statement showing information promised in respect of the above question

(a) the number of refugees from West Pakistan in the United Provinces district-wise on the 10th December, 1947 was :—

Dehra Dun	35,234
Saharanpur	63,573
Muzaffarnagar	3,341
Meerut	22,305
Bulandshahr	1,590
Aligarh	2,900
Mathura	13,610
Agra	4,988
Mainpuri	531
Etah	478
Bareilly	2,425
Bijnor	4,400
Baidaun	380
Moradabad	6,919
Shahjahanpur	967
Pillibhit	490
Farkhabad	562
Etawah	1,115
Kanpur	12,430
Fatehpur	189
Allahabad	1,955
Banda	70
Hamirpur	125
Jhansi	2,492
Jalaun	590
Benares	3,400
Mirzapur	166
Jaunpur	301
Ghazipur	115
Ballia	243
Gorakhpur	1,336
Basti	678
Azamgarh	98
Deoria	304
Nainital	2,670
Alwar	43
Garhwal	136
Lucknow	11,872

Unao	253
Raeberalli	203
Sitapur	502
Hardoi	329
Kheri	493
Fyazabad	1,088
Gonda	1,117
Bahraich	157
Sultanpur	34
Partapgarh	133
Barabanki	90
Total	209,420

1. The U. P. Government consider that in addition there were 60/70 thousand unregistered refugees in U. P.

2. On the 22nd January 1948 the U. P. Government estimated the number of refugees in U. P. at four lakhs of whom about 2,80,000 were said to have been registered.

(b) The number of the refugees in the Government refugee camps in the United Provinces district-wise were as under on the 10 December 1947.

Dehra Dun (Prem Nagar Camp)			5,372
Saharanpur	Ranipur Camp	3802	14,502
	Ramnagar Camp	1700	
	Exhibition Ground Camp	9000	
Allahabad Phaphamau Camp		472	
Thusi Camp		550	1,022
Benares Lohta Camp			550
Gorakhpur Khusuni Camp			106
Lucknow Talkatora Camp		700	
Central refugees Camp		400	1,100
Total			22,652

(c) Total Expenditure sanctioned on maintaining or giving relief to refugees upto November 25, 1947 is rupees fourteen lacs eighty thousand.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa's Starred Question No. 1 of 28th January, 1948

ARRANGEMENTS FOR EVACUATION OF NON-MUSLIMS LEFT IN BAHAWALPUR STATE

Statement of Negotiations Regarding Evacuation of Non-Muslims from Bahawalpur

Of the estimated population in 1947 of 2·7 lakhs of non-Muslims, about 45 to 50,000 came out on their own in September and early October 1947 following serious disturbances in the Bahawalpur District of the State. About 25,000 more from that District were evacuated by the State in accordance with arrangements reached between them and the Ministry of States, Government of India, prior to the accession of the State to Pakistan. About 70,000 non-Muslims are now estimated to be living in Rahimyarkhan District of Bahawalpur, most of whom are desirous of coming out. Over a lakh is unaccounted for, and a large portion of this probably represents forcible conversions, which have been particularly heavy in this State.

2. Negotiations for the evacuation of those non-Muslims among the remaining 70,000 as desired to migrate to India were at first being carried by the Ministry of States. At this stage, the Bahawalpur Government appeared inclined to provide some facilities in the shape of escorted special trains, and represented certain difficulties regarding coal, railway stock, etc. Negotiations were also being made to carry out air evacuation from Khanpur air field. Apparently the Bahawalpur Government were finding difficulties in obtaining the necessary railway stock and coal in the ordinary course. In the meantime, India and Pakistan had established a common pool of railway stock, and were smoothly running through refugee specials between the two Dominions. In view of this and the further fact that Bahawalpur had since acceded to Pakistan, the Ministry of States felt that the best course would be to extend to Bahawalpur the arrangements in force in West Punjab. This was suggested to the Bahawalpur Government towards the end of October. The Bahawalpur Government did not agree to accept Indian troops in Bahawalpur territory but at the same time, stated that such non-Muslims as wished to go to India would be provided with facilities to do so under their own military and police escort and undertook

full responsibility for their safe transit to the State border. In actual practice, however, practically no movement facilities were provided by the Bahawalpur State except to a few persons who obtained permits from the Bahawalpur Military authorities.

3. On the 7th November an Officer of the Ministry of States went to Bahawalpur in connection with various matters and discussed the question afresh with the Bahawalpur Government. That Government, refused to recognise the actual factual position, *viz.*, that a large number of non-Muslims wished to leave and were forced to stay on only owing to lack of facilities, and refused to provide any special facilities for evacuation.

4. This new attitude taken up by the Bahawalpur Government was still under consideration by the Government of India when the State sent one of its Hindu Ministers to India in the middle of November with a view to persuading Bahawalpur non-Muslims who had already left to return to the State. Assurances were brought on behalf of the State that action would be taken to create such conditions as would not only enable non-Muslims to remain there in safety, but also persuade those who had left to return. The Government of India welcomed the sentiments and felt that every effort should be made to see if this desirable object could really be achieved. A meeting was thereupon called at which above mentioned Minister of the Bahawalpur State and representatives of the Bahawalpuri non-Muslims already in India were present. These representatives were asked carefully to consider the proposal that they should return under the assurances mentioned above. Some of these representatives were given special facilities to visit other centres where Bahawalpuris had come in appreciable numbers in order to consult them and also persuade them to return. These representatives, after careful consideration of the conditions then prevailing in Bahawalpur and the trend of affairs in the State, came regretfully to the conclusion that the conditions in Bahawalpur were not such as to enable non-Muslims to remain there in safety and with honour and that in those conditions people could not really be persuaded to remain there, much less to return. The Government of India were informed to that effect on the 27th November 1947. In particular it was pointed out that several thousands of villagers had been deprived of their lands and had been forced to come to the towns where they had been staying for several weeks under conditions of utmost hardship and were already in the last stages of destitution.

5. With a view to securing at least some facilities for those who were absolutely destitute or were not State subjects, an Officer of the MEO India went to Bahawalpur but although he contacted both the authorities at Bahawalpur and the Prime Minister, Bahawalpur at Karachi, all facilities for evacuation were completely refused.

6. The matter was next raised with Raja Ghaznafar Ali Khan, Refugee Minister, Government of Pakistan by Hon'ble Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Minister without Portfolio during discussions at Lahore on the 9th December. The situation as stated above was represented to Raja Sahib who agreed that as Bahawalpur was not a part of Pakistan, it was up to the Government of Pakistan to ensure the necessary facilities. He also agreed that non-Muslims who did wish to leave should be enabled to do so. He said that he would take up the matter with His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur at Karachi and that on his way back from Karachi about a week later, he would fix a meeting at Bahawalpur itself where the matter might be discussed with a view to making necessary arrangements. He asked that some representatives of India should be sent to the meeting and Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar agreed to do so on hearing from Raja Sahib.

7. On the 11th December Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar sent a telegram to Raja Sahib pointing out that complete absence of any transport facilities to India was only increasing panic and asking for the earliest possible arrangements. He also enquired as to the date of the meeting. Further he pressed for the establishment of camps for destitutes at Khanpur and Rahimyarkhan, and distribution of food to them. No reply to this telegram was received, but in another connection Raja Ghaznafar Ali Khan informed Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar that a meeting was being held on the 19th at Bahawalpur. No invitation to the Government of India to send any representatives was extended. On the 21st Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar sent a further telegram repeating his earlier telegram and asking for any early decision. Yet another telegram was sent by Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar on the 24th December pointing out the impossible conditions under which the destitutes were living and reiterating the request for opening of camps and distribution of food. Reference was also made to reports of further violence including the shooting down of 20 leading Hindus of Ahmadpur Lamma in broad day light on the 10th December. With a view to obtaining more information regarding conditions in Bahawalpur, a suggestion was made that a Liaison Officer at Bahawalpur may be accepted by the State authorities. In reply a telegram and a letter were received from Raja Ghaznafar Ali Khan towards the end of December reiterating the decision of the Bahawalpur State not to permit non-Muslims to leave the State and repeating assurances of continued protection and restoration of normalcy within a short time. No reference was made in these communications to the questions of distribution of food to destitutes the opening of camps, the evacuation of forced converts and the recent instances of renewed violence.

8. In reply to the above Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar addressed Raja Ghaznafar Ali Khan on the 1st January 1948 pointing out that while the Government of India did not wish to encourage migration, facilities ought to be provided for those who none-the-less wished to leave. The cases of thousands of destitutes in various towns in the State and of the 60 to 70,000 forcible converts were specially mentioned. Offer was made of provision of railway stock and other facilities out of the pool with the two MEOS and it was suggested that details should be discussed in tripartite talks between the Government of Pakistan, Bahawalpur and India. No reply was received to this telegram, or the earlier representations on these subjects.

9. After waiting for several days, during which panic in Bahawalpur further increased due to events in Sind, and particularly rioting at Karachi, the Hon'ble Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation again addressed Raja Ghaznafar Ali Khan, drawing his attention to previous telegrams and to the immense hardship being caused by the protracted delay to which this matter was being subjected. Again a request was made for a conference to discuss the matter as well as concurrence to the appointment of a Liaison Officer at Bahawalpur. In the meantime, it was understood that the State Government were proposing to send out the destitute, mainly Oads, by a foot convoy involving them in a strenuous journey of several days, involving considerable danger and hardship instead of allowing them to be evacuated safely by escorted train. An offer was made that the Government of India would supply special rakes, if necessary, from the Government of India's own stocks. An offer was also made to send the Director-General of Evacuation to Lahore or Bahawalpur to fix up details. Again no reply has been received to this communication. On the 28th January, 1948, the Hon'ble Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation has again addressed a personal communication to Raja Ghaznafar Ali Khan on various subjects including the question of evacuation from Bahawalpur.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das's Starred Question No. 71 of 2nd February, 1948.

DISTRICT-WISE POPULATION OF WEST BENGAL AND ASSAM PROVINCES AFTER RADCLIFFE AWARD.

Area and Population of Assam by District and Community.

Name of Districts	Area	Population of Hindus excluding tribal Hills and Plains.	Schedule caste.	Muslims	Others (including tea gardee Tribes, tribal Hills and Plains
	Sq. Miles				
Goalpara	3,979	2,43,649	23,434	4,68,924	2,38,278
Garo Hills	3,152	13,879	789	10,398	1,18,503
Sibsagar	5,138	5,90,262	50,184	51,769	3,76,526
Lakhimpur	4,153	4,66,761	43,527	44,579	3,19,975
Naga Hills	4,298	4,269	45	531	1,84,796
Kamrup	3,844	6,38,491	59,092	3,67,522	1,99,095
Darrang	2,806	3,28,928	19,475	1,20,995	2,67,393
Nowgong	3,896	2,30,791	59,214	2,50,113	1,70,682
Lushai Hills	8,143	2,452	22	101	1,50,211
Sadiya Frontier tract	3,309	29,549	3,901	864	25,804
Balipara F. Tract	571	2,534	74	61	3,843
K & J Hills	2,45,063	13,649	65	1,555	1,03,998
Cachar including Karimganj Sub Division.	4,596	2,30,987	1,02,103	3,90,535	1,89,779

Area and Population of West Bengal by District and Community (Census 1941)

District	Area in Sq. miles	Hindus		Others					Total	Grand Total
		Hindus other than Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Caste	Muslim	Christians	Sikhs	Jains	Others	Tribes		
1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Burdwan	2,705	963,520	430,300	336,665	3,280	1,488	615	3,559	151,355	1,930,732	1,930,732
Birbhum	1,743	406,182	280,254	287,310	349	77	13	48	74,084	1,048,17	1,048,17
Bankura	2,646	723,269	355,290	55,564	1,216	15	6	54	154,246	1,289,640	1,289,640
Midnapore	5,274	2,342,897	339,066	248,559	3,834	1,968	100	2,610	253,625	3,190,657	3,190,657
Howrah	561	1,000,545	184,318	296,325	994	836	130	3,237	3,419	1,490,340	1,490,340
Hooghly	1,206	853,734	245,810	207,077	543	342	90	633	69,500	1,377,729	1,377,729
24-Parganas	4,016	1,603,077	760,575	2,363,650	1,225,282	20,876	1,656	30	4,612	53,384	80,558	3,669,490	3,669,490
Calcutta	34	1,476,284	55,228	1,581,512	497,595	16,431	8,450	6,689	46,580	1,668	79,844	2,108,891	2,108,891
Nabadwip	1,507	307,446	84,841	392,307	66,32	23	4	301	10,332	17,292	840,303	840,303
Murshidabad	2,083	517,803	167,184	664,987	927,747	394	3	1,217	26,138	44	27,790	1,640,530	1,640,530
W. Dinajpur	1,849	152,620	106,268	258,888	224,740	176	33	59	13	99,575	99,856	588,484	588,484
Malda	1,391	326,063	52,280	378,343	414,031	449	19	1	11	51,462	51,941	844,315	844,315
Jalpaiguri	2,488	104,245	223,317	417,562	143,032	2,523	179	43	278,089	4,274	285,108	845,702	845,702
Darjeeling	1,192	149,574	28,922	178,496	9,125	2,599	54	54	44,740	141,391	188,748	376,869	376,869
West Bengal	28,915	11,017,270	3,313,651	14,330,930	5,301,698	60,206	15,087	9,050	410,605	1,068,789	1,563,327	21,196,453	21,196,453

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao's Starred Question No. 183 of 9th February, 1948.

INCOME TAX COLLECTION ANDHRA DISTRICTS

(a) (Income-tax collections for the years 1945-46 and 1946-47 from the Andhra District excluding the city of Madras are :—

	(in thousand of rupees) 1945—46	1946—47
Excess Profites Tax	7,79	5,19
Income-tax	58,07	73,90
Super tax	7,03	9,30
Surcharge	42,66	14,81
	1,15,55	1,03,20

These figures include Rs. 7,22 and 7,88 thousand respectivaly being collections in Chittoor District.

(b) The revenue from Customs and port dues realised at the ports of vizagapatam, Cocanada and Masulipatam during the financial years 1945 and 1946-47 was as follows :—

	Customs		Port dues	
	1945-46 Rs.	1946-47 Rs.	1945-46 Rs.	1946-47 Rs.
Vigagapatam	4,40,175	3,61,190	48,465	1,15,173
Cocanada	301	1,25,326	505	20,423
Masulipatam	55,117	2,347	4,834	3,704

Figures for 1947-48 will not be available until after the close of the year on 31st March 1948.

Shri H. V. Kamath's Supplementary Question to R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar's Starred Question No. 494 of 26th February, 1948.

STATES ACCEDED TO INDIAN DOMINION

(1) *Number and names of States that have merged with India.*

60 *States as follows* :

(i) 25 *States merged with Orissa.*—Athgarh, Athmalik, Bamra, Baramba, Baudh, Bonai, Daspalla, Dhenkanal, Gangpur, Hindol, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Khandpar, Kharsawan, Narsinghpur, Nayagarh, Nilgiri, Pallahara, Patna, Rairakhol, Ranpur, Seraikella, Sonepur, Talcher, Tigiria.

(ii) 15 *States merged with the C. P. and Berar.*—Bastar, Changbhakar, Chhuikhadan, Jashpur, Kanker, Kawardha, Khairagarh, Korea, Nandgaon, Raigarh, Sakti, Sarangarh, Surguja, Udaipur, Makrai.

(iii) 2—*Loharu and Pataudi merged with East Punjab.*

(iv) 2—*Banganapalle and Pudukkottai merged with Madras.*

(v) 16 *States merged with Bombay.*—Akalkot, Aundh, Bhor, Jamkhandi, Jath, Kurundwad (Jr.) Kurundwad (senior), Miraj (Junior), Miraj (Senior), Mudhol, Phaltan, Ramdurg Sangli, Savanur, Sawantwadi, Wadi Jaghir.

(2) *Number and names of the States that have combined to form new States.*

453 *States as follows.*—(i) The United State of Kathiawar comprising 449 units. The names of 30 Jurisdictional States of this United State are given below :—

Nawanagar, Bhavnagar, Porbandar, Dharangadhra, Morvi, Gondal, Jafrabad, Wankaner. Palitana, Dhrol, Limbdi, Rajkot, Wadhwan, Lakhtar, Sayla, Chuda, Vala, Jasdan, Amar nagar (Thana-Devli), Vadia, Lathi, Muli, Bajana, Virpur, Maliya, Kotda-Sangani ,Jetpur, Bilkha, Patdi and Khirasra.

NOTE.—Junagadh may join the new State.

(The names of other 418 semi-jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional States, estates and talukas which have joined this Unit have not been given)

(ii) The United State of Matsya comprising 4 States. Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli.

PORTRAIT OF LATE PRESIDENT VITHALBHAI J. PATEL

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members though over fourteen years have rolled by, since the sad and untimely demise of Sjt. Vithalbhai Patel, more popularly known as President Patel, his name is remembered with love and respect for his sacrifice and courage as a sturdy fighter, against the British Imperialism, on the constitutional side and for his constructive genius and liberal social outlook in the field of local self-government. There are some Honourable Members in this House, who have had the honour and privilege of working in association with him, in this very Chamber. All of us gratefully remember the noble fight that he put up, in very tough circumstances, for advancing the cause of democracy, and enlarging the powers and prestige of this House. Though hemmed in by various constitutional barriers and obstacles, he always strove his best, and strove successfully, to establish and maintain the principle that the Executive must be responsible to the Legislature—the principle which must hold good at all times.

President Patel was the first *elected* President of the Indian Legislature, under the Monford Reforms. Prior to his election to this Chair, which I have the honour to occupy, he had his parliamentary training, as a member of the Bombay Legislative Council and thereafter as a member of the then Imperial Legislative Council, as the predecessor of this Assembly used to be called, in 1918-19. He was member of this Assembly from December 1923 to 20th April, 1930, when he resigned office at the call of the country, to join the first Civil Disobedience Struggle for the freedom of the country.

By the time of his election to the Central Assembly in 1920 President Patel had acquired a reputation as a keen parliamentarian and had become a terror to the official world on the parliamentary front of India's struggle. President Patel struck a new note in the parliamentary life in India, in devoting himself all through the twelve months of the year to his parliamentary work. He spared no pains to study the subjects on which he wished to have his say in the Legislature. The years of close study of the various problems before the country, that he had spent before he became President, are, I believe, the secret of his self-confidence and mastery over parliamentary subjects and precedents.

In addition to his experience in the Legislature, he had an amount of administrative experience as a member of the Bandra and the Bombay Corporations, and as Mayor of Bombay. The measures that he adopted there for advancement of education and other matters as also the measures which he advocated in the Legislature on matters of social reform show his wide vision, constructive genius and deep thought in respect of the nation-building programme.

President Patel was not only a Legislator or a Corporator. He was a prominent figure among the political leaders of India and the influence he wielded in the Indian National Congress circles is well-known. He was the trusted representative of India in the Deputations sent by the Congress to England. The part he played in 1922 in what was known as Flag Satyagrah at Nagpur and in the formation of the Swaraj Party for opening the constitutional front in 1923

is well-known. His participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930-31 shows that he was not merely an arm-chair politician but he could join the ranks of civil resisters whenever occasion demanded.

President Patel thus came to this Chair, with an exceptional combination of various qualities and aptitudes. He had a keen and penetrating intellect which could plan with a clear insight into the probable tactics and moves of the opponent. He had mastery over parliamentary precedents. He had the sagacity of a politician and the courage and fearlessness of a fighter. But for a combination like this, he would not have left his impress on the future mould of this Legislature, as he has.

President Patel came to the Chair in a very difficult and delicate situation. Being elected to the Chair he had his natural responsibilities towards the elected section of the House and at the same time he had to deal with a Government, which was irremoveable by the vote of the House. But he cut his way clear through all the difficulties, by dint of his stern qualities.

On occupying the Chair on his election on the 24th August, 1925, President Patel, in reply to the congratulatory speeches in the House stated the considerations that weighed with him in accepting office. He said:

"Before I made up my mind to stand as a candidate, the decision of this question worried me for days and nights, and ultimately, I came to the conclusion that I would be serving the cause of my country better by the choice I have made and therefore I accepted it."

So it was neither the halo of office, nor the love of power but the spirit of serving his country, that had inspired President Patel. He further said:

"Swarajists are often described as destructive critics. . . . . It has, therefore, become their duty to show to the whole world that, if they knew how to destroy, they know also how to construct. They have to show, when the real responsibility comes to them, that they are ready to discharge the duties placed upon their shoulders."

Who will deny the necessity of constantly keeping these words in our minds with greater emphasis in the present set-up?

As regards his attitude towards different sections in the House, he said:

"In the discharge of my duties, I shall observe strict impartiality in dealing with all sections of the House irrespective of party considerations. . . . . I belong to no party. I belong to all parties."

On his re-election to the Chair, on the 20th January 1927, when the new Assembly came into existence after elections, he said:

"Any one who aspires to fill this great office, with any hope of success must lay aside all that is personal, all that is of party, all that savours of political predilections and learn to subordinate everything to the great interest of the House as a whole."

The advice is true in respect of all offices. I am tempted here to repeat as my own, a request made from the Chair, to every Honourable Member of this House by President Patel. After appealing to the members for co-operation, he said:

"If on any occasion, anything that I say or do in the discharge of my duties, gives offence to any member, I *beg* of him not to harbour any ill-feeling against me and allow misunderstanding to grow, but to come to me personally and talk the matter over and have done with it."

His rulings had always maintained the freedom and dignity of the House and, wherever possible, tightened its grip over the Executive. His whole tenure of office is full of such rulings. The most well-known of these are, his ruling on the operation of Fiscal Convention and his ruling in respect of the Public Safety Bill. It required intelligence, analytical genius, legal acumen and not only political courage but a moral conviction of the truth and justice of one's own conclusions, to be able to give such rulings.

[Mr. Speaker]

But, his services which go to the root of the independence of the Legislature and its freedom from the dominance of influence of the Executive Government are not so well-known to the general public—perhaps not even fully known to many of the present-day legislators. It was he, who fought for and brought into being a separate Legislative Assembly Department, independent of Government control or influence, and under the sole control of the Chair. Influence of the executive power is easily discernible when patent but the subtle influence through advisers and officials, who have to look to the Executive Government for their future chances is not easily seen or felt though it is more effective in making the Legislature subservient to the Executive. President Patel was constantly on the watch and the separate and independent Department which he established for maintaining the independence of the Legislature is a solid foundation on which we are standing today and ought to stand for all times. It was for this very reason that he fought against the presence of the police, on the Assembly premises and undertook the responsibility of the protection of the Assembly Chamber and its precincts by an independent organisation, the present Watch and Ward Department.

He also set up the wholesome precedent that, the President ought to have a voice in the allocation of work in the Assembly, so as to ensure not merely the best use of time but to protect the rights and privileges of members, in bringing before the House, all matters which they are entitled to bring, irrespective of the favours or frowns of the Executive Government.

I had the honour of knowing President Patel personally from 1915 and had also the further privilege of being associated with him as a worker in the rank and file. But, it is not my personal regard and affection for President Patel that prompted me to accept the beautiful picture donated by an admirer from the Frontier that the House now sees before it. It will keep his memory green, from day to day, in the midst of our labours in this House. I feel that in grateful memory of the fact that the heights on which we are standing today as a Sovereign Legislature has its democratic foundation laid well and deeply by him that we must always have him with us in this Chamber in the form of this beautiful picture. Stationed just opposite the Chair, he will be an inspiration and guide to the Presiding Authority.

My judgment about the place which President Patel occupies in the history of our national struggle for freedom and the part he played in this Legislature may perhaps be considered as exaggerated or over-coloured because of my personal association, regard and admiration for President Patel. I cannot, therefore do better than cite the testimony of an eminent opponent like Sir John Simon, who, in his report of the Statutory Commission, says as under:

"In nothing is the contrast between Westminster and Delhi more striking, than in the position assumed, and the influence exercised, by the occupant of the Chair of the Assembly. He claims and employs powers of interference, which would be quite contrary to the stricter limits of the Speakership,—reprimanding a government member of the Council of State for not attending and speaking at a debate in the Lower House, advising the Government not to proceed with important business when the Swarajists walked out, explaining his view of the proper operation of the so-called Fiscal Convention and so forth . . . . ."

In honouring him we honour ourselves.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister and Leader of the House): Sir, on behalf of Government and this House, I should like to associate myself with the remarks that have fallen from you on this occasion. Some of us here present were associated with Vithalbhai Patel in this House and some outside. He belonged to an older generation and those of us who were associated with him even intimately were associated as a junior is associated with a senior. As I listened to you, Sir, those old days came before my mind when sometimes I used to come here and sit in the Visitors' Gallery and see President Patel

presiding over this Chamber and often enough, with a mischievous twinkle in his eye, say something which brought discomfiture to many. Those days, though not very far off, still seem very long ago and almost as if age has passed between those days and today. Vast changes have taken place and one feels—perhaps, one always feels that way—that those were the days of giants in our political field, men of great stature, among whom one of the tallest was Vithalbhai Patel. It is right that we should honour his memory not only in the country but more specially in this Assembly, and should keep a reminder of him always before us in the shape of this picture.

You pointed out, Sir, how he always stood for the freedom of this House and fought against executive authority, which was in those days an alien authority. He stood for the liberty of the individual as well as for the liberties of this House. Now, Sir, specially on behalf of the Government, may I say that we would like the distinguished occupant of this Chair now and always to guard the freedom and liberties of the House from every possible danger, even from the danger of executive incursion. There is always that danger—even from a National Government—that it may choose to ride roughshod over others, that there is always a danger from a majority that it may choose to ride roughshod over the opinions of a minority, and it is there that the Speaker comes in to protect each single member, or each single group from any such unjust activity by a dominant group or a dominant Government. Vithalbhai Patel performed that function at a different time and performed it with remarkable ability. He laid the foundations of those traditions which have already grown up round the Chair which you, Sir, occupy with such distinction. I hope that those traditions will continue, because the position of the Speaker is not an individual's position or an honour done to an individual. The Speaker represents the House. He represents the dignity of the House, the freedom of the House and because the House represents the nation, in a peculiar way, the Speaker becomes the symbol of the nation's freedom and liberty. Therefore, it is right that that should be an honoured position, a free position and should be occupied always by men of outstanding ability and impartiality.

We welcome this picture here as reminder of one of the great Indians of old, one of the giants who have passed. We think rather wistfully of those old days.

May I, however, say Sir, if I may be permitted to say so, that while we welcome this picture here into this House, this Assembly Chamber should not become a picture gallery with large numbers of pictures to the right and to the left. I think it is right that we should have a picture gallery of eminent men, but some other room might be converted into that Gallery. I should not like more than one picture, or possibly two, in this particular room. (*An Honourable Member*: "Mahatmaji's!")

I welcome on behalf of the House, Sir, this addition to the membership of the House, if I may say so, that is, a past President continually looking down upon us and helping us in our work.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform Honourable Members that the discussion and voting on Demands for Grants in respect of Home, States and Information and Broadcasting will be taken up on Monday the 15th March instead of Wednesday the 10th March 1948. The revised programme of dates is as follows:

Wednesday, the 10th March 1948.

Commerce—2½ hours.
Health—1½ hours.

Thursday, the 11th March, 1948

Works, Mines and Power—2½ hours.
Education—1½ hours

[Mr. Speaker]

Friday, the 12th March, 1948.

Relief and Rehabilitation—1½ hours.
Communications—2½ hours.

Saturday, the 13th March 1948.

Defence—2½ hours.
Transport—1½ hours.

Monday the 15th March 1948.

Home—1½ hours.
States—1½ hours.
Information and Broadcasting—1½ hours.

Tuesday, the 16th March, 1948.

Food and Agriculture—1½ hours.
Finance—2½ hours.

Copies of this revised programme will be sent to the Honourable Members for their use.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): What about filing of notice of cut motions for Commerce and Health?

Mr. Speaker: They can come even today—these notices can be given by this evening. We are discussing today Demands Nos. 19 and 10. I will first place before the House Demands 10 and 19 and then the Cut Motions will be moved.

DEMAND No. 10—CABINET.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,04,000 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 'Cabinet'."

DEMAND No. 19—MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,04,00 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 'External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations'."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Before the cut motions are moved, I have to submit one thing. I find that some so-called "agreed" cut motions have been selected for moving today They are however cut motions belonging to the Congress Party. They are not agreed to by other members. The result is that the discussion would rather be something like a domestic arrangement between the Government and their supporters in which third parties like us will have practically no interest. I would suggest that at least one cut motion suggested by private members—not belonging to the Congress Party—should be included every day. That would satisfy the requirements of reasonable debate.

Mr. Speaker: I entirely agree. Last time, I thought that this was all an agreed arrangement and the motions were to be moved by Honourabe Members, to whatever party they may belong. My impression was that it was agreed to by Members that the particular subjects should be discussed. In addition to that arrangement, as I thought it, I asked if any other member wanted to move any other motion; of course not in express words. I said at the end that I presumed "These are agreed cut motions to be moved." Thereby I invited any other Honourable Member, if he so wanted, to move any other cut, but none

came forward. However, I am prepared to let any cut motions to be moved here. If there no agreed arrangement, as I understand from the Honourable Member Mr. Naisiruddin Ahmad, then, of course, any other member, who wishes to move a cut motion will have a right to do so. But, it will be better that, if any such cut motions are going to be moved. previous information should be given, so that the Honourable Minister in charge may also know what particular motions are going to be moved and may be ready with the information that he will have to give to the House in respect of that motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Would it not be better in view of the 10 or 15 Honourable Members who are not prepared to accept this kind of arrangement—each one of them having any number of cut motions—if they would be good enough to have previous contacts with the Secretary of our Party, so that they can come to some sort of reasonable agreement. I am not referring particularly to my Honourable friend, but in view of the absence of the Chief Whip, we have had a certain amount of difficulty and I hope he would understand

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I am not raising it as a remark.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): With your permission, Sir, may I say a few words. About the day's arrangement. There are no organised parties other than the Congress Party and therefore, in the absence of that, I could not talk to individual members, but I did have a talk with Haji Ishaq Seth, Mr. Anthony and Dr. Kunzru and I asked them if they wanted any particular cut motions to be included even after that, you will remember, Sir, that after the agreed cut motions by the Congress party members had been moved, I specially requested you to ask other members if they wanted to move any other cut motion, but nobody did so. It is necessary that at least 1 or 2 days before the demands relating to a Ministry come under discussion, information should be sent to the Government Whip so that the Minister may be prepared on that point.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Day before yesterday when the Budget was discussed opportunity was given only to the members whose cut motions were on the paper and no other member had any chance to speak on the motion. I think the grievances of most of the members on that will be removed if they are given a reasonable opportunity of speaking on these very motions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It depends upon time.

Mr. Speaker: We are having a new experiment as it were, in attempting to bring under debate, the whole of the budget and each and every Department. My own reaction in the beginning, when the arrangement was suggested to me, was that the time was perhaps short and it was bound to be short if each and every department is to be covered We have two alternatives: Select a few Departments and take a longer time or if all the departments are to be touched, then the speeches have necessarily to be very short and brief. One of the alternatives which suggested itself to me was that the number of cut motions should not exceed three at the most, so that there may be a reasonable opportunity of debate. Of course, the time-limit is there. I am giving 15 minutes to each Honourable Member who wishes to move a cut. Honourable Members are not able to have their full say within that short time. I, therefore, also suggested that rather than have many speeches, it is better to have fewer speeches with more substance extending over longer time. I am entirely in the hands of Honourable Members in that respect. If they want to have a larger number of speeches, then the time limit must be curtailed; if they want to have longer time, the speeches must be curtailed. That is the position.

Mr Naziruddin Ahmad: We may be given more number of days.

Mr. Speaker: This time 8 days have been allotted instead of 5 as usual. Honourable Members have got 2 days for general discussion; they are again

[Mr. Speaker]

getting now 8 days instead of 5, which means 10 days and further, when the Finance Bill comes in, we will have some opportunity. That opportunity will be within the scope of the Bill, but some opportunity will be there also and 4 days are, I believe, allotted to that. So in all, it makes 14 days.

Shri R. R. Diwakar (Bombay: General): For Finance Bill, I suppose there are only 2 days.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member has lost sight of the fact that, there is a motion for reference of that Bill to a Select Committee and two days are being reserved for that and when the Bill comes back, there will be another two days. So it will be 4 days. The subject is common. So I am entirely in the hands of the Honourable Members and it is better, if they could give previous intimation, by agreement, to the Honourable Minister concerned or his department about the cut motions which they want to move. So if any Honourable Member wishes to move any further cut motions other than those that have been included, I shall give him an opportunity to do so.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): Sir, before the debate begins I should like to make a suggestion for the consideration of yourself, the House and Government. We are now following the example of the British House of Commons as far as we can. I believe the practice there is that when the vote relating to an important Ministry, *i.e.*, a Ministry whose activities have aroused considerable public interest comes up for consideration the Minister in charge in placing the estimated expenditure before the House makes a statement, so that the House may know what the policy of Government is. Other members who follow him do so with a knowledge of the principles which have guided the Ministry and of the results achieved by it. Now in India the Ministries whose activities are a matter of great public interest are, Defence, External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations and one or two other Ministries. I therefore suggest that it would be in the interest of the House and of a better focussing of our attention on important points if the Prime Minister on this occasion initiated the discussion himself by making a pronouncement with regard to the policy and activities of his Department. I am sorry I have sprung a surprise on him; I wish I could have had an opportunity of speaking to him beforehand. If he finds it convenient to address the House at this stage we shall all be grateful to him. But should he prefer to wait and reply at the end of the discussion, I hope he will keep my suggestion in mind for the future.

The Honourable Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru (Prime Minister and Leader of the House): Sir, I think the suggestion just made is eminently good and reasonable, but I am not clear in my mind as to whether it will be feasible on this occasion. If the House so desires I prepared to make some kind of a statement on the working of the External Affairs Ministry right at the very beginning. But the time is so limited that if I speak now and have to speak again at the end—as I should after hearing Honourable Members—I shall take too much time of the House and others will not have it. I think it would probably be better if I spoke after hearing the criticism of Honourable Members and gave some kind of general account of the activities of the Ministry.

DEMAND NO. 19.—MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

Foreign Policy of India

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

"That the demand under the Head 'Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Condition of Indians in Commonwealth Relations Countries.

Seth Govinddas (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I wish to state at the very beginning that there is a very great amount of uncertainty over our relations with the British Commonwealth. In the country there is a good lot of nervousness among certain sections of our people as to the attitude of our Government in regard to this British Commonwealth,—whether we are going to remain in it or whether we are going to come out of it. I wish to state quite categorically that we are extremely anxious that Government should state their position as clearly as possible at an early date—even if it not possible for them to state it today—that we are determined to go out of the British Commonwealth and remain an independent country and become an entirely independent republic, of course willing to be on the best possible relations with the British Commonwealth as we would be continuing to remain on the best of terms with all other countries of the world. I learn that some treaty talks have been going on either formally or informally between our Government and the British Government. So far the public has not been taken into confidence and we do not know at what stage these talks are, what sort of talks those are and why these talks are being carried on. We know that some time ago under other auspices the British Government used to tell us that there should be a sort of prior treaty between India and England before India became absolutely free and independent, whether inside or outside the British Commonwealth.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, may I intervene to say that there is no question of any formal or informal or any other kind of treaty talks of any kind going on? I do not know where the Honourable Member gets his information from.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I stand corrected and also reassured.

The next point is this. I find—and I think the House also is of the same opinion—that there are darkening clouds in the international world today. From every part of the world warnings seem to be pouring in that the world is getting ready or getting willy-nilly into the next world war. The only assurance that we have so far received from the statesman of these big countries is from Soviet Russia, and I think it was Mons. Molotov who told the world the other day that there is no fear or danger of there being another world war within the next five years. It is not very reassuring; it only means, "Well, you can all go to sleep or rest assured that there is not going to be another world war in the next five years, but thereafter what is going to happen we ourselves do not know." So far as we are concerned, we are not prepared to give any assurance or gurantee to the rest of the world that there is not going to be another world war very soon, and we all know that so far as relations between Soviet Russia and America are concerned, they are very strained indeed and they are getting ready to face all emergencies. In America there is a frenzy and fever pervading the whole of the nation for fear that Soviet Russia might be herself ready in a short time to declare war against America and her allies. In these circumstances I think it is necessary that the House should be taken into confidence by Government as to the various steps that they are taking in order to prepare India against such a contingency and in order to prepare India also to prevent the emergence or early advent of such an emergency or in regard to defence forces and also in regard to the various diplomatic

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relations or good feelings that we are building up with various other countries. In our own country, or rather within the India that we have known, there have come to be two Dominions. There is Pakistan on one side and ourselves on the other. How the diplomatic relations between these two States are going to be developed in order that they might not lead us into another war is a very important matter, and on this point also we want some enlightenment.

We also know that there are groups among various countries in the world. There is an Anglo-American group in the formation. There is another group forming round Soviet Russia and all the time there is a great competition between these two groups to win more and more satellites to themselves. We have seen in the recent past what happened in South Eastern Europe and also in China and her neighbour, Korea. Things are not very assuring. Only the other day Czecho-Slovakia is supposed to have gone through a storm in a tea cup and a party revolution. Communists are said to be gaining not only permanent but the sole interests in the whole of that country, nudging away all other parties with the result that President Benes is supposed to be ill. What sort of illness, we do not know. Hungary is going through a similar revolution and a revolution forced by the Communist party and through the machinations of either Soviet Russia or America or both. Under these circumstances, some of our public men in this country have begun to wonder whether the policy pursued by our External Affairs Department and Pandit Nehru—the policy of not joining these two big groups—is really correct and right. I have held the view, and I expressed it the last time when I moved this cut motion, that the House would be morally advised to agree with the Prime Minister of not aligning our country with either of these two groups.

There is another kind of grouping. That is the Christian nations on one side and the Muslim nations on the other. It is our duty under the present circumstances not to align ourselves on either side at all. But then we are being asked whether this particular attitude of ours has done us any good. If it has not done any good, there must be many reasons. One of them is that our External Affairs Department has not been quick and strong enough to build up ambassadorial relations and diplomatic relations with all the countries of the world and with those which we find to be anxious for world peace. Have any efforts been made in this direction? The House would like to have some information on this point.

That is why I think the time has come when somebody or other should take active steps to build up what is known as a peace front. Although the United Nations Organisation has been brought into existence to ensure world peace, we know even on the testimony of the Secretary General of the House Mr. Trygve Lie, that very many nations have not been able to play their part by the organisation. Under these circumstances it is up to India, with her moral stature, the stature built up in this country by Bapuji, and that is being built up by our own Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, to take a lead in this matter, and build up not a group, not a power bloc, but to get together round a table all those nations, small or big, which are determined upon not becoming satellites of these blocs of nations, but which are bent on doing everything possible both on the United Nations front and outside in order to ensure the continuity of world peace and to postpone the advent of these wretched clouds of another world war

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Will you please explain what you propose?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is why I wish to make one or two suggestions. We should hasten to build up our embassies in Latin America. We should send our goodwill missions to as many of these nations as we can in South East Asia and the Middle-Eastern peoples, and I think it would be well indeed

if some of our public men are encouraged, if not by the Government, at least by this House and political parties in this country, to go and contact all these people who are suffering under various imperialist systems—the negroes of Africa and the Asiatic peoples in Asia and various other places—and give them encouragement and extend to them our hand of friendship and also our strength.

The other day the Honourable the Prime Minister has told us quite frankly, what I considered to be a very great truth, namely, our reference to the U.N.O. of this Kashmir issue was an act of faith. That was a great declaration. It is a declaration on which any Foreign Minister in any country could be proud. Only when the countries of the world are prepared to make this U.N.O. an instance of their acts of faith, can there by any future for this world and for this organisation. But the same thing cannot be said of the various other countries. We have gone there with the feeling that they would behave in the way that they should, as honourable countries, as respective countries and responsible countries, with consistency and morality. But instead of that I have facts here to prove that the manner in which they have dealt with Kashmir is absolutely inconsistent with their own past professions and activities. If I may draw the attention of the House to a few facts, I find that, in regard to the suggestion made by a number of these important countries and their representatives on the U.N.O. that we should withdraw our Indian Armed forces, the United States and the Russian people themselves were contending over this particular point in regard to Greece. And what did the United States say? In the case of Greece: Greece complained against Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria that they were allowing their troops and partisans and other people to come into Greece and create trouble. What did the U.N.O. do? She directed these countries to keep their troops under control and their own people under control and the police there warned. But are they pursuing the same policy in regard to India? Is this the way that nations have to behave on this great international theatre? In fact they recommended that instances in future of armed bands on one territory crossing into the territory of another country should be considered a threat to peace and dealt with by the last measure provided in the Charter.

In regard to Korea the United States has refused to withdraw her troops unless and until she was assured of peaceful conditions there and also of a well-established Government in that country.

There was a Chinese resolution on the 10th September 1947 at the U.N.O. where she wanted that British troops should be removed from Egypt and Great Britain opposed this viewpoint stating that British troops had exercised no pressure in recent years that the British troops were kept there.

Again during the debate on Palestine, Britain refused as long as she continued to hold the Mandate on Palestine to share her obligations and rights with anyone else. Yet we are asked to share our responsibilities with Kashmir or Pakistan or some other authority and Great Britain is advancing this particular view. Again, as recently as February, 1948, Roy Henderson, Director of the U.S. State Department said in connection with sending American troops to Greece to drive out the Greek Communist Gorillas that the Greek forces alone may not be able to tackle them without American help. If U.S.A. can send her troops to Greece to help the Greek Government at its own request to maintain peace in her own territory, I cannot understand how American delegates to the U.N.O. can possibly raise any sort of objection to India sending her troops into a part of the Indian Union, *viz.*, Kashmir, at the request of the Kashmir Government itself.

As regards the demand for a change in Sheikh Abdullah's administration. Even this morning there was some sort of feelers in the press. The U.S.A's attitude is contrary to this suggestion in regard to Hungary. I have therefore given enough instances or precedents in order to show that these people have

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not been keeping faith with themselves and with their own previous statements and it is well for them to take this warning that so far as India is concerned although she was prepared to make this reference of the Kashmir issue to the Security Council as a matter of faith, an ever increasing strata of our own society to feel that their faith is being very badly shaken and we have begun to wonder whether after all we had been wise enough from a political point of view in making this reference of the Kashmir issue to the Security Council. Let them realise one thing. It was not because India was not able to defend herself against these barbarous raiders that she made this reference. Although during these three months they have not been able to come to any sort of decision India has been able to hold her own on the Kashmir front and has been able to repulse many of the attacks by the raiders driving them away with heavy losses. It is because of India's anxiety to have an opportunity to show her impartiality and also to establish it as one of the greatest precedents in her own progressive activities that India placed this particular matter before the U.N.O. I trust that the Security Council of the U.N.O. which is meeting again today will be able to take into account the general temper in this country and also remind her own delegates of her own past professions and activities and see that justice is done to India. It is not only a matter concerning India: it is a matter of worldwide importance and concerns U.N.O. herself for it will show whether really the U.N.O. has become the progressive custodian of world progress and peace.

I have only one word more to say. We are anxious that if the U.N.O. is likely to fail to discharge her duties as the world expects her to do, it will not be possible for her or anybody else to expect India to oppose the idea of veto. The veto has been a big bugbear to the Anglo-Americans and they want this to be removed. We are now better able to understand why Russia was not prepared to have this veto removed. Therefore it will be impossible for India or those other nations who are able to see eye to eye with India hereafter to agree with those nations who are anxious to remove this veto in order that they may be able to do whatever they like.

Sir, I have stated by case as impartially as possible so far as the U.N.O. is concerned and I trust that the U.N.O. will be able to discharge her own duties towards the cause of world peace as well as towards the peoples of the world, including India.

Seth Govinddas: Sir, since I entered the Indian legislature in 1923 I have been discussing the question both in the Assembly as well as in the Council of State, when I was a member of that House. And since this Department has come into the hands of our respected and beloved premier Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlalji I had the privilege of raising this question twice in this House, once on the 14th March, 1947 and again on the 4th December, 1947. On both occasions I said that a better man than Panditji could not be available in this country to manage this department. I repeat what I had said on those two occasions. But at the same time I must say that in spite of this Department being in the hands of Panditji, nothing much could be done as far as the countries of the Commonwealth are concerned. Panditji himself said on the 4th December, while speaking on my cut motion:

> "Coming to another part of this cut motion in regard to Indians in the British Commonwealth, that is an old subject and a painful subject. I entirely agree with any criticism that might be made, that we have not been able to do anything substantial in this direction."

When I moved my first cut motion on the 14th March our country was not free. On the 4th December we were free and our brethren abroad expected that after our freedom we shall be able to do something for them. We also wanted to do something and still want to do something substantial for them but I admit that the problem is so complicated and ticklish that it is very difficult to say precisely what should be done in this respect. When I raise this question again on the floor of this House today I cannot suggest anything in particular which can be done but I do so only with a view to review the whole subject, so that we may jointly think and the Government may think with us as to what can be done as far as our brethren living in the countries of the Commonwealth are concerned. Their number is as big as 45 lakhs and as the population of the world is increasing their number is also increasing.

Now I shall briefly deal with the problems of the different countries. In South Africa we find that in spite of the decision of the U.N.O. in 1946 and in spite of our knowledge that our legal position is as strong as it was in 1946, though we could not get a twothird majority in the following year, the Ghetto Act is still on the statute book of South Africa. Satyagraha is going on there. Recently the two famous Indian leaders of South Africa, Messrs. Dadu and Naicker, were arrested and sentenced to six months hard labour. I should like to know what are the plans of the Government as far as South Africa is concerned.

Coming to East Africa we find that the Inter-Territorial Organisation of the three Colonies, Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda, has come into existence or shortly going to come into existence. We know that the Indians of East Africa were opposed to this Inter-Territorial Organisation and so was the Government of India. The revised proposals of this Inter-Territorial Organisation, I am afraid, are worse than the original proposals. The population of these three colonies according to races is as follows: Kenya has a population of about 16,000 Whites, 56,000 Asiatics and 29 lakhs of negroes. In Tanganyika the Whites are about 8,000, the Asiatics 32,000 and Negroes 50 lakhs. In Uganda the Whites are only 2,000, the Asiatics 14,000 and Negroes 35 lakhs. In spite of this miscroscopic minority of Whites we find that their representation in the Central East African Legislature would be much more than that of Asiatics as well as of the indigenous population there.

Another very dangerous thing is happening in East Africa. The Central Indians Overseas Association of which I am the President has received a cablegram like this:

> "Reliably informed Indian Muslims here pressing for separate electorates in Kenya. Would be disastrous to Indian community. Repetition of Indian calamity should be prevented here. Spread of religious politics will do untold harm to African progress. Government decision being taken mid-January. Suggest you publicity condemn and appeal Colonial Office against separate electorates and circularise Indian press to secure comment."

On the 25th February another message from London has appeared which says:

> "The Kenya Government is seeking to solve the problem of Muslim representation in the Legislative Council by reserving for the Muslim community two of the five seats which the Indian community have in the Legislature. These two seats will be in the Nairobi and Mombassa electoral areas which return two candidates each on the common Indian roll. Instead of being able to vote for both candidates they will only be entitled to vote for one and thus the Government expects that Muslims will support the Muslim candidate and Hindus their own."

I had been to East Africa in 1938 and I dare say that there was not any sort of communal feeling in that country. The poison from India has gone there and if the reservation according to communities is made I feel that that is only the thin end of the wedge.

Immigration laws in all the three colonies have been passed. These immigration laws are most harmful to the growth of those countries. The Raja Maharaj Singh delegation which went to these colonies made their Report in 1946 and it is said in their Report:

> "The present immigration Bills, although non-discriminatory and non-racial in form will in practice adversely affect Indian immigration much more than the immigration of Europeans. In fact they will have the effect of almost closing the door to the further entrance of Indians. We have been assured that the purpose of the Bills is not to discriminate against Indians. But having regard to the past history of immigration restrictions and

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to present utterances by persons in authority and by non-official Europeans we think that the apprehensions entertained by Indians have sufficient foundation. Racial discrimination in practice is as objectionable as discrimination against law and in some respects it is more dangerous as it is more insidious in its operation."

The relations of India with East Africa have been very old. When Vasco de Gama came to East Africa he found Indians trading there. Various investigations have proved that Indian immigration to East Africa has not been harmful to the Indigenous population there, but has been to their good. I have seen vast barren lands in East Africa and the quality of those lands is so good that if they are brought under cultivation, at a time when the food problem is facing the whole world, it would be advantageous not only to East Africa but to the whole world. At such a time these immigration laws come into existence.

Coming to Fiji, Mr. Vishnu Dev, M.L.C. has sent me a copy of the new Immigration Ordinance there according to which every Indian who is residing in Fiji will have to produce a birth certificate. We know how difficult it is to produce a birth certificate and I feel that this is only a preparation to deprive them at a future date of their citizenship rights.

Now, Sir, in Mauritius we find that though the disabilities of Indians in that country are not so great as in other Commonwealth countries, yet the economic conditions are very bad. Mr. Ridley was sent from this country to investigate into the economic conditions of the Indians in Mauritius in 1940 and Major Ord Brown, the Labour Adviser to the Colonial Office, was also sent there in 1946. He says in his Report:

"The most superficial observations reveal the poor physique of the average Indian worker in Mauritius. The picture therefore in Mauritius is that of a poorly paid, under-nourished, sickly population capable only of such a limited output of work that an increase of wages offers little promise of improved performance."

Coming to the West Indies countries—Trinidad, Jamaica, Grenada, Barbados, St. Lucia, etc.—we find that a move has been made there to have a Federation of all the West Indies countries. There was a conference there last year to which I am sorry to say no representative could be sent from India. Of course we cannot oppose this Federation on principle. But I feel that this Federation will also be something like that of the Inter-territorial organization of East Africa and therefore a proper watch has to be kept as far as this Federation of West Indies is concerned.

Regarding Burma, Ceylon and Malaya, the three neighbour countries with which we have the oldest relations, last time when I moved my cut motion, I made a bold suggestion—that was to have a common citizenship of India and these countries. A suggestion like this was made to France by Mr Churchill in the last war. Let these small countries not think that we want to exploit them. If there is a common citizenship of these three countries and India, we shall be able to give them a good protection at the time of war and they will have to spend much less on their defence. However, if that is not possible, at least we can adopt common defence measures. We can also enter into economic agreements with these countries. The Indian population there, Sir, is in very big number. Burma was once a part of this country and it is in the interests of these countries and also of India that we have further and more intimate relations with these countries. And now, Sir, in conclusion I want to point out two things.....

Mr. Speaker: I may just inform the Honourable Member that I am extending his time. I am doing so instead of curtailing it because there are four minutes now for the recess time and I do not think they could be offered usefully to any other member. He may go on till 1 O'clock.

Seth Govinddas: Thank you very much.

I want to urge, Sir, that we should never demand any preferential rights or any exclusive treatment for Indians in any country of the world. We should merge our interests with the interests of the indigenous population of those countries. We should never agitate for anything only for Indians. We should prove to them that if we are there, we are there for mutual good: and besides that, we should try to keep the closest relations with Indians all over the world. It can be done, Sir, by giving scholarships to the various students by bringing them here into our universities. That is being done also to some extent. This can be done Sir, by sending our representatives to various countries, and the Honourable the Prime Minister knows that there are still many countries where we have not been able to send our representatives. This can be done, Sir, by sending goodwill missions by sending cultural missions. Just the other day replying to a question of mine, the Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad said, that he was thinking of sending cultural missions to various countries. I wish, Sir, that these missions are sent first to those countries where our representatives have not been sent. After India has become free, we have to keep our relations with our brethren all over the country all the more.

In the end, Sir, I wish to say that the question of citizenship is there. After we go out of the British Commonwealth and declare ourselves a free Republic—which we are bound to do in the near future as we have adopted a resolution in this respect in the Constituent Assembly moved by the Honourable the Prime Minister. The question of citizenship will become a most important question. I wish, Sir, that Indians do become the citizens of the various countries where they have gone, and we only help them on humanitarian and moral grounds. That is the only thing which we can do from here and while taking my seat I again repeat that a better man than Panditji we could not have in this department. We expect much from him and so do our brethren expect in various countries.

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. Speaker: Would the Honourable the Prime Minister like to speak now?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Anyhow I have to speak at the end and I would prefer to speak then.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the suggestion of the Honourable Pandit Kunzru, which seemed to be acceptable to the Honourable the Leader of the House, I was just wanting to know whether he would intervene at this stage. He would, of course, have the right of speaking at the end. I do not call upon him now

Several Honourable Members: At the end.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. In fact the position which I myself have always preferred is that after some of the Honourable Members who wish to speak have had their say, it is better that Government should have their say on the subject, so that when other Honourable Members follow with their criticism, they stand in a much better position. But I leave it entirely to the wishes of the House.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): If the arrangements were such it would have been possible, that is if we had five or six hours. But as it is, Honourable Members will then have no opportunity to speak because there is only one hour left.

Mr. Speaker: I could see that the time at our disposal is short but I would not be measuring speeches by the quantum of time but by the quality. Then let us proceed.

Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the stand which India has taken in connection with her position in the councils of the nations is that of independence. I am glad that India is neither following the 'right of the dollar' economy, nor the leftist one of Russia. But there is a need for another thing; I would not call it innovation, but a persistence in our work so that we may be able to lead a group of those who have been so far exploited. It is not enough that we do not belong to any of these two groups; but what we want is that India should take up the leadership of all the Nations of the world who had been exploited in the past, and it is necessary that the number of those who are under the influence of these two groups of Powers should be gradually reduced.

The almighty dollar has been trying all these years to bring one country after the other under its sway. We saw an example of it at the time when the partition of Palestine was being discussed in the U.N.O. Countries which had spoken openly against the partition were forced either to abstain from voting or to vote against what they had spoken. All this was done because America decided to do something and she brought pressure; the pressure which America could bring to bear is tremendous; even those countries which had suffered in the past from exploitation had to succumb to this pressure because of the fact that the dollar is able to buy many things.

What I wish to stress is that the membership of the U.N.O. should not be confined to the old countries, but the new countries which are throwing off the yoke of imperialism should be encouraged to come in, and every effort should be made to make them members of the U.N.O. We find, Sir, that Indonesia is not yet a member of the U.N.O. because of the position which it occupies in the Dutch scheme of things. We find that there are still certain small countries which have not yet joined the U.N.O.; it is to our interest that their entry into the U.N.O. should be facilitated and we should be able to lead a group of those countries which have been liberated from the imperialistic yoke. For instance, I would like to see Ceylon becoming a member of the U.N.O.—that will be a vote in favour of India.

Sir, I regret that the House did not find any time to bring in any cut on the other part of the External Affairs Department. I refer to Demand No. 41 under which Rs. 208 lakhs are being sanctioned for Embassies and other branches in the international world. If there had been any cut motion on that, I would have been able to discuss the particular Embassies, and their expenses and the work which they are putting in. But as there is no cut, I am simply referring to it in passing.

The third thing which I wish to stress is that it is not sufficient that we should be in the right, but that what is necessary is that people should be convinced, external opinion should be convinced, that we are in the right. That requires an amount of propaganda which I regret is not being made. I draw the attention of the House to some articles which were published in a Bombay Paper—Babu Rao Patel's paper—in which he had given pictures of American propaganda which is going on, and films which were being shown in America, under the heading of "Bloody India." It is something which means that there has been some mistake by our own censors out here, as well as something defective in our Embassy over there, that the thing should have been allowed to go ahead in the manner in which they have done. I for one, Sir, do not wish to wash dirty linen outside; I may have my grouses, I may have my fights with my friends and my countrymen, but I think the forum is not that: it brings shame not to one community but to the entire population of India that we have

degraded so much. I therefore feel, Sir, that the propaganda side of ours outside should be strengthened, and inside censorship should be more rigorous. In this connection we would like to hear from the Honourable Minister in charge, what exactly has been done to find out the culprits who sent out this film of "Bloody India," and what steps have been taken to stop repetition of that kind in the future.

Sir, I feel that the Department is in the best hands possible, but our officers —if you will excuse me—are not wide awake enough to look at all fronts. I know this is a rather tall order. We have got to fight on so many fronts. We have fought on so many fronts in the past and we have to fight on so many fronts in the future. Therefore, to ask any one to look at all fronts is not easy thing. But Sir it should be done, and if necessary, we should expand the Department and do everything in our power to keep the fair name of India high and above board.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I rise to support Prof. Ranga's cut motion. Since we last debated Foreign Affairs in this House, there have been two or three events of portentous significance to the world. The first was the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi who died for peace and in the cause of peace. With his death—the death of one who had been a fighter for peace all his life,—the greatest single force for peace has been removed from the world.

Then, Sir, we are seeing the clouds of war gathering in Europe and simultaneously, the movement for freedom of the exploited and suppressed peoples in the Far Eastern corner of the world. Indonesia, Indo-China and Korea are still struggling for freedom.

In the West, it is a different picture altogether which is emerging. What Herr Hitler did in 1939 Tovarich Stalin has done in 1948. Herr Hitler's forces goose stepped into Prague in March 1938 and in February 1948 we see the forces of the Red Army marching into the same city. One was a menace from the left geographically but a coup from the right politically. Today it is a menace from the right geographically but a coup from the left politically. But the sum and substance is the same.

The storm is gathering. Prof. Ranga said it was a storm in a tea cup. I won't put it as complacently as that. It is much more than a storm in a tea cup. If we pursue the same path of complacency which Chamberlain pursued in 1938-39, I am sure that within a year's time, war will be upon us right in the heart and the soil of India. We cannot afford to be complacent. We must take it very seriously and in right earnest. The latest report from America reads thus—it is hot from the agency:

"Evacuation plans for 75 million city dwellers in the event of major bombing attacks were revealed by Thomas Mac Donald, Public Road Commissioner, yesterday.

He said in an interview that Federal and State engineers were surveying highways in the States of Washington and Oregon to provide civilian escape routes from major west coast cities.

He said the west coast evacuation systems will be used as a pattern for other cities throughout the country. Mass hysteria undoubtedly would sweep major American industrial cities if attacks occurred. But proper planning for civilian evacuation could greatly minimize the effect."

So, Sir, America is preparing for the evacuation of 75 million city dwellers in the event of war. That shows that war is not distant, although God forbid that war should come to us or to the world; but we certainly must prepare ourselves for it. While we pray that it may not come, we must keep our powder dry, as the old adage goes. Czechoslavakia has been sacrificed, and Turkey, Greece and Italy seem to be next on the cards. Britain, France and America together

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with the Benelux countries, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg have formed or are forming a Western European Union. Thus the stage is set for the Division of Europe into two separate blocs. Whether it is racial or otherwise, it is not necessary for me to go into at present.

Along, Sir, with this war which is based, may I say, on political ideology—we may call it pluto-democracy or capitalist democracy *versus* Communism or Socialism—there is also another war brewing. That is the race and colour war, the seeds of which are being sown in South Africa. Our own countrymen there as the House is very well aware, are being ill-treated, insulted, humiliated and oppressed. If this tendency is not curbed, if it is not eliminated, then along with the ideological war, there will be another war—a racial war—running parallel to this, if not subsequent to this. Therefore, Sir, what we are concerned with today is the danger of war and how to meet that danger.

So far, Sir, the Honourable the Minister for Foreign Affairs has formulated his foreign policy in such a way that India has been pursuing a more or less neutral policy in foreign affairs. She has not aligned herself with any bloc, either American or Russian.

But, Sir, how far will this carry us? That is a moot point. How far will it save us from the danger of war, if war actually overtakes us? The Western Powers as well as the Eastern, namely, America as well as Russia, think today in these terms, that whosoever is not with us is against us, and we have no use for neutrals. They say: "If you are with us, come with us and fall in line with us and throw your lot with us." That is what America and Russia say today.

But we have been pursuing so far—happily, I must say,—a neutral policy, calculated perhaps to obtain the maximum national advantage economically, commercially and otherwise. What I would stress at this stage is that if we are pursuing a neutral policy, it follows from that, as a natural consequence, that we should not take part in any power politics or disputes that might arise between rival elements. Unfortunately, Sir, this did not turn out to be so, because towards the end of last year, when there was a contest for a seat on the Security Council, we were found fighting Ukraine which naturally alienated Russia unnecessarily. Then again, if my memory does not betray me, when Argentina applied for admission to the United Nations, India did not give support to her case, based partly on anti-Fascist prejudice. Thus we have rubbed some nations on the wrong side. I submit, Sir, that when we formulate our foreign policy, we should not be guided, or misguided, by the internal politics of any country or State. I would in this connection, Sir, point out to the House what Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose said in the course of his Haripura address. It is very relevant and I believe it throws a salutary light on our foreign policy. He said:

"I attach great importance to the question of a foreign policy for India and of developing international contacts. I believe that in the years to come international developments will favour our struggle in India."

That was of course in those days. He further said:

"In connection with our foreign policy, the first suggestion that I have to make is that we should not be influenced by the internal politics of any country or the form of its State. In this matter, we should take a leaf out of Soviet diplomacy. Though Soviet Russia is a communist State, her diplomats have not hesitated to make alliances with non-Socialist States and have not declined sympathy or support coming from any quarter. We should make India and her culture known to the world."

Therefore, Sir, I would submit that we should base our foreign policy on this. Whether our lot would not be improved by aligning ourselves with a definite bloc is a point deserving our most careful examination. I am not of course competent to say which particular bloc we should align ourselves with, but certainly it would be useful for us to align ourselves with some one bloc. To form a neutral bloc with our existing strength and resources is to my mind out of the question. Of course, when we become a strong nation, we can aspire to lead other nations and form a balance between these two blocs, but as we are situated today, it is an impracticable proposition.

Then, Sir, I submit that our ambassadors and embassies in foreign countries should be centres of Indian culture. They should radiate our civilisation and our heritage and form sort of oases in the deserts of foreign countries.

Our philosophy has got a meaning for the world and I think, Sir, that the world is moving more and more in the direction of spiritual socialism which has been our heritage, which is our message for the world and our mission in the present century. We have proclaimed liberty, equality and fraternity as the key notes of our constitution, but fraternity is impossible without the spiritual content of democracy and liberty. Therefore Sir, I would stress that is the role that our embassies should play in foreign countries and finally, Sir, I would request the Honourable the Foreign Minister to see that our ambassadors do not go about roving all over the world. I would here mention that our Russian Ambassadress she has been discharging her duties wonderfully, but after having been in Moscow for 2 months she was absent for 3 or 4 months and this would certainly mar our relations with the foreign country to which she has been accredited. I feel our ambassadors must stick to where they are and cultivate friendly relations. It is not an easy matter for a country with a nascent freedom to be friendly with all nations of the world. Therefore, I would urge that our ambassadors should be more or less whole time in whatever countries they are accredited to, and should cultivate not merely social relations, but also relations on the highest spiritual and political level.

Sir, in this connection, I would just mention one thing and that is if Russia, China and India become one solid bloc, comprising nearly 1 thousand million —one half of the population of the world—we will form a group which will be invincible in the face of any assault from any quarter of the world. When I was in Russia, Sir, about 12 years ago, I had a talk with a Red Army Officer....

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member has already exceeded his time-limit by three minutes.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I will finish in half a minute. We should try if possible to form a bloc consisting of Russia, China and India and here our approach against Russia on the ground of her communism or atheism should not stand in the way because even Russia today with her translations of Mahabharata and Ramayana is moving towards the spiritual content of democracy and socialism. Therefore, Sir, I think it is high time for an alliance of Russia, China and India, the three great countries of Asia, which will lead us towards the goal of liberty, equality and fraternity for the whole world.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Mr. Speaker, several Honourable Members who have taken part in the debate have expressed their preference for a policy of what they call neutrality or independence. They have approved the foreign policy so far followed by India because they think that it merits that description. The Prime Minister who outlined his policy in this House in November last also expressed his conviction that such a policy was in consonance with the political status and the moral dignity of India. Sir, it seems to me that we cannot consider the question of our foreign relations merely in accordance with such a formula. We cannot merely consider whether our policy should be one of neutrality or one of alliance with a state or a number of states. I think this kind of approach is fundamentally wrong. We must consider what the vital

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interests of our nation are. By vital interests, I mean those interests on which the integrity and the prosperity of the country depend. These interests are undoubtedly bound up with questions relating to defence. These interests must be such that would give up all that we hold dear in order to protect them. These fundamental interests should be such that we would be prepared to go to war in order to protect them and if this view is accepted, we must consider what steps we should take in order to secure our defence and to provide ourselves with the means of economically developing our country. If we find that we can expect the assistance that we need more from certain countries than from others, then taking human nature as it is, we are bound to be more friendly to these countries than to other countries with which we are not so directly concerned. Any such policy would not to be a policy of alliance; it would be a realistic policy taking account of the supreme objectives that we have to keep in view and using every possible method in order to achieve their realization. Suppose we feel that the kind of help that we want we can get most from the U.S.A. Then, I submit it is not in consonance with our national interests that we should regard America in the same light in which we would regard any other country. We cannot follow towards it a policy of absolute neutrality. Even a policy of friendly neutrality would not be adequate in these circumstances. Our policy must be more positive. It should be inspired by real and positive good-will towards it. Now if we follow such a policy, we shall not thereby commit ourselves beforehand to an approval of all that America does or of all the policies that she may follow in the domain of foreign relations. Even good friends can disagree amongst themselves on certain questions; they can differ even on important questions. If we recognise that our interests are more likely to be achieved by our being more friendly to certain countries than to others; by being more friendly to them without being antagonistic to others, we shall not thereby surrender our right to differ from them even on important questions of policy. I think, therefore that a policy which takes account of those interests of ours which we are in duty bound ever to keep in view will not derogate from our high ideals or be a lapse from those standards of conduct which we would always wish to follow.

All that it would mean is that we would have to see what is the nature of the world we are living in and adjust ourselves. We cannot always act as we like or even express our own individual opinion on every question discussed in the international conferences. We may on a certain point hold a different opinion from that of some of our friends but we may not feel, in view of the national interests that we have always to guard, that it is not desirable for us to oppose them. This is the only limitation that we would place on ourselves in following the policy which I venture to think is more in the interests of India than a policy of pure neutrality.

An Honourable Member: What about Kashmir?

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: I shall refer very briefly in a minute to the question of Kashmir.

I therefore think that the Prime Minister when he takes part in the debate will be good enough to tell us how he proposes to secure those interests of ours which are essential to the maintenance of our freedom and our economic progress. It is only then that we shall be able to understand what the character of his policy is. Sir, we have undoubtedly so far followed a policy of absolute independence. Our representatives have not hesitated to express their opinions on any occasion at any international gathering. But I am afraid that this attitude is not always helpful I fear that some of the antagonism towards India that was displayed in connection with the discussion of the Kashmir question in the

Security Council was due to our failure to realise that it is sometimes as much our duty to remain silent as to speak out in consideration of our supreme interests. Had we recognised the reality of the situation and realised that we could be no more free to follow always policies approved by us than any other country, even the most powerful country in the world, I think we would have had a few more friends. I hope that the attitude of the members of the Security Council when they discuss the question of Kashmir again will be more fair and more in consonance with the facts. It is surprising, as pointed out by Mr. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar, that important members of the Security Council wanted us not merely to come to terms with the Muslims of Kashmir or the Government of Pakistan but also with the tribesmen. Such a policy and such an attitude on their part can, it seems to me, be explained only by a feeling that India was essentially unfriendly to them. I hope that my fear is not justified, but I am sure that such a view has been expressed to the Prime Minister by others more competent than I am to form an opinion on this subject. The Kashmir question, which an Honourable Member asked me to consider in the light of the policy which I advocated, in my opinion supports the view that I have taken. Frankly speaking, I have met hardly any one who has been to any international gathering and has not expressed the opinion that the foreign policy that we are following at present is not in consonance with our most important interests, and is doing us no little harm abroad.

Sir, let me say before I sit down that though I have not agreed with the policy laid down by the Prime Minister in November last I have not considered it in any spirit of hostility. His view, has received my earnest and serious consideration. There is no one either in this House or outside who would doubt the loftiness and purity of his motives and his desire to protect the best interests of India and to give her a high place among the nations of the world. Yet I feel, Sir, that his policy, though in consonance with high aspirations, is not a realistic policy. It is not enough for us that we should give expression to our high aspirations; it is not enough that we should lay down lofty moral principles. What is required is that we should bring about a correlation between our interests and our power to protect them. It is this correlation that would enable us to have a really sound foreign policy. So long as we are oblivious of this fundamental fact, however pure our motives, however keen our desire to advance the reign of justice and fairness in the world, we shall fail either to guard our own fundamental interests or to protect the interests of the weaker nations, whose champions we regard ourselves to be.

Shri K. Santhanam: Foreign policy is a difficult and delicate subject and I have no desire to say anything which will cause the slightest embarrassment to our Prime Minister. At the same time, it is essential that the directions of our foreign policy should be carefully reasoned and should be free from all ambiguity. So I shall content myself in the few minutes before me with indicating a few directions in which that policy should be pursued.

Foreign policy is a function of three things: of our ideals, of our national interests and of our economic and military power. I shall say a few words on each of these points.

So far as our ideals are concerned, I think there are three great fundamental issues. Should there be a sovereign world authority with legal and material power to prevent war? I think, Sir, that this is an issue on which we should take a definite stand. We should strive, at whatever cost, to see that the United Nations does get this power. I was distressed to find that our representative objected to the removal or restriction of the veto power. So long as the veto power is there, the United Nations will be another League of Nations and go the same way. We must support every effort to see that

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the veto power is removed and the United Nations and its Security Council get all the legal power necessary to prevent war as well as the material resources necessary to do so. I say this in spite of our rather indifferent and bitter experience of the Security Council in relation to the Kashmir issue. Still, the prevention of war is more important and we should see that in the next one or two years the United Nations becomes a sovereign world government as otherwise there is no real hope for the world.

Secondly, can political dictatorship be tolerated in any part of the world? Today, it is becoming a serious cause of dispute in Europe and Asia and we should make a solid and sturdy determination and resolve that we are going to oppose political dictatorship in any part of the world and in any country. The theory that democratic countries can co-operate with dictatorship countries led us to two world wars and if such a notion prevails again I am sure it is going to lead to a third world war. Here and now, our country must stand for democracy. Wherever there is dictatorship, our representatives should say we are against dictatorship and against dictatorship nations and that we are for democracy.

Thirdly, can economic anarchy be permitted? This anarchy may be called capitalism, or by any other name. But so long as the masses of the world are disinherited, so long as they are not assured of elementary social security, no political arrangement, no international arrangement can secure peace. We should strive for liquidation of poverty, not only in our own country but throughout the world. These are the essential elements of our foreign policy, so far as ideals are concerned.

Let me now come to our national interests. What are they? We should be prepared against any possible combination against our safety. I do not want to say anything which is calculated to disturb our relations with our neighbouring State. We want to be friends with Pakistan, and if they are going to be friends, we shall go all out to support them. But that friendship will come only when Pakistan and her neighbours and all those medieval nations behind her frontiers know that friendship of India is profitable while hostility will be dreadful. It is only on that condition that we can hope for friendship between India and Pakistan, and our foreign policy should be so directed that the restless elements in those nations—in Pakistan and the medieval countries—will be certain that it is a wholly unprofitable policy to think of hostility towards this country. We should seek for this purpose friends all over the world.

We must also have friends who will be capable of helping us in our industrial and economic reconstruction, for our foreign policy will be effective only to the extent that we are economically and militarily strong. We have to build up our economic and military strength and we cannot do that with our meagre intrinsic resources. We want outside help, the assistance of those who can and are willing to help us. We must make friends with them. No one in this world will give something for nothing. If we seek assistance from those who can help us to build our economic and political strength, they are bound to ask for some terms. If they are very unreasonable or immoral, we are bound to decline. We can take no chances with our independent existence and must then get along even with the scanty resources we have. If we can get their friendship on any reasonable terms, we should be prepared to correlate our ideals to them and seek that friendship. It is on that the future of our foreign policy will depend. While we are developing our economic and military strength, we should be content to play a minor part in the disputes of big powers and we should cultivate the relations of our smaller neighbours. We should seek friendship with Burma, with Ceylon and with other neighbouring countries. For instance, our economic difficulties in

Indo-China are very great. Many of our nationals are finding it difficult to get even a small part of the property which they left behind during the war. Our foreign policy should be directed towards an intensive and comprehensive friendship with all these neighbouring countries, while our Embassies abroad, in Washington and Moscow and other places should, as Mr. Kamath suggested, be more cultural. There, our culture and ideals must have as much effect as they can while our political and economic relations should be concentrated within, what may be called, India's field of force. I hope our field of force will ultimately embrace the whole world. But it is a small field today, confined to 200 to 300 miles from our frontiers. We should cultivate our foreign policy intensively in this field and extensively in other fields. It is by this combination of realism and idealism that we can have a coherent, a persistent and a really effective foreign policy.

I am sorry I have had no time to develop my ideas and I have already taken more time than I should and so I suggest these points for the consideration of the Prime Minister, and I am sure under his able leadership India's foreign policy will become purposive and decisive and will play an effective, though small part in leading the world to a better state of affairs than that in which it finds itself today.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I have a very short time at my disposal to deal with a very important subject, namely our relations with the other parts of the world. It has been suggested here that our best course would be to remain aloof from international politics. But I think it is simply impossible to adopt that course. Whether we like it or not, we will have one day to side ourselves with one or the other of the power groups that are ranging themselves in the world. If we cultivate a sense of isolationism the only result would be that we will not attack anybody and start a war; but that will not prevent others from attacking us if they like. We cannot therefore remain isolated.

Sir, though it is somewhat unpopular or unfashionable to admit it, we cannot escape joining one or the other of the groups that are aligning themselves on one side or the other, It has been authoritatively stated that there were 31 occasions when aggressive wars were fought. On each one of those occasions, the aggressor was always a power without any responsibility, a dictator or an autocrat. It has never happened that a democracy has ever fought an aggressive war. Wherever a democracy has fought, it has always fought a defensive war. It is the opinion of persons competent to judge that it is an actual combination of democratic powers that will be proof against another war. There are two great power groups, now—the Anglo-American Group and the Communist group, and we have to choose between the one or the other. Whether we like it or not we will have to make up our mind and the sooner we make up our mind the better.

One Honourable Member has suggested the formation of a geographical group—that the Asiatic powers should hold together. But I should submit that we should group together on an idiological basis and not on a geographical basis. We should join the Democratic group and not the Totalitarian group. If the totalitarian group gets the upper hand, another war is inevitable; if on the other hand the democratic group gets the better of the world, then there will be peace for a time. The military strength of the Democratic group which chiefly consists of the United States and the United Kingdom, is obviously far stronger than that of the Communistic group. Whatever differences we may have with the United Kingdom and the United States or the other allied powers in small matters, like problems of Indonesia, Palestine and Kashmir—I call them small in view of the magnitude of the danger which faces the world today—whatever differences we may have with them, we must join

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the Anglo-American group which stands for democratic principles. If we do that we can play an important part in preventing another world war.

Sir, the idea of the U.N.O. is that there should be a common purpose in which all the countries should join; there should be a Federation of the democratic countries; there should be a Federal Legislature, a Federal Judiciary and an International Federal Army. This is the crux of the whole situation. If we have a strong Federal Army under the U.N.O. there will be no world war. If we join and remain in that group there will be ample scope for us to develop our own culture, but we must in our own interest first join them and make that combination a success; and then the peace of the world for some time can be assured. In these circumstances, I should humbly submit that aloofness will not do. We must join the Democratic group and be instrumental in preventing another war and our small differences and our small problems can be solved by our joining that group unequivocally and at an early date. Sir, the stage is set for the Democratic group to begin its operation. There is already a World International Bank, and International Army will come into being as soon as we join together. In these circumstances, I should clearly and emphatically suggest that our policy should be to join the Democratic group. Sir, the matter is of great importance. I should submit that the Honourable the Prime Minister should consider this matter. It is not necessary for him to commit himself to a definite policy just now. But I should submit that he should take these matters into careful consideration and lead our country into proper channels and make our foreign policy a success.

Shri B. Shiva Rao (Madras: General): Sir, in the important statement that the Prime Minister made on Friday in relation to Kashmir, he spoke of certain wider issues, implying thereby the general position of the States since we achieved our freedom. Sir, having taken part in the last general assembly session of the United Nations, I would like to refer to certain "wider issues"—if I may borrow his words—which affect the position of India in the United Nations, whether it is the problem of Kashmir or the rights of Indians in South Africa. It is admitted that so far the proceedings in the Security Council on the question of Kashmir have failed to give us satisfaction. On the question of Indians in South Africa, the first session of the United Nations passed a very satisfactory resolution by more than a two-thirds majority, and yet last year although the Delegation was led by the same experienced and skilful leader, and the terms of the resolution proposed by the Indian Delegation were comparatively milder, we did not get a two-thirds majority. There is not the slightest doubt that so far as the United Nations are concerned, the tide at the present moment is running somewhat against us. India's position is one, more or less, of isolation. During the few minutes that you have been pleased to allot to me I would like to invite the attention of the House to certain basic factors which we would do well to bear in mind.

The first factor, Sir, is the fact that the United Nations works on the basis of a certain number of blocs. The biggest bloc is the Latin American bloc consisting of about twenty members, led more or less by the United States and having a few members from other parts of the world like the Phillipines and very frequently China. That is the biggest bloc. The next, from the standpoint of size, is the one ranged round the United Kingdom which consists of not only the United Kingdom and most of the Dominions, but countries like Denmark, Belgium Holland, Greece, Turkey and sometimes the Scandanavian countries. The third is the Muslim bloc with the Arab States, as the core and Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan attached to it. And the last, numerically the smallest, but strategically by far the most important is the Soviet bloc, consisting of the U.S.S.R., Ukraine, Buelorussia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. In this setting the position of India is very much like that of an unattached member in this House.

So far as the question of Kashmir is concerned, I think we would do well to remember this too: that the United States having taken a very definite line in regard to the partition of Palestine and thus alienated to a considerable extent the sympathies of the Muslim bloc of countries, is not likely to range herself easily on the side of a nation which does not belong to the Muslim bloc. Incidentally, Sir, although this is not a point which I would like to develop at this stage, I may inform the House that, so far as publicity in the United States is concerned, Pakistan has come to a working arrangement with the British Information Services who do an extremely good job for Pakistan. In comparison, India's publicity arrangements are utterly inadequate.

Another important point which we would do well to remember is that Pakistan is, inside the United Nations, "the good little boy." She takes very good care in regard to interests which do not directly concern her, not to tread on the corns of the Imperialist Powers of Western Europe. So far as we are concerned, we have taken up the cause of the natives of South West Africa, we have taken up the cause of Indonesia and thereby earned the gratitude of subject races, colonial peoples, and the inhabitants of mandated territories all over the world. And although our position inside the United Nations is one of comparative isolation, I think outside vast numbers of people look to us for friendship inside that organisation. Sir, if I may be permitted to say so, in progressive circles throughout the world our Prime Minister is recognised as one of the most powerful exponents of social democracy and freedom. Nevertheless, following the policy as we have pursued in the past, we have to pay a price for it. The imperial powers of Western Europe are not likely to take to us in a kindly fashion, particularly in comparison with Pakistan, as in all matters which come up before the Trusteeship Council, we take up the side of the underdog.

Lastly, the only point that I would like to refer to in this debate is in regard to the future of the United Nations. Indeed, over the peace of the world, there hangs a big question mark, that question mark being provided by the uncertain and uneasy relation between the United States and the U. S. S. R. On the eve of the last session of the United Nations there appeared a most remarkable article in an American quarterly "Foreign Affairs" signed by 'X'. But it was widely recognised in the United States that the writer was no less a person than the chief policy maker in the State Department at Washington. I think it would interest the House if I read out two very brief passages from that article, because at the present moment the foreign policy of the State Department is shaped by the writer of this article. "So far as the Soviet is concerned" he said, "she reflects no abstract love of peace and stability, no real faith in the possibility of a permanent happy co-existence of the socialist and capitalist worlds, but rather a continuous and persistent pressure towards the disruption and weakening of all rival influence and rival power." And his final conclusion is of the utmost interest and significance. His conclusion is that the "Soviet power today bears within itself the seeds of its own decay and that the sprouting of these seeds is well advanced;" that if "anything were ever to occur to disrupt the unity and the efficacy of the Party as a political instrument, Soviet Russia might be changed overnight from one of the strongest to one of the weakest and most pitiable of national societies." That is the view which is firmly held in influential official circles in the United States at the present moment.

I have not the time to develop other points on which I wanted to speak today, but I would like to say this in conclusion. Whether it is Korea or Palestine or Kashmir or Greece or Spain, or any other question which comes up before the United Nations, the primary consideration from which all these issues are faced

[Shri B. Shiva Rao]

is not so much the merits of the question but whether a particular solution will stimulate the sprouting of those seeds of decay in Soviet Russia to which reference has been made, or whether that solution will strengthen the hands of the Soviet. These are some of the wider issues whose significance we would do well to remember.

There are one or two suggestions which I would like to make to the Prime Minister before resuming my seat. One is that inside the External Affairs Department the time has come for the creation of a policy-planning department, very similar to that which exists in the State Department but not so conservative in its outlook. And the second is that he should consider the formation of an inter-departmental committee at secretariat level consisting of representatives not only of his own department but of the Education, Commerce, the Public Health and Industries Departments, so that whenever any delegation is sent abroad under any of the branches of the United Nations or to the General Assembly, there may be a co-ordinated policy inspiring all of us.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, I have taken interest in the various suggestions and criticisms made. I think possibly if I had been speaking not from my place here but from somewhere else I might have produced a longer list of criticisms. So I am grateful for the gentle way in which Honourable Members have treated the External Affairs Department.

In criticising the foreign policy of the Government of India during the last year or six months I should like this House for an instant to turn its mind to any country today and think of its foreign policy—whether it is the U. S. A., the United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R., China or France. These are supposed to be the great powers. Just think of their foreign policy and see if you would say that the foreign policy of any one of those countries has succeeded, obviously succeeded from any point of view, from the point of view of moving towards world peace or preventing world war, succeeded from even the mere opportunist and individual point of view of that country. I think if you will look at this question from this point of view you will find that there has been a miserable failure of foreign policy of every great power and country. It is in that context that we shall have to see these things. It is not really the failure of the foreign policy of any particular power, though perhaps two or three major powers do influence foreign policy greatly. It is a gradual or rapid deterioration of the international situation. Now surely the responsibility for that deterioration might lie on some powers. In India our responsibility is very little. We may have functioned well or badly on the international stage but we are not, frankly speaking, influential enough to affect international events very much. Therefore if that great deterioration has taken place in the international sphere it is not due to our policy. We suffer from it just as every other nation suffers from it and I think it is this vague feeling that somehow we have suffered or something that has happened that induces members to search for reasons why we have suffered. I think that is a very right approach, because we must find out the reasons, where we might have erred, how we might have bettered our lot and so on and so forth. Nevertheless I think the real reason is that the causes lie entirely outside any policy that we have pursued. There are bigger and deeper causes affecting the world and we, like the strongest of nations, are pulled hither and thither by these forces. That is one fact that I should like the House to bear in mind.

Another factor and that is more applicable to us is this: that owing to the unfortunate events that have happened in India since the 15th August, 1947 anything we did outside the world has suddenly lost weight or lost weight for a time. We counted for something not very greatly of course, more in our potentiality than in actuality, because potentially we counted for a great deal, though actually we need not have counted for much. But the events that occurred after 15th August in India, Pakistan, etc., all over here—Pakistan I might say naturally did not count for much because it had no background; it was a newcomer; it was we who counted—those events suddenly brought down our credit in the international domain tremendously. It affected the United Nations when they were meeting last October, considering the South Africa issue. Undoubtedly the fact of the events in India affected the decision of the United Nations General Assembly in regard to the South Africa issue; so also in regard to other matters. All these facts have nothing to do with foreign policy. The point I wish to place before the House is this, that it may be desirable for us to adopt a certain foreign policy or a certain other one, one of what is called neutrality or, as Pandit Kunzru said, a more positive one. But all this has no relationship, it has nothing to do, with what has happened. Other factors govern it. If you like it was a fault, but we have been rather passive about all these matters, and where we have been somewhat active are the very things in which some of the Honourable Members desire us to be more active than we have been. We are asked to collect the smaller nations round about us—in India or elsewhere. I think Mr. Kamath wanted us to go into darkest Africa and have alliances with the tribes there.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I did not say that.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: May be somebody else. Well, I am all for our going to Africa or to any other place. But the point is the very activity—call it idealistic; I do not think it is purely idealistic; I think it is, if you like, opportunist in the long run—this policy that we have so far pursued before we became a Government, and to some extent after we became a Government, that is, standing up somewhat, in so far as we can, for the weak and the oppressed in various continents, is not a policy which is to the liking of the Great Powers who directly or indirectly share in that exploitation. It is that that puts us in the wrong with them.

There has been a lot said about other matters. It is a clear issue before this House. Here is Indonesia. We have done precious little in the way of actual active help; we are not in a position to do that. But we have got sympathy towards them and we have expressed it as publicly as possible. Because we give our sympathy and some faint degree of help to Indonesia and because this offends and irritates some of the major powers of the world, are we to withdraw that? Are we to remain quite tame and say "No, this might irritate this power or that" because it does irritate this or that power and there is no doubt about it. Naturally we cannot as a Government go as far as we might have done as a non-official organisation where we can express our opinions as frankly and as aggressively as possible. Speaking as a Government we have to moderate our language. We have sometimes to stop doing things which we might otherwise do. Nevertheless, the fundamental thing is, do we sympathise and openly sympathise with a country like Indonesia in her struggle for freedom, or do we not? That applies not to Indonesia only but to several other countries. In each case we have to face the passive hostility of various interests, not only the direct interests involved but the indirect interests involved because the direct interests and the indirect interests hang together in such matters. It has been an astonishing thing how in the last so many months this Good Offices Committee functioned in Indonesia—all good people, and as it happens the Secretary of the Committee was an Indian. The way it has functioned and the results it produced are not at all satisfactory. If this House is dissatisfied with what the Security Council has this year done or considered in regard to Kashmir they would be still more dissatisfied, I think, if they consider the Indonesian Good Offices Committee's work, because unfortunately the approach to these problems is a certain approach with which this

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House cannot fit in on account of our past traditions, on account of our ideals etc. Now I am not talking in terms of this bloc or that bloc; I am talking independently of these blocs as have appeared in the world stage. We have either to pursue that policy generally within limitations—because, we cannot pursue it wholeheartedly, nevertheless pursue it openly—or give it up. I do not think that anything could be more injurious to us from any point of view—certainly from an idealistic and high moral point of view but equally so from the point of view of opportunism and national interest in the narrowest sense of the word—than for us to give up these policies that we have pursued, namely of standing up for certain ideals in regard to oppressed nations, and trying to align ourselves with this great power or that and becoming its camp follower in the hope that some crumbs might fall from their table. I think that would be undoubtedly from the narrowest point of view of national interest a bad and harmful policy. I can understand some of the smaller countries of Europe or some of the smaller countries of Asia being forced by circumstance to bow down before some of the greater powers and become practically satellites of those powers, because they just cannot help it. The power opposed to them is so great and they have nowhere to go to. But I do not think that consideration applies to India. We are not citizens of any weak or mean country and I think it is foolish for us to get frightened, even from a military point of view or any point of view, of the greatest of the powers today. Not that I delude myself about what can happen to us if a great power in a military sense goes against us; I have no doubt it can injure us. But after all we have in the past opposed ourselves as a national movement to one of the greatest of world powers. We opposed ourselves in a particular way and in a large measure we succeeded by that way, and I have no doubt that if the worst comes to the worst and in a military sense we cannot meet these great powers it is far better for us to fight in those ways than submit ourselves and lose all the ideals which we have. Therefore let us not be frightened too much of the military might of this or that group. I am not frightened and I want to tell it to the world on behalf of this country that we are not frightened of the military might of this power or that. Our policy is not a passive policy or a negative policy. In fact these words are used rather vaguely. Two or three instances that were given perhaps gave an indication of the thing that was working in the minds of some of the Honourable Members which they have not had the time or the desire to say clearly. I shall give one instance. It was stated, I think by Pandit Kunzru that we supported veto in the United Nations presumably because we did not wish to offend the Soviet group.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: I made no reference to it.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Someone did.

An Honourable Member: Mr. Santhanam referred to it.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is immaterial. Now I want to place the facts before the House as far as I remember them. The veto was put there, as the House will remember, by the common consent of all the Great Powers—all the Great Powers in every Group. It was put there because they felt—and may I say that the Soviet felt that way: the United States also felt that way, because these huge and great Powers did not like the idea of half a dozen little countries just telling them to do this or that. Both felt that way and neither of those were prepared to submit just to a kind of majority voting and of little nations put together, so that it was put there in the Charter right at the beginning. Whether the veto was used or misused, I am not going into the question, but now this question arose that the veto should be removed. This was not liked by several Great Powers. It was not a question of supporting this bloc or that bloc. Both the blocs did not like the removal of that veto.

Now the problem before us was that if that veto was somehow removed by a veto or decision of the United Nations, there was little doubt that the United Nations as they are ceased to be at that instant. That was the choice. It was not a question of liking the veto. On behalf of India, as on behalf of many countries, it was stated openly that we disliked this veto and that it should go. It was pointed out however that this could only come about by some kind of general agreement. Now we agree with what Mr. Santhanam said that the United Nations, in spite of its failings and weaknesses, something that is good. It should be encouraged and supported in every way, and should be allowed to develop into some kind of world government or world order. Therefore we instructed our delegates not to press this question of the veto to the breaking point and to say that although we did not like it, it should remain there so long as it could not be removed by some kind of agreement of the major groups involved. In that way various questions come up and each question has to be considered on the merits. I do not know if any Honourable Member has analysed our voting at these international conferences. It would help them perhaps to appreciate the scene better if they took up any of the major issues during the last year in the United Nations or its various Committees and Councils and find out what India has done. It is certainly true that our instructions to our delegates have always been obviously and firstly to consider each question in terms of India's interest, secondly on the merits—I mean to say if it did not affect India, naturally on the merits and not merely to do something or give a vote just to please this Power or that Power, though of course it is perfectly natural that in our desire to have friendship with other Powers, we avoid doing anything which might irritate. As a matter of fact we go as far as possible to try and win over. It is not our purpose to enter into other people's quarrels. Our general policy has been to avoid entering into anybody's quarrels. If I may say so, I have more and more come to the conclusion that the less we interfere in international conflicts, the better unless our own interest is involved, for this reason that it is not in consonance with our dignity just to interfere without any effect being produced. Either we should be strong enough to produce some effect or we should not interfere at all. I am not anxious to put my finger in every international pie. Unfortunately sometimes one cannot help it. One is dragged into it. For instance there is the Korea Committee. Well, not only are we in that Committee, but ultimately our Representative becomes the Chairman of that Committee. Now that leads to another matter, to which reference has been made by some Honourable Member. That is this. It is an odd contrast today that while in the official councils of the United Nations we may not perhaps pull the weight we ought to, nevertheless in the unofficial councils outside our weight has considerably increased. Why is that so? Because progressively people see that within the United Nations things are done far from idealistically or morally or in terms of the underdog or in terms of the smaller nations or in terms of the Asian nations, and so more and more of these people try to search for someone else and in their search for someone else who might perhaps give a lead in these matters, almost automatically their eyes turn towards India. Now I do not wish to enter into any comparisons with other countries, and certainly we have done nothing in India to merit any question of leadership of anybody. It is for us to lead ourselves and then only can we lead others properly and I do not wish to place the case of India at any higher level. We have to look after ourselves. That is why I am, if I may say so, in spite of being Minister in charge of External Affairs, not interested in external affairs so much as internal affairs at the present moment because external affairs will follow internal affairs, but there is no basis for external affairs if internal affairs go wrong. Therefore also I am not anxious to widen our scope of representation all over the world. It is fairly wide now. That too we have been almost compelled by circumstances to do because we

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simply cannot be an independent nation without having that representation, but I am not anxious to extend it any further unless some very special reason arises. That being so, nevertheless the fact remains that we stand for certain things. Now when we come into contact with the external world, do we stand for them or do we not? We have to choose. I have no doubt at all, as I said right at the beginning of my remarks, that in the long run it is to the great advantage of India for it to attract to itself the sympathy and the hope of millions of people in the world without offending others. It is not our purpose to offend others or to come into conflict with others. Nevertheless the world is in a pretty bad way and it is easy enough for people to tell me 'Oh, you talk idealistically, you should be practical.' May I remind the House that we have seen for these many years the results of persons and things being very practical? I have had about enough of this practicalness, which leads to incessant conflict and which leads to all the misery and suffering that we have seen. If that is the meaning of being practical, the sooner we are not practical the better. But that is not being practical. That is being grossly impractical in their march without looking to the left or to the right and each group just contracting in close circle, full of danger for the other group, trying to win over other small or big nations by some immediate advantage or something given. I do not say that is good enough for this country and we really are not even compelled by circumstances to do it. We might have been compelled by circumstances but we are not compelled by circumstances to give up because it does amount to giving up our independence in order to gain the goodwill of this country or that country. I think not only in the long run but in the short run, that independence of opinion and independence of action will count. That again does not mean that we should not associate ourselves closely in certain activities with particular countries. We do. Pandit Kunzru referred to the necessity for our developing economically, militarily and otherwise. Surely this House realises that nothing is more important in the opinion of this Government than to make India economically strong and militarily—not strong in the Big Power sense, because that is beyond our capacity, but as strong as we can to defend ourselves if anybody attacks.

We want to do that. We want the help of other countries; we are going to have it and we are going to get it too in a measure—I am not aware of this having been denied to us to any large extent. Even in taking that help, economic or other, or even in getting political help, it is not a wise policy to put all your eggs in one basket, if I may say so, that one should get help and more especially at the cost of one's self-respect. Because then you are not respected by any party; you may get some petty benefits but ultimately even those may be denied, and then you may have no basket to sit in or go to.

Therefore, purely from the point of view of opportunism if you like, a straightforward honest policy, an independent policy is the best. What that policy should be at a particular moment, it is very difficult for me or for this House to say because things change rapidly from day to day. It may be that we have to choose what might be a lesser evil in a certain set of circumstances—we have always to choose the lesser evil. We stand in this country for democracy, we stand for an independent Sovereign India. Now, obviously anything that is opposed to the democratic concept—the real, essentially democratic concept, which includes not only political but economic democracy—we ought to be opposed to. We will resist the imposition of any other concept here or any other practice. That I can understand. But there was a curious confusion in the speeches of some Honourable Members when on the one hand they talked about our standing for the weak and the oppressed, against imperialism and all that, and on the other hand they asked us more or less to side with possibly a Power here or there which may stand for imperialism. It may be that sometimes we have to side with this Power or that Power. I can quite conceive of our siding even with an Imperialist Power—I do not mind saying that; in a certain set of circumstances that may be the lesser of the two evils. But nevertheless, as a general policy it is not a worthy policy or a worthwhile policy.

May I state another fundamental difficulty before us? Because of our past record in India, that is the anti-imperialist record, we have not been *persona grata* with many groups and peoples outside. We have not got rid of that yet. With the best will in the world, those people do not like us. Those people govern opinion elsewhere, they govern the Press. It is amazing how a certain section of the Press, say in the United Kingdom, deliberately and offensively misrepresents us. Now as I was sitting here a telegram came to me, a telegram from a foreign correspondent in this country sending a long message to his Paper in London, which is the most offensively false thing that I have seen. It amazes me that any person who has been here for some months should have the temerity to send such false messages, and it is about time that the Government of India dealt with this matter more firmly. We have been extraordinarily lenient towards the Press, Indian or foreign. We have gone out of our way to tell them that we will not do anything even if they send messages which are extremely disagreeable to us. But there is a limit to falsehood and that limit has been passed I think in regard to some messages.

Well, it is in this context that I should like Honourable Members to see the picture. Mr. Kamath said in a kind of peroration that we must join this bloc or that. He said, "I do not know which, but join this bloc or that." I remember later he inclined towards one bloc, but that was his first statement—evidently in the course of his speech he changed his mind.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I was developing my point.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: What does joining a bloc mean? After all it can only mean one thing: give up your view about a certain question, adopt the other party's view on that particular question in order to please it and gain its favour. It means that—it means nothing else so far as I can see because if our view is the view of that party then there is no giving up and we do go with that bloc or country or whatever it is. The question only arises when we are opposed to it on that point; therefore we give up our view-point and adopt the other one in order to gain a favour.

Now, I am prepared to agree that on many occasions not only in international conferences but in this House one gives up one's point to gain a compromise, and I am not prepared to rule out the possibility of our subordinating our viewpoint in international conferences in order to gain something worthwhile. That is perfectly feasible, that is often done. But this general approach is the worst possible approach to get anything from that country. I should like this House to realise that even if we wanted to adopt that policy, this approach is the worst approach to get that thing done. Because you have got to leave your viewpoint about it, you simply give it up to get a few crumbs, and the next day you do not know where to go. You do not know what it comes to.

The fact of the matter is that in spite of, in a military sense, our weakness—because obviously we are not a great military Power, we are not an industrially advanced Power—nevertheless, India even today counts in world affairs, and the trouble that you see in the United Nations or the Security Council is because she counts, not because she does not count. That

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is a fact you should remember. If we had been some odd little nation somewhere in Asia or Europe, it would not have mattered anything. But because we count, and because we are going to count more and more in the future, everything we do becomes a matter for comment, and because many people do not like our counting so much. It is not a question of our viewpoint or of attaching ourselves to this or that bloc; it is merely the fact that we are potentially a great nation and a big Power, and it is not liked possibly by some people for anything to happen which strengthens us.

So there are these various things to be considered. It is not such a simple matter for us, as just by a resolution, to affiliate ourselves to this organisation or that organisation and get all the privileges of membership of that organisation. That kind of thing is not going to happen. And therefore, Sir, I do submit to this House that while undoubtedly much has happened in the past so many months or year which is very undesirable, so far as the External Affairs Department is concerned it has not functioned at all well, if I may admit frankly to this House. Also as far as our Information Services are concerned they have not functioned at all well. That is all perfectly true. But so far as our fundamental approach to this problem is concerned, I just do not see how we can fundamentally vary it. As occasion arises we adapt it to circumstances—that I can understand—but the fundamental approach I do think has to remain the same, because the more you think about it, the more you analyse it, there is no other way. It is not a question of your adopting a certain policy because idealistically you think it a good one but I do submit that if you give it up there is no other policy for this country to adopt with the slightest advantage.

Now, I just mentioned about our Information Services and the rest.

Mr. Shiva Rao made one or two suggestions, which I welcome. One was in regard to the various Delegations, Deputations etc. etc. that go abroad. Each Ministry chooses its Delegation, gives it a brief and that Delegation goes to a particular Conference. Often enough, the briefs of two Delegations do not fit in with each other and there is a slight conflict, so much so the two Delegations speak with two different voices. Frequently also, the choice made of people who are sent abroad is not too good. So there is this conflict and lack of co-ordination. That is why we are trying to set up, in accordance with Mr. Shiva Rao's suggestion, some kind of an agency in External Affairs. In fact, it is there in embryo stage. It is called the Conference Section. Every Delegation will be fundamentally chosen by the Ministry concerned—the External Affairs Ministry will not choose every Delegation—but the proposal will in essence be vetted by the Conference Section of the External Affairs Ministry in order to prevent overlapping and possible conflict.

Then in regard to publicity, there is at the present moment, may I whisper to the House, a small discussion going on between the External Affairs Ministry and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. So far external publicity has been handled by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. Now external publicity as such should obviously be organised and looked after by the External Affairs Ministry. That is, in fact, so in every country. In England, external publicity is under the Foreign Office, not under the Home Publicity Service. The two are different, because external publicity has continually to keep in touch with external affairs. Of course, we will come to an agreement and make proper arrangements about that. But there has been unfortunately a great lack in our approach to foreign publicity in the last few months. At the same time, I do not want this House to imagine that by improving our publicity, some wonderful change will come about, because the reasons for people thinking as they do in other countries and in Government Departments are far deeper than just lack

of publicity. Mr. Shiva Rao pointed out that our publicity in America, however efficient, consists after all in a small organisation. That is all that we can afford. At the present moment, Pakistan's publicity has been undertaken at their request by the British Information Service in New York which is a tremendous organization. Now, it is not for me to judge or appreciate the propriety of this. It is for the United Kingdom to do so. Today publicity in America is organised on such a big scale that it is just absurd for us to think of competing with them. I understand the British Information Service have got probably 600 men working in New York. We are certainly not going to send 600 men. We shall try and probably we can send 6 men, *i.e.* hundred times less. And all this publicity organisation has unfortunately during the past few years been built up on an anti-Indian basis. The British publicity organisation in America, the House will remember, was functioning some years back with one of its main objectives as anti-Indian propaganda. The same people function there today, so that whatever propaganda they do, they have an anti-Indian bias, whether they want it or not. We cannot get out of that rut. In fact, I regret to say that some Indians who used to do anti-Indian propaganda are still employed by the British Information Service in America.

Now, may I apologise to the House for not dealing with so many matters that have been mentioned, especially by my Honourable friend Seth Govind Das about Indians overseas, I should like the House to consider this question again in this background. It is not a question of the External Affairs Department or this House turning a switch this way or that way and everything will be all right. It is far more complicated than that, and when the time comes, if necessary, we are prepared to switch over to this or that policy, provided we are dead convinced that it is for the good of the country.

As for the Indians overseas, I will just say one or two words. Many of these difficulties continue and they are likely to continue. I am sorry to say that we do not get much help from the British Colonial Office. Not only we do not get much help, but it astonishes me, used as I am to the delays of the Government of India—and they are pretty remarkable—but the delays of the British Colonial Office are indeed a revelation. I remember that we sent some urgent letters and also reminders by cable. It took us exactly ten months to get a reply. The matter was about sending a Deputation to some of the British colonies just to have a look at the Indians there. It was a very simple matter, no great principle involved, still it took them ten months to reply, and during that period other events happened and it could not be done. So that what I mean is, we come up against this bureaucratic red tape in all these offices, here as well as there.

But the real difficulty is this question of citizenship. Now, these Indians abroad, what are they? Are they Indian citizens? Are they going to be citizens of India or not? If they are not, then our interest in them becomes cultural and humanitarian, not political. That interest of course remains. For instance, take the Indians in Fiji or Mauritius. Are they going to retain their nationality or will they become Fiji nationals or Mauritians? The same question arises in regards to Burma and Ceylon. It is a difficult question. This House gets mixed up. It wants to treat them as Indians and with the same breath it wants complete franchise for them in the countries where they are living. Of course, the two things do not go together. Either they get franchise as nationals of the other country, or treat them as Indians minus the franchise and ask for them the most favoured treatment given to an alien. These difficulties come up in regard to citizenship and the rest.

Finally, Prof. Ranga right in the beginning asked a question about India being in the British Commonwealth. Apparently, he has been misled by some newspaper reports that have been appearing recently about a Delegation that

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has gone from here to London to discuss this matter. It surprises me how people can give rein to their imagination. I suppose this Delegation referred to a Defence Ministry Delegation led by Mr. H. M. Patel. It had nothing to do with this matter; it had to do entirely with defence matters and certain materials that we wanted to purchase in England and elsewhere. No such question has been discussed. As to our general position, however, that was defined in this Constituent Assembly in the early stages and it will finally be decided by the Constituent Assembly itself. There is no question of any Committee or any individual discussing it or coming to even preliminary conclusions about it. Whatever the final decision may be, it is quite certain, I believe, that India will be a completely independent and sovereign Republic or Commonwealth or State or whatever you may like to call it.

Now, that does not do away with the consideration of the other problem of what our relations should be with, whether it is England or the British Commonwealth or any Group.

That is not merely a theoretical question, but a very practical question again in regard to citizenship. Leave out other matters; it affects the citizenship of all Indians abroad. In the various British colonies exactly what type of relationship we should have which might affect that citizenship; they may not become aliens—All these must be considered, but apart from that politically and otherwise, India must be a completely independent country.

Mr. Speaker: I have to put to the House the cut motions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Seth Govinddas: Sir, I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker: Have the Honourable Members leave of the House to withdraw their cut motions?

The cut motions were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,04,000 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 'External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 10.—CABINET

Inadequate number of Ministers and consequent lack of effective Control over Departments

Dr. B. V. Keskar (U. P.: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs. 100."

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

Planning Policy of Government

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Sir, in moving this cut motion, I would like to draw the attention of this House and the Government to the present inadequacy of the number of Ministers and the serious bottle-neck that it is leading to.

Mr. Chairman: May I point out to the Honourable Member that the time is very short and I would like him to apply a certain self-restraint, so that we may be able to finish the work.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Ordinarily, Sir, a motion of this kind would be considered of not much importance, but I do consider and I submit to the House that in the present circumstances, this is a matter of considerable importance, not only to the better organization of the Government, but to the progress of the country. We are at present passing through critical times. We have just gained our freedom, but while gaining our freedom, we have been at the very beginning upset and our whole social, political and economic life has been upset by the happenings that have taken place after the 15th of August. Side by side we have also the old bureaucratic machine left in tact as it is by the Government and which we have to modify. Therefore, Sir, the problems that are facing us are enormous. We have at the same time to revitalize and modify the existing machinery and adjust it to suit the altered circumstances. We have to plan and prepare schemes for the future development and progress of the country. We have also at the same time to face many dangers, internal and external, which are trying to disintegrate and bring us down. Therefore, Sir, the problems before us are enormous. We have at the same time to devise ways and means to solve all these problems simultaneously. Now in these circumstances can we consider our present Cabinet set-up to be adequate and able to face the situation? I am afraid, Sir, that the answer is in the negative. No doubt we have in the present Cabinet some of the most distinguished men of the country. We have in our Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister acknowledged leaders of the country and those men who have led us in the struggle for freedom and led us successfully. We have the Honourable the Prime Minister who is not only present leader of the country, but is a Minister of External Affairs Department. He has at the same time to rush up here and there, trying to cope with an unexpected situation here and an unexpected situation there and at the same time he has to go through a huge amount of written work of his Department, *i.e.*, the External Affairs and the Commonwealth Relations Departments. I may say that the same is the situation with regard to the Honourable the Deputy Prime Minister who is at the head of three Departments and at the same time one of the great leaders of our country, who has to do what I may call extra-departmental work in rushing here and there and trying to presuade people or make them do this or that. Now I will ask you, Sir, whether it is possible not only now, but for some more time to come—I can venture to say that time may not come even for 4 or 5 years more whether all these leaders will be able in the extraordinary circumstances in which they are placed to attend to the departmental work and at the same time look to leading the country and the masses of India. As things are at present, it is not possible for the greatest genius physically to cope with such an enormous amount of work. The same is the case with regard to others to a lesser degree. The Honourable Minister for Industries and Supplies, has to look to the development of Industries in India and at the same time to the supply position. With regard to our agricultural and food problem there is the Honourable Minister for Food and Agriculture who has to do all these things simultaneously. I would submit, Sir, that it is not possible for many of these Ministers to go through conscientiously with all the work that they would like to and they ought to. I am quite aware that many of them confess themselves that they are not able to cope with the enormous amount of work that they have to do. The abnormal times in which we are living are really responsible for this state of things. Now in these conditions, the net result is that we find that the departmental heads the

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Bureaucracy has everything left to do without much control and ultimately they carry on the work and they guide the work of the Departments, because the Ministers have not much time to look to them. It has happened, Sir, in many cases important schemes have become *null* and *void* because the Ministers have not had time to look to them and approve them. Now, I submit, Sir, this state of things cannot be allowed to continue any longer. Not only in the interests of the country, but in the interest of the Ministry itself and in the interest of efficient work, we cannot allow many important questions that are facing us to be left unsolved or to be left half-solved or solved in an imperfect way. I submit, Sir, that without a thorough control and check on the bureaucratic machine without a thorough guidance into the new channels into which we would like to guide them, it will not be possible for us either to re-vitalize the Government of India or to set up our new construction schemes as we want them. Otherwise with things as they are going on at present we will go on drifting and doing things as we were doing before; we will not be able to give any new direction to affairs as we would like to and as Government have promised us that they would like to. I do not know what the obstacles are in the way of expansion or enlargement of the Cabinet; it is possible that the Honourable Prime Minister may be able to tell us. There have been rumours—I do not know how far they are true—that it is considered that there are not sufficient men of ability to do all this work and therefore Government are obliged to carry on with the able men that are available at present. I do not know if that is true; but at present we have as our National Cabinet a Cabinet of all talents. We have men taken from all parties, men who are there for their abilities and who can be professional Ministers. They are there because they can do their work well. We have many parties in the Ministry; probably we have most of the parties, except the R.S.S. and the Muslim League. It is possible that Government consider that sufficient talent for the Ministry does not exist in a particular party or a particular group. But they are at liberty, as they have done up till now, to take people from anywhere. The criterion we would place before them is that the work must be done quickly and efficiently and all the problems that are facing us must be dealt with quickly. And in the plans of national progress our reconstruction should be put through as quickly as possible. I submit to the Prime Minister that this should not be considered something entailing enormous expenditure. I find in calculation that a Minister is cheaper than a departmental Secretary, all expenses calculated. I am sure the Prime Minister will not consider that this is a kind of demand on Government to increase the strength of Ministers by any number, but we feel that the number must be increased to some extent and as soon as possible in order to cope with the immense amount of work before us. I would go even to the extent of saying that certain departments in which it is considered that development is necessary should be split up into two or three departments and put under different Ministers. For instance, it may be that in Defence we may have one department for the army and another for the air and navy. That is of course a hypothetical case; I am not saying that it should be done. But with regard to all departments we can have as many Ministers as are effectively able to deal with the work that is before us. The heavy burden on our present Ministers must be lightened and they must not be allowed to present the excuse that they have no time to look into this or that matter for pressure of work. I submit that this is not a matter which is to be taken lightly; this is a matter which we have to deal with urgently, and I am sure that the Prime Minister as leader of the Cabinet will inform us of the proposals that Government have to make about this matter.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, in attempting to elicit an answer from the Prime Minister in regard to the policy of Government on the subject of

planning the House and myself are well aware that no one here is more planning-minded than the Prime Minister himself. But there inevitably comes a time in human affairs that however keen one is action is delayed unless the attention of those concerned is focussed and some decision arrived at as a result of it. And my object in speaking on this motion now is that I feel that the mind of the Prime Minister might have been made up in one particular way, probably because of the accommodations contained in the report of the Advisory Board on Planning which was submitted about a year ago, the report of a Committee over which my honourable friend Mr. Neogy presided.

Sir, in the little time that is at my disposal I shall attempt to survey the recommendations of that report in the light of the background that existed prior to the Committee coming into being, and also to make a few suggestions with regard to the future. Sir, the report itself is one which I think has to be looked at from a different point of view now for the reason that the time the report was drafted certain conditions existed which made the Committee to suggest certain line of action on certain presumptions. The basic presumptions on which the Committee reported are now no longer valid. To take only a few instances, in para. 14 of the report the Committee presumes that for the next five years the provision of funds is not likely to create any difficulties. Again in para. 18 it says that all funds required can be raised by internal borrowing. Thereafter in para. 20 it says that India as a potential purchaser is relatively well placed for it seems likely that we shall have no difficulty in providing the foreign exchange needed. I am sure members of the House realise that the matter of raising funds is not quite so easy in the internal market, and so far as foreign exchange is concerned, we have more or less come to a dead end, unless arrangements can be made with Britain for the purpose of releasing a large part of our sterling resources and we can explore other avenues of borrowing money from the International Monetary Fund or other similar organisations. That in my view is one of the very many instances where we find that the Committee had taken more or less a short-range view of the whole question. In criticising the report of the Committee I would like to mention that apart from the close personal friendship that I have with the Chairman—he is a person for whose ability and integrity I have the highest regard—I do feel that we have to depart from the recommendations of that Committee to a very large extent at the moment. The Committee has not given a more or less unanimous report; there have been minutes of dissent. The Chairman himself has suggested that while he agrees that nationalisation may be good in certain cases—and he has himself been one of those who wanted nationalisation in certain aspects of our economic affairs—he feels that it should not be made a condition precedent for proceeding with the planning. Another important member of the Committee Mr. G. L. Mehta refers to para. 56 where it suggests nationalisation of certain industries and certain activities, and he says he does not agree. Sir Feroze Kharegat, an experienced official of Government, wants a master plan; he feels that the Committee has not suggested one. Of course it may be that because of his unfortunate personal experience of the meticulousness of the Finance Department which had in the past treated his proposals with scant courtesy, he says that there should be no meticulous financial examination of any proposals made by the Planning Commission. There is another very valuable minute of dissent from the pen of my Honourable friend, Mr. K. T. Shah. It is almost a book and in the causticity of its remarks it reaches Shavian levels. That is the background of the report.

And let me now examine some of the other aspects of the report. The report leaves the question of foreign capital in the air. As I said before so far as internal capital is concerned, it is satisfied that we will be able to

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raise for our needs enough. So far as foreign capital is concerned, it persists in the view that all the capital needed will be available in the country and no foreign capital need be brought into the country. There is confusion in regard to whether certain industries might be built up with foreign capital. It says: "Consumption industries should not be built up with foreign capital". And I find that whatever has been suggested in the report has had its effects even in the memorandum prepared by the Industry and Supply Department for the Industries Conference that took place recently, at which conference the resolution adopted regarding foreign capital is extremely vague.

On the main issue the report has suggested a machinery, the effect of which is a planning commission of five or three: the chairman, to be a person of considerable experience in public affairs and two other persons—one from Industry and Agriculture and Labour, and another from the Government Department's if it is three.

The report also takes into account certain ancillary bodies which could be used for this purpose which existed, or are supposed to be continuing to exist in the Government. The report says that the Co-ordination Committee of the Cabinet would do certain functions. Actually today the Co-ordination Committee of the Cabinet does not exist. Perhaps another committee called the Economic Sub-Committee of the Cabinet which has recently come into being might be doing some co-ordination. But it lacks the machinery that the Co-ordination Committee had. The report also mentions about the Planning Section of the I. & S. Department I find that the Planning Section of I. & S. that now exists relates to resettlement proposals for all India besides miscellaneous planning as far as centrally administered areas are concerned. And the reports pre-supposes that the Commerce Department will do a certain amount of work and so will the Tariff Board in regard to foreign trade and commerce. Again there is a reference to the Development Board of the Secretariat which I now understand is practically non-existent.

Actually, one fundamental feature of that report is that it has failed to realise that the existence of the Planning Commission must presume some kind of liaison establishment in the Secretariat. It says the Planning Commission will make recommendations about all manner of things. Then it, would act as a priority board. It mentions about initiating action in certain respects, but which is the agency to carry it out? There is no question of an ancillary Department in the Government of India being contemplated for the purpose. The Committee has recommended a Central Statistical Office, a suggestion which was mooted in the Government of India before and rejected by a Departmental Committee. But I find that there are various statistical organisations now existing such as the Industrial Survey Organisation in the I. & S. Department and the one attached to the Commerce Department. But there is nothing that now exists which could be called a Central Statistical Office.

The position really is this. If we admit that the recommendations of this Committee are valid, and start with the appointment of a Planning Commission now, there is absolutely nothing in the Government of India which would be able either to furnish it with aid or to carry out its recommendations. There is nothing that would ensure that any recommendations by that Commission, even if it is in a position to do so, will be carried out. For instance, today in the Government of India, so far as the Economic Advisor's Section is concerned, I do not think there is anyone at all senior enough for the purpose. We have no Chief Economic Adviser. We have a Deputy Economic Adviser and it looks as if we are left in the position of having to depend on the Adarkar family. As a matter of fact there appears to be an all round deterioration in

every department of this nature both qualitatively and quantitatively. The committee's recommendation to depart from the previous scheme and to establish a Planning Commission has to be viewed at from this angle. In regard to the experiment for Planning and Development Department the experience of the Ministry has been in some respects unfortunate. But that does not mean it ought to be condemned outright. I know all that happened at the time when there was a Ministry of Planning and Development, and the various extraneous factors that killed it. The fact was that the Ministry came into being just because the Governor-General wanted it. There was no organisation to support it. The Cabinet was functioning in such a manner that each Member was a law unto himself and the P. & D. Ministry provoked the hostility of every other Ministry. The Supply Department on which the Planning Department had to depend for informations and assistance in those days offered complete non-co-operation. The Planning Department was supposed to have inherited the powers of the War Resources Board, but what it did inherit really was General Hutton as its Secretary. The fact that Sir A. Dalal wanted to interfere with the Commercial safeguards scheme of 1935 Act eventually killed it. But what is interesting to note is that it was later replaced by a Co-ordination Committee of the Cabinet, presumably for the purpose of providing—Sir Eric Coates with a post of importance. But in itself the experiment is interesting. But whether due to the personality of that particular officer who was its Secretary or due to the exigencies of the period, the Secretary of the co-ordination Committee was able to move about all round the Secretariat and was in a position to get things done.

My plea today is that if you establish a Planning Commission at the moment, as it is it would be able to do nothing. What I would humbly suggest to the Prime Minister is not to revive the entire Planning Department of the past but to reconstitute it in a manner that is entirely different. I am not copying the Pakistan example when I say that it is better for the Government of India to bring into being a Ministry of Economic Affairs. The Ministry of Economic Affairs for the time being could be attached to the Prime Minister but work under the Direction of the Economic sub-Committee of the Cabinet. This would practically help to revive all the organisation that have been more or less allowed to fall into disuse or disappear—an organisation for providing economic advice; a Central organisation research for the various purposes of planning.

We have perhaps a nucleus of some of these in some respects. They have to be put together and quite a lot of spade work will have to be done and every department dealing with the economic activities of Government will have to have such a section dealing with planning and that the Cabinet sub-Committee can co-ordinate the work of all those sections. Have a Central Statistical Office and also a Consultative Committee similar to what has been recommended by the Planning Advisory Board. Then we shall in a couple of years time be ready or perhaps even before for an independent Planning Commission such as envisaged in this report.

I would like to say that the only other analogy in regard to a Planning Commission of the type contemplated in the report is from Russia and the position in that country is entirely different. The Planning Commission of Russia has 42 Departments Working under it and at the time it was brought into being and on later occasions also, it has been specifically stated that the Planning Commission could give directions to all departments of Government and the Departments will have to carry them out. No such position can be envisaged in our own country. Therefore, for the time being, the Honourable the Prime Minister had better ignore the main recommendations of the Planning Advisory Committee and create a machinery that would more or less do the spade work that the Dalal Ministry was intended to do at the time it

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came into being. That I think would meet the needs of the situation and it is mainly this, Sir, that I wanted to bring to the notice of the Prime Minister.

Meantime a consultative committee on the lines of the recommendation of the Committee can be created. Similar organizations can be created in all the provinces. As a matter of fact, some such organization exists at present in some of the provinces. What I would like to suggest is that the members of the Economic Sub-Committee of the Cabinet should individually go to the Provinces accompanied by a responsible official of the Ministry of Economic Affairs if one such is created and see what is being done and any further consultation could be done by the Provinces and the Centre meeting in the Consultative Committee or whatever organisation might be created for the purpose. The need of the moment is to create an organisation which has an executive character, which will be able to get all the departments of Government to act together and which will be in a position to bring into being the various ancillary bodies needed rather than create a new and independent organisation, which often serves a decorative and not a useful purpose. I would say before concluding that it would be perfectly suitable and proper for the Minister for Industries to bring into being an Industrial Board, if necessary, to manage the Sindhri factory and the steel plants which are going to be established but the creation of a Planning Commission, I think, at the moment is premature. This is what I would like to urge upon the Prime Minister for his immediate consideration.

TAXATION ON INCOME (INVESTIGATION COMMISSION) (AMENDMENT) BILL

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Taxation on Income (Investigation Commission) Act, 1947.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 10—CABINET

(i) Inadequate number of Ministers and consequent lack of effective control over Departments (ii) Planning Policy of Government

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Keskar. I shall have very little to say, except that I endorse every word of what he has said and I shall give a few details regarding some of the statements that he has made.

The cut motion relates to the smallness of the number of ministers and the consequent lack of efficiency in administration. It is a composite motion not only relating to the number of ministers but also to the inefficiency of the mechanism of administration. Thus you have two parties brought into the picture, first the ministers and secondly the secretariat. I shall deal with the second first, as my Honourable friend has dealt with the first portion fairly adequately.

The secretariat portion is really the basal structure, the foundation and the plinth of the structure of the Indian National Government. The secretariat continues to be what it was. The traditions which have been developed are not the traditions which we would like to perpetuate. The traditions that surround the secretariat were built up under circumstances totally different to the circumstances in which we

are ruling. The very rules and regulations are different. They were made when the bureaucracy occupied the lower as well as the top rungs of the ladder. The secretaries were endowed with enormous powers, almost the powers of passing final orders. In fact there was no distinction between the Secretary of a Department and the Member of the Department in those days except that the secretary was a daughter-in-law who rose to the position of the mother-in-law of a Member in a short time. Naturally the superior officer sympathised with the position of the subordinate officer as he rose from the secretary's position to the Member's position. Indeed when he was secretary he was doing all the work of the Member, so also when he became a Member he began to rest on his oars and left every thing to the Secretary. The Secretary therefore became possessed of all finalising powers,—a policy which has continued more or less up to the present day. Now this system has to be completely overhauled. In order to overhaul the system, it requires enormous effort, capacity, genius for details, painstaking and patience. That alone constitutes fairly difficult work for the ministry. I do not blame the ministers for not having been able to tackle this formidable task, because the ministers unfortunately have been engaged in unexpected preoccupations. That is one main point.

You go to the Secretariat building itself. It is a maze of labyrynths, meandering and sinuous corridors, one does not know where one is. I went once by the last gate. I was told the reception office was closed. I was directed to be middle gate. There the people said that I must go by the last gate. I told them the reception office was closed, though it was before 5 P.M. and what was I to do. I asked a gentleman to come with me and he said that it was not his business and so we had a struggle and at last I discovered some person who identified me. He led me to the middle gate and then back to the last gate. There I was obstructed. They said oh "You have come this way" "Yes, I have" I said "but where is your reception office?" This gentleman who escorted me found that the reception office was closed and what was I to do. He left me and I went upstairs quietly.

Then I found myself at one end of this block. I thought that the Home and the States Department, were together, because they were under one Minister but the fact was that Home Department was at one end the States Department was at the other end. I walked up the whole distance. I was duly escorted from block to block until at last I went from right to left, left to right, then took a rightabout turn till ultimately I found myself in a place where they said "No doubt it is there but that portion and this portion are not connected by a bridge. Please go down and go a few steps and then go up." Then I did this journey and there I was confronted with the receptionist. He kindly telephoned to the gentleman I wanted and I found myself safe at the destination after a miles walk. This is the mechanical portion

A certain gentleman who has made original research in inorganic chemistry and atomic fission brought his thesis to me and he wanted to be introduced to some officer who could transmit it to the savants of foreign countries. I went in search of secretary after secretary and at last I found a certain gentleman helpful. What a task it was! If you go to the railway station you know just where the first class lavatory is, or the second class lavatory or the women's lavatory is,—all immediately, by the boards. Also you know where is the first class refreshment room, the second class restaurant, the booking office, the telegraph office, the station master's office, the goods office, the parcel office and so on. But here there is nothing to guide you. There are 16 Ministries and perhaps there are 40 departments. Each minister has got four or five departments under him. There is no guidance, there is no outer signboard anywhere. It is a vast maze. The old secretariat building has a rotten arrangement. It must be corrected and I hope one of the ministers will take it as a pastime and look into this matter. I asked for a chart or

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a map if any in order to show me which is located where and which gentleman is sitting in which room. The Deputy Secretary kindly promised to look into it and sent it to the engineering department. I dare say it will come in a couple of years. That is the mechanical side of it.

Now a word about the administrative aspect. A gentleman came and quartered himself upon me and lived with me for one month, because he wanted to know whether a certain export control was continuing or not. He went to the office day in and day out. I did not interest myself enough but at last I wanted the room and therefore I offered to look after his affair and sent him away after 28 days. For four months we never got a reply. At the end I phoned up by chance a certain gentleman on the advice of a friend and he said that this control was removed on the 26th of July whereas the man waited for 28 days without getting this information in August. I do not want to bring up these questions by means of an interpellation in the legislature. I therefore have adopted the practice of writing to the secretaries or departments by means of personal letters private and public. A certain officer was wrongly dismissed in my opinion. I have looked into the whole case, and got legal opinion on it. I have been trying to correspond with the Defence Department as well as the Home Department with which the case was concerned. They always presented technical difficulties in the way of redressing the wrong. Nothing is possible absolutely, it is the same old story under a new name. This secretariat must be reformed.

What is the position today of the Secretariat *vis-a-vis* of the Honourable the Ministers? Each minister is surrounded by four or five I.C.S. secretaries. In the year 1928 there was a movement called the 'No Tax Campaign' of an agrarian nature in Bardoli and some wag writing a book described in the tune of the Charge of the Light Brigade, when the police people attached the people's buffaloes, "Police to the right, of them, police to the left, of them, police to the front of them to the back marched the buffalo brigade." And here what do you find? I.C.S. to the right, I.C.S. to the left, I.C.S. to the front of them march the Ministerial brigade. This is a most extraordinary state of things. We must look into this matter. I know that our Ministers who have been transplanted from another region—from the jails—into the secretariat chamber may not flourish there because the soil may not be good, the atmosphere may not be good and the seed itself may be wrong. All these things are possible and the help of the I.C.S. may be necessary for a time and is necessary. But let it not be understood that we are under I.C.S. rule. I greatly appreciate the answers given in this House by the Ministers! they are expansive, they are detailed, they are helpful, they are co-operative. If the same spirit pervades the whole atmosphere of administration in the secretariat, a new chapter will open out.

Then I will come to the Ministers. I am fond of saying that the government of a country is one and indivisible. So also finance is one and indivisible. If a country is divided into Provinces and Centre it is just for convenience of administration. If a Government in the Centre is divided into Ministries it is for convenience of administration. But no single administrator or Minister is a self-complete organism in himself. The whole gamut has to be traversed in order to get at a point. For instance, in a province if you want an electricity licence you have to go to the Local Self-Government Department so far as the particular town is concerned; it has to go to the P.W.D.; and finally comes the super-master, the arch builder and destroyer, the Finance Minister. He can do and undo things. The Finance Minister is the coping-stone of the arch. He is there to do or undo things. He is to be a supremely independent minister. I do not want to go into details. Every aspect of the matter is inter-connected, enmeshed and inter-twined with a number of Departments. How are we to extricate and unravel all this? There must be

a Liaison Minister between every three Ministers. This gentleman must take note of all the complications that have set in in the course of the day and gather the three Ministers and try to unravel the whole thing by the evening. Attach this man to every group and whether the complications be financial, technical, or departmental, they must be cleared up, and you will get a solution very quickly. I have managed some institutions. The first thing I did was to read all the post. You will then know all the errors of your Department. Of course our Ministers have no time to read the post. They must set somebody to do the business. When they do this they can understand what are the difficulties. I consider that the Premier is overburdened with duties. He has to work for 17 hours a day and I don't want to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. After all we want him for a long time and so I would ask him to relieve himself of some of his duties. The Premiership and Foreign Affairs can never go together. Mr. Asquith who was once a Premier of Britain was also Minister for Foreign Affairs and he gave the latter over to Lord Curzon. Mr. Eden took over the duties from his predecessor. The Premier's duties are so onerous and responsible and foreign affairs are still more so onerous and responsible that the one, overlapped upon the other makes the burden intolerably heavy. In addition our Premier has Planning as I now discover. Planning constitutes exclusive work for one Minister. In addition there is the Federal Court though I suppose the judges are not going to give much trouble. Similarly, the Home Department portfolio had three or four additional Departments of which the Refugee Department has recently been given to a separate Minister. In addition to Home, there is under the same Minister Information, then States, and then Broadcasting also. I am very sorry that the Sardar is not here. He has fallen ill. Apparently he has fallen very ill. Who is to take over his duties? Is your mechanism of Ministry such as automatically to arrange to put a certain man to discharge the duties if any one minister by accident or by misfortune were to fall ill or has to go on leave? Again our Premier has not yet begun to make foreign travels. He will have to travel for very many reasons. Tomorrow if he goes abroad then who is to take his place? What is the second line force that you are preparing? Why not take some young men and train them as Junior Ministers. It has been made sufficiently plain that there should be some Parliamentary Secretaries. I do not like that name and I would call them Junior Ministers. Such Junior Ministers must be brought into existence immediately in order to get through the routine and take over the administration and final order-making duties from the secretariat. Every order in a National Ministry must go over the signature of a Minister or Junior Minister. When this is done the Junior Ministers will be able to get all the information in an authoritative manner—not merely as Clerks or Secretaries but as Ministers—and will post you with all the details and relieve you of the routine work with which you are burdened or ought to be burdened at the present moment. In this manner you will find that Commerce and Industries are inter-related to each other, that Education and Health are inter-related to each other, that Railways and Communications are inter-related to each other and that Works, Mines and Power and Labour are inter-related to each other. The other day we were confronted with a Bill for the acquisition of lands and the renovation of lands in Delhi and Ajmer Provinces. What was the position? We immediately discovered that we had to approach the Finance Minister if we changed the contents of the Bill. Then nothing can be done unless the Finance Minister is consulted. These things are inter-related in administration, and the more you give attention to these matters the better. Junior Ministers are therefore necessary as connecting link. I am not asking for this for any particular reason. I am not a candidate for either of the posts. But I would say that in the interests of good administration and the success of nationalism these matters must be seriously taken up. I do not blame anybody. You have had sufficient difficulties already and we are not going

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to add to them. We know that unexpected conditions have supervened and complicated the even march of our progress and the tranquil manner in which we ought to have gone on. That is a legacy that has fallen to our lot. I would only beg that you should give attention to these matters seriously because it is now almost 1½ years since our Government took up office, first with twelve Ministers which became subsequently thirteen, fourteen, fifteen and now sixteen Ministers out of whom two are more or less *ad hoc*. When the refugee work is over that Minister will have to be given another portfolio and when the Liaison work is over the other Minister will have similarly to be given some portfolio if he cares to stay. I know also that the Ministers are here not because they have sought the jobs but in answer to an urgent public call. Therefore all the greater praise do I bestow upon them. Under these circumstances I would like you all to steal some time from the routine of duties and make this mechanism more efficient and more perfect.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya (Mysore State): I wanted to speak on behalf of the States.

Mr. Chairman: But the time is so short.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: I would like to tell the Honourable the Prime Minister that the people of the States who form more than one-third of the population of India and in area nearly half, have not had any representation on the Cabinet so far. The Prime Minister was formerly President of the States People's Conference. . .

Mr. Chairman: I am afraid I cannot allow this speech to go on.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: Everytime this is what is happening to the States people.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member, if he so desires, can bring an adjournment motion to discuss the matter.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): May I say a word about the Centrally governed areas?

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: With the permission of the Chair I would like to suggest that we may go on for another half an hour and discuss the matter.

Mr. Chairman: I have got four names and if I were to allow everybody to speak it will be past six o'clock and the Honourable the Prime Minister will require half an hour to reply to the debate. Next time we might make better arrangements. This time we must be content with the arrangements as they are.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, it is not quite clear to me what the matters mentioned by the two Honourable Members who spoke last—something about the States and something about the Centrally administered areas—have got to do with the motions under discussion. Are they supposed to be some separate motions or are they parts of these?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: If you will permit me to say a few words, Sir, the idea of including the Centrally governed area was to suggest that there should be a separate Ministry for this. It will be conducive to more efficient working if a separate Minister is appointed.

An Honourable Member: What about the Central Provinces and Berar?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: If we are to provide a Minister for each of such areas, we should have a thousand.

I am in an unfortunate position, unfortunate in the way that I find it very difficult to resist the arguments advanced today on both these motions. Dr.

Keskar's motion is to the effect that there should be more Ministers and that the Departments should be better controlled. I do not quite know what he means by Departments being better controlled, nor do I quite understand what Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, in his very interesting remarks, said. If Dr. Keskar thinks that by appointing a number of Ministers the Departments would be better controlled, I think he is wrong—in fact entirely wrong. It is much more likely that the Ministers who are appointed so will be for a long time controlled by others. Instead of their controlling they will be controlled or they will fail to understand the machine and the permanent machine will control them. This is not a matter so much of policy or of circumstances in India It is the development of an intricate and complicated system of administration in every country. If Dr. Pattabhi had had to walk a mile here in some secretariat building, he probably would have to walk about seventy miles in a War Office building in Washington—just one War Office building—I am not talking of the whole secretariat. The secretariat establishments now of great countries are so enormous, so complicated, that nobody understands them; no government understands them: they run themselves as a spontaneous growth.

An Honourable Member: A Frankenstein.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: General): The officers themselves do not know what they have got to do.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So that this is a problem which is not solved by appointing more Ministers, but it is a separate problem and a very difficult problem. In fact one of the major problems of the age is how to control this intricate system of administration democratically because democracy cannot deal with such problems. Only high class experts in an organization can really understand it. The democratic system arose in a fairly simple way where high principles were laid down and they were carried out by certain civil servants: but when the civil servants job became not only frightfully intricate but also rather technical—because it is becoming more and more technical—then a democratically elected House finds it difficult to consider it in all its details. So the civil servants or the technical establishment became progressively more and more independent because nobody could understand or control them. They just laid down principles or high policies. It is a very difficult matter to consider and in fact the whole democratic structure of government is rather imperilled by this development. I do not think therefore that the appointment of additional Ministers will by itself bring about any radical change in the control of departments. I do agree that—whether you may call them Ministers or Deputy Ministers—it is desirable to have a large number of heads looking after these various activities. On the other hand, if you increase the number of Ministers, the Cabinet becomes uncontrollable.

An Honourable Member: In England there are 21 Members of the Cabinet.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That is why it is not a very good one.

It is a grave difficulty. There is a tendency then for the Cabinet Ministers to function separately. It ceases to be a practical thing. The whole idea of Cabinet Government is that it should be practical, a jointly responsible thing.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): We could have additions with Cabinet rank or without Cabinet rank.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am going to deal with that point. So I think it is definitely undesirable for the Cabinet to be too big. It cannot function together. In fact, if I may confess it, even our present Cabinet is slightly difficult to functions together. In fact, to give you a very

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simple test, it becomes sometimes difficult to sit even round a table together, and if people have to sit in two or three rows, it ceases to be an informal meeting to consider a matter. It becomes more like a public meeting: so that the only way out is not to increase the Cabinet Ministers but to have somebody in the nature of Deputy Minister or whatever he might be called. You may perhaps have some kind of Deputy Minister in charge of each major department and a person who can be called a Cabinet Minister in charge of three or four of them, in supervisory charge. That is a possibility. It is true that the work of many of the Ministers—in fact of all of them—is very heavy. Anyhow it would have been heavy because we had to catch up, not to carry on a machine but create precedents and do many such things. Quite apart from this, the events of the last six months have put such a tremendous pressure upon Government and prevented it doing many things which it otherwise might have done, that it has become really difficult to know how to deal with all the problems that we have. It is not of course a question of lack of policy or of people not being eager enough to do this or that job. It is far more an intricate question of doing something which is an organic growth and which is not upsetting. Now for instance we had the case of appointing additional Ministers in this Government, first Mr. Neogy who came as Minister for Rehabilitation and Relief; then Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar. After their appointment, for some weeks almost, they were homeless. They did not have a place to sit in or an office. They did not have a Secretary, clerk or stenographer or anybody because naturally the establishment here thinks in terms of a Minister having a certain circle of Secretaries, assistants, helpers, menials, etc., and if all of that is not there, he simply cannot function.

An Honourable Member: That is the trouble, Sir.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is certainly the trouble and perhaps might be important. Nevertheless it is true that you do want some place and some organization to function. If you are to function efficiently, you must have a certain equipment and certain place to sit in and certain methods of work, so that it is an odd thing, you will notice, that this House protests—and rightly protests—against the increase of bureaucracy and at the same time it suggests things which inevitably involve increase of bureaucracy. The Minister is just there—somewhere—one person but with him he brings in thirty or forty or fifty officers sitting to the right and to the left of him.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: That is because you want to bring more members on the top on the same foundations.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Anyway it is a difficult problem. The House will not expect me to give a precise answer to these questions, but I do realise that it is necessary to make some further arrangements for, if I may say so, the individual supervision of various departments more than it can be done now. I do not think Ministers can be added to—certainly you could have one or two more, but I rather doubt whether the increase will be conducive to better work. May I say that long before I requested Mr. Neogy to come in as Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, even then we were thinking in terms of a Minister for Social Welfare and Economic Welfare, some such Minister, because we attach considerable importance to that. But then other events came in, the Punjab events and others, which put that rather away from our minds.

I should like in this connection, if I may, to say something about certain remarks that have been made, and that have been repeated I believe outside, in criticism of certain of my Colleagues. In fact, they are named—four of my Colleagues—and the criticism made is that for various reasons they should not be in the Cabinet, that they should resign. Now, obviously I am the person primarily responsible for their appointment to the Cabinet and if any criticism is to be made it should be made about my appointment or about me—not about them. As a matter of fact, I have no doubt that each one of them would willingly and gladly divest himself of this tremendous responsibility at the slightest suggestion; nobody is sticking on or holding on to office. Office is not a pleasure nowadays, as the House might well realise; it is not easy now to induce people even to accept office because it is so difficult and the burden is so heavy. In fact, I might mention that two of my Colleagues—I shall not name them now—have actually repeatedly asked me to relieve them, but it is at my request only that they have continued, and one of them has only continued at my request for a limited period of time and not for long. So I would say this, that it is rather unfair on my Colleagues and on me for these criticisms to be made. I can understand that it is the right of any member of the public to demand on public grounds or other grounds that the Cabinet may be changed or the Government may be changed. Or if he likes occasionally he may criticise any individual Member of Government. But this persistent criticism of some Members of Government and a demand for their withdrawal from the scene of their activities is improper unless it is coupled, as it should be coupled, by a change of Government completely and primarily by the removal of the Prime Minister who is responsible for them.

I may say that naturally the Cabinet as it exists today is what you might call a "mixed" Cabinet, you may call it a Cabinet of various talents or varying talents, whichever you like. It was deliberately made that way, whether that was rightly done or wrongly done is another matter, but it was deliberately made from the point of view of having various elements in the Cabinet who could devote themselves with ability to the particular tasks in hand. It was not meant at that time to be just a purely Party Cabinet, although undoubtedly the viewpoint of the Party was the dominating viewpoint and had to be because that viewpoint was represented by the great majority in this House, and we were responsible to this House, and the majority in the Cabinet also represented that viewpoint. Nevertheless, it was not conceived to be a purely Party Cabinet. It was felt by me and by those Colleagues of mine whom I consulted at the time that in the peculiar context of events after this changeover we should proceed on a wider basis. No doubt gradually, as soon as the immediate problems are over, we thought things would take some other shape—may be there may be purely Party Ministries or All-Party Ministries whatever that might be—but immediately in the early days of August when I had to think about it I thought this was the right thing to do and those Colleagues whom I consulted also thought that that was right. We cannot, in the changing context of today, make plans for any lengthy period of time; I can only look a few months ahead, I do not know what may happen after that. So it was in that context that we made this Cabinet, deliberately including people who were not definitely of the Congress persuasion but whom we expected naturally to fall in line with the general viewpoint of this House.

I wish to say this, that in spite of differences of opinion on many topics we have pulled on with extreme friendliness and co-operation; we have differed, we have argued, but we have in a very large measure shown very great loyalty to each other. So it distresses me to see any Colleagues of mine criticised in the way some of them have been criticised in the Press.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: But that is for supporting the Nehru Government!

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: May I say a few words about planning? I do not entirely understand or agree with Mr. Krishnamachari's suggestion that planning as such should be postponed for two years and preparations for planning should be made till then by the appointment of various other liaison agencies on the Secretarial level. I agree that those liaison agencies should be appointed on the Secretarial level. I thought it might be

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a good thing to revive the Cabinet Co-ordination Committee which existed last year; it did do some good work, I think it might be revived. I do not know that the Development Board as such, as it existed, would do much good now. We have now, you will remember, something of this kind; we have now the Rehabilitation and Development Board and although it is thinking in terms of refugees only, nevertheless it is thinking in terms of development also. I hope that either as an extension of this or independently of this something more in the nature of planning will be arranged.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: A Central Planning Commission.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Now, the various liaison bodies can come into existence almost at the same time or may be that the Planning Authority itself may create them—quite possibly. This business of doing a lot of spadework in preparation for the Planning Authority hardly seems to me to be necessary partly because we have got tired of spadework—we have been doing it year after year without any structure emerging out of it.

Another thing that I am anxious that we should do is to improve the complete set up of our statistical organisation. At the present moment many of our Ministries have some Statistical departments. That is not good enough; we are very bad in regard to statistics, although as a matter of fact Indian statistics have a very high reputation in the world today; that is not Governmental statistics but some Indian experts have a very high reputation. I hope that before very long we shall organise a set-up connecting governmental activities with the non-official statistical organisations so that this work may go ahead. That will also be the foundation for the planning activities in the future.

There are many things that might be said about planning; it is a vast subject. But all I can say to Mr. Krishnamachari is that I am intensely interested in it and I am very sorry that events have somehow compelled us not to pay much more attention to it. I do hope that before this Session is over we might be able to produce some more concrete proposals.

Shri B. Das: May I put a question to the Honourable the Prime Minister? Is he aware that the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Supply told us on Friday afternoon that the Honourable the Prime Minister would allot a day to the House to have a discussion regarding industrial planning and the formation of a Planning Commission, and if so, whether he is allotting a day for it?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, certainly. Sometime in the session.

Mr. Chairman: Do the Honourable Members concerned wish to press their cut motions?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No, Sir. I would like to withdraw my cut motion.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I would also like to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Members, Shri Krishnamachari and Dr. Keskar wish to withdraw their cut motions. Do they have leave of the House to withdraw?

The cut motions were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,08,000 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 'Cabinet'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday the 10th March 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Wednesday, 10th 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:

Sardar Hukam Singh (East Punjab: Sikh)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COMMITTEES

656. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Research Committees connected with agriculture and improvement of cultivation appointed by the Government of India;

(b) whether Government have considered their proposals and if so, with what results; and

(c) how many of these committees are permanent and how many were appointed for specific purposes?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (c). Seven permanent Commodity Committees have been set up by Government to deal with research problems relating to cotton, lac, sugarcane, coconut, jute, tobacco and oilseeds. A temporary Kans Control Committee has also been formed to undertake investigations and to recommend the most effective methods of controlling Kans (kind of weeds) with special reference to the immediate possibility of increasing food production. It will be wound up by the end of this year.

(b) An areca-nut Committee is also due to start functioning soon. These Committees have not to submit reports to the Government for action but undertake research and development with their own funds raised through cesses or grants from the Government. Their activities are described in their annual reports.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government propose to set up a Committee to go into the question of co-operative or collective farming?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Does this arise from my reply to the question?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Well, I do not know. He must know. It is here stated in part (a) of the question.....''connected with agriculture and improvement of cultivation'', and collective farming is . . . . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. No further arguments.

Seth Govinddas: In view of the fact that in different provinces there are different sorts of lands, will Government consider it feasible to appoint Provincial Committees, so that they may go into the question of research?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Does the Honourable Member suggest that the Government of India should ask the Provincial Governments to appoint committees on these matters? Government will consider that question.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if the Government of India or the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research were doing any research in regard to potato and sweet potato cultivation, and whether they are continuing such research or have they given it up?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: This question relates to committees appointed by the Government of India, but this supplementary question relates to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. I will give full replies if a fresh question is put.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My information is that the responsibility has been transferred to the Government of India. What is the position? The question of research of potato and sweet potato cultivation has according to my information been transferred or is sought to be transferred to the Government of India.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I shall require notice of that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that these Committees meet for once or twice in a year and that only for one day at a time, with the result that they are not able to do much work and they have been presided over by the Vice President of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, who is himself pressed for time?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Are there any arrangements for conveying to the agriculturist the results of these researches?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I myself feel that the arrangements for conveying the results of research to the agriculturists are not satisfactory and I hold that special efforts ought to be made. I propose to go into that question as soon as I have more leisure.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of taking advantage of the services of popular organisations of the peasants themselves like the Kisan Congress in order to convey the results of the research to the agriculturists?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That suggestion will be considered.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether when the Arecanut Committee starts functioning and whether the growers of arecanut will be associated with that Committee?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say at present.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: What are the results of these researches for the past two years?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I shall require notice of that question.

INSTITUTION FOR THE TRAINING OF PILOTS, GROUND ENGINEERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS.

657. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether there is any School or College for training Air Pilots and Ground Engineers and Officers for Administrative posts?

(b) If so, where is it located and how many students have passed these courses during the year 1947?

(c) Are any scholarships given for this class of training?

(d) Have Government any plan for the expansion of this college and for opening new colleges at other centres in India? If so, in what places?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (b). A scheme for the training of commercial pilots, ground engineers and flying control officers, is expected to be put into operation during the next cold weather, possibly even earlier.

(c) The question of the grant of scholarships is included as part of the scheme.

(d) The present plans of Government contemplate the opening of the Flying Training and Aerodrome Schools at Allahabad and the Aircraft Engineering School at Barrackpore. Government have no plans at this stage for opening training schools at other centres.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: When is it likely to start this school?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I hope in July next.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if Government still propose to use Flying Clubs for this purpose?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes: The training shall be limited to the Flying Clubs.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister if his attention has been drawn to a report appearing in the *Statesman* 2 or 3 days back about the parlous condition of the Bengal Flying Club and whether Government propose to do anything in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: My attention has been drawn to it and I have asked for information.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Is it a fact that Civilian pilots will have to spend Rs. 30,000 to get themselves trained as a pilot?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That may be so.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: May I know if Government will make arrangements to make it more easy for the training of the civilian pilots?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I think we are trying to do that.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: May I ask the Honourable Minister if any students had been sent abroad for training as pilots?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: So far as I am aware, no scholarships have been awarded by Government for this purpose, but private companies may have done so.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether women are eligible for pilot training, and if so, are any women being taken for that training?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: As I have said, the school has not yet been started and the suggestion will be considered.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know what particular steps have Government taken to make it possible and to make it easier for people to get training as civil pilots?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Government is opening a school and giving some financial aid to the pilots, who will be trained.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know what will be the cost to a student for purposes of getting licence under the new scheme? Could we have any idea?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am not in a position to give the information to the Honourable Member, but if he puts a fresh question, I will be able to give a definite reply.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, whether Government have an estimate of the number of pilots that will be required for the country during the next 5 years?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: No, but the Government is thinking of having as many as possible; in the first year 75 students will be admitted and the number would be doubled later on.

CONTINUANCE OF COMMUNAL DISTINCTION IN SUPPLYING WATER, REFRESHMENTS ETC. AT RAILWAY STATIONS.

658. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government are aware that even after 15th August, 1947, at many Railway stations cries of "Hindu Pani" and "Muslim Pani" are heard?

(b) Have Government issued orders to all concerned that such expressions should not be used while supplying water to passengers?

(c) If so, when?

(d) Are there any sign-boards bearing the words "Hindu Refreshment Room" and "Mohammedan Refreshment Room" in any of the Railway stations in India?

(e) If so, do Government intend to continue these communal refreshment rooms?

(f) Was a suggestion made to the Railway authorities to replace these names by describing them as "Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian Refreshment Rooms", by the Federation of Passengers' Associations of India?

(g) If so, with what result?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) In October 1946.

(d) Yes.

(e), (f) and (g). Government are aware suggestions have been made that in future there should be only "Vegetarian" and "Non-vegetarian" Refreshment Rooms. This suggestion is to come up for discussion at an early meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister in reply to part (a) has said 'No'. May I know whether his attention has been drawn to this *Hindu pani* and *Muslim pani* being bawled out from Abu Road on the B., B. and C. I. right to Ahmedabad?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Has the Honourable Minister himself ascertained? What is his information?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have no information.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Are Government aware that there is no civilised nation in the world to whom food and water are supplied on grounds of religion?

Mr. Speaker: That is only giving information.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable Minister aware that at several stations there are stalls bearing the signboards "Orthodox Water" and "General Water"?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, I am aware of that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government take steps to discontinue this practice?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, Sir, I am putting it before the Central Advisory Council.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Have any instructions been issued to prohibit the serving of beef and pork in railway refreshment rooms?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a matter which has been considered by the Central Advisory Council, and I think there is a strong opinion in that Council that it should be stopped. But we have taken no final decision yet and this matter will also come up in the next meeting of the Advisory Council.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Is the Honourable Minister aware that vegetarian food is not supplied in dining cars, and will he take steps to arrange it?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, we are going to see that it is supplied.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the proposal of the Honourable Minister before the Central Advisory Council as regards the replacement of the words "Orthodox Water"?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We had a preliminary discussion at a meeting some time ago of the Central Advisory Council, and the suggestion was made that instead of the labels "Orthodox" and "General" being affixed to *Chattis* and trolleys and so on, the best way of doing it would be to get the watermen in charge of these things dressed in such a way that one can distinguish whom they represent without any labels. That I think was the suggestion; but, as I said, the whole matter is coming up for consideration again.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it intended to make a distinction regarding this water by any name?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Honourable Member himself is one of the most active members of the Central Advisory Council and in the course of a week or so we are going to meet and he will have plenty of opportunity to discuss this.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Is it a fact that both types of water are composed of hydrogen and oxygen?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They are supposed to be.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the words "Orthodox", "Non-orthodox" and "Muslim Orthodox" are used in the Council Chamber restaurant?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware of it.

CONTRACTS FOR PURCHASE OF GRAINS FOR MILITARY REQUIREMENTS

659. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state the names of the firms which held contracts for the purchase of grain for military requirements during the last seven years?

(b) Is it a fact some firms established in Pakistan still make purchases for military requirements?

(c) Are tenders invited every year for this contract?

(d) When was the last tender invited and was the lowest tenderer given the contract?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Messrs. Owen Roberts and Co., Ltd., Lahore worked as purchasing agents for foodgrains for the Defence Services for 22 years. They were first appointed agents in 1926 as a result of open tenders. They were re-appointed in 1934 when tenders were called for. In 1937 the agreement with them was converted into one for indefinite period subject to 9 months' notice on either side. Notice of termination of agreement was given to the company on 1st April, 1947 and the agreement terminated on 31st December, 1947.

(b) As stated above Messrs. Owen Roberts Ltd., continued to be the purchasing agents up to 31st December, 1947 under the above agreement. After 15th August, 1947 no purchases were, however, made by them in Pakistan but their activities in the U. P. and Eastern Punjab (including States) continued up to 31st December, 1947 to feed the Grain Depot at Lucknow.

(c) No.

(d) The last tenders were invited in December 1947 for appointment of a Purchasing Agent for one year with effect from 1st January, 1948. After examination of the quotations received it was decided to discontinue purchasing of Foodgrains for the Defence Service through Agents and to make purchases by inviting tenders from the trade every fortnight.

Shri K. Santhanam: Has this firm tendered afterwards for any of these fortnightly purchases of grain?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not think so; I am not aware of it. I am prepared to give definite information if a fresh question is put.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Are open tenders invited?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: And are the lowest accepted?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

REPRESENTATIONS BY STUDENTS OF CENTRAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, DELHI

660. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that two representations signed by a majority of students of the Central College of Agriculture, Delhi, have been submitted to Government, one in November 1947 and another in February, 1948?

(b) In view of repeated representations by students, do Government propose to institute an unofficial inquiry into their grievances?

(c) What are the reasons for running an ordinary Agricultural College which is not engaged in any research work or special studies?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have decided to make full inquiries into the complaints made.

(c) The various post-war development plans of the Centre and of the Provinces and States involve a large demand for Agricultural graduates. The requirements of the Centre alone would come to about 500 graduates. The facilities for training in the existing colleges in the larger Provinces were being expanded, but these increases barley met their own requirements. The smaller Provinces, the Centrally administered areas and the Indian States were experiencing difficulty in arranging for the proper training of Agricultural graduates to meet their own needs. The Governing Body of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research recommended in 1944 that suitable steps should be taken to meet the situation. Enquiries from areas which have no colleges at present revealed that their requirements came to over 200 students a year. It was, therefore, decided to set up an Agricultural College at Delhi, the expenditure being borne by the Central Government. The College is not meant for research work.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: It may be that in other subjects also no arrangements are made in the colleges in the Centrally administered areas. So do the Central Government intend starting these colleges also?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I can only answer for my own department of Agriculture.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: With reference to part (a) of the question, will it be an official or unofficial inquiry?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It will be an official inquiry; Government will themselves make inquiries.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: What is the number of students from the centrally administered areas who are studying now in this college?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think the number is 26.

Shri B. N. Munavalli: How many of them are from the States?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say without notice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it proposed to conduct a farmer's training course of six months in this college?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When is it going to be started?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say straight off and give the definite time.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the subject matter of these representations?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There were complaints about the food supplied, treatment and a number of other matters.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Are there complaints about studies?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There are complaints about laboratory arrangements.

AEROGEN GAS PLANT FOR CENTRAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, DELHI.

661 *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no Aerogen Gas Plant has yet been set up in the Central College of Agriculture, Delhi and no gas lamps for experiments are available?

(b) Is it a fact that there is an Aerogen Gas Plant in the premises of the College which is claimed to have been supplied by two different Firms, one from Lahore and another from Delhi?

(c) To whom was payment in respect of the plant made?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Neither of the two firms has been paid the cost so far as the dispute between the two firms as to whom the Plant belonged has not yet been settled.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: How is it going to be settled?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: By further enquiries.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: My information is .....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member should not put questions regarding individual disputes. That may take its course.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: It is an important matter of administration.

Mr. Speaker: Then it will be details of administration into which he need not enter.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Has the Government come to a decision as to the location of the Central Agricultural College?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No. The site has not yet been finally selected.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: At what stage is the question now?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There are difficulties regarding the securing of a suitable site. We intended to secure an area near about Delhi. But that is going to be given for the refugee development scheme. We are trying to secure some other place.

Seth Govinddas: Will it be near Delhi or so?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: At present the idea is to have it not far from Delhi.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: It may be a joint college between Delhi and East Punjab and may be located in Hissar district, in East Punjab?

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action. Besides the Honourable Member also is not in his seat!

SHORTAGE OF FOOD STOCKS IN MADRAS PROVINCE.

†662. ***Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state with reference to the food situation in the Province of Madras:

(a) the expected shortage in the stocks essential for feeding the people;

(b) the stocks that are to be made actually available to the consumers apart from paper allocations;

(c) the provisions for meeting the discrepancy between parts (a) and (b) above;

(d) the expected duration of the shortage; and

(e) whether Government are aware that the shortage in Malabar District is very great and whether any special measures are being taken to rush food stuffs to Malabar in view of the density of population in that district?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) In pursuance of the Revised Food Policy of gradual decontrol and de-rationing, the Madras Government has already de-rationed many areas in the Province. According to their estimates, the rationed population, who will be dependent on Government supplies during the period 1st January to 31st October 1948 will in terms of adults, be about 60,00,000. For meeting the requirements of the rationed population during this period on an 8 ounce basis, they will require 400,000 tons of foodgrains. Against the requirements of 400,000 tons, they had on hand, on 1st January, 1948 100,000 tons Besides according to their estimates, they should be able to procure from the surplus districts, leaving the requirements of the surplus districts themselves, about 600,000 tons. That means, against the requirements of 400,000 tons their own resources are 700,000 tons. There is, thus, no shortage in the quantity that will be required for feeding the rationed population. On the other hand, a surplus stock of 300,000 tons, on the assumption that the procurement target will be reached, will be available with the Provincial Government for meeting the shortages in respect of the un-rationed population.

As regards the rest of the population of the province, who are un-rationed, the requirements can only be calculated on a theoretical Statistical basis. The Madras Government have assumed requirement of 1·19 pound per adult per diem.

Taking the Province as a whole, on the above basis, the estimated shortage from 1st January till 31st October, 1948, *i.e.*, till the beginning of the next Kharif year, amounts to about 2 million tons. This deficit, it must be emphasised is only a theoratical deficit based on certain assumed per capita requirements. What the real requirements will be will become known as time progresses; Government are keeping a careful watch on the situation and are mobilising all resources for help to Madras according as the situation develops.

(b) The Government of India have promised to the Madras Government 4 lakh tons of foodgrains during 1948, which, it is expected to be made available to the Provincial Government during the period January to October, 1948.

(c) The Madras position is under constant watch and everything possible will be done in co-operation with other Provinces and States to help them to tide over the situation.

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

(d) May to September may be regarded as the most critical period.

(e) Yes, but internal distribution is a matter for the Madras Government to handle. As desired by the Madras Government, the Government of India have already sent to Malabar 8,000 tons of rice and a further consignment of rice is already being ear-marked for Malabar from the Ceiling Import quota for the Province allotted by the Centre.

ANOMALIES IN THE PAY OF RAILWAY STAFF DUE TO (REVISION OF PAY) RULES, 1947

663 ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state, whether it is a fact that due to certain anomalies in the Railway (Revision of Pay) Rules 1947, certain senior men will get less pay than their junior men? If so, are there any proposals to set the same right?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway Board has prescribed a scale of pay for upper grade clerks of the Railway Accounts Departments, which is lower than the one recommended by the Central Pay Commission *viz.*, a scale of Rs. 80-5-120-8-160, whereas the scale recommended was Rs. 80-5-120-8-200-10-220?

(c) Is it a fact that in accordance with the above rules, the pay of a post-1931 entrant working in the upper grade of clerks in Railway Accounts Departments has been fixed at a lower scale than that of a pre-1931 entrant with an equal number of years of service in that grade?

(d) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of revising these Pay Rules?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, in certain cases. Seniority in such cases will remain unaffected and all anomalies cannot be completely eradicated under any set of rules. Government, however, are continually examining every anomaly which is brought to their notice with a view to remedy the same, if possible.

(b) The scale of Rs. 80—220 was recommended by the Central Pay Commission for categories for whom the minimum qualification required is the possession of a University Degree. The Pay Commission were apparently thinking of offices like the Secretariat where the staff are divided into two broad Categories on the basis of educational qualifications for initial recruitment and where posts in the higher class are filled mostly by direct recruitment. On Railways this is not the case. On Railways initial recruitment has been mostly in the lowest categories and only a small proportion of posts in the next higher categories have been filled by direct recruitment of those having the minimum qualification of a Degree. In order to suit the needs of Railways, therefore, the scale suggested by the Pay Commission has been split up into two *viz.* 80—160 and 160—220, one for the majority of upper grade clerks and the other for those supervising the work of clerks and therefore shouldering higher responsibilities. The former scale has been adopted for Class I clerks in the Accounts Department.

(c) Yes, in certain cases.

(d) No. Under the rules as originally framed, the pre-1931 entrant could not have drawn more pay than that which a post 1931 entrant with corresponding length of service could draw in the prescribed scale. The position complained of has arisen in some cases by the recent concession to pre-1931 entrants by allowing their initial pay in the prescribed scale to be fixed at the stage next above the present pay *plus* interim relief, wherever drawn, and to draw further increaments in the normal way. The concession was intended to save the pre-1931 entrants from loss of present emoluments if they should elect the prescribed scales and cannot therefore, be withdrawn.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Has the Government considered the desirability of considering the demand for point to point increments in these scales?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member is thinking of a point to point arrangement, I may tell him that that matter has been fully considered and we cannot consider it again.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: By what time will the final decision be taken against these recommendations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Pay Commission drew up various scales of pay to cover a great variety of departments and kinds of work: and since the railways have been under company direction for a long time, there is an enormous amount of anomalies on railway services, and it is not possible for me to tell the precise time within which all these anomalies will be removed, but we are doing the best we can.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister give some time to members of the Assembly to meet him and discuss the details about this matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am always accessible to Honourable Members of this House.

HIGHER CHARGES AND NON-PAYMENTA OF RENTS BY STALL KEEPERS ON RAILWAY PLATFORMS

664. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no rent is charged from the contractors running the stalls on the railway platforms?

(b) Are Government aware that the commodities sold on the railway platforms are generally dearer than the commodities of the same quality sold in the local markets of the same stations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No. Most Railways charge rent for stalls; others levy licence fees which take rent into account.

(b) No. The prices of commodities sold on platforms are fixed in relation to prevailing market rates.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know what is the licence fee and what is the minimum rent charged?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It varies from railway to railway. I could give the Honourable Member detailed information if he wants it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the selection of these contractors made on a communal basis?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do all the communities get a fair share, including the Sikhs and Parsees?

Shri H. J. Khandekar: How many of these contractors belong to the Scheduled Castes? I want this information.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may want it but I do not wish to encourage questions on a communal basis.

GURMUKHI SCRIPT ON TICKETS OF EAST PUNJAB RAILWAY

665. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that printing of the destination and fare in Gurumukhi language on tickets issued to stations on the East Punjab Railway has now been discontinued?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). The reference is probably to tickets issued to passengers from stations on the Eastern Punjab Railway. The printing of destination in Gurmukhi has had recently to be given up as a temporary measure, due to the normal supply of tickets from the North Western Railway Press having broken down and tickets having had to be supplied from East Indian Railway Printing Press at Lucknow where Gurmukhi type is not available.

PRODUCTION OF COTTON AND JUTE BEFORE AND AFTER PARTITION

666. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what was the production of cotton and jute respectively in India before partition and what it is now?

(b) Are any steps being taken to increase their production?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A statement showing the estimated production of Cotton and Jute before and after the partition is placed on the table of the House.

(b) As regards cotton, steps are being taken to increase the area under the required types to the maximum extent, without encroaching upon the area under food crops and for raising the yield per acre by extension of irrigation facilities, use of manure and improved seed, adoption of a judicious system of rotation and other steps. The whole question was examined by the Indian Central Cotton Committee at its meeting held on 21st November 1947 and steps are being taken to implement the decision as quickly as possible.

The Indian Jute Committee is also engaged in devising means for increasing the yield per acre of jute by the use of seeds of improved strains, by applying correct fertilisers, and by utilising tracts of waste lands and current fallows, and by adopting a judicious system of crop rotation in the jute growing areas. The question is to be fully considered at a representative Conference at which the Government of India, the Provincial Governments concerned, the Indian Central Jute Committee and the Indian Jute Mills Association will confer as to necessary steps to be taken in view of the effects of partition in jute crop and industry.

Statement showing estimated production of cotton and jute in India Undivided and the Indian Union *

(In 000' bales of 400 lbs. each)

Commodity	India Undivided	Indian Union (including Hyderabad State
1 Cotton (All varieties) Normal (average 1936-37 to 1938-39)	5,653	4,059
1946-47	3,586	2,198
2 Jute		
Normal (average 1936-37 to 1938-39)	8,362	3,002
1946-47	5,352	1,520
1947-48	..	1,696

* Estimates for East Punjab, West Bengal and Assam have been made on the basis of the Radcliffe Award.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Will the Honourable Minister tell us what will be the total area under cotton after its cultivation has been extended in the manner suggested by him?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not in a position to give an answer straight off.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is the Honourable Minister aware that after the Bengal famine the area under cotton was reduced considerably?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That may be so.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What portion of it will be brought under cotton again?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say without further collection of information.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What will be the total production of cotton after extension of its cultivation?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Nor can I reply to this without further notice.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Government aware that cultivation of cotton was reduced under Government orders, and if it is will the Government try and remove those restrictions and ask the Provincial Governments to remove them too?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That suggestion will be adopted.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has the Honourable Minister given figures of production province-wise?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No, total figures are given in the statement.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I want to know from the Honourable Minister whether the Government of India has carefully considered the desirability or otherwise of removing jute cultivation restrictions which existed in some of the provinces in the Indian Union?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter will be considered.

Seth Govinddas: While instructing the Provincial Governments to give more land to cotton, will the Government see that the land which has come under food production is not touched and that that will remain under food production?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter will be taken note of.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Does this new arrangement involve the production of the long-staple cotton that was being produced in Sind?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say without further notice.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: May I know in what particular region this supplementing of the present production is being made?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: At present it is principally in Assam, Bengal, and Orissa. But the idea is to try and find out whether it is not possible to extend jute cultivation in the rest of India.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What outlets do Government propose to find for the extra cotton that they will grow?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter is under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do Government propose to encourage the export of cotton?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter is also under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made to improve the short staple cotton which is being grown in the C. P. and other parts of South India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

NON-ISSUE OF TICKETS BETWEEN BAPATLA AND TENALI ON M. AND S. M. RAILWAY

667. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that tickets were not issued to passengers for trains running between Bapatla and Tenali on the M. and S.M. Railway during the fourth week of December, 1947 and the first week of January, 1948, and if so, why?

(b) What is the loss of revenue to the Railways due to this?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) On account of heavy holidays movements, passenger bookings from stations on the Tenali-Bapatla Section of the M. and S. M. Railway, by certain trains, had to be stopped between the 20th December, 1947 and the 2nd January, 1948.

(b) As trains by which booking was restricted were fully occupied no question of loss of revenue arises.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Did the people in this area travel without tickets then?

Mr. Speaker: That question need not be answered.

MERGER OF EAST PUNJAB RAILWAY WITH EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

668. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that pending the regrouping of Railways on a permanent basis, the East Punjab Railway is being merged into East Indian Railway only as an interim arrangement?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Government have not yet taken a final decision on the amalgamation of the Eastern Punjab Railway with the East Indian Railway; the question of regrouping of Railways in the north of India is under active examination. The Indian Railway Enquiry Committee will shortly be consulted and their advice will be taken.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know by what time the report will be ready and will this House be taken into confidence before Government comes to its final decision?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I expect the report very soon and then I will have to place it before the Railway Enquiry Committee of which Pandit Kunzru is the Chairman.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it part of an all-India scheme of regrouping of railways which have been taken over from companies?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is not a matter on which Government have come to a decision yet; provisionally speaking that is the idea.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When does the Honourable Minister expect to complete the enquiry of regrouping of railways? Has it not been going on for the past four or five years with regard to the regrouping of the M. and S. M. and S. I. Railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot name any date.

Seth Govinddas: When the regrouping of railways is considered, will Government see that there will be only one State railway and not different railways as exist at present?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As soon as regrouping is decided upon the question of nomenclature will be settled.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a part of the economy drive which has been referred to the Railway Enquiry Committee, or the High Power Committee as it is called?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, the question of regrouping as a principle; but whether the principle should be applied, when it should be applied and to what particular regions, is a matter to which sufficient consideration has not so far been given.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will Government, therefore, await the suggestions from this committee regarding the manner of regrouping and work out details on the lines indicated by them?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, unless there are very emergent cases.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: How many of the railways systems will be covered by the proposed regrouping?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That must await the examination which is going on.

PROHIBITION OF BEGGING IN TRAINS AND RAILWAY PREMISES.

669. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether begging in railway trains and railway yards is prohibited; and

(b) if so, whether necessary steps have been taken to implement such orders and if not, why not?

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

(b) Necessary steps to prevent begging in Railway premises have been taken, and have proved reasonably effective.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: What are the steps which Government propose to take to prevent begging?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Various preventive measures have been taken under rules framed in accordance with the Railways Act.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: But we always see beggars infesting . . . . .

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is arguing.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Are Government aware of the fact that there are people who demand donations for various institutions in the compartments and on the platforms, and if so, what steps do they propose to take in order to stop this practice?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is a slightly different proposition from the one which is raised in this question.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, what steps have been actually taken to prevent: (a) able-bodied boys and girls from begging in the railway premises; and (b) the stopping of the disgraceful system of distributing the crumbs of passengers' food by the caterers' men among these boys and girls.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We are at present actively engaged in a drive against this problem in places like Howrah and the Victoria Terminus where it has been particularly bad. I may probably inform the House that this practice of begging at railway stations has become particularly acute since the war, because military personnel who are very generous-hearted people, have been encouraging it and we are now left with a somewhat bad legacy.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Is Government aware, Sir, that at certain stations there is an arrangement by means of which the beggars give a certain portion of their earnings to the railway staff?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Honourable Member appears to know more about it than I do.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether any arrangements exist for gathering information about the number of beggars in each railway?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is more than our statistical section can comprehend at present.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is begging as such totally prohibited, or are beggars in the guise of musicians and match-box pedlars allowed to beg?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We have not given any specific consideration to this particular type.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact, Sir, that in the suburban trains of the B., B. and C. I. the beggars travel in the presence of the railway staff and no action is taken against them?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is giving information, rather than asking for it.

ONE MAN CONTRACT SYSTEM FOR RUNNING HOTELS AND STALLS ON ALL RAILWAYS

670. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for giving Railway contract for running hotels and refreshment stalls in all Railways or in certain important Railways to one man;

(b) whether Government have considered the desirability of discontinuing this wholesale contract and giving separate contracts for each Railway District in the Railways; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of giving the Chairmen of District Boards or the District Health staff, power to check the quality of foodstuffs sold in moffusil railway stations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). On some railways, the contract for the entire European style catering is given to one firm in view of the limited clientele which would render the business unprofitable unless the contract is over a wide area. For Indian catering, a two division limitation was intended to be enforced but this has been limited to new contracts only in view of the recommendation of the Central Advisory Council held in March 1947 that existing Indian contractors should not be ousted from their business unless there are complaints against their management, or service, or the food they supplied which would justify such action.

(c) No. Railways already arrange for periodical medical and other inspections. Apart from this, Administrations invite Members of Local Advisory Committees to make tours from time to time for the purpose of examination of specific matters such as vending arrangements.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: What has been the experience of the Railways in running it departmentally?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In fact, some railways have been running them departmentally. It all depends upon how the Honourable Member is looking at the question. Financially, I believe, on certain railways it has

been successful, partly because it is linked up with the hotels which they are managing. I think they have been able to make some profit on the hotels although they have lost on the refreshment room side. From the point of view of quality, there has been a conflict of opinion.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Do Government propose to run the stalls and refreshment rooms, departmentally?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This is a question which has often been considered. I am prepared to have it placed again before the Central Advisory Council, but the opinion expressed by them has been generally against it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government any control over the salaries, allowances, hours of work, etc., that prevail between the employers and employees wherever these contractors are brought in?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, we have no definite control, but we have a certain amount of influence.

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, in view of the fact that the foodstuffs sold in certain railway stations, especially in the mofussil stations, are not only unhygenic and bad, but also comparatively costlier, will the Honourable Minister in charge of the Department please state whether he would think of enquiring into these complaints and change the contractors?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member would indicate what the complaints are we should be very glad to look into them.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I inform the Honourable Minister . . . .

Mr. Speaker: Not here. He may give the information elsewhere.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I state that such complaints have been made and may I ask whether the Honourable Minister would be pleased to inquire into the number of complaints in this regard made by passengers travelling in trains and at different railway stations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The normal procedure would be for these complaints to go to the local administration; but if the Honourable Member thinks that the situation is particularly bad in any area with which he is concerned and he will be so good as to communicate it to me I shall personally see that the enquiry is speeded up.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I request the Honourable Minister to consider the need for inquiring into the enormous profits made by these contractors by way of contribution from sub-contractors whom they engage in railway stations, both at specified railway stations and in all railway stations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Is the Honourable Member's complaint about the rates charged or the profits made?

Shri Biswanath Das: Both, the rates they charge for the commodities sold as also the profits that they make out of them.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: These are all matters with which the local Advisory Committee is expected to deal. But if the Honourable Member thinks that there are cases which are particularly bad, I mean serious cases, if he will be so good as to communicate them to me, I will see that the necessary enquiry is put in hand.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that in many of these restaurant cars run by contractors only European food is available and Indian food only very seldom?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the period of each contract?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to tell off hand but I believe it varies.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: May I know if food rationing still exists in the railway hotels and dining cars?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: When is this rationing going to be stopped?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

RE-AMALGAMATION OF AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENTS OF RAILWAY BOARD.

671. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to his reply given to part (b) of my starred question No. 359 asked on the 20th February 1948 and state:

(a) whether the posts of Financial Commissioner, Railways and Director of Finance, Railway Board, were created as a result of separation of Accounts from Audit; and

(b) if so, the reason why the question of re-amalgamation of Accounts with Audit was not placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways although it was so recommended even by the Secretariat Re-organisation Committee?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No. The posts of Financial Commissioner, Railways and Director of Finance, Railway Board were created during the reorganisation of the Railway Board in 1923 and 1925 respectively as a result of recommendations made by the Acworth Committee.

(b) Does not arise.

NEW VILLAGE POST OFFICES FOR HAZARIBAGH DISTRICT.

672. *Shri Ramnarayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government propose to open new village post offices in the district of Hazaribagh in the year 1948-49 and if so, how many and in which villages?

(b) Have the people of Banhapa, Meru and several other villages near Banhapa between Hazaribagh and Darbo applied to the Superintendent of Post Offices Hazaribagh Division, Hazaribagh for the opening of a new village post office at village Banhapa and if so, what steps are being taken with regard to this question?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Yes. Proposals are under examination for the opening of nine new post offices at the following villages of the Hazaribagh District: (1) Lari, (2) Barkatha, (3) Pathalgada or Ichak, (4) Jaidih, (5) Mayurhand, (6) Maneshmunda, (7) Parej, (8) Patratu, and (9) Banaha.

(b) Yes, only 3 weeks ago. The proposal is under examination.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIM RAILWAY SERVANTS PROVISIONALLY OPTED PAKISTAN.

†673. *Kazi Syed Karimuddin: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that several Muslim railway servants had provisionally given their option for service in Pakistan and finally for service in India?

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

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, have such railway servants who were relieved, been re-instated?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes. Railway servants, including a number of Muslims, had originally opted provisionally for Pakistan and later changed the option to India final.

(b) Information is being collected and a reply will be laid on the table of the House later.

REMOVAL OF CONTROL ON PAPER.

674. *Dr. V. Subramaniam: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether any communication has been received from the Government of Madras, for the relaxation of the control on paper by the Government of India?

(b) Do Government propose to remove the control on paper in the near future?

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

(b) Government is considering the question of removing control on paper.

ROUTE MILEAGE OF B. N. RAILWAY.

675. *Shri Nandkishore Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total route mileage of the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(b) the different Provinces and the States through which the Bengal Nagpur Railway passes; and

(c) its route-mileage in each of the Provinces and States?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) to (c). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

Approximate route mileage of the Bengal Nagpur Railway by Provinces and States

	Broad Gauge	Narrow Gauge	Total
Bihar Province		116	610
Bengal Province	249	..	249
Orissa Province	466	32	498
Central Provinces	480	681	1,161
Madras Presidency	233	25	258
Eastern States Agency	384	71	455
Central India Agency	157	..	157
Total	2,463	925	3,388

Shri Biswanath Das: In view of the fact that a lot of mileage is run in the province of Orissa and also in view of the fact that there is no province like West Bengal now, will the Government be pleased to inform the House whether they would consider the need for changing the name of the railway?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri Biswanath Das: It does, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: It does not.

ABOLITION OF GRAINSHOP AT KHARAGPUR ON B. N. RAILWAY.

676. *Shri Nandkishore Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some thousands of Railway employees at Kharagpur in the Bengal Nagpur Railway recently submitted a representation to the Railway authorities concerned for the abolition of the grainshop at Kharagpur.

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what grounds are adduced for the abolition of the grainshop; and

(c) what action Government have taken on the representation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) It has been reported by the Bengal Nagpur Railway that 495 employees at Waltair have submitted representations asking for the payment of cash dearness allowance as recommended by the Central Pay Commission in lieu of the existing cash allowance *plus* the grainshop concession.

(b) The grounds on which the abolition of the grainshop has been asked for are:

(i) The Railway Grainshops have created a vicious circle which is contaminating society and this must be put a stop to.

(ii) The Government is spending huge amounts to run these cheap grainshops the benefits of which are not reaching railway servants in any appreciable measure.

(iii) Their existence lays down an invidious distinction between the railwaymen and the general public which is humiliating to the sense of dignity and self respect of railway servants.

(c) A collective option in favour of the continuance of the existing cash dearness allowance and the grainshop concession in lieu of the dearness allowance as recommended by the Central Pay Commission, was exercised by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation on behalf of all non-gazetted railway servants in October 1947. This was accepted by Government. It is not therefore proposed to take any special action on the representation from the staff of the Bengal Nagpur Railway.

NUMBER AND EMPLOYMENT OF N. W. R. EMPLOYEES OPTED FOR INDIA.

677. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many employees of the old North Western Railway have opted for service in India and how many of them have reported for duty;

(b) how many of these railwaymen have been absorbed in the Eastern Punjab Railway and how many have been posted to other Indian State Railways;

(c) how many of these railwaymen are still unemployed and how many are working as supernumeraries; and

(d) what attempts are being made to provide these unemployed railwaymen with jobs?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Information is being collected and a statement will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to reappoint those railway employees who had opted for Pakistan but who have been retrenched there?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is not the policy.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know what attempts are being made to provide railwaymen with jobs? This question can be answered: it is with reference to part (d).

Mr. Speaker: Does it not depend upon part (c)?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This is a question relating to the posting of people who have opted for India from Pakistan.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know what attempts are being made?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is a general policy which has been laid down by Government with regard to people who have finally opted for India and that policy is being followed. We are posting them as soon as we find openings.

PROGRESS IN PROPOSED RAILWAY LINES FROM RANCHI TO PATNA AND HAZARIBAGH TO DUMKA.

678. ***Shri Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what the present stage of the proposed railway lines from Ranchi to Patna and from Hazaribagh to Dumka, in Santhal Parganas is;

(b) whether the survey of these lines has been completed and final alignment fixed; and

(c) when the construction is proposed to be begun?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Traffic and preliminary Engineering Surveys have been completed for a line connecting Ranchi with Gaya; a line already exists between Gaya and Patna;

For Hazaribagh Dumka line, surveys have been completed for the portion Hazaribagh to Giridih only. From Giridih there is already a Broad Gauge line up to Madhupur. Between Madhupur and Dumka a new line would be required, for which the survey has been partly done. Alignment has been fixed over sections, for which the survey has been completed.

(c) No final decision has yet been taken about the actual construction of these lines; and the question when the construction is proposed to be begun therefore, does not arise.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: When alignment of any new railway construction is made what is the method by which the needs of the local people are enquired into and considered?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact, when surveys of this kind are undertaken the local administration deputes an officer who is expected to keep in close touch with the Provincial Government and with local opinion before he puts forward his final proposals. In regard to the question that my Honourable friend has raised, that is the line between Ranchi and Gaya I believe that the officer concerned considered four alternative routes and out of them, as a result of various considerations, he has, I believe, put forward one. But I have not seen the final Report yet.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: In view of the fact that Ranchi and Patna are the two capitals of the Province of Bihar and that meetings of the Provincial Legislature are held at both the places and the government staff and the Governor are required to stay at both the places, and in view of the fact that there is no through direct train service from Patna to Ranchi do Government propose to have a through train service from Patna to Ranchi and *vice versa*?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I recognise the force of the consideration put forward by the Honourable Member, but I must determine the order of priority with reference to all-India considerations.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: By what time does the Honourable Minister expect that the final alignment will be made between Ranchi and Gaya?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Reports on the surveys which have been completed will be placed as soon as possible before the Central Transport Board. But I could tell the Honourable Member that before I actually come to a decision on this matter I propose to call in also representatives of the Bihar Government to attend the meeting of the Central Transport Board which would examine this question.

NON-DISCHARGE OF NATIONAL SAVING CERTIFICATES BY CERTAIN SUB POST OFFICES IN HAZARIBAGH DISTRICT.

679. ***Shri Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the reasons why the Extra Departmental Postmasters of the Branch Post Offices at Simoria, Kandachati, Jorai, Dartar, Hunterganj and Pratappur, in account with the Chatra Sub-Post Office, in Hazaribagh district have not been allowed to discharge the National Saving Certificates?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: According to departmental rules only those extra-departmental branch offices which are authorised to do Savings Bank work or which are converted into National Savings Bureaux under the small Savings Scheme can deal with National Savings Certificates. Kandachati, Jorai, Dartar and Pratappur extra departmental branch offices are neither authorised to do Savings Bank work nor converted into National Savings Bureaux and therefore cannot deal with National Savings Certificates. Hunterganj and Simoria branch offices are vested with Savings Bank powers and it is not a fact that they are not allowed to discharge National Savings Certificates.

RESEARCH STATIONS UNDER INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

680. ***Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the number of research stations and their places, which are under the control of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the nature of research conducted there?

(b) Besides the Indian Council of Agricultural Research what are the institutions financed by the Government of India for research in Agriculture including animal husbandry and what is nature of research work done there?

(c) What is the machinery to co-ordinate the activities of all the above stations?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A list of current research schemes financed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and the stations where they are being carried out is laid on the table of the House. Excepting the Indian Institute of Fruit Technology, which is under the direct control of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, all other schemes financed by the Council are worked out at the Institutes under the administrative control of the Central Provincial Governments, Indian States or Universities. The nature of the schemes and the work done thereunder is explained in the annual reports of the Council, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

(b) Besides the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, 17 other institutions are financed by the Government of India for research in Agriculture including animal husbandry.

A list of these Institutions showing the nature of the research work done in each is laid on the table.

(c) The research activities of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the other Central Institutions on the agricultural and animal husbandry sides, including the Commodity Committees, are co-ordinated by the Council primarily through the Vice-Chairman who is also ex-officio President of each Commodity Committee. He is assisted in this work in the majority of cases by the Scientific and Commodity Committees of the Council, its Advisory Board and Governing Body. Barring the Lac Cess Committee, the Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India is also a member of all other Commodity Committees. These Commodity Committees also are represented on the Advisory Board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The technical programme of research work undertaken by the Central Research Institutes and their annual reports are scrutinized by the Council.

The work in Fisheries Stations is co-ordinated by the Fisheries Development Adviser.

Statement.

1. Indian Agriculutral Research Institute, New Delhi.
2. Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack.
3. The Central Potato Research Institute, New Delhi.
4. The Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore.
5. The Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar.
6. The experimental cattle Breeding Farm, Jubbulpore.
7. Zoological Survey of India, Benares Cantt.
8. Pilot Deep Sea Fishing Station, Bombay.
9. Central Marine Fisheries Research Station, Madras.
10. Indian Fisheries Research Station, Calcutta.
11. Indian Central Jute Committee, Calcutta.
12. Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay.
13. Indian Central Tobacco Committee, Bombay.
14. Indian Central Lac Cess Committee, Ranchi
15. Indian Central Coconut Committee, Ernakulam
16. Indian Central Sugarcane Committee, New Delhi.
17. Indian Oilseeds Committee, New Delhi.

LIST OF CURRENT SCHEMES SHOWN PROVINCEWISE

A.—AGRICULTURE

MADRAS

Group	Scheme	Location.
Rice	1. Rice diseases	Coimbatore
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding.	Coimbatore, Salem and Vizagapatam.
Fruits	1. Horticulture	Kodur.
	2. Banana Research.	(Yet to be decided).
Entomology	1. Test with D.D.T. 666 and allied insecticides.	Coimbatore and Guntur.
	2. Schools of Research.	Coimbatore.
Mycology	1. Fungicidal Sprays	Gunter and Pattiverampatti (Madura).

BOMBAY

Rice	1. Rice Breeding	Nowgong and Bulsar.
Wheat and other Cereals	1. Wheat rust	Mahabaleswar.
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding.	Poona, Dharwar and Jalgaon.
	2. Small millets	Hatkhamba.
	3. Jowar Striga	Poona, Surat and Dharwar.

Group	Scheme	Location
Agronomy	1. Crop weather Co-ordination	Poona
	2. Phenological observation	Royal Institute of Science Bombay.
Entomology	1. Test with D. D. T. 666 and allied insecticides.	Poona and Vengurla.
Mycology	1. Virus disease	Poona Agricultural College.
	2. School of Research	Poona Agricultural College.

WEST BENGAL

Rice	1. Paddy insect pests	
	2. Rice vernalization	Calcutta University Chinsura.
	3. Manurial experiments on paddy lands.	
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding.	Berhampur.
	2. Physiology of pulses.	Presidency College.
Fruits	1. Genetical Investigation of Banana.	Calcutta University.
Soils and Manures	1. Control of erosion	Visva Bharti.
	2. Manurial trials	Chinsura Farm.

UNITED PROVINCES

Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breedidg small millets.	Tarikhet and Gorakhpur.
	2. Maize Breeding (From 1-4-48).	To be started.
Fruits	1. Horticulture	Chaubattia.
	2. Mango Necrosis	Lucknow University.
Fibre	1. Improvement of Sunn hemp.	Allahabad.
Entomology	1. Test with D. D T. 666 and allied insecticides.	Kanpuri

EAST PUNJAB

Wheat and other Cereals	1. Maize Breeding	Not yet started in East Punjab.
Millets and Pulses	1. Gram with disease	Ferozepur.
	2. Soya beans	Not known.
Fruits	1 Citrus manurial trials	Attari.
Other Crops	1. Medicinal plants	Not yet started in East Punjab.

BIHAR

Milets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding.	Pusa and Sabour.
Fruits	1. Horticulture	Sabour.
	2. Citrus physiology	

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

Wheat and Other cereals.	1. Wheat Breeding	Powerkhera, Chindwara Mahabaleswar.
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding.	Nagpur and Adhart
	2 Small millets	Dindori

Group	Scheme	Location
Fruits	1. Horticulture	Tharsa
	2. Yield data from Fruit orchards.	Tharsa.
	ASSAM	
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding.	Kokilamukh.
Fruits	Horticulture	Tamilkuchi.
	ORISSA	
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse Breeding.	Cuttack—Bargarh (Sambalpore).
Fruits	1. Horticulture	Angul and Sambalpur
Other Crops	1. Turmeric	Udayagiri.
	INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE	
Wheat and other cereals	1. Bread rust resistant wheat	Simla.
	2. Maize breeding.	New Delhi.
Vegetables	1. Potato breeding intermediate hill stations for potato breeding.	Simla
	2. Potato seed certification survey.	Kulri Patiala.
Soils and manures	1. Colloid soil constituents.	New Delhi.
	2. Trace elements in Indian soils.	New Delhi.
	3. Nitrogen fixation in soils	New Delhi.
Agronomy	1. Monograph on mixed cropping practices.	New Delhi.
Mycology	1. Fungicidal sprays (Indian Agricultural Research Institute) Mycology, Dn.	New Delhi.
Entomology	1. Test with D. D. T. 666 and allied insecticides.	New Delhi.
General	1. Introduction of new economic plants.	New Delhi.
	2. Monostraph on phosphate. Manprial to be started from 1st April, 1948.	
	INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH	
	1. Survey of Horticulture Research.	
	2. Abstraction of horticultural literature.	Headquarter.
	3. Description of different varieties of fruits.	Headquarter.
	4. Indian Institute of Fruit Technology.	
	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE	
	1. Crop Production by Catalysis.	Bangalore.
	2. Sewage Farming	Bangalore.
	3. Biochemical Assay on Soyabean (from 1st April 1948).	Bangalore.

Group	Scheme	Location
	AGRA COLLEGE:	
	1. Cereal Rust	Simla and Agra.
	2. Barley Rust	Agra.
	LIST OF CURRENT SCHEMES IN STATES	
	HYDERABAD	
Agriculture Rice	1. Rice Breeding—Experimental Farm.	Warangal.
Millets and pulses	1. Pulse Breeding—Experimental Farm	Wangraal.
Fruits	1. Horticulture—(Sangareddi and Aurangabad).	
	MYSORE	
Millets and pulses	Pulse Breeding Hebbal Farm. Irwin Canal Farm. Small millets Hobbal Farm, Irwin canal farm and Babur Farm	Mendya.
Fruits	Horticltuure (Hessarghatta)	
Mycology	Fungicidal sprays (not yet started.).	
	TRAVANCORE	
AGRICULTURE		
Rice	Rice breeding	Monkompur and Adoor.
Other crops	Cloves	Pepper Farm, Konni and Black Rock Estate, Nagercoil.
	KASHMIR	
AGRICULTURE		
Rice	1. Rice breeding Pratap Model Farm.	Srinagar.
Fruits	1. Horticulture Survey.	
	BARODA	
AGRICULTURE		
Millets and Pulses	1. Pulse and millets breeding	Baroda, Jagundan, Vyara and Deedard.
Fodder and grazing	Improvement of pastures	In 4 places.
General	Village Rehahibitation	In 4 places.
	GWALIOR	
Millets and pulses	1. Pulse breeding	Gwalior Vjyani.
Miscellaneous Crops	1. Coriander deases	Gwalior
	COORG	
Fruits	1. Orange cultivation	Pallibetta.
	B.—ANIMAL HUSBANDRY	
	MADRAS	
Diseases, pests and cure	1. D (V) I. O	Veterinary College, Madras.
	2. Helminthiasis	Veterinary College, Madras.
	3. Poultry diseases	Madras.
	4. Sheep and Goat diseases	Madras.

Group	Scheme	Location
	5. Indigenous drugs used in Veterinary Medicine .	Medical College, Madras
Fish	1. Rural Pisciculture . .	Madras.
	2. Fish eggs and larvae (Madras University).	Madras.
	3. Manufacture of semi-dried prawns.	Ikividur and Pulicate.
	4. Biology of Marine prawns (Madras University).	Madras.
Animal Breeding . . .	1. Improvement of Kangay and breed.	Palayakothai, Erode.
	2. Sheep Breeding . .	Livestock Research Station, Hosur, Sahemn Dis.
	BOMBAY	
Diseases, pests and cure . .	1. D (V) I. O. . .	Veterinary College, Bombay Parel, Bombay.
	2. Poultry diseases .	
	3. Sheep and Goat diseases .	Poona.
Animal Breeding . . .	1. Cattle improvement (Kaukrej).	Sanand (Ahmedabad).
	2. Sheep breeding and wool analysis.	Poona.
	3. Wool analysis (Bombay University) . . .	Matunga, Bombay.
	4. Javle Sheep Development .	Javle, Sholapur District.
	WEST BENGAL	
Diseases, pests and cure . .	1. D (V) I. O. . . .	Veterinary College, Calcutta.
	2. Poultry diseases . .	Veterinary College, Calcutta.
	3. Sheep and goat diseases .	Veterinary College, Calcutta.
	4. Control of certain parasites	Veterinary College, Calcutta.
Fish	1. Bionomics of Indian Migratory fishes.	Galsi.
	UNITED PROVINCES	
Diseases and pests and cure .	1. D (V) I. O. . . .	Lucknow.
	2. Helminthiasis (Lucknow University).	Lucknow.
	3. Poultry diseases . .	Lucknow.
	4. Ringerpest spleen vaccine .	Lucknow.
Animal Breeding . . .	1. Cattle improvement . .	Chhata, Rutha District.
	2. Methods of yoking bullocks	(Allahabad Agriculture Research Institute), Allahabad.
Animal Nutrition . . .	1. Research on Cattle feeding	Bharari Farm, Jhansi.
Dairying	1. Dairy Technology . .	(Allahabad Agriculture Institute), Allahabad.
	2. Transport of Milk . .	Lucknow.
	EAST PUNJAB	
Dairying	1. Rapid and Detailed Determination of Fat, etc. of milk.	(Not started).
Diseases, pests and cure . .	1. D (V) I. O. . . .	Hissar.
	2. Poultry Diseases . .	Hissar.
	3. Sheep and goat diseases .	Hissar.
Animal Breeding . . .	1. Goat Breeding . .	Hissar.
	2. Angora Goats . . .	Hissar.
	3. Livestock investigation .	Hissar.

Group	Scheme	Location
	4. Sheep Breeding and Wool Analysis . . .	Hissar.
	5. Trial of Bikaneri Sheep in Villages . . .	Hissar.
	BIHAR	
Diseases, pests and cure .	1. D (V) I. O. . . .	Patna.
	2. Poultry diseases . .	Patna.
	3. Sheep and Goat diseases .	Patna.
Animal Breeding . . .	1. Sheep Breeding and Wool Analysis . . .	Monghyr.
Dairying	1. Rapid and detailed determination of Fat etc. of milk.	(not started).
	CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR	
Diseases, pests and cure .	1. D (V) I. O. . . .	Nagpur.
	2. Poultry Diseases . .	Nagpur.
Dairying	1. Development Ghee Industry	Jhallar. Betul District.
Poultry	1. Development Research in Poultry . . .	Telinkheri Farm, Nagpur.
	ASSAM	
Diseases, pests and cure . .	1. D (V) I. O. . . .	Gauhati.
	2. Poultry Diseases . .	Gauhati.
	3. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (not commenced) . . .	Gauhati.
Animal Nutrition . . .	1. Animal Nutrition . .	Khanapara Farm, Gauhati.
	ORISSA	
Diseases, pests and cure . .	1. D (V) I. O. . . .	Cuttack.
	2. Poultry Diseases . .	Cuttack.
	3. Sheep and Goat diseases .	Cuttack.
Animal Breeding . . .	1. Development Research in Goats.	Angul.
	2. Sheep Breeding .. .	Angul.
Animal Nutrition . . .	1. Standardization of Rations for Ryots cattle. . .	Angul, Cuttack.
	AJMER-MERWARA	
Diseases, pests and cure .	1. D (V) I. O. . . .	Ajmer.
	HYDERABAD	
Diseases, pests and cure . .	1. D (V) I. O. . . .	Hyderabad (Dn.).
	2. Poultry diseases . .	Hyderabad (Dn.).
	MYSORE	
Diseases, pests and cure . .	1. Poultry diseases . .	Bangalore.
	2. Sheep and Goats Diseases .	Bangalore.
	BARODA	
Diseases, pests and cure . .	1. D (V) I. O. . . .	Baroda.
	2. Poultry diseases (Bombay-Gujrat—Baroda) . .	Baroda.

Group	Scheme	Location
	3. Sheep and Goats diseases .	Baroda.
Animal Breeding . . .	1. Wool Analysis . . .	Patna.
	KASHMIR	
Diseases pests and cure . .	1. D (V) I. O. . . .	Srinagar.
	2. Sheep and Goats diseases .	Srinagar.
Animal Breeding . . .	1. Sheep Breeding and Wool Analysis.	Banihal, Jammu.
	TRAVANCORE	
Animal Breeding . . .	1. Cattle Improvement .	Villages Trivandrum.
	INDIAN VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE	
Animal Nutrition . . .	1. Nutritive Value of Vanaspati and Vitamin 'A' content of Ghee.	Izatnagar.
	2. Alkali Treated Straw .	Izatnagar.
	3. Nutritive value of certain indigenous grasses and leafy fodders.	Izatnagar.
	4. Bearing of nutrition on helminthic infestation (Not started).	Izatnagar.
Poultry	1. Poultry Breeding (Village Extn.).	Izatnagar.
Diseases pests and cure .	1. Diseases caused by anaerobes.	Mukteswar.
	2. Tuberculosis and Johne's diseases.	Mukteswar.
	3. Vaccination against foot and mouth disease.	Mukteswar.
	4. Helminthiasis . . .	Izatnagar.
	5. Control of (ox) warble fly pest.	Mukteswar.
	6. Damage caused by ticks and warble flies to hides and skins.	Mukteswar.
	7. Defects caused to hides and skins by minor biological factors.	Mukteswar
	8. Helminth parasites affecting pultry.	Izatnagar.
	9. Tuberculin Testing	Mukteswar, Bombay and Madras.
	INDIAN DIARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE	
Dairying	1. Biochemical Research on Indian Dahi.	Bangalore.
	2. Transport of milk over long distances.	Bangalore.
	3. Composition of milk of cows, buffaloes, etc.	Bangalore.
	4. Bacteriological quality of market milk.	Bangalore.
	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE	
	Lincolic acid content of ghee.	Bangalore.

Institutions financed by Government of India for research in Agriculture.

1. *Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.*—Designed (i) to carry on fundamental research in Agriculture, (ii) to help in co-ordinating research in the Agricultural Sciences throughout India and (iii) to import post-graduate training in different agricultural sciences.

2. *Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack.*—Designed to carry out research on (1) fundamentals and those aspects of rice which have a wider application and (2) research on problems of a local nature. These researches include studies such as the cytology, genetics taxonomy and morphology of the rice plant, the breeding of strains resistant to salt, flood, drought, etc., the breeding technique for hybridisation, the physiology of the plant in relation to vernalisation, photoperiodism, salt, drought and food conditions, etc.

3. *The Central Potato Research Institute, New Delhi.*—Designed to carry out research in (i) the evolution of the higher yielding varieties for different climates and Soil; (ii) the production of seed potatoes free from disease and true to variety, (iii) the elimination of fungal diseases which attack the crop in the field by breeding disease-resistant varieties and by devising control measures; (iv) the improvement of seed storage so as to prevent loss of rots and insect pests and (v) the finding out of methods by which the potato could be preserved fresh or processed so that it could be used as food whenever required.

4. *The Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore.*—This Institute studies problems relating to dairy husbandry, dairy chemistry, dairy bacteriology and dairy technology.

5. *The Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar.*—This Institute investigates Veterinary and animal husbandry problems from all aspects including nutritional, genetical, biological parasitological, pathological and bacteriological.

6. *The Experimental Cattle Breeding Farm, Jubbulpore.*—This Farm is meant for evolving a general utility type of cattle and is in the course of being established.

7. *Zoological Survey of India.*—To investigate the fauna of India, to act as guardians of the standard Zoological Collections of India, to arrange and maintain the Zoological galleties of the Indian Museum, to identify specimens as required by investigators in any part of the country and to advise Government generally on Zoological matters.

8. *Pilot Deep Sea Fishing Station, Bombay.*—To carry out researches on the location of fishing grounds, determining fishing seasons, fishing intensities, etc., and for vessels, craft and gear for the exploitation of fisheries in Indian Waters.

9. *Central Marine Fisheries Research Station, Madras.*—To carry out Biological, Cartographic Hydrographic, Bacteriological and Meterorological investigations with reference to Marine Fisheries and general faunistic studies so far as marine fisheries are concerned.

10. *Inland Fisheries Research Station, Calcutta.*—As in the case of No. 9, with reference to Pond, Tank Riverine and Estuarine Fisheries.

11. Indian Central Jute Committee, Calcutta.

12. Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay.

13. Indian Central Tobacco Committee, Bombay.

14. Indian Central Lac Cess Committee, Ranchi.

15. Indian Central Sugarcane Committee, New Delhi.

16. Indian Central Coconut Committee, Ernakulam.

17. Indian Central Oilseeds Committee, New Delhi.

These Committees undertake technological and economic research with regard to the commodity with which they are concerned.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: There are various Committees set up—like the Sugar Committee, the Rice Committee, the Tobacco Committee etc. for research on those articles—under the direct control of the Ministry. May I ask what is the work that is left to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That will be found from the Reports placed in the Library and on the table of the House.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the Russell Committee had said that the results of these labours in research should reach the agriculturists in the field and if so will he tell the House what steps have been taken to translate these results to the farmers in the fields?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As I said in reply to an earlier question, I personally am not satisfied that we have done all that is possible to see that the results of research reach the cultivator. At present the work is being carried on through the Provincial Governments. The whole machinery for this purpose has to be examined and we will try to do the best that is possible to improve things.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Will the Honourable Minister consider the desirability of bringing all these activities under one body, either under the direct control of the Ministry or the Indian Council of Agricultural Research?

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action which may be considered.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The suggestion will be considered, Sir.

UNIFORM STANDARDISATION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES THROUGHOUT INDIAN UNION

681. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government have considered the question of a uniform standardisation of weights and measures throughout the Indian Union?

(b) If so, do Government propose to arrange for the manufacture of the Standard Weights and Measures for use throughout India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) According to the distribution of matters in the Legislative Lists, the "establishment of standards of weight" is in the Federal Legislative List and "weights and measures" in the Provincial Legislative List. In accordance with this, the Central Government is responsible for defining the standards of weight and the maintenance of the primary standards so defined, while the enforcement of the standards so defined and maintained is the responsibility of the Provincial Governments. In 1939 the Central Legislature passed an Act known as the Indian Standards of Weight Act, 1939. Necessary legislation for the enforcement of the standards laid down in this Act has, however, not been completed in all the Provinces. The Act, as it stands, extends to the whole of what was known as British India. The question of its extension to the other parts of the Dominion will be taken up as soon as the position of the various States is finally settled.

(b) As provided for in the Indian Standards of Weight Act, 1939, the Central Government has already supplied to the Provincial Governments one complete set each of duly authenticated standard weights. Such sets can also be had by States from the Mint Master on payment.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: In view of the prevalence of various kinds of weights and measures in different parts of the country will the Central Government consider the desirability of seeing that the recommendations and the provisions of the Act are brought into action by the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Government appreciate that there should be uniformity, but the matter of its enforcement rests with the Provinces as the constitutional position stands today.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Honourable Minister aware that many vendors in bazars and markets are in the habit of using stones and pebbles for weighment?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am personally aware of it along with the Honourable Member who has put the question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will he take steps to see that this practice is eradicated?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is a matter for the Provincial Governments to look into.

Seth Govinddas: What about the Centrally administered area?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Central Government will look after it.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: In view of the fact that the Metric system is recognized as the most rational system do Government propose to introduce it in India as soon as possible?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is a matter for consideration.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Is there any co-ordination between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments in the matter of standardization of weights and measures?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I did not catch the question.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

IMPROVEMENT OF COWS AND BULLS BREED IN INDIAN UNION.

682. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what steps Government are taking to improve the breed of cows and bulls in India after the 15th August, 1947?

(b) Is there free movement of cattle from Sind to India?

(c) What is the estimated cattle wealth of India?

(d) Are there any stud-bulls from Texas and Australia in the experimental farms run by Government?

(e) Is there any demand from the public for Sind cows? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to meet this particular demand?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Government of India have approved of the establishment of two Experimental Cattle Breeding Farms one for evolving a general utility type of cattle and another for evolving a type with high milking capacity. The former is being established at Jubbulpore and a suitable site for the latter is under consideration.

An Expert Committee has also been appointed to make recommendations for preserving the cattle wealth of the country and promoting its development.

(b) No.

(c) The population of cattle (including buffaloes) in the present provinces and states including Hyderabad of the Indian Dominion based on 1940 livestock Census was 178·2 millions. According to 1945 census the cattle population in the provinces only was 111·2 millions; figures for states are not available. The next quinquennial cattle census will be held in 1950 when the latest position of the cattle will be known.

(d) No Texas and Australian bulls are maintained in Experimental farms run by Government.

(e) Yes.

The High Commissioner for India in Pakistan has been requested to approach the Pakistan Government to allow the export of Sindhi and other breeds of cattle from Pakistan.

REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER COMPULSORY MOTOR INSURANCE ACT.

683. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state the total number of buses, lorries and private cars registered under the compulsory Motor Insurance Act for the third party risk?

(b) Have Government ascertained whether all the vehicles have been registered under this Act?

(c) Have any prosecutions been launched for the non-registration of such vehicles?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to Chapter VIII of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, dealing with insurance of motor vehicles against third party risks. All vehicles are required under this Act to be insured against third party risk with the exception of those owned by Central and Provincial Governments and local authority notified in that behalf or by State-owned railways.

(b) and (c). Information in regard to the total number of vehicles insured and the prosecutions launched for failure to insure, is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONE SETS TO VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF BIHAR

684. *Shri Sri Narayan Mahtha: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of telephone sets supplied to various districts in Bihar during the last twelve months?

(b) Are Government aware that a large number of these cannot be installed for lack of cable wires?

(c) If so, do Government propose to take steps to provide all the materials necessary, so that telephone sets needed at least in the Divisional Headquarters are installed as soon as possible?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (b). Presumably the Honourable Member desires to have information regarding telephone connections. If so, the reply is as follows:

279 connections have already been given. About 1300 applications are pending for want of cable pairs or positions in the switchboards. These figures relate to the Provinces of Bihar and Orissa. Information for the Province of Bihar alone is not readily available.

(c) Yes.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that Pandit Govind Malaviya has been elected to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects dealt with in the Ministry of Education, until the end of financial year 1948-49 *vice* Shri S. Radhakrishnan resigned.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—contd.

Mr. Speaker: According to the agreed programme, the departments under discussion by way of cut motions are the Departments of Commerce and Health and Medical Services. These will be the three Demands. So I first put to the House the three Demands Nos. 21, 18, and 51, and of course the Cut Motions will be moved.

DEMAND NO. 21—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,82,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending tht 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ministry of Commerce'."

DEMAND NO. 18—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Mr. Speaker: Motion is;

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,23,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending tht 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ministry of Health'."

DEMAND NO. 51—MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 40,15,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending tht 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

DEMAND NO. 21—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

International Trade Agreement

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Export and Import Policy and Establishment of an Indian Communial Corporation

Shri Ramnath Goenka (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut Motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Appointment of Trade Commissioners

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Coastal Shipping and Insurance

Shri R. R. Diwakar: (Bombay: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, the cut motion that stands in my name which I have just moved refers to the foreign trade policy of India. On the day we started discussions on the budget, we referred to the industrial policy that is to be pursued in India. The day before yesterday we discussed the Foreign policy of India. Today I have started a discussion on the Foreign

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Trade Policy. You will please see, Sir, that the last war was fought on practical economic issues. Hitler again and again shouted that he was only crying for living space and also for raw materials which before the previous war, had been practically monopolised by a few countries. England, with respect to its own Commonwealth countries, entered into an agreement known as the Ottawa Agreement confining raw materials to itself and also monopolising markets which those countries could give. The United States of America entered into similar agreements with the Latin Countries of South America. Belgium, with its Congo and other countries in its empire, had its own raw material for its industries and also its own markets in the same countries. Likewise, Holland, though small, had Indonesia and other countries which could supply raw materials and to which also it could send its finished products. Therefore, Sir, the model of these imperialistic countries was being copied by Hitler by way of expansion and acquiring some more colonies, by Italy conquering Ethiopia, and by Japan trying to force its way on the Phillipines and the whole of the Pacific and all the countries in Asia. War therefore has taught a lesson to the countries which have come out successful during this war. The United States of America therefore thought of bringing a number of international organizations into existence—the UNO in place of the League of Nations; the UNESCO, the organization under which the international trade organization is sought to be brought into existence. It had its first and second sittings in Geneva. Draft Agreements were prepared. Thereafter a number of countries met in Havana and our Honourable Minister for Commerce was also there and he came back only recently. All the Trade Agreements and the International Trade Organization are being finalized there. The latest information has not been placed before us. My first complaint against the Department of Commerce is that we have not been furnished with reliable statistics of our foreign trade at all. The statistics of the sea-borne trade of India are all very old. We have not got the latest statistics available in this country. The publication 'Review of Trade', which was performing a very useful function, was suspended so long ago as 1943-44. Statistics are not issued from time to time even for the journalists and economists in this country, and for the public, and they are not kept in touch with the progress of developments or with the progress of negotiations at Havana. Help, which should be very valuable, from that direction, is not available to the Government of India by way of criticism, etc. Therefore my first suggestion to the Commerce Minister is that he must bring all the statistics up-to-date and make them fully available. We have to depend upon the statistics of either the United States or the United Kingdom.

Now Sir, what is the lesson of the previous war? The move in the direction of bringing into existence some international trade organization is very welcome—all of us must welcome it. But unfortunately the basic foundations of that organization are not well laid to avoid a war. The main object, as appears from the various terms, clauses and explanations of the agreement that has been circulated to us, appears to be only this—they want to avoid a war but confine the raw products and markets to highly developed countries. The undeveloped countries are left in the cold. A strangle hold is sought to be placed upon them. It takes into consideration only highly developed countries and want to distribute raw materials amongst them. That is the main object of this organization. The one thing that is lacking is this—they want to have equal access to raw materials and ration raw materials amongst the highly industrialized countries. There is not a word. I am afraid there is not even a proper reference to the distribution of capital goods. Undeveloped countries are in need of capital goods. I want this provision there to supplement the other provision for rationing of or easy access to raw material.

Access to capital goods for all undeveloped countries must also be one of the basic foundations of this international trade agreement on which the International Trade Organization is sought to be built up. Otherwise the rich will continue to grow richer; the developed countries will become more developed. If you want to avoid a fight on economic issues in the world, we must provide that capital goods also must be rationed. All countries in the world must have equal access to capital goods as much as they are sought to be provided with raw materials in the world. That is my first objection to this Organisation; I mean the objects of this Organisation may be very good but the way in which they have proceeded is not quite accurate and proper.

My next objection is this. The Organization is expected to come into being in the beginning of 1950. Till then, in the long range establishment of this Organisation there is no provision for sharing of capital goods, but they have made provision for supplying capital goods to the war-devastated countries of Europe by the Marshall Plan. That is an interim arrangement; America is helping those already industrialised countries, which had a set-back on account of the war to rehabilitate themselves by the Marshall Plan. We are not helped by the Marshall Plan on the one side, nor does this Organisation help us to put up our industries by giving us capital goods. Even Japan has been set on its feet once again; it is fast reviving its own trade in textiles and is supplying the rest of the world in cotton manufactures.

That is one defect of this Organisation. The other one is that it is provided in the terms of this Charter and the Organisation as one of its basic rules that a principle of differential cost ought to be applied. That means that countries which cannot produce industrial goods such as ships, aeroplanes, motorcars etc., at the same cheap rates as can be produced by highly-industrialised countries, ought not to embark upon the production or manufacture of such goods. Let us take for instance the ship-building industry. We have got raw materials and steel and iron; we have also got labour. But the only thing against us is that we may not in the first year be able to produce ships at the same cheap rate because we have had no experience in that industry—in an infant industry the cost of production will certainly be much more than that in one which has gained a footing and has been working for a long time. Therefore in that field we may not at the outset be able to produce goods as cheap as the other highly-industrialised countries may be able to do. If those industrialised countries want a clause in this Charter that there should be a provision preventing less-developed countries producing these goods, because they may not be able to produce as cheaply as the high-developed countries can, that will be a stranglehold upon less-developed countries in the matter of production or increased production. (Interruption) I find that there is a clause and I will show it to my friend.

The third thing is that they want a multilateral agreement to be entered into. The natural corollary or consequence is that tariffs for various commodities in various countries must be gradually reduced, so much so that the finished products of highly-developed countries might easily flow into the markets of less-developed countries and the raw-products of industrially less-developed countries may flow into the highly developed countries. Therefore, if this Organisation, based on multilateral agreements, on the most-favoured-nation clause instead of bilateral agreements, were to come into operation the danger immediately to less-developed countries is that they will have to continue as hewers of wood and drawers of water—produce only raw materials for supplying to the industries of the West.

This country cannot increase its standard of wealth or the general standard of wealth of its masses unless it industrialises. This multilateral agreement cannot immediately be brought into force with respect to less-developed

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countries. This no doubt was expected and that is why India and various other countries have been allowed to enter into bilateral arrangements regarding tariffs with various countries. The Delegation that went, as the House must feel satisfied, has done its best. We have entered into agreements with about fifteen countries; we have to enter into agreement with other countries. But by the range of goods that has already been covered, the export trade comes to Rs. 35 crores and the import trade to Rs. 31 crores, whereas our general export trade is to the tune of Rs. 150—200 crores and import trade likewise. Therefore a number of other articles and a number of other countries have to be covered by other agreements which may be entered into sooner or later.

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But this point has to be borne in mind: at the outset when this Trade Organisation was initiated America wanted to have only one object in view, that there ought to be no trade barriers and that tariffs must be reduced all over the world. That was her main concern so that her articles may be pushed all over the world. Then England came on the scene and said that that principle alone would not suffice; she wanted full employment for her nationals; therefore that was also included as one of the objects of the International Agreement. So far as the less-developed countries are concerned they have not placed the third consideration before this Organisation.

The first consideration is reduction of tariffs alround, which America wanted. Full employment was what England wanted and with that pretext she wanted to avoid reduction of tariffs and choose her own form of tariffs so that every citizen in that country may be fully employed and its industry may not be affected. We, who are the less-developed countries, must have insisted upon this, that it must have been open, to protect our industries as much as we can, to concentrate only on one condition that our industries are not affected. We can give preference to this or that country, we can impose high tariff walls with respect to certain industries, and so on. But there was that matter which must have been insisted on; that must also have been one of the basic foundations of this Charter, not only multilateral trade agreements involving reduction of tariffs, not only full employment, but also the development of the less-developed countries. That is not set out as one of the objects of this International Trade Organisation.

Sir, I can only think of a simile on our getting into the International Trade Organisation, being undeveloped as we are, linking ourselves to America or Great Britain which are highly-developed, like yoking a lame donkey to a race horse. We, the lame donkey, can never proceed at the pace and it may be a drag; but in this connection we cannot be a drag either on the U.S.A. or on the United Kingdom—we will be left alone, all alone. I am sure, Sir, that before the agreement is finalised, the Ministry of Commerce will insist upon these provisions being made.

I may come to the other important matter which has been agitating us and which is still followed by the Honourable the Finance Minister, and we have to take a decision properly in regard to this matter. That is Imperial Preference. Are we to be in this bloc? Is it going to help us? We came into it in Ottawa, but are we to continue? We have already covered 1100 odd millions of sterling to our credit. So much is there; should we continue earning more and more sterling hereafter and accumulate it when England is not in a position to pay us? What are our needs? Now the world market is being captured and the world situation is being dominated not by the United Kingdom so much as by America. We have now, by our tariffs and by preferences, to divert the course of trade—not wholly but partially and in an increasing measure—from the United Kingdom and other sterling areas to the United States

of America. That is what I would urge upon this Government to do immediately. That step must be taken we are hard up for dollars and other hard currencies, we have to get capital goods. We must so enter into agreements that our raw materials go to the hard currency countries and we get capital goods in return. With respect to grain and other things that we want, we can have transactions in the sterling area countries.

Now, Sir, what is it that we can send to America? Jute we can send, hides and skins we can send, mica we can send, manganese we can send, and all other minerals which have a good market in America. So far as jute is concerned, I am afraid the Honourable Minister has bungled. I cannot use the word 'bungled' more strongly; if it were possible, I would say he has bungle squared or bungle cubed. That is what he has done. I find, Sir, in the latest issue of *Finance* of Calcutta that a number of persons who have been carrying on jute trade with America, which is one of our largest customers in that commodity, had entered into agreements with America already, and quotas have been given to Bombay merchants. America wanted to honour and stick to the agreements that they had entered into with the shippers in Calcutta and was not prepared to divert their custom to Bombay merchants.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha (Minister for Commerce): That is not true. I have denied it.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You may deny, but that is what I find from every paper in Calcutta.

An Honourable Member: Propaganda.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: You know what it is due to.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am anxious that this sort of thing should not happen. I am not interested in the Calcutta merchant or in the Bombay merchant: I am interested in India as a whole.

Now, what happens is this. I do not know if my Honourable friend the Commerce Minister will be able to refute this argument. As between these Calcutta and Bombay shippers, America went without sufficient quantity of jute. They have increased the production of paper bags by 40 per cent of the normal last year. The paper bag was invented by America and was produced by them. They could not go on waiting for jute until the disputes in India are settled. Therefore, they have increased the output of paper bags, and the result is that the intake of jute has deteriorated by 13 per cent. It is now for us to bestir ourselves, settle our internal differences and see to it that we do not lose this market. If we lose even this market, our dollars will go down. I only request, I am not anxious to heap criticisms on the Minister. I would like this matter to be cleared up and effective steps taken in this direction.

Then, Sir, I come to our food situation. We are deficient in food. I am glad that we have entered into an agreement with our immediate neighbour, Australia, and that so far as food commodities are concerned we are getting 7½ million tons for a period of five years in exchange for our textiles. Australia is a good market for us to trade with and a good neighbour. Likewise we must enter into a sort of regional trade pact with Burma, Malaya, Singapore and even the Western countries like Afghanistan and others. We may get whatever deficiency there is in foodgrains from those countries in return for our textiles.

Lastly, Sir, we are apt to ignore in our anxiety to conclude agreements with foreign countries and get hard currency from them our neighbour Pakistan. Whatever differences we may have on political issues, even they must be settled. Political issues have not been allowed to stand in the way of trade. The difficulty is this. We used to get large quantities of cotton from

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Pakistan West which was being supplied to Ahmedabad Mills. Ahmedabad Mills produce the finer variety of cotton textiles and if we cannot get cotton from Sind or Karachi, we have to go to Egypt or America. In so far as jute is concerned, that is one of the useful commodities which we have in Eastern Pakistan. In return for this, we may give Pakistan sugar; we may give them coal—they have ordered coal all the way from the United States of America. Now, let us enter into trade agreements; let us not put up barriers between each other; let us be on good friendly relations.

One other point, Sir, which I wish to point out in this connection is this. The U.S.S.R. is not a member of this World Trade Organisation; it is not a member of the Monetary Fund; it is not a member of the International Bank. All the same, U.S.S.R. has been trading with various countries and entering into bilateral agreements. The other day the U.K. entered into an agreement with U.S.S.R. that it will supply light steam engines to Russia and in return take wheat, barley and timber in large quantities. Therefore, whatever their ideologies, however much they may differ there, and whatever steps they may take elsewhere, so far as trade is concerned they are entering into trade agreements similarly, we ought not to distinguish between this country or that country so far as trade is concerned. Now, what is that Russia can supply? All the oil companies, the American and British, have combined and they have reduced the oil quota that has been assigned to us. In this respect, we can well enter into an agreement with Russia. She can supply us oil, she can supply us coal, she can supply us wheat, she can supply us ammonium sulphate. I learn that three ships containing large quantities of ammonium sulphate have already come to the port of Bombay from Russia or are on their way. These are the articles that we can get from Russia. Let us enter into an agreement with Russia also. Churchill said during the war that the object of the war was to win the war. Likewise, the object of our international trade policy must be to preserve and increase the wealth of this country economically, consistent of course with our good neighbourliness with other countries. That must be our primary concern. Let us not continue to be following Great Britain in her vicissitudes. Let us not be over-anxious about her. Let us change our direction in trade and divert it to U.S.A. Let us also try to get as much from Russia as well as Pakistan as possible.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Sir, it is really very difficult to discuss the export and import policy of the Government of India without statistics. The last date for which I was able to get any figures with regard to exports and imports was December 1946. In London papers, in the *Economist* for instance, we get figures of the import and export trade of England in the very next month, but here we cannot get them for a year and more. In the absence of facts and figures, therefore, it is practically impossible to discuss with any precision the export and import policy of the Government.

But generally speaking there has been a lot of whispering campaign going on in the country in regard to the export and import policy of the Government of India. It is well known, Sir, that there is a large profit in commodities between prices prevailing in India and those prevailing in foreign countries. People who are generally not interested in the trade, like to get into it merely to take advantage of the difference in prices. There is nothing unnatural about it, but it is here where the Government of India should set their foot down and see that no injustice is done to any interest whatsoever.

In Bombay, Sir, I am told that in regard to the export of oil seeds, owing to the difference in price between the purchase in this country and sale outside it being very large, certain individuals and firms have been given the most favoured treatment, although their existence in the trade did not justify it. The same applies in regard to the export of cotton. The East Indian Cotton Association I understand took a deputation to the Honourable the Deputy Prime Minister about two months ago when he was in Bombay and gave vent to their grievances. Several letters on the subject have been addressed to the Press for publication. It is for various reasons not possible for the Press to publish them. This Assembly is just the forum where those grievances can be ventilated.

Let me now take export of Jute, Sir. The Honourable the Commerce Minister just now told us that there was no basis in the allegations that were made by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. Now, whether those allegations are true or not, a public agitation has been carried on in the Press for the last ten days. The article of the *Statesman* day before yesterday is the culminating point in that direction, and still we had no authoritative reply from the Government of India so far. What is the conclusion to which we come to? We are bound to come to the inevitable conclusion that everything is not O. K. in this regard. That is the least that we can say in this respect.

Then, Sir, in regard to imports we have the same story. The time at my disposal is short; otherwise, I would have given chapter and verse in regard to the various commodities in which charges of 'unfairness' can be levelled. Whether those charges are right or wrong, it is for the Honourable Commerce Minister to answer but the fact remains that unsavoury whispering campaign has been going on in regard to imports also. Take for instance the import of motor cars. There are certain firms who get preference over others, although they are not entitled to that quota on the basis of their imports in the basic period. Sir, I will mention only one instance and that has been bothering me for the last three months. There are two makes of cars in this country which have been given, to my knowledge, comparatively very large quotas and what do those cars sell at? They do not sell at the price at which competitive cars sell in this country; I mean the Hindusthan 10 and the Studebaker. The Standard 10, the Vauxhall 12, the Austin 10 are practically the same priced cars in England; they sell at about £430 each car in London. What was the price of Hindustan 10 in the country about a month back? In India the Hindusthan 10 was selling at 9,000 and odd whereas the other cars were selling at 7,000 and odd. There is the regulation which allows a profit of 25 to 30 per cent. on the landed cost of the cars. On the Hindusthan 10 the profit is said to be about 60 per cent. That law does not seem to apply to Hindusthan 10. I saw from the advertisement in newspapers that recently the price of Hindusthan 10 has been reduced to Rs. 7,700. I say that there has been no reduction yet in the London market in regard to the price of Hindusthan 10 and other similar cars. Hindusthan 10 is exactly the same car as Morris 10 and it has been given the name "Hindusthan 10" for this country. Now, Sir, it would appear the price has been reduced by Rs. 1,800 per car in the last one week; it is not because there is any drop in the price of these cars in England, but it is because people are not prepared to pay that Rs. 9,500 today: they used to pay Rs. 9,500 for this car before because they could not get Austin 10, Standard 10 or Vauxhall 12 in the market and because they did not get these, they used to pay the black market price which in this case was white market price. The Studebaker is still sold more or less on the same high price basis as other American cars are in short supply. Now, may I ask in all seriousness of the Commerce Minister why in spite of all this, this firm should be given preference in regard to import quotas and fixation of high prices.

An Honourable Member: What is the name of the Company?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member has mentioned the name of the make. It is not desirable that individual instances should be cited, because the firm referred to has no opportunity of making a reply. But he can state facts without mentioning names.

[Shri Ramnath Goenka]

Shri Ramnath Goenka: I shall not mention the name of the firm and the names of the cars are there and the Honourable the Commerce Minister knows them as much as I do and which every member of the House knows. Recently the Madras Government wanted the dealer of the Hindusthan 10 and Studebaker to produce their original Home invoices to fix their selling prices. They refused to produce the invoices and said: "We are only dealers; we buy from Hindustan Motor Limited and therefore, we cannot produce the invoices" and the Hindustan Motors Limited are outside the jurisdiction of the Government of Madras. Sir, I would have expected the Honourable the Commerce Minister in the circumstances to cancel the import licence of this firm who sell at such abnormal prices.

I will take the case of newsprint in which I am keenly interested. It was agreed by the Government that the highest priority should be given to food and then the second highest priority should be given to newsprint, because newsprint is required for the purpose of printing newspapers *inter alia* to keep up the morale of the people. Now, Sir, what happens? The Commerce Department it appears have laid down a new policy which will result in cutting down about 40 per cent. of the circulation of newspapers in this country. Besides this the small newspapers are practically closing down; some of them have closed down for want of newsprint. The price of newsprint now prevailing is double the landed cost in this country. The big newspapers and those who are influential somehow or other manage to carry on. Out of about 1,400 newspapers in this country there are only 68 large newspapers, who consume more than ten tons a month and the rest of them are small newspapers. They are closing down every day and if the larger newspapers come to their rescue, the Government of India does not help them in granting necessary import licences.

Then, Sir, instances after instances can be multiplied with regard to various matters. Let me mention only one matter more, Sir. The Government of India in the *Gazette of India* issued a notification giving a list of prohibited articles for which import licence will not be allowed. One Bank Manager one day showed me a licence for the import of refrigerators, which was one of the items in the prohibited list. He was wondering whether he was right in opening a letter of credit for an article which was on the prohibited list, but for which his client had a license in his hands. Now, Sir, when licences for prohibited articles are being given, and licences for luxury articles are being given, for dollar exchange, licences for newsprint are withheld. I need not mention various instances; the fact remains that something is wrong somewhere. I am not making any charges. I know very bad tradition has been inherited by the Honourable the Commerce Minister. I say the only remedy for all these ills is to establish an Indian Commercial Corporation on the basis of the U.K.C.C. That Corporation can be established by law to buy in this country and sell outside and *vice versa*. We are virtual monopolists in tea, coffee, manganese, oil seeds etc. Cloth prices are three to four times more in foreign countries than prevailing in this country as the Honourable Minister has admitted himself. Then there is jute for which Bengal holds a monopoly; hides and skins, which is practically the monopoly of South India. All these articles this Indian Commercial Corporation can buy in this country and sell in foreign countries and get the profits for the nation. Then there are articles which we import. We can buy them in foreign countries. If properly managed this profit will reach into 50 to 60 crores, ordinarily speaking. If you say that the merchants will be eliminated, to some extent, I say that they deserve to be eliminated for the way in which they have been behaving.

Take the case of cotton mills today. It was definitely agreed that the cotton mill-owners will see that no higher prices than the prices fixed between the

Government of India and the mill-owners themselves shall be charged. Today it is an open secret and if the Honourable the Commerce Minister would like to come with me, I will take him to the nearest market, Delhi and he will see that on 40 counts 30 per cent., on 50 to 60 counts 40 to 45 per cent. and on 80 counts 70 to 75 more is charged over the agreed price between the mill-owners and the Government. That is what is happening in Bombay; That is what is happening in Kanpur; that is what is happening in Ahmedabad and that is what is happening in the Delhi market. Sir, when they come to a decision and the mill-owners give an undertaking, is it not their duty to see that no higher prices than those approved by the mill-owners are charged at least by the mills themselves. Even before the ink is dried on the agreements profiteering has started. This is why I say the industrialists and traders deserve no more sympathy. Sir, that being so, we have given plenty of opportunity to these middlemen or merchants or traders or to the millowners or to the industrialists; and we have come to the conclusion that we must now take the law in our own hands and see that the trade of the country is carried on in the interests of the country and for the country and the profits, if any, should come to the nation and not go to individuals, other things being equal.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Sir, my cut motion relates to the appointment of Trade Commissioners. Our trade is now in its infancy; for the last three hundred years the Britishers have been occupying India and they carried on trade with this country. They came here as traders and then conquered this country and ruled it. The most important thing to remember is that the progress of any country depends on its economic development which again depends upon its trade. So our trade has been suffering all these years because foreigners were in occupation and used the country for their benefit. During the British regime they appointed some Trade Commissioners to look after this country's trade but they were really to look after British interests. They appointed only those people who would discourage the exports of our country and encourage imports from other countries. Even though in some countries now we have got Indian Trade Commissioners, they also are following the same policy because they were trained on those lines.

Another thing is that our exporters always look to some importer there. There are no Trade Commissioners to look after the interests of our trade and so the trader has to send his own man to see the markets of these foreign countries. Thus he has to incur a heavy expenditure and is put to a loss. And there he is not able to find out a good market for our goods. Sir, the budget shows that there are only five or six Trade Commissioners appointed. Now we have got trade with many other countries and specially to Asian countries we have to send our handloom cloth and other textiles. In these Asian countries there are practically no Trade Commissioners and our people—specially the Chambers of Commerce—are sending their own representatives to look after their trade. These exporters sometimes black-market in certain articles and in importing certain other articles. They produce before Government some letter from the importer and get a license which they sell or black-market to some one. These black markets are going on because of the lack of Trade Commissioners.

Sir, very recently an offer was made from Canada to sell us tractors. A Canadian firm asked our Commerce Ministry to buy these tractors. They said it is not their business but that of the Agriculture Ministry. That Ministry said it was not their business but the business of the Industries Ministry. The result was that we could not get these tractors and that is how our trade suffers.

Sir, India is growing coconuts and America wants to purchase five thousand tons of desiccated coconuts per annum, but no one has arranged these things. If we export these desiccated coconuts we will have dollar currency to the tune of a million. Some places fell vacant in countries like Kabul, Siam and Egypt and there is no provision as to how and when these places will be filled up.

[Shri V. C. Kesava Rao]

Our Indian traders are experiencing a lot of difficulty regarding their correspondence. In the foreign countries these people have influence and want to send things but for want of proper facilities they have to look to some other agency to carry on their business. So there is a lot of delay in the correspondence here as well as in foreign countries. To remove all these difficulties I request that in almost all countries where our trade is carried on Trade Commissioners should be appointed and proper facilities arranged for our trade.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Sir, I have moved a cut motion with regard to coastal shipping and also insurance. It is a very important subject in so far as all shipping is part of the circulatory system of every country. The present position of shipping in India is, to say the least, very deplorable. Most of the shipping companies working here are foreign companies. Though there are some Indian shipping companies they are not very prosperous and are not capable of development to a very great extent unless the Government of India take the initiative in the matter and see that from the point of view of national shipping, national economy, and national defence, major steps are taken for the development of coastal shipping. In fact if I look back at history I find that it was on account of the neglect of navigation and coastal shipping that India exposed herself to exploitation by maritime countries like England, Holland, Portugal and others. If we had been as alert as it is necessary for every living nation to be, we would not have become the exploiting ground of so many maritime countries; and, as we know, it ultimately ended in our enslavement. Today what is the position?

I should like to look at coastal shipping from two points of view. One is the point of view of trade and commerce and as a channel for conveying things from place to place; the other is the point of view of the shipbuilding industry as such. The present coastal shipping business in India is divided between two types of ships, big ships and country craft. One may be said to be the big ships used by steam navigation companies, and the other is small country-craft. There are about twenty shipping companies which are Indian-owned. There might be a few more or less, because the figures I tried to get were not very up to date. But there are about 500 companies plying small craft on the west coast. There might be an equal number on the east coast. I have not been able to get those figures. But the goods and the passengers handled by the navigation companies is a little more—I am speaking of 1942-43—than that handled by the small country-craft. That shows that if 55 per cent. of coastal shipping was handled by the big companies, something like 45 per cent. was handled by the small country-craft. Therefore in the economy of our country, the small country-craft plays a very important part, just at present at least. And I do not see any possibility of getting very big ships built during the next few years. If we think of buying them in foreign markets, well we know that the cost is very high, and possibly they will not be available even if orders are placed from today onwards. Let us take England itself. I do not think England is in a position to execute orders which are placed there because they themselves are in a tight corner and they are manufacturing for their own purposes. The same might be the case with America: and to be satisfied with buying very old secondhand ships is like tying down our progress for at least a decade or so. Therefore, my plea is that the Government should consider this big industry as well as shipping from the point of view of the small country-craft and give encouragement to it as well. It is natural that the big navigation companies are averse to this kind of encouragement that may be given to the small country-craft because there is a conflict of interests. It is almost like that conflict which arises in the bigger field of industry, between big industries and small industries or village industries. But then just at present, I think, unless we work out a synthesis and have a *via media* there is no possibility of progress so far as this industry and coastal shipping are concerned. We cannot afford any longer to entrust big shipping industry to foreigners. We have had enough losses from that course and we also know that at the shipping conference that was held the British-owned companies and the foreign companies definitely said that they were not in a position to accept any programme or policy on behalf of the Government of India to discourage their companies and their shipping to the advantage of the Indian shipping companies. They said there should be free competition. Well, seemingly that position looks very reasonable and rational but equity or justice are all well so long as we talk of generalities. But we have seen that during the last century practically, the British shipping companies have built up large profits, have prospered at the cost of Indian shipping and Indian companies because Indian shipping and Indian companies were at a great disadvantage. They were not encouraged at all and therefore today it would not be right on the part of British shipping companies and foreign-owned shipping companies to say that they must be given justice. It is only wiping out past injustice if the Indian Government today takes the initiative in encouraging Indian shipping industry as well as small-craft industry.

I think the Honourable Minister is aware that in 1947 the Government accepted the policy which was enunciated by the Sorely Committee and some other committees that during the next seven years the Government would try to see that about two million tons of shipping would be built and put on the sea. But I do not exactly know the present progress made in that line. It is necessary to see that shipbuilding is encouraged in India, even if this programme is to be carried out. Otherwise this two million tons of shipping, if it is to be bought, or constructed in foreign shipyards, not less than Rs. 200 crores would flow to foreign countries. Of course, my calculations might not be correct, but grossly I can say about Rs. 1,000 per ton is what may be said to be nearest to the calculation. So I would plead with the Government to look at it from this point of view and just as they have floated what is called the Industrial Finance Corporation, there should be a Shipping Finance Corporation in India. It is only in that way that the country can build the ships that it requires within the time at our disposal according to the Government policy. Shipping has far greater advantages than land transport. For instance, once a man is on the ship, or some other material is on the ship, it can go round to any point in India which is on the seas: also it can go inland wherever there are big rivers with deep enough water. So from three points of view, namely national economy, shipping facilities, and also from the point of view of defence, it is necessary that the Ministry of Commerce should address itself to this important question. And I emphasize again that small country-craft should be encouraged not only in regard to manufacture but it should also be rationalized. If it is possible, it should be arranged that power-driven country-craft is encouraged, given facilities to go faster. More insurance companies should be floated in order to insure the things that are carried or conveyed by the small country-craft, otherwise people do not desire to entrust their goods to small country-craft on account of their being exposed to greater dangers. Thus it would be possible for us within the next seven years as the Government has envisaged, by special efforts to see that shipping and country-craft to the extent that it is necessary may be put on the seas, and this particular line of national development may be reached within the scheduled time. With these words, Sir, I move the cut motion.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Sir, three of the cut motions moved today relate to International Trade Agreements, the export and import policy and the appointment of Trade Commissioners and all the three of them really hinge upon one central factor, namely the policy of the Government in regard to external trade. At the outset I would like to mention that this country's destiny having been so long the plaything of the needs of a wartime economy and largely controlled by the people who were running the war has

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

now been brought to a stage where, unless there is definite and conscious planning, it is not likely that either the people engaged in external trade will be satisfied or that the country will get the maximum benefit out of it. To me it seems that it is a case for the Honourable Minister having to try to increase the available staff with him. Actually as the Ministry is staffed at present, if you ask the Honourable Minister to work out a policy, even a skeleton policy, I do not think he has got the machinery for that purpose.

On a previous occasion I said in this House that this Government is sadly lacking in the necessary amount of technical advice, particularly on economic matters. I repeat that statement now. This department had a fairly decent sized Economic Adviser's section which has now been reduced to practically next to nothing. It may be that this Department is dependent on its sister department, Industries and Supplies in regard to technical advice on several matters but actually co-ordinated activity seems to be very difficult. In fact, the criticism of the licensing policy of this Government is that there was no order nor method. There might have been a few cases of favouritism, I do not dispute it. Probably some of these were even glaring instances of favouritism. What we find really from our objective study of the position is that there was no reason or rhyme behind the grant of these import and export licenses. In fact, early in 1947, during the first half of the year, the department practically denuded our exchange resources by the granting of licenses in a haphazard manner, so that to the extent of my information Rs. 60 to 70 lakhs worth of camphor was imported from the U.S.A., of which only ten per cent. was needed for industrial purposes and the rest went towards being burnt as incense to the Gods in South India. That is an instance of the waste of our exchange resources, which is nothing short of being criminal. Similarly I think this country imported tooth brushes and tooth pastes which might last for three years and the import of fountain pens in this country during 1947 equals the aggregate of the imports during any five best years in the past that the trade could record. So that it only shows that the Commerce Ministry has not had the machinery for the purpose of shaping its policy nor to find out what is absolutely necessary for the country and what is not. Willy nilly the force of circumstances have brought us to a stage where unless we consciously and deliberately plan our import and export policy we shall be soon in queer street.

I hope therefore that any emphasis on the need for a trade policy covering both exports and imports will not be taken amiss by my Honourable friend. In fact on the cut motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar I thought the emphasis should be on the basis, "Let us know what exactly is going to be our policy, so that we shall be able to acquit ourselves suitably in international trade conferences, because we would then know definitely what we want." As a matter of fact during the Geneva Conference, I understand, our delegation was in the unhappy position of not knowing what to do. This country was being divided and our delegation did not know whether they represented one part of divided India or the united India and what was the policy that they had to put forward. All these problems were before them in Geneva. If we are to outline a definite trade policy and if my honourable friends who in season and out of season want a curtailment of the expenses of the Government are prepared to be liberal at least so far as the Ministry of Commerce is concerned, to enable them to gather together the necessary machinery for the purpose of framing a policy then we will be entitled to ask them why they have no definite trade policy.

The next matter that I would like to deal with is the question of the appointment of trade commissioners. My friend Mr. Keshava Rao from Madras offered some remarks on this question. I do not think those remarks are really fair in regard to the work of a number of people who have gone out

from the country abroad and who have been doing their best within the limitations imposed on them. It is no doubt true that, functioning as they did in the past—as subordinates of the British Government—our Trade Commissioners could not do very much. The position is now different. The position is that we are an independent country and if we have a trade policy our men could do abroad very well indeed. At the moment I think we are rather short of men abroad for this particular purpose. In many of the places where we had trade commissioners in the past we have nobody today. I think the Honourable Minister will do well to give his close personal attention to this question and send out men from India who would be able to represent the trading interests of this country and do well by this country.

Another question is in regard to the organisation of our commercial departments elsewhere on which I would like to lay some stress. We have an organisation called the Supply Mission in America. We have a Supply Mission in England, also an India Stores Department and various other organisations. There is a Trade Commissioner in England and a Trade Commissioner in America. I would like to ask my Honourable friend if there is any co-ordination between these people. Do they meet together or do they meet people who go out from India? In fact I was told by a junior member of the delegation that went out to Lake Success, the other day, that neither the head of the India Supply Mission in America nor the Trade Commissioner there thought fit to call on a Minister of this Government who had gone there though not certainly for a purpose germane to the work that is being done by the Supply Mission or the Trade Commission. Nobody would think it is not proper that these people should meet him, talk to him and probably give him whatever information they can to aid him in his work. That is the type of co-ordination that now exists. The Embassy is in one place, our trade commissioner is another place and they have nothing whatever to do in the matter of close contact with the Supply Mission. If we really are going to benefit by a Purchasing Department or a department which aids non-official trade agencies in these areas, they must all come together. They must be in one place and in one building. They will have to follow one policy and act with one voice. It is not a question of one person doing one thing and the other person countermanding it. I was told sometime back that one department of the Government wanted light tractors. Somebody said that there were about 100 tractors available in a particular factory in U.S.A. Another department of this Government said that they had not yet decided whether they were going to import tractors at all. This is an instance of the I. and S. Department, the Agriculture Department and the Commerce Department is going in different ways so far as the question of importing valuable material from abroad is concerned, which will ultimately leave this country without the necessary material, particularly in a world where the market is the seller's market and not the buyer's market.

That leads me on to the question whether this Government should have an organisation which will be able to canalise the major activities of export and import. My friend on my left mentioned the need for starting some sort of Commercial Corporation similar to the UKCC that functioned during the war. My own feeling is that it would be wise to start a Corporation of this nature. I think it was sometimes in 1944 the Government of India as it then was, seriously considered the idea of starting such a Corporation. I am not able to remember what happened but I do remember that there was a conference in Bombay of various interests and certain broad outlines were chalked out. But I suppose, vested interests stood in the way of any such corporation coming into being. The necessity for a corporation of this nature, as I have said before, is clear because all our export trade has been more or less disorganized. Practically all our exports in the past were taken out of the normal trade channels.

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

At that time export was regulated partly by the Government of India, the U.K. Food Ministry regulated it in the case of food articles and the U.K. Ministry of Supply in the case of other articles—so much so that some of the big people in the regular business have gone out of it. The so-called normal channels that now exist were not the normal channels that existed before 1939.

My Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar said something about jute and he criticized the Minister. I think it is a matter in which the Minister has to be supported. A question was asked the other day—we were not able to elicit all the information we wanted to—but if newspapers here, however eminent, carry on propaganda on behalf of vested interests which are mostly foreign interests, Government has to see to it that the foreign interests will not have a whip hand in this matter, particularly at a time when jute, as everyone knows, is needed for the purpose of barter with countries which supply us food and members in this House should support Government and stand by it in its action which may not be wise in all its aspects but which is certainly wise in the essence of it. I think it is time that the Cabinet as a whole takes note of what is being done in newspapers in this country. The other day the *Statesman* wrote an article apparently sponsored by certain interests. The bulk of the jute interests in Calcutta are European interests with one or two big Indian interests and they wanted things their own way. That is followed up by a leading article in the *Statesman* which is, to say the least, insulting. I would suggest to the Honourable Prime Minister who is here that he ought to read that article. It is thoroughly insulting to a National Government which has no other interest except to do the right thing by the people. Here we have a newspaper trying to boost foreign interests. In a matter like this therefore I would ask every member of this House to support the Commerce Minister in whatever he does.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about the *Indian Finance* of Calcutta?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The *Indian Finance* might have its own reasons for doing a particular thing. It does not happen to be a member of the Legislative Assembly elected by the people having to do good to the people: it is there to serve its own interests.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member propose to take a long time?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I will require only a couple of minutes, Sir, and with your indulgence I will finish before the House rises for Lunch.

While on this question I would like to revive this matter of starting a state corporation. My Honourable friend to my left has given certain reasons as to why it should be done. The Commerce Minister has told us and I think other Ministers have also told us that in some cases, for instance in the case of foodgrains purchased from other countries, we are including as a part of the terms of the contract certain amount of quotas for the purpose of export from this country of textiles in most cases. Knowing as we do, that there is a very big margin between the prices obtaining in this country and elsewhere—though this marginal difference will probably not continue to be as big in the future under a de-controlled economy—I think it is only right that the Government should tap a portion of the difference for the benefit of the taxpayer. This will also save all the embarrassment to the Government of giving licences to this particular person or that particular person. Jute has got to be controlled by Government for various reasons because of the peculiar position in which that trade is. Similarly coffee. There was a complaint the other day that the Coffee Board is making an enormous amount of money for being divided amongst coffee interests and why it should not be the monopoly of Government or why the Government should not get all the necessary revenue from this source instead of by way of taxes. The position may not obtain for a long time because actually our monopoly will not remain for long in this respect. In another five years our oilseeds monopoly will cease when East and West Africa develop this industry. But so long as the monopoly is there, at a time when the Government is not able to tap the full resources needed by way of taxation, why should it not take over the trade in these articles and make as much money as it can? Trade interests will be satisfied if no undue favouritism is given to any particular person. That is a very valid argument for making the Honourable Minister consider this particular suggestion of a State Corporation made by my Honourable friend to my left.

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. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, I shall try to deal with one or two points which have arisen in the course of this debate. One is about the introduction of customs barriers between India and Pakistan. As has been clearly pointed out by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, whatever political differences we may have, on business there should be no differences whatsoever. With regard to these customs barriers, they are mutually destructive of the Dominions. There are long common land frontiers and customs barriers will always be a costly matter to maintain. There would be plenty of smuggling and, of course its necessary corollary, corruption. The effect of this would be that if customs barriers fail, they will cause enormous loss to both the Dominions and specially of the consumers on both sides, and if they succeed, the result would be that raw jute for instance will be diverted from Pakistan to foreign countries. Raw jute is a great necessity for West Bengal or rather for the whole of India. Raw jute is absolutely necessary for our enormous jute mill industry and if we miss raw jute from East Bengal, the result would be that crores of rupees would be lost to India. Firstly the export of finished jute products brings us an enormous amount of customs revenues, and again the jute trade gives us a very large amount of Income-tax. Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar has dealt with a very important aspect of the situation, namely that we will gradually lose the foreign markets. The greatest danger of jute is substitutes, and if we cannot supply jute products to the civilized world, they will be forced to introduce substitutes. There is already a considerable amount of research in foreign countries to find cheap and effective substitutes, and our customs policy will be highly injurious to both the Dominions. As has been suggested by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, I think there should be a trade agreement between the two countries. There are I understand, very influential business men in both the Dominions. I think these business men should be asked to take up the negotiations, and I think business men can do business negotiations more speedily and more smoothly and effectively than Government organizations do. The trade agreement should be on a broader basis between the two. East Bengal produces 70 per cent. of raw jute, The finished jute is made in West Bengal. We have coal, and Pakistan has foodgrains. They have cotton, and we have cotton cloth. May we not try to exchange these things for our mutual benefit? Without elaborating the point any further, I should strongly support the policy which has been advocated by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

Then we come to another important matter, namely the handling of jute quotas this year. It has been suggested by an esteemed Honourable Member that we should support the Honourable Minister in whatever he does, and he has gone to the length of declaring that we should support him whether he is right or wrong. I think the Honourable Member has gone a little too far. Some of us

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

have come here to support the Government, but to say that we should support the Minister whether he is right or wrong is practically conceding that he is wrong. The Honourable Member who opened the debate never suggested anything personal against the Minister. He rather said that it was his duty to bring to the notice of the House certain important aspects of this matter and he asked the Honourable Minister to give us the facts. There was not the slightest suggestion of anything undesirable so far as the Honourable Minister is concerned. The Honourable Member who suggested that we should support the Minister even when he is wrong, has introduced a very interesting diversion in the House by pointing out that the paper which has given currency to certain reports is a foreign paper. I submit that we should consider the allegations on the merits rather than emphasise the fact that the paper was a foreign paper. Some time ago when the Honourable Minister was away from India, some jute interests saw some members, and some of them saw me. They said that the policy of distributing quotas between experienced shippers and new-comers was initiated by the late government and they were anxious that this should not be repeated. I can assure the House that these interests who saw us were all Indians. They made frantic appeals to the Government and they urged that if the quotas were distributed amongst new-comers who had no experience of the trade, great disaster will follow, and disaster has really followed. In fact we have lost not only the present market but we have compromised a future market to a large extent. I have never been in touch with any European business men in this respect nor do I happen to have the good fortune of knowing them. What I have said is based on information derived from Indian sources alone. In these circumstances it would have been more to the point to refute the allegations than emphasising the foreign character of the newspaper. I should submit that the policy of distributing patronage to a large number of people as was done in the case of distribution of cloth quotas, should never have been followed in a matter of international importance like this. I think, Sir, the Honourable Minister should henceforth distribute the quotas amongst experienced shippers irrespective of the fact whether they are Europeans or Indians; we cannot afford to lose foreign markets; and even if the shippers were foreign merchants there are a large number—70 or 75 per cent.—of shareholders who are all Indians and middle class people. Many of the shippers are Indians. It will not do to say that some of them are foreigners and therefore business should be taken away from their hands. We cannot do so without affecting our own prosperity and our future. Foreigners are perhaps more in touch with foreign markets and are therefore suitable for our purposes. Remembering that jute is the largest export in India and that Indian jute is an exclusive monopoly in the world, we should in our own interests do everything to retain our monopoly and our dominant position in this respect.

I hope the Honourable Minister will explain to the House the exact method by which the export quotas were really distributed, and especially as to the allegation of the newspaper—which allegations are made by others too—as to whether a large number of quotas have remained unused, or were given to those who did not know how to use them; it is said that there were some attempts to black-market them but some hitch arose and it could not be carried out. The allegation is that quotas have not been used; in the meantime we have lost the market in consequence. The Honourable Minister must feel that if there is the slightest truth in these allegations then there is certainly something wrong in the Department.

Shri Khurshed Lal (U.P.: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been hearing a lot about jute and other things this morning, and I want to turn the attention of the House now to the manner in which our tea trade has been handled by the Commerce Department.

Sir, Amritsar was the principal market for the export of tea from India to Afghanistan and Kashmir. This year for reasons over which the Commerce Department had no control—owing to the Rawalpindi route being closed—tea could not be sent to Kashmir. But Afghanistan presents an entirely different story. It seems that since the beginning of January the export of tea to Afghanistan has been at a standstill on account of Governmental action. I put a question to the Honourable Minister early last month and he told the House that the Central Government had not passed any order banning the export of tea, the East Punjab Government had not passed any order banning the export of tea, but the East Punjab Government had placed certain restrictions which had resulted in the stoppage of export to Afghanistan. Sir, I do not know what is the distinction between a ban and placing restrictions which results in the stoppage of exports altogether. The Honourable the Commerce Minister then also said that he was taking steps to see that the East Punjab Government did not interfere in our foreign trade in this manner. But the House would be surprised to hear that though over a month has passed since that question was put and this assurance was given by the Honourable Minister, those restrictions imposed by the East Punjab Government still continue and nothing has been done in the matter so far. The result is that stocks of tea are accumulating in Amritsar and the very important market of Afghanistan that we had is likely to be lost. I do not know how it came about that a Provincial Government interfered in the matter of foreign trade. I submit that if Provincial Governments situated on the border of India are going to monkey about with our foreign trade and it becomes open to any local official—may be a Deputy Commissioner, may be someone else—who takes it into his head to interfere with trade in this manner and stop trade in this manner, then this is a matter about which the Government and this House ought to take serious notice.

Sir, tea is one of our principal articles of export and if our trade is going to be interfered in this manner, I submit we are going to lose very heavily. It is very surprising that in spite of this matter having been brought to the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Minister such a long time back, the position remains absolutely unchanged. We are talking about loss of our market for jute, the likelihood is that this market for tea in Afghanistan also we are likely to lose because after this season passes and they manage to take their tea from somewhere then we would be losing that market.

The actual position has been that traders from Afghanistan have been willing to take the stock of tea from Amritsar and export it to Afghanistan at their own risk; they have been willing to take it at the border of India and Pakistan and the Indian traders are not to suffer any risk. What I want to know is, what are those restrictions which the East Punjab Government still continue to impose and which the Government of India is unable to get lifted?

Sir, last Wednesday I put a short notice question about the system of export of jute. Before and after that a persistent campaign has been carried on against the Honourable the Commerce Minister about the introduction of this new system; his motives, his methods, have all been challenged. I must confess that this criticism coming as it does from the quarter from which it comes, makes me at first sight extremely suspicious of the motives of the people who are criticising him. When foreign vested interests criticise the policy adopted by the Honourable the Commerce Minister, we have to be on our guard about the *bona fides* of the criticism. It is also a fact, as far as I know, that the West Bengal Government objected to the introduction of the established shippers system last year and they have not raised any objection, so far as I know, to the introduction of this system. But the fact remains that grave allegations have been made that whatever the merits of this system or that system may be, favouritism has been shown in the allotment of quotas, that

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people who were not established in the trade had been given quotas and that people have been given quotas who have not been able to utilise them, with the result that the trade has suffered.

Sir, ours is a country where the saying that "Ceasar's wife must be above suspicion" is not a mere saying. We have inherited a tradition where Rama turned out Sita merely on certain allegations!

I submit that in order to safeguard the fair name of the Government, in order to safeguard the fair name of the Honourable the Commerce Minister, it is necessary that these allegations which have been made and which are being freely made should be enquired into and refuted if they are false. The allegations, Sir, are serious. We cannot ignore or shut eyes to them. If it is a fact that quotas have been allotted to the people having impressive stationery and fictitious Calcutta offices, that is a serious matter. I hope, Sir, that this allegation is false; I hope, Sir, if an independent enquiry is held this allegation will turn out to be false, but I submit that in order to keep up the fair name of this Government and in order to maintain the prestige of this Government, it is necessary that the lie should be brought home to those who have dared to make this allegation.

Sir, in the very nature of things, this quota business places tremendous powers in the hands of officials, in whose way great temptations come, and although quotas may be necessary we have to guard against these evils coming in. Of course, as far as I can see, the best solution would be, as suggested, to constitute a Commercial Corporation and the Government must nationalise the entire foreign trade, so that the evils of favouritism and corruption may not come in. I remember some time back we had questions by my Honourable friend Lala Deshbandhu Gupta in which he pointed out the existence of advertisements about the sale of these quotas in the papers. It is said that quotas have been allotted to people who were never in the trade. It is said that quotas to the extent of about 9,000 tons have been allotted to a jeweller in Bombay. Well, Sir, these are allegations I submit which should not be allowed to go unchallenged and I hope in fairness to the Government and in fairness to the Honourable Minister himself, he will give us a clear statement about these things.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha (West Bengal: General): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Goenka. The commerce policy of the country should be so regulated as to help the economic development of the nation. It should not be an isolated policy, but it should be co-ordinated with the entire economics of the country. First of all, I should like to draw your attention and the attention of this House to the jute trade position. It is the principal export trade of India comprising nearly 28 per cent. of the total exports of our country. It furnishes quite a good sum for our foreign exchange, with which we have to buy our food and other necessaries. Already the partition of Bengal has administered a rude shock to this trade. Seventy per cent. of the raw jute production has been left outside the Indian Union, and we have got only 30 per cent. of the jute producing areas. Instead of getting some special encouragement, and I would say, special indulgence, which it should get, this trade has been badly treated by the Government of free India. This trade, due to its geographical condition, has been practically limited to certain portions of the country—eastern parts of India; and India was almost the monopoly producer of jute in the world. She enjoyed the unique position of supplying the jute products to the whole world. But now, due to some short-sighted policy or due to inefficiency or due to some corrupt practice, this trade has been put in a wrong way.

Several speakers before me have related cases of people who were never in this trade having been allotted export quotas of jute. These quotas are now being sold or are attempted to be sold, and it is reported that the Calcutta shippers who can supply the hessian are refusing to purchase these quota permits, with the result that the whole trade has been put at a standstill. Huge stocks of jute have piled up in the Calcutta godowns and our foreign market is being denied the supply that they are eagerly awaiting from India. It is reported that America, one of the biggest jute purchasers, is trying to find out some other substitute or some other markets. It has been alleged in this House that most of the Calcutta shippers are of foreign origin. That is not exactly true. I think not more than 20 per cent. of the Calcutta shippers in the jute trade are foreigners; the majority of the present-day Calcutta shippers are of Indian nationality. So, Sir, the whole policy should be reviewed. Unless this is done immediately, it is apprehended that the whole economic policy of the Government may be upset. Our purchasing power depends to a very great extent on the supply of jute to the outside countries. It has been reported that many Calcutta shippers are trying to go to East Bengal, *i.e.* to the Pakistan Dominion, which would mean that the Calcutta market and the Indian market would suffer great loss.

Bengal has been partitioned and due to that, Calcutta port has received a shock. It was the supply port of East Bengal and other parts of India, but now East Bengal has been cut off from its region of supply. Although Calcutta deserves some consideration and some safeguard from the Government of India, we see, instead of that, a policy of discriminating against Calcutta being followed by the Government of India. I do not like to ascribe any motive or any regional interests. I know not what the policy is. Somehow or other, there is something wrong in the whole policy. If Calcutta suffers in this trade, the whole of India will suffer and the whole export trade of India will suffer. Consequently, our purchasing power will also go down.

Then, Sir, about 70,000 workers are working in this jute trade in Calcutta. If the Calcutta business collapses, if the jute trade of Calcutta collapses, then these 70,000 workers with all their family members will be put into very great difficulties. Lakhs and lakhs of rupees have been invested in this trade, and I do not know what will be the fate of this huge amount if the trade collapses due to the short-sighted policy of the Government.

Then, my Honourable friend Mr. Khurshed Lal has spoken about the tea trade also. In that trade also, if you are going to lose the Afghanistan market or the market in the Middle East, that would be a great loss for the whole country.

I would again like to say that the commercial policy of the country should be co-ordinated and correlated with the entire economic structure of the country and it should not be treated as an isolated thing.

Then, Sir, I must also refer to the import policy. Now the present import policy is one in which the system of granting import licences goes on haphazardly without any plan or order. Mostly, we see persons who have been either in the business previously or who are aspiring to enter into business with a view to having some means of livelihood get these permits. The whole import policy should be regulated and controlled, so that our national industry may prosper and for this there should be some non-official body. An Honourable friend has suggested that a Commercial Corporation or something like that should be established. Somehow or other, this should not be left to the absolute discretion of the Department. I am constrained to say, Sir, that the Commerce Department, the department which is issuing the export and import licences has not much of reputation for honesty and efficiency to lose. It may be that there is something wrong, but that is for the Honour-

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able Minister to find out. Then it has been said in the House that one foreign paper has been making this propaganda for the interests of the foreign investors in jute. That also is not correct. The *Indian Finance* is the best financial paper in India and it has written a series of articles against the jute policy of the Government. So, the whole policy requires to be reviewed and revised from the point of view of national economy. I again make an appeal on behalf of Calcutta, which port has already suffered too much due to the partition of Bengal that Calcutta needs some special care, some special privilege and some indulgence from the Government of India, so that it may be able to recoup.

Then, Sir, there is another point on which I should like to speak and that is the trade policy between the two Dominions. Already custom barriers have been put and I do not know how this will affect the revenue of the Government. This may bring some money, some revenue on both sides, but we should also look to the poor consumers. As far as Bengal is concerned, Calcutta was the supply port for the whole area, not only for the imported articles, but also for the indigenous goods and for the goods produced in India. So to put these custom barriers indiscriminately would mean the strangling of the entire business of the province. So, Sir, I would request the Honourable Minister to revise this policy and see if any way may be found out, so that the two Dominions may have some free trade or something like that. With these few remarks, Sir, I support the cut motion.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the previous speakers has said that the Government had no definite policy regarding export and import, but if I have understood the Government correctly, when the Government introduced the Export and Import Control Bill in 1947, they had certain definite policy in their mind, and when this Bill was introduced the assembly members had questioned the then Commerce Member as to the necessity of such a control then. The then Commerce Member then explained the policy underlying the control of import and export trade. One of the things which the Commerce Member said was that especially at the present juncture we have very limited amount of dollars in our hands and we want to export such things which are not required in our country and import such things which are mostly required in our country, so that we can increase our production here and utilise our sterling balances to the utmost benefit of the country. His special point was towards importing of as much of capital goods on which depends the increase of production in our country. He made it explicitly clear that we shall give first preference to importing of capital goods and foodstuffs, and shall not waste our dollars in importing luxuries. That is the underlying principle which he explained to us and having heard this argument of the Commerce Member, none of us could go against the control of such things and we all agreed. But then there was another thing and that was taking the power in the hands of the Government, of issuing permits and granting licences and on this there was much discussion and there was a note of dissent also. I was one of those who put in a minute of dissent.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is referring only to his minute of dissent and disclosing the contents of what he has stated. I suppose he will not go further as to what happened in the Select Committee?

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: May I refer to the minute of dissent?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: I am simply referring to that, and nothing beyond that. In that I have said, Sir:

"There is no objection to the restrictions of import and export of any commodity whenever the country requires it. Be it for one year, three years or even more. But I object to the continuance of the present system of giving licences to import and export a particular commodity to a particular person or class of persons, as this has resulted in creating a group of vested interests consisting of officials and the merchants to whom licences are issued, and has led to various sorts of nepotism and corruption and has come in the way of freedom of trade. . . . ."

Then, Sir, an amendment was moved in the House to this effect and several alternatives were given to the then Commerce Member that if these alternatives be adopted then the Government has only to take care to see that dollars are given for importing things according to the principle laid down and to see that the same are not wasted for luxury goods etc. An assurance was given by the then Commerce Member that the discretion of giving licences shall be properly exercised. But the result shows that what we had apprehended has unfortunately proved true; luxury goods have been imported in preference to capital goods; and the discussion in the House shows that giving of licences has resulted in nepotism and corruption of the worst type. Sir, there has been a complaint here in the House; I have heard the arguments that licences had been issued to many newcomers who wanted to deal in this business. I am not against that, Sir, for the simple reason that if you confine your trade only to persons who had been in the trade before, the result will be that so many other intending persons who want to do business will be debarred and they had been debarred. One of the worst things which has happened as a result of this control is that all the trade has been monopolised by a few persons and even if anything has been given to the new persons, it has not been given to one who wanted to deal with that thing, in order to earn his livelihood making that as a profession, who wanted to take that thing as a profession, but licences were given to persons who never meant to make that thing as a profession, but just to make a temporary profit out of that licence, and these too were confined mostly to millionairs.

My Honourable friend Mr. Chaudhuri was just now telling me that most of the businessmen who wanted to come into new trades in various commodities were not given licences while people who had nothing to do with that business and who never intended to do any business were given licences; the result was that *bona-fide* businessmen were kept away from dealing in things which they wanted to develop and thereby promote regular trade. I am not concerned with who gets the licences and who does not get them; that is not a matter of much interest. What I however feel most is that dollars which should have been utilised only for capital goods and for things as foodstuffs etc. have been utilised for things without which we could and can very well do.

Sir, I asked a question here as to the quantity and value of materials imported into this country after the 15th August last, because as to the things imported by the previous Government before that date the less said the better. So I put this question on the 2nd December last about capital goods, luxury goods and foodstuffs. That information was not supplied to me; I was told that the information was being collected. The other day I asked the office whether the information was ready, and I was told that it had not yet been collected. Then again I wanted to know from the Finance Minister as to how much of our sterling balances has been utilised for capital goods and how much for luxury goods and foodstuffs. He referred me to the Report on Seaborne Trade; and as regards capital goods and consumer goods he said the statistics is not kept. Sir, it is a matter of great regret that even our Minister does not know what amount is spent on capital goods on which depends the future development of our country. This shows what control they have kept! It was said by a previous speaker that camphor worth 60 lakhs of rupees was imported, out of which only 20 lakhs worth was required for industry; we do not know what was done with the rest of that camphor. If you go to Connaught Circus you will find shops filled with only luxury goods,—lipsticks, toothpaste, perfumery, wine, etc. But machine tools and parts are not

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available at all. The Finance Minister said that there is no bar and all applications for capital goods are granted as a matter of course. But if the Commerce Minister will kindly go through the file he will find that that is not so.

Sir, I have no more time to give instances that the Government has not exercised the control over dollars properly. So far as control on dollars and the granting of licences and other things are concerned, it is not the policy which is wrong. The policy is there and it is right, but, it is the administration which is faulty and must be remedied. Sir, I support the cut motion.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Sir, I am highly obliged to Honourable Members for their frank and free comments and suggestions on matters pertaining to the Commerce Ministry which, I may assure them, I value very deeply. Sir, it shall be my endeavour to have these various suggestions carefully scrutinised by our Ministry at the earliest possible opportunity; and I on my part undertake to give effect to them in the light of this detailed examination without the least possible delay.

Sir, if Honourable Members will permit me, I will say a few words about my personal attitude towards controls in general and those specific aspects of controls in particular which have loomed so large in the course of our deliberations today. I am no lover of controls for controls' sake. Nevertheless I realise that in those spheres of our present economy where a purposive direction is needed it is not possible to remove all restraints or controls over those economic activities and leave them to the so-called natural economic laws to take care of them. Sir, that in my view would be a right royal road to chaos, confusion and social inequities. At the same time I fully recognise that it is Government's duty to see that only those controls or restraints are kept which should be of a bare minimum nature in order that economic initiative and enterprise are given the fullest scope for development and are not clogged and enmeshed in a mass of rules and regulations or departmental codes. (*An Honourable Member*: "Is it private enterprise?") All enterprise including private enterprise, because that is the basis of trade and commerce.

Sir, that is essentially or basically a problem of administration and organisation to which very close scrutiny will have to be paid in the near future and to which —I will regretfully though very frankly admit to the House—it has not been possible for me to give sufficient attention which it deserves or merits because of my other preoccupations with several vital issues. Honourable Members are aware of the hardships and hindrances resulting in perpetual crisis with which we have been faced and which we had to tackle. I do not want to plead this as an excuse but I hope my Honourable friends will take this as an explanation for my inability to come to grips with this essentially organisational matter of Governmental control machinery.

Sir, a good deal has been said about inefficiency, corruption, mismanagement, etc; I do not desire to go into the details of these charges. At the same time I do not want unequivocally to dispute them. However, if I may pass on my experience of this Ministry of the last few months, for whatever it may be worth to my Honourable friends, I can say that most of these complaints are, to put it mildly, over-exaggerated. Nevertheless, Sir, we have tried to do our best under trying circumstances and we shall spare no pains hereafter to see that all these complaints, which have been closely associated with our control offices, are eliminated at the earliest possible opportunity.

I would remind my Honourable friends of the circumstances under which these controls were introduced. To bring home to them the difficulties, the magnitude of the problems and the complexities with which we were faced. My Honourable friends know that it was during the period of stress and strain of the war that these various control offices were, so to say, set up overnight. Mass recruitment to these offices was made, and I must be frank when I say

that accelerated promotions were also given. But I do not desire to go into and rake up the unhappy past at this juncture. We have, Sir, during the last few months taken some positive steps to remove several of these evils which have crept into our machinery of control, and for the benefit of the House I shall mention one or two of such steps.

Very stringent security measures have been enforced in order to prevent all and sundry from literally invading our control offices and establishing contacts with not only our officers but other members of the staff. According to reports which have reached me, this step has had its desired effect and to a large extent efficiency has increased. We have also at the same time effected a large number of transfers in order to eliminate many a square peg from the round hole that he was in and we have taken steps to see that wherever any replacements or additional staff are recruited, a proper selection of the correct type of personnel is done according to our strict governmental regulations. I have every hope and faith that in the none too distant future very little will remain that can be said against our control organisation. For all this I honestly and sincerely feel a sort of public co-operation and public spirit is needed from not only my friends who have been all too willing to criticise our control mahcinery, but also from the general public at large. I can give this assurance to my Honourable friends here today, that I shall very much appreciate it if they bring any case of complaint personally to me and I shall personally undertake to investigate it and I can promise that suitable and most drastic steps will be taken against those who are responsible for giving a bad name or odour to our control offices.

Sir, I do not want to say very much more regarding our organisation and administration of these offices. Only one word more: just as a single swallow does not make the summer, so I would say a few instances or complaints against our control offices should in themselves not be sufficient to condemn our whole organisation as such. I shall be failing in my duty if I did not pay my highest tributes to some of our superior officers, who have risen to the occasion at the moment and who are co-operating with me in eliminating many of these evils.

Well, I shall now pass on to a brief elucidation of our much maligned export and import policy. We have been accused of not having a policy whatsoever. In that connection, my Honourable friend, Mr. Anathasayanam Ayyangar, as well as my other friends like Mr. Krishnamachari and one or two others from this House have accused us of a lack of a foreign trade policy. May I remind my friends that the foreign trade policy of this country as we visualized it was enunciated so far back as October 1946. It was an occasion when I presided over the Trade Policy Committee consisting of businessmen, economists, representatives of Chambers of Commerce—more or less a well representative gathering, wherein that policy was very clearly and unequivocally enunciated. That policy still stands. If I may say so, international trade is not an end in itself. It is, as I said then, a means to an end, and so far as our exports are concerned, at that time I said that it shall be our desire to see that only manufactured or semi-manufactured goods are sent out of this country in increasing quantities. On the other hand, so far as our imports go, I felt that what we needed and what was pointed out by my friend, Mr. Jhunjhunwala a few minutes ago, was essentially capital goods for production purposes in this country so as to increase the innate wealth of this great land. That policy still remains.

Now, Sir, I shall come to the details of our import and export policy. May I before I get down to these details, remind the House that no import and export policy can be a static policy. Accordingly our import and export

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policy is a dynamic policy, which varies according to the ever-changing factors with which we are faced and circumstances to which that policy has to be adapted. As my Honourable friends are aware, our imports and exports were controlled in the early period of the war, sometime, if I remember right, from the year 1941-42. Our control over exports was largely effected with the avowed objects of reserving essential goods for national needs: and, secondly, preventing key commodities from going into territories which were under the control of the enemy. Since then, I know that the second circumstance or factor which motivated our control over exports no longer exists. All the same, even after the termination of hostilities, it has been deemed proper that control over exports should continue in order to see that there is an equitable distribution of commodities, of which the world is in short supply, to all our markets, thereby retaining our old or natural markets as well as newly acquired ones, trying to canalise our trade to those channels from which sources we are likely to secure those goods so urgently needed in this country: And our third consideration for continuance of export control is to earn as much foreign exchange as is possible in these difficult times for our purpose.

Our export policy is continuously kept under review and it is relaxed or liberalised according to circumstances of the case of particular articles constituting our export list. No opportunity is lost to decontrol as early as possible, so that we may be relieved of all the odium that our Ministry is generally associated with and for the information of my Honourable friends I may say that since the termination of the war roughly about 200 articles have been completely decontrolled. Controlled commodities—and there are not too many of them—are allowed to be exported out of this country on what is generally called the "established shipper's principle", that is export quotas are granted to such applicants who have in the past exported those commodities or goods to particular countries during a particular basic year. The basic year generally taken is the year 1941-42. Even then in such commodities, in order to ensure that geniune or *bona fide* traders are allowed to take interest in these various trades in which they were not in the previous or basic year, a certain percentage is reserved for what are called new comers.

There are other controlled commodities like oilseeds, oils and jute, in which the "established shipper's principle" does not work or was found to be wanting in some respects and had to be changed. For those commodities licenses are issued to any applicant who is familiar with that particular trade and who can show firm contracts with foreign buyers abroad.....

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): May I know why the Government are allowing such useful and necessary commodities like oil cake to go out of the country? They are useful as food for animals and also useful for agricultural purposes.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I will explain that later.

As I was saying in these particular commodities there is nothing like an "established shipper's principle" at work but applications are invited from all who are connected with the trade who have knowledge of that trade and who can show firm contracts, with foreign buyers. In certain cases too an extra precaution is taken, namely a certificate or a guarantee from the bank is needed if letters of credit are not produced.

Since the particular matter of jute has been voiced so fervently in the House today, before I pass on to our import policy or other things pertaining to our exports, I should like to explain in a little detail our jute export policy.

We are as anxious as any of our friends who have said certain things today, to see that our jute trade maintains and retains its pre-eminent position that it enjoys in our export list. A very pertinent question which can be answered

rightaway before I go into the details of our jute export system is, why is it necessary at all to maintain control over jute exports? Sir, there are three factors at work which necessitate the continuance of our control over jute exports. First of all, we have to so canalise our jute trade to those countries from which we can earn the largest amount of foreign exchange that is so badly needed to buy the surplus capital goods and foodstuffs which are only available from those particular areas. For the sake of canalising our jute trade in those particular directions we have to assign what are called "destinational quotas". Quotas are given to particular countries and according to our needs of particular types of foreign exchange additional quotas are given to those particular destinations. In the second place, as Honourable friends are fully aware, we have our trade sanctions against South Africa. We have to be careful enough to see that jute, which is so much needed all over the world and more so when there is a jute-famine as in South Africa, is not allowed to be re-exported from certain of these countries to South Africa. A few instances have been brought in the past to the notice of the Commerce Ministry by some friends of this House as well as by certain friends outside and accordingly steps have been taken to cancel the destinational quotas of these particular countries. Without that help, I contend, it would not have been possible for Government effectively to enforce its trade sanctions against South Africa.

There is a third reason too why we desire to maintain the control system over our jute exports. As Honourable Members are fully aware our requirements of foodgrains are quite urgent and it is available only in certain parts of the world, where it is surplus. Accordingly very often Government has to negotiate barter transactions or arrangements with those particular countries and jute goods are urgently needed in such transactions. Without a control over jute exports it will not be possible for us to effect these barter arrangements.

Now, Sir, I shall come to the details of our jute control. As several of my Honourable friends here in the House must be aware the jute year begins from July and ends in June. This jute year we have thought fit for administrative reasons to divide into two equal parts, namely the period from July to December and the second period from January to June. During the last four or five years before the introduction of the established shipper's principle in 1947 after the fixation of destinational quotas, jute export licenses were issued to all business people who were familiar with the trade, who could produce evidence to show that there have been orders from foreign buyers and who could also substantiate those orders either by bank guarantees or letters of credit. This system somehow was altered during 1947 and the established shippers principle was for the first time introduced in its place. The established shippers principle, so far as jute exports went, operated only for one shipping period. Certain evils of that system were brought to our notice and I am sure what my friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad was alluding to, namely about the representations made to him in December, was to the same effect and the representations must have been the same representations which were made to us also in the Commerce Ministry. Those representations brought to light certain features which we honestly feel are not in the best national interests. Under the established shippers principle where quotas were distributed to a few firms who had been exporting jute and jute goods from this country in the past, they were allowed to select any one out of the past ten years, ranging from 1936 to 1946. We examined those figures and we were convinced that in the best interests of the nationals of this country as well as in the best interests of our jute export trade we could not tolerate that state of things to continue. Also, the West Bengal Government drew our pointed attention to the fact that the new system which had worked for that one shipping period had reacted very badly

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on our Indian shippers. The figures that they produced to us went to show that 30 per cent only of the total export trade in jute and jute goods went into Indian hands whereas the rest, that is 70 per cent, was confined to non-Indian shippers. I do not desire to waste the time of the House by telling it as to why this state of things, namely that 70 per cent of the trade during that particular shipping period went into non-Indian hands, was there.

Sir, there have been certain complaints or, if I may put it, allegations against the distribution of these quotas. Before I come to that point I should like to impress on the House that the new system for jute exports is nothing but the reversal to the system which was in operation for about three to four years, with certain modifications. If my Honourable friends in this House took the trouble of comparing the notifications then issued or the system then prevailing with the system which is in existence today they will find that there is hardly any difference.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: What is the period?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: 1943 to 1st April 1947. Certain evils were tried to be remedied. One of the conditions that was enunciated while going back to the old system was that in the first instance a provisional quota slip would be issued to such merchants who showed, or who had proofs to show, that there had been a concluded business or contract with a foreign buyer and thereafter they were required to produce an irrevocable letter of credit in their own favour. Now, my friends will understand that it is very difficult for foreign buyers to open such irrevocable letters of credit in names of a jeweller or a candlestick-maker as they have tried to make out. Sir, Another safeguard that we have tried to take while going back to the old system has been that we have made it a condition to the issue of quota slips that the documents attached thereto will not be negotiable instruments among bankers.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: On a point of information, Sir, the Honourable Minister said that before a quota was granted one has to enter into a concluded contract, say, for a particular quantity of jute. What will happen to his concluded agreement if subsequently you do not give any quota to him?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Sir, I did not mean that there should be a concluded contract exclusively. Even firm orders were sufficient for issuing these provisional quota slips. In cases which have been referred to by my Honourable friend Mr. Jhunjhunwala, if he carefully studies our notifications on the subject and our Press Note which we hope to issue today after this debate is over, he will find that we have specifically and categorically stated that where *bona fide* concluded contracts exist very liberally quota slips will be issued for those quantities.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): You are giving some time-limit to those people to establish their claim.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Yes, I would just like to touch one more point. The time is up and you have already served me with a notice, but if you will permit me. Sir, and if my Honourable Colleague the Health Minister will agree to sparing a few minutes for me I shall refer to it.

Mr. Speaker: The difficulty is not of his Honourable Colleague not agreeing to spare some time, but that one and a quarter hours are allotted to that discussion.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I will then try to be as brief as possible. The other essential point is about allocation of quotas and diversion of trade away from Calcutta. I must give an absolute lie to such sort of inspired propaganda that has been consistently going on in the last few days. From statistics which are available to us it can be shown—and I will welcome any of my Honourable friends to come and have a close scrutiny of these data and statistics—that the bulk of the trade, as it used to be, is still with Calcutta firms. (*An Honourable Member*: "European firms") No. In some cases 100 per cent. of the licences issued are to Calcutta merchants and in other cases nothing less than 70 to 75 per cent. have been issued to Calcutta firms. It is merely, in my view, an inspired propaganda from certain quarters that has been vociferously going on and I would like to treat it with the contempt that it deserves.

As I have very little time at my disposal I am afraid I cannot go into many other things regarding our jute export policy as much as I would like to do.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: What about unused quotas?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That is not true also. I will go to the other subjects. I shall go into a few prominent points which have been made out by some of my friends during the course of the debate. I plead at once guilty to the charge that we have not got sufficient statistics readily available which is not only a handicap to my Honourable friends in this House but also a great handicap to me personally. We have tried to strengthen our statistical organisation, but at the same time there are no doubt delays in these publications. The delays, if I may say in just one line, have been the cumulative result of several factors which have been in operation for the last few years. In the first place, as my Honourable friends are aware, our Commercial and Statistical Intelligence Section is located at Calcutta where there were a series of troubles necessitating delay in the publication of our vital statistics. Sir, there was besides the postal strike to which I must also refer. And the greatest handicap, Sir, has been the printing press, a point which might be answered by my Honourable Colleague the Works Minister.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have statistics been gathered?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Yes, they have been gathered.

Diwan Chaman Lall (East Punjab: General): The postal strike was over a year and a half ago.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Sir, as I have admitted to the House, we are very much handicapped by lack of statistics, and I can assure my Honourable friends that every effort will be made by me to see that our organization keeps up to the time-limit and that the statistics that are published will become useful and are published with the least possible delay.

There is one other point about the International Trade Agreement raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Anathasayanam Ayyangar. As my Honourable friend rightly said, we have at Geneva concluded a tariff and trade agreement with fifteen countries. This agreement was carried on under difficult circumstances which was referred to by another Honourable friend of mine, that our delegation was handicapped because of the partition of the country that then took place. Nevertheless I may assure my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar as well as my other friends that this matter of international trade and tariff agreement, as well as the Charter which has not yet been finalized, will be laid before the House on a subsequent occasion and the House will then have full opportunity of debating on that subject. For that reason I do not propose to say anything more now nor do I desire to contradict a few misstatements or incorrect statements, if I may put it so, that have been made by one or two of my friends in this House pertaining to clauses in the Charter.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the decision taken regarding the Charter be final before it is placed before the Assembly?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: It cannot be final. It has to be ratified by the Assembly, so also the Trade Agreement.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): The Honourable Minister said that in 1947, "somehow"—that was the word used—the old system came to be adopted. I thought he was the Minister concerned in 1947.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: No, Sir. I was not the Minister-in-Charge.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Could he enlighten us on the point?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I do not want to go into this matter of jute quotas, but my friend Dr. Sitaramayya, is a member of the Standing Committee and I shall be glad to supply him with all the information when we convene the next meeting of the Standing Committee of the Legislature.

Sir, I shall now come to the question of Trade Commissioners organization, against which one of my other friends has moved a cut motion. Sir, I am aware of certain deficiencies of our trade organizations abroad, and also I am aware of their not having fulfilled properly the role that has been assigned or allotted to them. Nevertheless I assure my Honourable friends of this House that we shall see that our Trade Commissioners live up to the jobs in which they are placed, and we shall also see that a sufficient number of Trade Commissioners are posted in places where they are very badly needed for the development of our trade.

My friend Mr. Diwakar, has referred to coastal shipping. This is one of the problems which is always in the fore-front of the Commerce Ministry and I promise that all active steps will be taken to see that our coastal shipping is reserved exclusively for Indian bottoms as far as possible. In that connection I am sure my Honourable friend is aware that at the present moment there is what is called a conference, which consists of two non-Indian Lines and one Indian Line, which is carrying our coastal trade. The Shipping Policy Committee, which he referred to, submitted its report some time last year and we have more or less accepted all the fundamental recommendations contained in that report. We are trying our utmost to see that coastal shipping is kept exclusively for Indian ships, but our biggest bottle-neck, if I may inform the House, is our shortage of tonnage. We have made efforts in that direction too, and as a first step we propose to introduce what is called the licensing system for our coastal ships. By that method we hope that in gradual course of time when more Indian tonnage is available, the share of Indian ships in our coastal trade will be gradually increased to the elimination of non-Indian ships.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Are you introducing a Bill in this session about that?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Yes. Legislation will be brought before the House very soon. Regarding country craft, we know the important part that country crafts have played so far as our coastal trade went especially during the war years, and in order to put them to some use and co-ordinate them with big steamship companies, to which my friend has referred, we have set up a committee to find out ways and means by which these country crafts can be fitted into the whole picture of reservation of coastal trade also.

Sir, I see that the time is running against me. I would be prepared to consider any other suggestions that any of my friends in the House might bring to my notice, or if there are any points which I have not touched upon due to want of time, I am prepared to furnish information should any Honourable Member care to come to me and ask for it. With these explanations and assurances, I am sure, Sir....."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about the Indian Commercial Corporation?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I will say just one word about this. That is always before our eyes and we have a scheme of that nature under the consideration of our Ministry at present. There are certain obstacles and I would have liked very much to put them before our Honourable friends in the House, but because of want of time I regret it is not possible for me to do so. I hope with these assurances my Honourable friends who have moved cut motions against me will kindly withdraw them.

Mr. Speaker: Of course, they are not cut motions against the Minister, but in respect of Demands. What is it that is desired now by the Honourable Members who have moved the cut motions?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With the sweet reasonableness of the Honourable Minister, I am convinced that he will do his best. I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker Have Honourable Members leave of the House to withdraw their cut motions?

The cut motions were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,82,000 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 'Ministry of Commerce'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Before the House proceeds to discuss other cut motions, I should like to invite the attention of Honourable Members to the fact that the arrangement of allotting this time of 2½ hours and 1¼ hours does not seem to be quite satisfactory, but that is for Honourable Members to decide amongst themselves. We are already short by 15 minutes in regard to the time allotted.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): The House may sit for fifteen minutes longer.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, but personally I would not encourage that practice every day. It involves many other considerations if we sit longer: people have appointments, there are considerations of the work which the staff is put to, and if members carry an impression that we can sit longer, then the time-limit becomes meaningless.

4 P.M.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: In view of the fact, however, that the next one is a lady's chance, it may be given.

Mr. Speaker: I am merely pointing out the various aspects; the House, of course, is aware of it. I wish we could give more time to the present Demand, and the Honourable the Commerce Minister had longer time at his disposal; so that he could have placed before the House more material which it was necessary to supply to the House. But that is a matter for the Honourable Members, as I said. This is an agreed arrangement to allot time like that, and, therefore, I do not wish to interfere with it.

This also brings to notice one more fact, that in cases of an arrangement like this, the number of Cut Motions should not exceed two, at least when

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the time limit is about 1½ hours. I find there are three Cut Motions to be moved now. That means that, even if the House sits up to 5-15 P.M., out of the 75 minutes that we have, at least 20 minutes will have to be given to the Honourable Minister.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Half an hour for the Minister.

Mr. Speaker: I am saying at least twenty minutes. Even if it is twenty minutes it leaves 55 minutes and if three Cut Motions are to be moved and if each member moving it is given 15 minutes, 45 minutes are cut off leaving ten minutes for the rest of the speakers. Therefore, I would earnestly appeal to those who are going to move these Cut Motions not to take more than ten minutes, so as to leave some time for other members to express their views.

DEMAND NO. 18.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Public Health Policy

Dr. V. Subramaniam (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Health' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Health' be reduced by Rs. 100."

DEMAND NO. 51—MEDICAL SERVICES

Need of encouraging Ayurvedic System of Medicine and Registration of Ayurvedic Practitioners

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Medical Services' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Medical Services' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Inadequacy of Medical Relief

Seth Govinddas (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Medical Services' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Medical Services' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Sir, the building of a nation and of the national health must be the consideration of the Central Government. Now we see in India only living creatures, creatures which are moving about in streets without proper health. We have been in different circumstances but now we are free; in order to safeguard our freedom we must be a healthy nation. Health is the first item and the Central Government must take every step to take care of the health of the nation and do all research work which will help the healthy growth of the nation. Without a healthy body we cannot grow a healthy mind and a healthy nation. So, next to food, the health problem of the country must be the first problem.

As the time at my disposal is only ten minutes, I want to give certain facts and figures from the Report of the Health Survey and Development Committee itself so that we can make matters easy. Since I cannot develop each and every point I am going to give you only the points.

The first request that I will have to make is that the Central Government should allot large sums of money and that the money so allotted for the health of the nation will not be a waste, that it will return double-fold in different forms. The Report says:

"A nation's health is perhaps the most potent single factor in determining the character and extent of its development and progress and any expenditure of money and effort on improving the national health is a gilt-edged investment yielding immediate and steady return in increased productive capacity."

These were the words. I cannot say anything more than that the allotment made in the Budget for the Public Health of the country is very very meagre. The Central Government must take responsibility. No doubt the field of medicine has been taken as a Provincial subject. I do not grudge it—Provinces should be given autonomy in that subject of treating patients and giving all medical relief for the persons of that Province. But there are a lot of things to be done. For a long time Central planning, co-ordination and research will be necessary to make our medicines self-sufficient and bring ourselves in line with the medical facilities which foreign countries give. So, unless the Centre controls certain branches of medicine, research and co-ordination, it will be very difficult. For that purpose the Public Health Ministry must be made a permanent Ministry on a proper footing. As far as my information goes, the Ministry is even now on a temporary basis. I hope the Minister in charge will more or less place the Ministry on a permanent footing, though not with a large set of officers, at least with efficient administration to look after the branches of the Centrally Administered Areas and subjects which have been given to the Central Government. A Central Organisation is so very essential.

As regards the grants given to Provinces, the Central Government is granting as block grants and has not fixed, I think, that a certain percentage of grants given to Provinces must be set apart for public health expenditure. If it is possible I would even request the Honourable Minister that a certain percentage of money should be fixed from the block grants made by the Centre to the Provinces and the Provinces must spend that amount for the welfare and public health of the people there. Otherwise those amounts might be utilised for other expenditure. So I will insist upon this point.

The other point is as regards the Centrally Administered Areas—Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, I am giving an example. The total budget allotment is Rs. 6·34 crores out of that for medical expenditure they spend only about Rs. 62 lakhs for the public health of the Centrally Administered Areas. This amount is wholly inadequate. The present public health conditions are very low as I have said. The death rate is very high—I am not going to give you the death rate, *etc.*, and horrify you with all those figures but everybody knows the state of affairs.

As regards the poor state of health, the causes are many. Malnutrition alone will not be taken as the chief reason. Since India is an agricultural land and a land of villages, the medical relief and the public health relief should reach the villages. Now they are not reaching the villages; Government must see that they reach the villages without further delay because unless we have strong and healthy villagers, it will contaminate the whole district and from the district to the province and from the province to the whole of India.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (one of the Panel of Chairmen)]

So certain Central legislation or central direction may be necessary in matters of public health. As regards malaria Leprosy prevention and other epidemics, they must be stopped. No doubt relief is given in the provinces. But directions must go from the Centre. I can give many examples. Take for instance, sewage water. In some towns, they are simply letting it out into the rivers. I know in Trichinopoly it is let out directly into the river. There are many other places where this kind of thing is being done. Septic Tank effluents must be constructed and it is only through them that sewage must be taken out and let into the rivers. Thus there are many matters in which the Central Government can give directions. The same is the case with regard to housing also. There must be a housing programme for industrial areas. It is not enough

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mere sanctioning money for Tuberculosis hospitals etc. The preventive side must first be considered and preference must be given to the preventive side. People must be educated to be healthy and lead healthy lives. What happens today? If there is an epidemic, the public health menials and officers rush to the place and pour some phenyle and other things and go away. The next day again the same dirty conditions prevail. The villagers are left to their own fates. That must not be the criterion for the Public Health Department. They must educate the public and bring out public health pamphlets. They must tell the people how they must live in villages, how sanitation must be maintained. Health bulletins must be issued. And here, if I may refer to the Ayurvedic system of medicine, it lays down certain principles. It lays down what an individual should do when he gets up in the morning till he goes to bed. It lays down how he should wash his face, how he should clean his teeth, how he should take bath, whether he should take oil bath and when he should take it and so on. These are the things which keep an individual healthy. If these things are preserved, and thereby the health of the individual is preserved, then there will be a healthy nation. So, unless individual ill health is rectified, it is no use your spending money on big Hospitals and other things.

There are many other things, Madam, which I can give as examples in developing individual health, but my time is short and I cannot give comparative figures with other countries. As regards hospital facilities, I would say in general that they are wanting. I have no time to go into the question of the inadequacy of health personal *i.e.* midwives, doctors etc. individually. In particular, I would request the Honourable the Health Minister to see that as regards Tuberculosis an Institute of Tuberculosis is set up here at Delhi. As regards public health and sanitation, I am afraid it is not being seriously thought of. Public Health are talking of bore hole latrines. After some time regular tests will have to be done, as to, whether the sub-soil water has been polluted near by. Who is to do that work? But its possibilities must be explored. For that purpose a Public Health Engineering Section must be attached to D. G.'s Department. As regards training institutions, they are very few. There should be a scientific expansion in them. In Delhi and the Centrally Administered Areas, the Lady Hardinge Hospital, etc., must be extended and the Central Government should conduct research in various Branches and the college taken by the centre. The Central Government must be more liberal to the Provinces in giving grants for public, and they should also specify a certain amount which the Provinces, should spend for Public Health.

With these words, Madam, I move my cut motion.

Shri Biswanath Das: Madam, I thank you very much for your favour of allowing a period of ten minutes even to discuss a question of this magnitude. With a majority, and at that an overwhelming majority, assured, there need be no difficulty for a Ministry to be worried about the discussions because they are sure that these cut motions will be withdrawn. But, Madam, I want the Honourable Ministers to feel and see that the explanations that they give here are being carried to the countryside and people are being explained the intentions underlying a particular act of the Ministry. From this view of the question, our discussions here assume their importance. I want the Honourable Ministers to realise that serious propaganda is being carried on against them and against the Congress organisation in the countryside by interested parties. It is this sort of propaganda which makes us feel and move in the matter of giving notice of cut motions, so that we get information and carry the replies to

the masses. I want the Ministry and the party organisation to see these things, and see them in their proper perspective. That is why I feel sorry that a question of this magnitude should have been given only ten minutes.

Madam, I am today moving a cut about Ayurveda. Ayurveda is the science of life. It represents our culture. It represents oriental culture. It is a science full in itself, and independent. Judged from the point of view of utility, it is of supreme importance to the people of this country. The living of an Indian was so good that his average life was 125 years, which phenomenon does not exist in any country of the West today, with all their so-called advanced science. Unfortunately, in India Ayurveda has not received official patronage. Official patronage goes to a system which was born in other soils. Today, look into educational institutions, look into research institutions, look into hospitals,— everywhere you find allopathy and very little Ayurvedic institutions which are maintained, supported or subsidised by the Government. It has been my unfortunate experience that the system of Ayurveda has not only not received its patronage from the ruling classes who presided over the destines of India before August 15, but also from its Advisers some of whom were Indians themselves. Today it is our good fortune that the Advisers of the Government and the Government themselves are not of the same old stock as before August 1947. Therefore, I have a right to expect better treatment for Ayurvedic system of treatment.

Madam, this system of medicine has suffered the neglect of centuries, has suffered from the obstruction of people who never had a word of sympathy for it. Now conditions are changed. People have therefore a right to expect that this system will be restored to its previous prestige and eminence. It is fair, Madam, for me to give friends here an idea of the attempts made towards its revival. After the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, earnest and immediate attempts were made by the Provincial Governments of the day to revive Ayurveda. In this regard, Committees were constituted and specially, the Government of Madras under the guidance of the late lamented Raja of Panagal constituted a Committee. The Government of Bengal also constituted another Committee and similarly, some other Provincial Governments also took parallel action.

Madras took a distinct step in this direction by giving shape to the recommendations of the Committee. Madam, in Bengal very little has been done and though the committee appointed by the Government constituted gentlemen like the late lamented Gananath Sen, Jadunath Gupta and Jamini Bhusan Roy, very little has been done in this regard. The real representatives of the nation never thought of reviving these systems, because they knew that very little could be done by the Government of the day, unless the entire system of administration is changed. Now we claim that the system of administration has been changed and today we have a National Government at the head of administration. It is therefore in the fitness of things to see that our culture, our system of treatment, a treatment that has the proud privilege of claiming to be the noblest system of treatment, should be revived and be restored to its ancient eminence.

Madam, it is a matter very well known to our people that during the Montford Constitution, the Congress attempted to fight against the show-boy of the British Imperialism, namely the system of administration that was adumbrated in provinces in the name of responsible Government. Therefore, they never thought of reviving these systems of treatment. Even under the new constitution that was adumbrated under the Government of India Act, of 1935, our efforts were directed against British Imperialism and the attempt was to create deadlocks and thereafter to give a fight to British Imperialism by direct action.

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Construction was not then in our programme. That explains why when we had formed a system of administration in the provinces, very little has been done in this direction. That being the position, it becomes a matter of duty on the part of the National Government to see that our system of treatment is being restored to its place of eminence. In this connection, I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention the loss of Mahatma Gandhi in whom this system of culture has lost the greatest benefactor. Madam, today the masses of India are the mainstay of this system of treatment. If, as I have already stated, we do not realize our responsibility in this regard, I have no hesitation in saying in this House that the masses will take it in their own hands and see that this responsibility is realised in actual practice, because they are the greatest patronizers of this system of treatment. Madam, it is an unfortunate situation today in this country that we have got drugs available in plenty and in abundance and at the same time go to the village-side and you will see that the people are suffering and dying for want of treatment. Therefore I appeal to the Honourable Minister in charge of the Ministry to see that early action is taken in restoring Ayurvedic system of treatment to its proper place by constituting a Central Board of Ayurved and also organize course of studies and hospitals and institutions for instruction for practitioners as also post-graduate course of training and for research. Unless these are done, I do not think we will be doing our duty. Madam, the Honourable Minister in charge of the Ministry has the clever way of saying: "Well, look at the university faculties; go and approach the universities." How can you say so, when you have the Delhi University and the Aligarh University under you. Institute faculties, set up a Central Board Advisory Committee to advise you on these matters. I press upon the Government to take early action and unless it is being taken, it will be a disaster for the ministry and for ourselves.

सेठ गोविन्ददास : सभानेत्री महोदया, मैं चिकित्सक नहीं हूं। मैं हूं एक साधारण नागरिक, और एक साधारण नागरिक की दृष्टि से मैं देशवासियों के स्वास्थ्य की ओर देखता हूं, और जब में यह करता हूं तब संस्कृत की यह उक्ति सदा मेरे सामने रहती है।

'शरीरमाद्यं खलु धर्म साधनम्'

इस देश की अवस्था क्या है? इतने रोग फैले हुए हैं जिनकी गणना नहीं की जा सकती। एक ओर राजयक्ष्मा, मलेरिया, पेंचिश इत्यादि, दूसरी ओर हैजा, प्लेग, शीतला आदि संक्रामक बीमारियां; और इसका फल क्या निकला है। जहां अमरीका में १००० पीछे १०·१ मनुष्य मरते हैं, इंगलैंड में १२:१ मनुष्य मरते हैं, कैनेडा में ९·२ मरते हैं, वहां भारत में १७·५ मनुष्यों की मृत्यु होती है। हमारे यहां एक हजार पीछे १६·७ बच्चों की मृत्यु होती है अमरीका में केवल ३४, इंग्लैंड में ४३ और कैनेडा में ४७ होती है। इस शताब्दी के आरम्भ में भारत, जापान, फिलिपाइन और नीदरलैंड आदि देशों में माता और हैजे की अवस्था एक सी थी। पर आज एक लाख मनुष्यों के पीछे जहां भारत में माता से १६·२ और हैजे से २९·३ मनुष्यों की मृत्यु होती है वहां जापान में माता से ०.००८, हैजे से ०.०९; फिलिपाइन में माता से ०.० और हैजे से ०.०१; नीदरलैंड में माता से ०.० और हैजे से ०.० मृत्यु दिखाई देती हैं।

इस अवस्था के कारण प्रधानतः दो हैं। पहली बात यह है कि हमारी जनता का जो स्वास्थ्य है वह इतना निर्बल हो गया है कि उनमें किसी प्रकार के रोग को सहन करने की शक्ति नहीं रह गई है। और दूसरा कारण यह है कि रोग निवारक संस्थाओं और चिकित्सकों की इतनी कमी है कि संसार के किसी देश से उनकी तुलना नहीं की जा सकती।

देश वासियों का स्वास्थ्य तीन बातों पर निर्भर रहता है: पहली बात उनकी रहन सहन, दूसरी बात उनकी स्वास्थ्य-सम्बन्धी शिक्षा; और तीसरी बात स्वास्थ्य-विभाग की परिपूर्णता। स्वास्थ्यकर भोजन हमें उपलब्ध नहीं है। जब हमें स्वास्थ्यकर भोजन ही उपलब्ध नहीं, तो रहन सहन की अन्य बातें गौण हो जाती हैं। स्वास्थ्य-सम्बन्धी शिक्षा का तो प्रचार ही नहीं है। यहां के लोग यह नहीं जानते कि उन्हें कौन वस्तु खानी चाहिये और कौन नहीं। वे यह नहीं जानते कि रोगों से उन्हें किस प्रकार बचना चाहिय। वह यह नहीं जानते कि उन्हें अपने रहन सहन को स्वास्थ्यकर किस प्रकार रखना चाहिये जिससे रोग का आगमन ही उनके निकट न हो सके।

स्वास्थ्य विभाग का इतना ही विकास हुआ है कि यहां केवल ६७०० अस्पतालें हैं। इनमें प्रति वर्ष केवल साढ़े तीन करोड़ रोगियों का रोगोपचार हो सकता है। डाक्टर यहां ४७५०० हैं तथा नर्सें हैं केवल ७०००। जापान से भी कर्म। जापान की अपेक्षा भारतवर्ष कितना बड़ा देश है? जापान की जन-संख्या के सामने भारत की जन-संख्या कितनी अधिक है? लेकिन हमारे यहां जापान से भी कम डाक्टर हैं इंग्लैंड में करीब ६१४२० डाक्टर हैं और नर्सें हैं एक लाख नौ हजार पांचसौ याने प्रति डाक्टर के पीछे दो नर्सें।

अब उपाय क्या है? पहला उपाय यह है कि बीमारों का उपचार होना चाहिए; दूसरा यह है कि बीमारियों का अवरोध और स्वास्थ्य की वृद्धि होनी चाहिए। विदेशों में पहला कार्य याने बीमारों का उपचार वे डाक्टर करते हैं जो प्राइवेट प्रैक्टिस भी करते हैं। उन्हें अस्पतालों में अवैतनिक रूप से, वहां के कानून ऐसे हैं जिनके कारण, काम करना पड़ता है। वहां पर दूसरा कार्य यानी बीमारियों का अवरोध और स्वास्थ्य की वृद्धि सरकार करती है। निर्धनता तथा अन्य बातों के कारण, भारत में ये दोनों कार्य सरकार को करने पड़ेंगे।

[सेठ गोविन्द दास]

इस सम्बन्ध में मेरे जो १३ सुझाव हैं वे मैं माननीया मंत्रिणी महोदया के सम्मुख रखना चाहता हूं । इन सुझावों को रख कर मैं अपना स्थान ग्रहण कर लूंगा ।

(१) स्वास्थय सम्बन्धी कानूनों का निर्माण । १९१९ और १९३५ के कानून इस सम्बन्ध में अपर्याप्त है ।

(२) स्वास्थय प्रान्तों का विषय होते हुए भी प्रान्तों और केन्द्र का सहयोग १९३९ में मद्रास में इस विषय में इग्लैंड के समान एक कान्सालिडेटड (Consolidated) एक्ट (Act) पास किया था । अन्य प्रान्तों में भी यही हो ।

(३) संक्रामक तथा अन्य रोगों को रोकने के प्रयत्न ।

(४) सस्ती और अच्छी दवाओं का प्रबन्ध ।

(५) पैसा न दे सकने वाले दवा के अभाव में न रोगी रहें और न मरें ।

(६) वर्तमान अस्पतालों का सुधार ।

(७ अस्पतालों विशेष कर देहाती अस्पतालों की वृद्धि ।

(८) डाक्टरो और वैधों आदि की वृद्धि ।

(९) ग्रामों में आवागमन के साधन जिनसे चिकित्सक और दवाएं ग्रामों में जा सकें ।

(१०) ऐम्बुलेन्स की वृद्धि ।

(११) चलती फिरती अस्पतालें

(१२) बच्चों की नर्सीज ।

(१३) मैटर्निटी होम्स ।

जहां तक चिकित्सा पद्धति का संबंध है मैं अपने माननीय मित्र विश्वनाथ दास से सहमत हूं हमारा यह सारा कार्य जब तक कभी पूरा नहीं हो सकता जब तक हम अपनी प्राचीन चिकित्सा पद्धति आयुर्वेदका आश्रय न लेंगें ।

(*English Translation of the above speech*)

Seth Govinddas: Madam, I am not a physician. I am an ordinary citizen and I visualize the health of my country men from the point of view of an ordinary man. When I do this, I have always in view the following quotation from Sanskrit:

("*Shariramadyam Khalu Dharam Sadhanam*")

What is the condition of this country? There are innumerable diseases. We have on one side phthisis, malaria, dysentery etc., and on the other cholera, plague, small-pox and other infectious diseases and with what result? Whereas in America, England and Canada, the rate of mortality is 10:1, 12:1 and 9:2 per thousand respectively, it is 17·5 in India.

The rate of infantile mortality in India is 167 per thousand; in America, England and Canada it is only 34, 43 and 47 respectively. Earlier in this century conditions in regard to small-pox and cholera which prevailed in India, Japan, Phillipines and Netherlands and other countries were similar. Whereas in India today the death rate from small-pox and cholera is 16:2 and 29:3 for each lac of population respectively, in Japan, Phillipines and Netherlands it is 0·008 and 0·09, 0·0 and 0·09, 0·0 and 0·0 from both these diseases respectively.

There are two main reasons for this state of affairs. Firstly the health of our people has deteriorated to such an extent that they have lost all stamina to withstand attacks of diseases. Secondly there is a shortage of prophylactic institutions and physicians to an extent which cannot be compared with any country of the world.

The health of our countrymen depends on three factors; firstly their way of living, secondly their education in health matters and thirdly self-sufficiency of the Health Department. We are unable to procure healthy diet. When we do not get nourishing diet, then the other things such as way of living etc. pale into insignificance. No publicity is being given at all to education in health matters. The people here do not know as to what they should eat and what not? They do not know how to escape from the attacks of diseases; and people are ignorant and do not know how to create healthy environments which may render it difficult for a disease to attack them.

As a result of the expansion of the Health Department, there are 6,700 hospitals only. The number of patients that can be annually treated in these hospitals is 3½ crores. The number of Doctors and Nurses here is only 87500 and 7000 respectively. Less than Japan even. India is far larger a country than Japan. The population of India far exceeds that of Japan. But here we have a lesser number of Doctors than in Japan. The number of Doctors and Nurses in England is about 69420 and 109500 respectively *i.e.* there are two nurses per doctor.

What is the remedy? The first remedy is that the sick should be rendered medical treatment; the second is that the diseases should be prevented and the health improved. In foreign countries, first of all those doctors treat the sick who are private practitioners and are attached to hospitals. They have to work in the hospitals in an honorary capacity in accordance with the rules existing there. There the other duties *i.e.*, the suppression of diseases and the improvement of health are undertaken by the Government. On account of poverty and other reasons both these things will have to be looked after in India by the Government.

I would like to place before the Honourable Minister thirteen suggestions which I have to make in this connection and then I will resume my seat.

1. Framing of Legislation *re* health. The laws enacted in 1919 and 1935 in this connection are quite inadequate.

2. Co-ordination between the centre and Provinces—though Health comes within the purview of Provincial subjects. In 1939 a consolidated Act similar to that in force in England was passed in Madras. The same should be done in other Provinces.

3. Steps to prevent infectious and other diseases;

4. Arrangements for the supply of cheap and good medicines;

5. Those who cannot afford to pay should not fall victims to illness and death for want of medicines;

6. Improvement of the existing hospitals;

7. Expansion of hospitals especially those in rural areas;

[Seth Govinddas]

8. Increased number of doctors and Vaidyas;
9. Way and means for the conveyance of physicians and medicines to the villages;
10. Extension of Ambulance Services;
11. Mobile Hospital units;
12. Nurseries for children;
13. Maternity Homes.

So far as the method of treatment is concerned, I fully agree with the views expressed by my Honourable friend Mr. Biswanath Dass. Until and unless we resort to our old system of treatment *viz.*, Ayurveda, we can never accomplish our full object.

بیگم اعزاز رسول: محترمہ! میرا ارادہ ہندوستانی میں بولنے کا نہیں تھا لیکن ابھی آنریبل ممبر صاحب کی تقریر کے بعد میرا خیال ہوا کہ میں ایسی زبان میں بولوں جسے زیادہ سے زیادہ ہمارے دیش میں لوگ سمجھتے ہیں اور بولتے ہیں۔ اسمیں شک نہیں کہ صحت کا مسئلہ ایسا ہے جو کہ ہمارے ملک کے رہنے والوں کیلئے بہت بڑی اہمیت رکھتا ہے - ہمیں اس حقیقت سے آنکھیں نہیں بند کرنا چاہیے کہ جب تک صحت کسی ملک کے رہنے والوں کی بہتر نہ ہوگی انکا دماغ صحت مند نہیں ہو سکتا اور انکی اقتصادی حالت بھی کبھی اچھی نہیں ہوسکتی فیمن کمیشن (Famine Commission) نے اپنی رپورٹ میں کہا تھا کہ وہ قوم جسکا کہ جسم کمزور ہو جسکا کہ دل و دماغ کمزور ہو وہ کبھی اقتصادی طریقہ پر طاقت ور نہیں ہوسکتی۔ محترمہ ہمیں مختلف رپورٹیں دیکھنے سے معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ انگلستان اور امریکہ میں ۵۴ روپیہ اور ۵۱ روپیہ پر ہیڈ (per head) وہاں کے لوگوں کی صحت پر خرچ کیا جاتا ہے - بمقابلہ اسکے ہمارے ملک میں ۵ آنے پر ہیڈ (per head) صحت پر خرچ کیا جاتا ہے بھور کمیٹی (Bhore Committee) نے اپنی رپورٹ میں کہا تھا کہ یہاں کے حالات کو دیکھتے ہوئے ۲ روپیہ ۵ آنے سے لیکر تین روپیہ ۳ آنے تک صحت پر خرچ کیا جائے - میں یہ اسلئے کہہ رہی ہوں کہ میں نے جو بجٹ کے فیگرس دیکھے تو مجھے یہ افسوس ہوا کہ صرف ایک کروڑ روپیہ کی معمولی رقم صحت کے محکمہ کیلئے گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے بجٹ میں رکھی ہے۔ اسمیں شک نہیں کہ صحت کا مسئلہ پراونشل مسئلہ ہے لیکن اسکے ساتھ ہی میڈیکل اور پبلک ہیلتھ کی اہمیت کو دیکھتے ہوئے ہم لوگوں کو اس چیز پر بہت زیادہ خرچ کرنا چاہیے اور مرکز سے اس مسئلہ میں ضرور ڈرایو (drive) ہونا چاہیے - میرا خیال ہے کہ ہمارے ملک کی ضروریات کو مدنظر رکھتے ہوئے صحت، تعلیم اور خوراک یہ تینوں ایسی چیزیں ہیں جن میں ہمیں اپنی آمدنی کا بیشتر حصہ خرچ کرنا چاہیے - افسوس کی بات یہ ہے کہ یہ تینوں مسئلے ہیں جنکے اوپر گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کی طرف سے سب سے کم رقم خرچ کی جارہی ہے ڈیفنس (Defence) میں ۱۲۶ کروڑ روپیہ کی رقم رکھی گئی ہے اور اسکے مقابلے میں صرف ۲۰ کروڑ روپیہ کی رقم قومی تعمیر

کے محکموں کے لئے رکھی گئی ہے - اسلئے میں نے فائننس منسٹر کی توجہ اِسطرف مبذول کرائی تھی کہ ان کے بجٹ میں کسی قسم کی پلاننگ (Planning) نہیں ہے - پلاننگ (Planning) کا مطلب یہ ہے کہ ان کو یہ دیکھنا چاہئے کہ زیادہ سے زیادہ دشواریاں اور مشکلات اس ملک کے رہنے والوں کی کسطرف ہیں اور وہ کونسی ضروریات ہیں جن کی طرف ہم کو بمقابلہ اور چیزونکے کے زیادہ توجہ دینا چاہئے اور زیادہ خرچ کرنا چاہئے - اس لئے میں سمجھتی ہوں کہ خوراک، صحت اور تعلیم میں ایک طرح سے Co-ordination ہونا چاہئے - کیونکہ یہ تینوں چیزیں ملکر لوگوں کی صحت پر زیادہ اثر ڈال سکتی ہیں - ہم نے دیکھا ہے کہ اوسط عمر انگلستان کے لوگوں کی ۵۱ سال ہے - امریکہ میں ۵۸ سال- جاپان میں ۴۴ سال اور ہندوستان میں ۲۷ سال ہے -

ہندوستان کے بچوں کی اموات کی تعداد ۱۶۲ ہے - اس کے مقابلے میں جب کہ ولایت میں ۵۸ اور امریکہ میں ۵۴ - ہمارے ملک میں ۲ لاکھ اموات صرف ہیضہ اور Small-pox سے ہوتی ہیں یہ اعداد وشمار ایسی ہیں کہ ہم لوگوں کو ان پر جتنا بھی زیادہ دھیان ہوسکے دینا چاہئے اور جسطریقے سے بھی ہو ہم اپنے ملک کے رہنے والوں کی صحت کیطرف خیال کریں - میں نے جنرل بجٹ کے ڈسکشن (Discussion) میں گورنمنٹ کی توجہ اس طرف دلائی تھی کہ گورنمنٹ کے لئے یہ ضروری ہے کہ جلد سے جلد ایک ایسا بورڈ مقرر کرے جس کے ذریعہ وہ یہ معلوم کر سکے کہ وہاں کے لوگوں کی ضروریات کے مطابق انکی اقتصادی حالت کے مطابق کیا بہتر سے بہتر خوراک ہو سکتی ہے جس سے وہ زیادہ سے زیادہ اپنی صحت کے لحاظ سے فائدہ اُٹھا سکیں بہت ہی سخت افسوس ہے کہ باوجود اتنی ریسرچ (Research) کے ہمارے ملک میں اب تک کوئی سٹینڈرڈ فوڈ (standard food) نہیں ہے ہم یہ دیکھتے ہیں کہ یہاں کے لوگوں کی صحت روز بروز گرتی جا رہی ہے - یہ کس وجہ سے ہے ؟ اسکی بیشتر ذمہ واری خراب خوراک کی وجہ سے ہے یہاں زیادہ تر اموات بیماریوں کیوجہ سے ہوتی ہیں تو اس لئے یہ ضروری ہے کہ ہماری صحت کی منسٹری اسطرف خیال کرے اور جلد سے جلد ایک ایسا کمیشن بٹھائے اور وہ کمیشن ریکمنڈ (Recommend) کرے کہ کس طرح سے بہتر سے بہتر خوراک کم سے کم قیمت میں ہمیں مل سکتی ہے - انگلستان میں باوجود سخت راشنگ کے وہاں کے لوگوں کی صحت بجائے گرنے کے اور بہتر ہو گئی- اسکی وجہ یہ ہے کہ Experts نے خوراک کی نیوٹریٹو ویلیو (Nutritive value) معلوم کرنیکی کوشش کی اور اُسی حساب سے خوراک کی راشنگ کی - کیا ہمارے ملک میں یہ چیزیں ممکن نہیں ہیں اور کیا یہاں کے لئے ایک سٹینڈرڈائزڈ فوڈ (Standardised food) نیوٹریٹو ویلیو (Nutritive value) کو مدنظر رکھے ہوئے تلاش نہیں کیا جا سکتا ؟

[بیگم اعزاز رسول]

محترمہ ابتدا وقت نہیں ہے کہ اور مسئلوں پر بھی کچھ کہہ سکوں لیکن نرسز فزیکل (Nurses physical) ٹریننگ ایک ضروری چیز ہے جس کی طرف ہماری ہیلتھ منسٹری (Health Ministry) کو خیال کرنا چاہئے کیونکہ اگر فزیکل ٹریننگ (Physical trianing) ہمارے ملک کے بچوں، لڑکیوں، عورتوں اور مردوں کو نہیں ملیگی تو انکی صحت درست نہیں ہو سکتی - مجھے جہانتک اپنے صوبے کا تجربہ ہے میں جانتی ہوں کہ کونسل آف ڈفرن فنڈ(Council of Dufferin Fund)کی کمیٹیوں نے جو انکے ماتحت ہسپتال تھے وہ گورنمنٹ کے سپرد کر دئے ہیں لیکن سنٹرل ڈفرن فنڈ (Central Dufferin Fund)کی جو کمیٹی ہے اُسکے ماتحت ابھی لیڈی ہارڈنگ ہسپتال ہے میں سمجھتی ہوں کہ جہانتک جلد ہو سکے گورنمنٹ لیڈی ہارڈنگ کالج اپنے ماتحت لے لے تاکہ وہاں کا انتظام بہتر ہو جائے - ہمیں افسوس سے یہ دیکھنا پڑتا ہے کہ ہمارے ملک میں نرسوں کی بہت کمی ہے - اور اسطرف میں وزیر صاحبہ کو خاص طور سے توجہ دلاونگی کہ جتنی جلدی ہوسکے وہ نرسوں کو زیادہ سے زیادہ بہم پہنچانے کی کوشش کریں - کل ہی میری ایک ملنے والی بتلا رہی تھیں کہہ اُنکی ایک دوست بیمار ہیں باوجود کوشش کے دہلی میں انکو نرس نہیں ملی - اس سے یہ معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ اینگلواِنڈین اور انگریز نرسوں کے چلے جانے سے یہاں نرسوں کی بہت کمی ہو گئی ہے - اس لئے یہ ضروری ہے کہ ہندوستانی نرسیں ٹریننگ حاصل کریں تاکہ ملک کی ضروریات پوری ہو سکیں میں ان چند الفاظ کے ساتھ اس کٹموشن کو جو ابھی موو (Move) کیا گیا ہے سپورٹ (Support) کرتی ہوں -

(English translation of the above speech)

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U. P.: Muslim): I had no intention of speaking in Hindustani, but after the speech of the Honourable Member it occurred to me that I should speak in the language which is understood and spoken by the majority of my countrymen. There is no doubt that the health problem is vital to our country and we should not shut our eyes to realities that so long as the health of a people is not improved their minds cannot be healthy nor can their economic life be bettered. In their report the Famine Commission had stated that no economic prosperity is possible for a nation whose people are poor in health and are not sound in mind.

Madam from an examination of different reports we find that the average cost on the health of an Englishman is Rs. 54/- and on an American Rs. 51/- whereas in India it is only five annas. Bhore Committee recommends that under the circumstances in India a sum of Rs. 2/5 to Rs. 3/3 should be spent per head in India. I have to say this because I was sorry to find that the Budget of the Government of India provides only a slender sum of rupees one crore for national health. It is true that health is a Provincial subject, but we nevertheless should keep in view the importance of medical work and public health and spend much more, and the drive in this direction should be from the centre. I think from the point of view of national requirements health, education and food are such vital factors as deserve a major share of our revenues. But it is a pity that these three aspects have been neglected by

the Government of India and the least amount of money is being spent on them. A sum of rupees 126 crores has been provided for Defence, whereas only a sum of Rs. 20 crores has been provided for nation building departments. I had therefore to point out to the Ministry of Finance that the Budget contains no sort of planning. By planning I mean that Government should see what are people's greatest needs and requirements which require our attention to a greater extent and allotment for which liberal funds should be provided. I feel therefore that coordination is required between Food, Health and Education, as these three factors together can substantially effect public health. We have seen that the average life of an Englishman is 58 years, of an American it is 59, of a Japanese it is 44 whereas of an Indian it is only 27 years. The average infant mortality in India is 162. Against this it is 58 in England and 54 in America. In this country two lakhs of people a year die of cholera and smallpox. These figures call for our greatest attention and we pay attention to the health of the people of this country in all possible ways.

While discussing the General Budget, I had pointed out that it is high time for Government to immediately appoint a Board by means of which, keeping in view the necessities of people and their economic condition, the most wholesome food may be found out so that people may get the maximum benefit so far as health is concerned. It is a matter of great regret that in spite of so much research work there is no standard food in India. We see that our national health is deteriorating day by day. What is its cause? Diet is one of the most important of these causes. Diseases take the greatest toll of life here. Our Ministry for Health must, therefore, attend to it and constitute a Board which may advise us in what way our people can obtain the best food at the cheapest price. In spite of stringent rationing in England, the health of Englishmen instead of deteriorating, has improved. It is due to the efforts of the experts who found out the nutritive value of foods and then that food was rationed on the result of this research. Is all this not possible in our country? Can we not find out a standardised food keeping in view the nutritive value of it.

Due to shortage of time at my disposal it is not possible for me to talk on other aspects, but physical training of nurses is an important matter to which our Ministry of Health should pay its attention. So long as our men, women and children do not receive physical training, it is not possible to better their health. From personal experience of my village, I can say, that the Council of Dufferin Funds Committee has surrendered to the Government the hospitals which were under its control, but the Committee of the Central Dufferin Fund still has under its management the Lady Hardinge Hospital. I think, Government should take over the Lady Hardinge College as soon as possible so that its management may be improved. We are sorry to find that there is a great dearth of nurses in our country. To this thing particularly I would draw the attention of the Honourable Minister that arrangements be made to provide as many nurses as possible. Only yesterday one of my acquaintances complained that one of her sick friends could not get a nurse in Delhi in spite of her best efforts. This shows that the departure of the Anglo Indian and English nurses has created a scarcity which must be made up by training Indian nurses, if the country's requirements have to be met. With these few words I support the cut motion which has been moved just now.

चौधरी रणवीर सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं श्री विश्वनाथदासजी के कटौती के प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करते हुए मंत्रिणि महोदया का ध्यान इस तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि देहातों के अन्दर हजारो ऐसे आदमी हैं जो अपने आपको वैद्य कहते हैं

[चौधरी रणवीर सिंह]

और जो देहातियों की जिन्दगियों पर खेल खेलते हैं। हर कोई आदमी जो एक दिन भी किसी वैद्य के पास बैठ जाता है जा करके देहात में एक बहुत अच्छा डाक्टर बन जाता है उन लोगों के लिये इसमें कोई शक नहीं चूंकि उनके यहां तो २०-२० मील की एरिया (area) में एक भी अस्पताल नहीं होता क्या आयुर्वेदिक क्या दूसरा किसी किस्म का औषधालय होता ही नहीं। इस लिये वह उनको एक बहुत अच्छा और बहुत विद्वान आदमी प्रतीत होता है और वह बगैर किसी हिचक के साथ अपनी जिन्दगी की कुर्बानी देने के लिये उसके सामने अपने शरीर को, अपने जीवन को उसके तजुर्बा करने के लिये पेश कर देते हैं।

उस तकलीफ को जिससे इस समय हिन्दुस्तान के ८० फीसदी आदमी मुब्तिला हैं, दूर करने के लिये मैं यह प्रार्थना करूंगा कि आज वैद्यों के सुधार के लिये, जिस प्रकार एलोपैथ डाक्टरों के लिये रजिस्टरों के खोलने का अभी बिल आया था उसी तरह से वैद्यों को भी दर्ज किया जाय और वही लोग जो आपसे सर्टिफाइड (Certified) हों उनको ही चिकित्सा करने की इजाजत मिले। क्योंकि इससे हिन्दुस्तान के बहुत से आदमियों को एक दवा के सिस्टम स अर्थात् आयुर्वेदिक पद्धति से ठीक प्रकार से आराम पहुंच सकेगा।

दूसरी बात जो है जिसकी तरफ मैं राजकुमारी जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं वह यह है कि देहातों के अन्दर आज भी लाखों ऐसी बहनें हैं जब उन्हें डिलिवरी (delivery) होती है तो उनके यहां ऐसी-ऐसी डाक्टरनी जिन्हें शायद किसी चीज का भी पता नहीं है, वह डाक्टरनी बन जाती हैं और उनकी जिन्दगियों पर खेल खेलती हैं, और यही कारण है कि हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर मृत्यु संख्या के अन्दर सब से ज्यादा संख्या आज भी उन बहिनों की है जिनके ऊपर डिलिवरी (delivery) के समय तर्जुबा का खेल खेला जाता है। तो इस लिये इस चीज की तरफ भी मैं उनका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि वह कोई इस किस्म की बात की ओर ध्यान दें। यह कहा जाता है कि यह subject या विषय जो है वह सूबों का विषय है। कल और परसों ही हमारे माननीय फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहिब ने यह बात कही थी कि देहात या देहातियों के बारे में यहां कोई बहुत बड़ी बात नहीं की जा सकती है, बल्कि उन्होंने एक तरह से यह बात भी कह दी थी कि हमने उनके लाभ के लिये ऐसा किया है कि सूबों को एक बड़ा भारी तीस करोड़ का दान दे दिया है। लेकिन मैं खास तौर से राजकुमारी जी से यह चाहता हूं कि वह इस दान के अन्दर एक बहुत बड़ी रकम इस विषय के लिये दें अर्थात् बहनों के लाभ के लिये और जो मैंने उस समय निवेदन किया था, वैद्यों के सुधार के लिये कोई न कोई बिल जल्दी ही लाएं।

मेरा दिल चाहता था कि मैं कुछ और कहूं क्योंकि मैं भी एक देहाती हूं, देहात में पैदा हुआ हूं और देहात में पला और आज भी, मैं देहात में रहता हूं। तो इसलिये मेरा बड़ा दिल करता था कि आज मैं कुछ और बातें आप से निवेदन कर दूं। देहात हिन्दुस्तान की रीढ़ की हड्डी है, हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर सात लाख देहातों में लोग पड़े हैं लेकिन जहां तक अस्पतालों या दवा दारू का ताल्लुक है मैं पूछता हूं कितना हिस्सा इसमें देहात के लिये जाता है। इसके लिये भी मैंने दो कटौती के प्रस्ताव भेजे थे। एक देहात में चिकित्सालय या औषधालय खोलने के लिये था। उनमें मैं यह नम्र निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि देहात के अन्दर चाहे वह सेन्ट्रेल्ली ऐडमिनिस्टर्ड एरिया (centrally administered area) हो चाहे सूबों के, अस्पताल खुलवायें। जिनके ऊपर आज इतनी तकलीफ है और जो कि देश की रीढ़ की हड्डी है, उनका ठीक तरह से पालन हो सके और वह जिस प्रकार आज मरते हैं उस प्रकार लाखों भाई न मरें।

(English translation of the above speech)

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab: General): Mr. Chairman, while fully supporting the cut motion moved by Shri Biswanath Das Ji, I invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to the fact that there are many people in our villages who call themselves Vaidyas and make experiments on the lives of the people of our country. Even a common man who has just come in contact with a Vaidya and has spent a day or two with him pretends himself as a full fledged doctor in the country side. This is possible because there are no hospitals of any kind, Ayurvedic or Allopathic, round about them for miles. The people, therefore, look upon him as a learned man of qualities, and without hesitation entrust themselves to his care, and allow him to make experiments upon themselves.

To remove this evil, therefore, which effects about 80 per cent. of our population today, I submit that a bill like the one introduced recently for enrolling names of allopathic doctors, be introduced to register names of Vaidyas also; and only those Vaidyas, who are granted certificates should be allowed to practise. In this way only our people can make a beneficial use of the Ayurvedic system of medicine.

The next thing to which I wish to invite the attention of Shrimati Rajkumari Ji, is that there are still many homes in our rural population where the so-called lady doctors, who really know nothing about the profession, go to attend on cases of confinement, and then they make experiments there. This is the reason why the death rate is the highest in our country of our sisters who fall a victim to these experiments at the time of their confinement. To this, I earnestly invite the attention of the Honourable Minister and request her to give thought to the matter. It has been pointed out that this is a provincial matter, and only the other day the Honourable the Finance Minister stated in the House that we cannot do much here for rural areas. He made it clear that the Central Government has allotted a sum of rupees thirty crores to provinces for this purpose. I would particularly request the Honourable Minister for Health to sanction a large part of this money for the welfare of these women, and also request her to bring forward a Bill to control the Vaidyas.

[Ch. Ranbir Singh]

As a villager—as one who was born and brought up in a village—and as one who is still living in a village, I wished to say something more about villages. They are the back-bone of our country; they number about seven lakhs and have a vast population but so far as the question of providing hospitals and medicines for them is concerned I have to ask, how much money is allotted for villages?' I also gave notice of two cut motions; one of them was about opening of rural dispensaries. I, therefore, request that dispensaries should be opened in the rural areas without going into the details of the question whether the villages fall in the centrally administered area or within the areas of the Provinces. Medical help should be provided for those who are suffering and are the backbone of our country so that they may not die in the manner they do today.

Shri K. Santhanam: Madam, I did not want to speak at all but there is one point which nobody else has touched and it is a matter of the greatest importance. So I would take only two or three minutes.

The Bhore Committee made its report in December 1945. It has been with the Government for over two years and it is high time that the Government made up their mind and announced their policy, especially in the matter of the organisation of medical research, because I believe that the Central Government can do the greatest service to help in medicine only by organising research. The Committee have reported that though there are a few institutions of research the present organisation is defective and should be strengthened. They have recommended the establishment of a general research organisation with executive and administrative branches and they have also in particular recommended a central institution for post-graduate teaching. They have called it All India Medical Institute. I do not want to go into the details, but I would like the Minister to explain to the House what steps are being taken to bring this All India Medical Institute into being. I hope she will be able to announce that it will come into existence very soon.

Again, Madam, there are several provincial institutions which have been doing research but the Committee have reported that owing to the accumulation of routine work their research work has fallen behind and they have become mere manufacturers of serum or testing houses in such matters. Institutions like the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, the King Institute, Guindy and the Haffkine, Institute, Bombay should be brought into the plan of central research. I would also suggest that the various funds like the Indian Research Fund and the Dufferin Fund should be amalgamated and handed over to this new institution for research. Colleges like the Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi, should also be handed over to it. The whole thing is in a sort of chaos. There are various committees and funds and no one knows what happens to them. I suggest that the Minister should take early steps to reorganise research on a proper, solid and effective basis. There are various other things which ought to be done about tuberculosis, leprosy, etc. I regret, I have not the time to develop those points. I hope the Minister will do what is possible.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): Madam, first of all let me thank Honourable Members for the great interest they have evinced in the matter of the nation's health. Nothing could delight the heart of the Health Minister more than to find a real keenness amongst the members to better the position in a field that has not in my opinion in the past been given the importance that it merits.

Before replying, to the various points touched on by the Honourable speakers I would just like to remind the House that health being a provincial subject, however much we may wish it otherwise, medical relief, public health and most of the duties which vitally affect the health of the community are the

functions of Provinces. Nevertheless apart from being responsible for the centrally administered areas as well as for India's international health obligations and for maintaining a certain number of institutions directly nuder its care, the Centre does help the provinces by means of development grants for their medical and health schemes. Moreover for the purpose of providing expert advice, whenever necessary, it does have experts in various branches of medicine and public health. The Centre has also taken steps to provide the provinces with quinine and synthetic anti-malaria drugs for combating this fell disease.

At the very outset I would like to say that Government are painfully aware of the very unsatisfactory condition of public health all over the country and it will be my constant endeavour, so long as I am called upon to serve the country here, to do my utmost to remedy the existing sorry state of affairs.

I am aware of the high statistics of mortality that have been referred to by some speakers and the high incidence also of various diseases. I am aware of the low expectation of life and I am aware also of the paucity of doctors and general medical personnel. The task is not an easy one and wonders cannot be worked overnight but it is the intention of the Government to speed up all health programmes. It was the intention of myself and my colleagues in the Health Ministry, the moment we came into the service of the first National Government of Free India, to initiate schemes at once for the improvement of public health, more especially over centrally administered areas, because I was most anxious that these areas at any rate might become ideal, so that they might serve as an example to the rest of India. But as the House is aware, the tragic events that supervened almost immediately after the 15th of August last year taxed the resources of Government to the utmost and for several months all the energies of the Ministry of Health and all the organisations under it had to be diverted to give medical relief and medical aid to the millions of suffering, displaced men, women and children. We were called upon to make elaborate arrangements almost with lightning speed for the provision of medical relief in various camps run by the Government. At Kurukshetra, for example, hospital provision had to be made for over 1,000 beds and a very large number of medical officers and ancilliary staff had to be recruited. In this single camp nearly one lakh persons were inoculated against cholera and five lakhs were vaccinated. Large medical stores had to be transported to various camps for use not only in Delhi and East Punjab but also in Kashmir and other states. We had to arrange for seats for displaced medical students in various colleges in the Indian Union and I would here like to pay a tribute to the help that we received in this regard from all the provinces and some states also. We tried and are still trying our best to rehabilitate many refugee doctors, nurses and other medical personnel who were displaced from Pakistan. The refugee work, I may also mention, is by no means over. I mention these facts only to show.....

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the number of doctors?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I can give you figures but I have not got the time to go into them now. I only mention this in order to show to the House that this Department has not really had much chance of forging ahead with their plans. Nevertheless it is an ill wind that blows no one any good. The emergency work has, I believe, proved to be a rich experience both for those who organised and those who served in the field and it has certainly shown what can be done, if there is the will to serve.

In spite, however, of having to grapple with problems of medical aid and relief to refugees, other fields of activity, I venture to suggest, have not been neglected. Since last August, as the House is aware, three long overdue

[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur]

measures for the proper development of the important professions of dentistry, pharmacy and nursing have been placed on the statute book and steps will be taken without undue delay for the creation of the Councils which these Acts have provided for. During the coming year the Health Ministry proposes to proceed with certain important schemes in the field of medical education, medical relief and public health. The Advisory Committee appointed last year to draw up a plan for an All India Medical Institute has submitted its report. The scheme is primarily for the promotion of post-graduate studies in all branches of medicine and is estimated to cost over five crores.

As the House is aware, our ship of finance is very heavily laden and we have to possess patience, however unwillingly, lest we cause it to founder. In addition, building material is not to be had for the asking. These are definite handicaps in the way of such progress as we in the Health Ministry would like to speed up. Therefore as an immediate step we have to content ourselves with trying to develop suitable branches in the existing Medical Colleges in India in order to make an immediate beginning in the development of post-graduate medical courses. A provision of Rs. 12 lakhs has been made in this year's budget for the preliminary steps to go on with the establishment of the All India Institute of Medicine. And I would like to assure the House that I am immensely keen on the speeding up of this programme. Government has agreed to give a grant to the Delhi University for a post-graduate diploma course in T. B. Proposals for the establishment of an Institute for Tuberculosis in the Delhi University are also under consideration. Necessary provisions for these purposes have been made in the budget. The Interim Commission of the World Health Organization has agreed to send out a field team to start B. C. G. vaccinations for the first time in India. The team is expected to arrive here by the end of May, I believe. With its help it is hoped to start the manufacture also of the vaccine at our own Institute at Guindy and begin field work in the Madanapalle area where there is a well-established sanatorium. In view of the fact that T. B. is now a major health problem these measures are not a whit too soon and I hope very much that they really will prove effective.

Leprosy which has been mentioned by one of the speakers is another disease for which nothing adequate has been done so far. Leper colonies run on efficient lines are a necessity. It is also proposed to give a scholarship to a leading Indian research worker of leprosy to go abroad for a short study tour. This will be done under the aegis of the Indian Research Fund Association.

The question of giving financial aid to the Benares and Aligarh Universities for starting Medical Colleges is also under consideration.

Rupees two lakhs has been budgeted for the College for Nursing here. This institution is very poorly housed at the moment and, as Honourable Members are aware, this is a service which has been sadly neglected up till now. Nurses are badly paid, badly housed and overworked, generally speaking, and their number is ludicrously small in comparison with our needs, so that we need to speed up this Nursing College in order that we may have not only more nurses but nurses that can go into the Provinces in order to start colleges there.

Honourable Members know full well that the fringe of the problem of medical relief has not been touched—indeed it cannot be touched so long as the rural areas are neglected. I am in full sympathy with every word that has fallen from the lips of speakers in the matter of medical relief and aid to rural areas. Therefore, as far as Delhi is concerned, priority has been given to the setting up of Rural Health Centres on the lines suggested by the Bhore Committee. In

the new set-up of things it is time, in my opinion, that we democratized our national efforts so that instead of building from the top as hitherto we lay a sound foundation from the bottom. A reorinentation of ideas regarding new methods of approach must come into being which will involve the coordination and integration of various social welfare agencies. The efforts of the people themselves have to be directed towards a solution of their own health problems and we cannot therefore continue to work in water-tight compartments because health is inextricably bound up with education, housing, labour, food and agriculture.

Delhi is also to have an Infectious Diseases hospital. The Irwin Hospital is to be extended in order to meet the ever-increasing need for medical aid. I am sorry to have to say that every day we have to refuse from 100 to 150 in-patients simply because we have no room. Its bed strength is sought to be raised from 320 to 660. It is hoped to build a new Out-patients Department also with adequate staff to serve the large number of these sufferers. The dispensary, the Casualty department, and the X-ray sections will be improved as also, I hope, the Pathological laboratory. Then there are certain non-governmental hospitals working in the Delhi area which are also to be improved. A budget provision of Rs. 36,80,000 for Delhi has been made this year.

In Ajmer-Merwara a new hospital is to be constructed and a T. B. clinic is to be established. A secondary health centre is to be set up at Beawar. Five primary health centres are to be set up in the rural areas of Ajmer. Existing dispensaries are to be improved and provision has been made for ambulance cars and travelling dispensaries. I need hardly emphasize that these are essential needs for catering to the medical relief of rural areas. In addition, a grant has already been sanctioned—and I am sure many Members will be glad to hear about it—in order to dispense at once with the present primitive method of the removal of sewage which has, to our shame, existed in Ajmer up to date.

Then, post-graduate training abroad for doctors, dentists and nurses will be continued as usual for the coming year.

Inasmuch as special emphasis has so far not been laid on the preventive side,—this has also been stressed by some of the speakers and I am wholly in agreement with them for. I look upon it as even more important than the curative—it is proposed to launch an extensive health education drive through the media of travelling health exhibitions, moving pictures, models and posters, publication of simple pamphlets in the languages of the Provinces and in Hindustani and also through the radio. I might mention that a good beginning has already been made in this direction and a sum of rupees one lakh has been provided for the purpose for the coming year. In order to control disease due to preventive agents, Honourable Members will agree with he that we must concentrate on research. An army of well-trained officers of health is needed in order to implement the knowledge that we have and that we are yearly getting in increasing measure. I hope that this aspect of development will grow rapidly. The economic loss of the country through ill-health can no longer be ignored or neglected. Health personnel at all levels must be trained and trained expeditiously. The Provincial Governments have drawn up their five year development schemes of which the Government of India is fully aware, and they are helped financially by the Central Government by these block development grants. The suggestion was thrown out by one speaker that the Government of India should impress upon the Provinces the necessity of spending so much per cent. of that grant for health programmes. I shall convey that message to the Provincial Governments.

[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur]

I do not deny, madam, for one moment that the medical relief provided is generally speaking very inadequate, but I do submit that within the financial resources with the Government steps are now being sought to be taken to improve matters without delay. I have mentioned the preventive side already. In order to ensure proper coordination between it and the curative aspect the post of Director General of Health Services has been created. The Director General combines in himself now the direction of both the preventive and curative sides.

The House will, I am sure, agree that this was a necessary and very long overdue change.

In regard to the question of the encouragement of the indigenous systems of medicine, I must repeat what I have said on the floor of this House more than once in the course of this session as well as the last. Government did appoint a Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Ramnath Chopra to make recommendations in regard to research in these systems and to report on the measures to be taken to improve facilities for training in them, the desirability of state control over the practice of them, and any other measures to increase their usefulness as part of a comprehensive health plan: The report has unfortunately been delayed owing to the serious illness of the Chairman and now I am told we may not expect it till the end of May. Honourable members, however, I hope, will agree that any steps to be taken by the Government in the matter can only be usefully considered when this report is available and complete data has been placed before us; but I do want members to realise that there can be no question of the indigenous systems supplanting the modern scientific system. Science, as I have said once before, knows no barriers of race or clime. Knowledge gained through research and practical application may not be ignored. It would be folly for us to dwell on or rest content with our achievements in the past and shut the windows of our understanding, as it were, to the light of modern scientific achievements in the vast field of medicine and surgery. I am sure it would be wrong on the part of any state not to try and afford the best and most scientific medical relief to the sick and suffering committed to its charge. It does not follow that the cheapest is the best. If we have not been able to afford adequate medical attention and relief so far, that is surely both our fault and our misfortune. It is not the fault of any system. Scientific knowledge of chemistry, of physics and biology, of the structure and functions of the various issues and organs of the body, sufficient knowledge of surgery, of sepsis and asepsis, of bacteriology, X-rays, electrotherapy, dentistry and modern public health—these are the minimum essentials for anyone who can claim to attend to the sick and suffering humanity. The important thing for us to consider is in what condition the indigenous systems of medicine today are and what is necessary to make them a progressive scientific art. We may not, we dare not, be content with less. There is ample room for research. Whatever in either the Ayurvedic or Unani systems of medicine or in Homoeopathy stands the test of scientific scrutiny must and will be translated and synthesized in modern scientific medicine and add to the fund of world knowledge, and I would beg of the House to agree with me that it is in the spirit of the quest for truth—and what is science but a quest for truth—that we must go forward and see to what extent indigenous systems can be developed and regulated for medical relief in the country, and not in any spirit of rivalry with allopathy.

There are certain other matters to which speakers have referred. I have already mentioned that Government have budgeted for a T. B. Institute; arrangements are being made for a Public Health Engineering Section at the Centre; the taking over of the Lady Hardinge College is under consideration,

and I hope it will be an accomplished fact before long. The question of taking over the Guindy institution in Madras, the School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta, and the Haffkine Institute in Bombay, which suggestion has been put forward by one of the speakers, will be considered in consultation with the provincial Governments. One member spoke of the present nature of the Health Ministry, that it is not permanent. It is only a technical thing and will be put right because I agree with him that it is essential for this Ministry to remain at the Centre and that a great deal of Central planning and co-ordination in the matter of health development of the country can be done from the Centre. I do not mind at all being pilloried for not having got enough money for health problems. I will ask the help of the House to get me more! We can absorb as much as you like.

I need hardly add that the Standing Advisory Committee of the Legislature will be consulted on all important schemes of the Health Ministry and I am sure that their advice and help will always be available to Government.

Madam, I have referred to the fact that financial stringency hampers the speed of our development plans, but philanthropists can help in many ways. I do hope that the removal of taxes on money given to charities approved by Government will enable us in the coming year to put through at least some of our cherished schemes. I shall expect Honourable Members to help me in this.

With these few words I hope I have made it clear to the members of the House that we are as keen as any one of them for the proper development of our Health programmes and I hope that they will now withdraw their cut motions.

Mr. Chairman: May I ask the Honourable Members who have moved cut motions on Health and Medical Services if they wish to withdraw them?

Dr. V. Subramaniam: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Shri Biswanath Das: So far as the Ayurvedic portion of the reply is concerned, it is insulting to the system itself, but still I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Seth Govind Das: I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: Have the Honourable Members leave of the House to withdraw their cut motions?

The cut motions were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,23,000 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 'Ministry of Health'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 40,15,000 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 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Thursday the 11th March, 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Thursday, 11th 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 members made the declaration under Rule 20:

Master Nand Lal (East Punjab: General); and Lala Achint Ram (East Punjab: General).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES REPRESENTED BY INDIA

685. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of International Conferences in which the Government of India were represented, their venues and the names of the Indian Delegates thereto, since the advent of the Interim National Government?

(b) What is the cost incurred by Government on account of these conferences?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) A statement† has been laid on the table of the House.

(b) The cost as far as could be ascertained is Rs. 29,33,000 in round figures. Details are given in the statement referred to in the answer to part (a) of the question.

I might add that the statement is a fairly lengthy one running into 25 typed pages.

Seth Govinddas: Is it a fact, Sir, that the majority of these delegations were led by officials who were either serving under the Government of India or in the States?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I could not say "majority" without looking up the names again, but some were.

Seth Govinddas: Were any non-officials of eminence in this country also approached to lead some of these delegations?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The normal course is for technical delegations to be led by officials or technical people. Each delegation is normally chosen by the Ministry concerned; that Ministry then ought to, or does, refer the names to the External Affairs Department merely to see that there is no overlapping so far as each Ministry is concerned. Now if there is a matter in regard to commerce, it is obvious that the persons who have dealt with that matter for months and months in the Department are best qualified to deal with it with other officials of other Governments. Of

†Not printed in these Debates. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House—*Ed. of D.*

course these are more or less Governmental conferences; there may be a matter in regard to information and publicity and these people should therefore know the technical aspect of it. So, inevitably the persons chosen have a certain specialised qualification.

In regard to another type of delegation like the United Nations, one would more often choose non-officials to lead such delegations as U.N.E.S.C.O. etc. But more and more these international conferences become conferences dealing with very special subjects.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact, Sir, that even in such delegations where technical advice was not required officials led those delegations and the majority of the members were also officials?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Very probably. I think in the future more and more officials are likely to take part in such conferences in the very nature of things, because the old difference between official and non-official tends to disappear and the man qualified for a job often becomes an official. Now, it is rather an odd thing that we should not use a very qualified person who has been specially selected for that, and use a non-official who may be very able but who may be completely out of touch with the actual things that may have developed with regard to that matter.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will Government consider the desirability of associating with such delegations non-official members of this House who are in the Standing Committee relating to the particular Department?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, of course. But I said that each Ministry deals with it and each Ministry will consider that and it has considered it. The External Affairs Department has been concerned chiefly with the United Nations General Assembly Delegation. Normally speaking, all the other delegations go either from the Education Ministry, or the Commerce or Industry and Supply Ministries or some other Ministry; they also have that in view. But if I may say so again, more and more these conferences deal with highly specialised matters which had been studied for months and months by individuals. The sudden importing of a person who has not been in touch is a burden on him and does not help the delegation very much, but the principle that the Honourable Member has laid down is obviously accepted to the best of our ability.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the Honourable the Prime Minister propose to invite occasionally an international conference to India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes. I think one such conference is going to be held in India in the course of a few months in Ootacamund —I think the meeting of the Social and Economic Council, Far Eastern Section.

It is not an easy matter to invite these conferences here. The burden of holding an international conference is a heavy one. In Delhi we can hardly hold any conferences because of lack of accommodation; we suddenly require accommodation for about 200 persons on a high scale—the scale is very high of the type of accommodation that is required. I have known a case of an offer being made for a conference to be held here, which was rejected by the Ministry because they said we cannot shoulder that burden.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know, Sir, whether the Honourable the Prime Minister has taken note of the fact that in other countries leadership of the delegations is not generally given to officials and that they are generally led by non-officials of eminence?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Well I had taken note of the fact but in a completely reverse way: that in other countries they are officials.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Arising out of answer to (b), are the estimates looked into in advance to avoid wastage regarding particularly hard currencies?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not quite know; in a delegation certain rules are followed in regard to the payment of expenses of that delegation. What exactly does the Honourable Member suggest?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Government aware that in the Food Conference that was held in Geneva about 600 odd delegates from various countries and the public were also entertained at our cost? Particularly the Swiss francs are hard currency so far as we are concerned. Therefore where such expenditure in such hard currencies is concerned, as far as possible the matter should be looked into in advance and wastage sought to be avoided.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: In other words, in the case of a delegation to a country where expenditure in hard currencies is involved, we should send a smaller delegation and see that they do not spend much?

Shri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I hope so; certainly.

INDIAN AND FOREIGN STEAMERS PLYING ON INDIAN COASTS

686. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the total number of steamers owned by foreigners and Indians which ply on Indian coasts?

(b) What is the total number of Indian and non-Indian officials working as crew on the steamers owned by foreigners?

(c) Have these companies refused to employ Indians?

(d) Is it a fact that discrimination between foreigners and Indian Nationals is shown by the non-Indian companies in the matter of salaries, mess etc?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) I have assumed that the Honourable Member has in mind the coastal trade of India, which is generally taken to mean, the trade on the coasts of India, Burma and Ceylon. 57 steamers of 142,512 tons gross owned by Indians and 54 steamers of 296,676 tons gross owned by non-Indians are employed in such trade.

(b) Indians 303,

Non-Indians 397,

(c) No Sir.

(d) No Sir; though there is apparently some disparity in the rates of pay and terms governing leave.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, how many of the Captains and Chief Officers of the steamers owned by the British Indian Steam Navigation Company are foreigners and how many Indians?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I have no such detailed information at the moment.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated that there were 303 Indians and 397 non-Indians. From this, may I know in which of the Companies the foreigners are mostly employed?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: There are two foreign-owned Companies, namely the British India and the East Asiatic which are plying on the coast of India and most of their officers are foreigners.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know, Sir, if the managing agency of a recently started Indian Steamship Company is entrusted to a foreign agency?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I do not know which particular Company he is referring to. If he will specifically mention the Company. . .

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The Indian Steamship Company.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Their managing agents are Lionel Edwards Ltd. That is owned jointly by Indians and Non-Indians.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that Government have been trying to induce the B.I.S.N. to employ more and more Indian officers?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That is correct. We have been using the best possible influence to see that more and more Indians are employed.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that previously Lionel Edwards Ltd. was a company owned mostly by German people and now partly by Britishers? May I know what is the percentage of Indian interests in that concern now?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I should like to have specific notice of this question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: To meet the shortage of ships, is there any proposal to purchase any merchant ships or to charter any?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: All possible assistance is given by Government for making purchases, and if I may inform the House, recently with the assistance of Government about five or six ships have been bought from the United States Maritime Commission out of their disposals stocks for two or three Shipping Companies in India.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there any proposal to purchase any merchant ships by the Government itself and as far as possible run the coastal shipping?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: There is no such proposal at the moment.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if the Government are taking steps to ensure that only good ships are bought?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: That information of my friend is incorrect. The ships that are purchased are purchased only after very careful survey and inspection and only if they are suitable to our conditions.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: How old were they, Sir?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Most of these were war-time constructed ships.

CHHATTISGARH STATES AND PROPOSED MAHANADI PROJECT

†687. ***Shri Kishori Mohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether any of the Chhattisgarh states shall be in a position to take advantage of the proposed Mahanadi Multi-Purpose Project?

(b) If so, which of the states in particular shall be in the said position?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

RESCUE OF ABDUCTED WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

688. ***Shri Basanta Kumar Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) what programme was followed by the Governments of India and Pakistan to make the "Restore Women and Children" week a success;

(b) how many abducted women and children have been rescued in India and Pakistan as a result of the drive;

(c) whether those rescued include any women and children abducted during the disturbances in Noakhali and if so, what their numbers are;

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

(d) whether Government propose to intensify their endeavour for the rescue work by continuing the drive; and

(e) whether Government have received full co-operation of the Government of Pakistan in their endeavours for the rescue work?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) A copy of the programme followed in India is laid on the table. The Government of India have no information about the programme followed in Pakistan.

(b) 369 Muslim women and 323 children were recovered during the week *i.e.* from the 16th February to the 22nd February 1948 in the East Punjab. No official figures of the recovery of women in Pakistan have been received but the available information shows that 392 Hindu and Sikh women and 379 children were recovered in Pakistan during the week. The total number of abducted Muslim women recovered from East Punjab during the month of February was 1,342. During the same period 1,400 abducted non-Muslim women were recovered from West Punjab. This latter figure included 974 women who had been abducted from Kashmir recovered in Gujrat district and kept in the Kunjah Camp.

(c) A news item appeared in the Calcutta Press mentioning that 4 girls who had been abducted from Noakhali in October, 1946, had been recovered in West Punjab and had been sheltered in the Womens' Refugee Camp at the Frances Newton Hospital, Ferozepur. Enquiries at the latter place indicated that no such girls had been taken there. Further enquiries are being made to find out the truth of the report.

(d) and (e). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by the Honourable the Prime Minister to clauses (a) and (b) of Starred Question No. 115 by Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar on the 4th February 1948.

Restore Women and Children Week

The "Restore Women and Children" week was observed from 16th to 22nd February instead of 15th to 21st as previously settled. The following broadcasts were put on the air during the week:—

16th	5.30 P.M.	Extracts from Mahatma Gandhi's prayer meeting address of 7th December 1947 referring to abducted women. (Hindustani).
	8.30 P.M.	Broadcast by the Prime Minister of India. (Hindustani).
17th	8.30 P.M.	Broadcast by the Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation followed by its Hindustanitranslation
	8.40 P.M.	Broadcast by Dr. Rajendra Prasad. (Hindustani).
18th	8.30 P.M.	Broadcast by the Deputy Prime Minister. (Hindustani). Broadcast of the Joint Appeal by women leaders of India and Pakistan already published in the Press. (Hindustani).
19th	8.30 P.M.	Broadcast by the Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and Shrimati Rameshwari Nehru. (Hindustani).
20th	7.05 P.M.	Broadcast by Principal Niranjan Singh. Broadcast of the Joint Appeal by women leaders of India and Pakistan already published in the Press. (Hindustani).
21st	7.05 P.M.	Broadcast of Radio feature on the subject of restoration of abduction women and children.

The following points may be noted:—

1. All the above Broadcasts were relayed by Jullundur and Amritsar.

2. The texts of almost all the above broadcasts were released and were published by most of the prominent Papers.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Is it a fact that most of the women rescued in West Punjab are old women and young women are being held back?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have received allegations to that effect, but I am not in a position to give any indication about the age groups to which these recovered women belong.

گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر : کیا اس کا کوئی اندازہ ھے کہ کل کتنی لڑکیاں ابھی اور باقی ھیں -

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Is there any estimate of the girls that are yet to be recovered?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid it is very difficult to give an estimate of the girls that have yet to be recovered from West Pakistan.

گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر : کیا گورنمنٹ خود بھی پتہ چلانے کی کوشش کرتی ھے - یا جہاں سے پتہ چلتا ھے- وھیں سے لڑکیاں نکالنے کی کوشش کرتی ھے

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Are Government taking any initiative in finding out the whereabouts of these abducted girls, or simply tries to rescue those whose whereabouts are made known to the Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: All possible inquiries are being made and we are also getting a lot of information from friends and relations. As a matter of fact, I personally have been approached on several occasions by friends and relations of abducted women and this information is being passed on to our organisation at Lahore for necessary action.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Is it a fact that traffic in abducted women is going on in Delhi?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is also an allegation which I have heard.

گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر : کیا آنریبل منسٹر اس بات سے واقف ھیں کہ ویسٹ پنجاب لیاژن آفیسرز جو سیالکوٹ - راولپنڈی - گجرات - جہلم اور کیمبل پور میں تھے وہ اب ہٹا دیئے گئے ھیں - گورنمنٹ نے اسکا کیا انتظام کیا ھے -

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that in West Punjab Liaison Officers stationed at Sialkot, Rawalpindi, Gujrat, Jhelum and Campbellpur are no longer there? What are the arrangements made by the Government in this connection?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is a fact and the whole question is at present under discussion, and I would appeal to my Honourable friends not to press me for any further statement on this subject. I may state for their information that I propose to proceed to Lahore on Saturday to assess the situation there in regard to very many pending issues, which will include this one also.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Are any attempts being made to recover women who have been taken to tribal territory as a result of the Gujrat tragedy?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is also what we have learnt.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether these rescued include any women and children abducted during the disturbances in Bihar and if so, what their number is?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have had no information on this particular point.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister give us the rescued women by age groups some time?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I shall attempt to do so, but then it depends upon the statistics that is already available.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know from the Honourable Minister as to how many out of these rescued women are taken back by their relations and how many are still left under the care of the Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I should like to have notice of that question.

Shri Upendra Nath Barman: Have the Government made any attempt up till now to ascertain the number of abducted women and girls from East Bengal during the Noakhali and Tipperah disturbances, and if so, what is their number?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid no such attempt has been made so far as I am aware.

Shri Upendra Nath Barman: Will the Government make an attempt now?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I think it is rather too late to expect any result out of any such enquiry at the present moment.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact that most of the women rescued have been taken away by their relations and the remaining are very few in number?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have received information to that effect. It is a very encouraging information. But I am not in a position to state whether in any case this has not happened.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I ask the Minister whether, from the experienced gained the Government finds a general desire on the part of the people in Pakistan and India to return these abducted women?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Well, I should not like to make a general statement. We have met with very enthusiastic co-operation in certain cases and lack of co-operation in others.

ASSETS OF LIBRARY OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA AND INDIA OFFICE

689. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a library in London maintained by the Secretary of State for India out of Indian revenues, upto the 15th August 1947;

(b) how many copies of books, official documents and manuscripts in different languages taken from India were kept in the library;

(c) what the other assets of the India Office are and where those assets are located at present; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to get possession of all such assets?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes, Sir. Up to 1937, the India Office Library was maintained entirely out of Indian Revenues; from 1937 to 1947 the Government of India paid annually a lump sum to His Majesty's Government for the maintenance of the India Office Library.

(b) A statement showing the number of copies of printed books and manuscripts in the India Office Library is laid on the table of the House. Information about the exact number of India Office records is not available; but a note on the nature of the records is included in the statement.

(c) Apart from the Records and the Library of the India Office which contains a number of drawings, photographs, coins, textiles samples, epigraphic inscriptions, epigraphic rubbings and gramophone records, besides books and manuscripts, the other assets of the India Office consists of the building, the pictures and the East India Company's furniture. All these assets are at present located in that part of Whitehall which used to house the late India Office.

(d) The Government are sending a party of representatives to join a fact-finding committee set up by the United Kingdom Government consisting of experts representing the Government of United Kingdom, India and Pakistan to start work on surveying the 'contents' of the India Office. The committee's functions are to be the preparation of a statement of 'contents', the sources from which they came, the various claims made to the 'contents', and the various schemes suggested for their disposal. The committee has not yet started work but is likely to meet in London in April. The committee is only of a fact-finding nature and will not have anything to do with questions of policy. The idea is that after the fact-finding committees' work is finished any questions of policy which may arise for decision should be discussed at ministerial level between the Governments concerned.

INDIA OFFICE LIBRARY

The resources of the Library fall into four classes: printed works; manuscripts; drawings and miscellaneous properties. The first three classes each divided into European and Oriental, the Oriental books and manuscripts are further classified into separate language collection.

Printed Books

European books are those printed in a European language, and not translated from an Oriental language. The Oriental books are books printed in an Oriental language together with translations from an Oriental language into a European language.

The figures given in the following statement represent the number of separate works whether in one volume or more, in each case collection. The larger figures are in some instances estimates only.

EUROPEAN		
ORIENTAL—	63,000	
Classical—		
Arabic	5,500	
Persian	4,750	
Sanskrit & Prakrit	19,000	
Pali & (Pali-Burmese)	1,750	
Tibetan	120	
Zend	24	
Pahlavi	11	
Chinese	1,850	33,005
MODERN INDIAN—		
Indo-Aryan—		
Assamese	700	
Bengali	24,000	
Bhili	8	
Garhwali	46	
Gujarati	9,500	
Hindi	19,400	
Kashmiri	129	
Maithili	51	
Marathi	9,200	
Multani	81	
Nepali	454	
Oriya	4,000	
Panjabi	5,000	
Saurashtri	17	
Sindhi	2,200	
Urdu	20,000	94,786
Iranian—		
Baloohi	12	
Pashto	151	163
Dravidian—		
Trahui	11	
Kanarese	2,500	
Kota	4	
Kui	6	

Dravidian—*contd.*			
Kurukh	27		
Malayalam	1,260		
Malto	2		
Tamil	15,500		
Telugu	6,150		
Toda	1		
Tulu	24		25,485
Munda—			
Kharia	1		
Kurku	6		
Mundari	46		
Santali	136		
Savara	12	201	
Mon-Khmer—			
Khasi	90		
Mon	48		
Nicobarese	1		
Wa	3	142	129,777
Burmese			2,325
Tibeto-Burman—			
Abor-Miri	8		
Bhotin	2		
Bunan	1		
Chin	39		
Garo	69		
Kabui	1		
Kachari	15		
Kachin	49		
Kom-Kuki	1		
Laho	8		
Laizao	2		
Lakher	3		
Lepcha	15		
Lisu	3		
Lolo	1		
Lushei	51		
Manipuri	26		
Mikir	19		
Mogi	2		
Naga languages	89		
Newari	1		
Thado Kuki	3		408
Other Oriental Languages—			
Ahom	1		
Annamite	81		
Aramaic	1		
Bernes dialects	2		
Borini	4		
Cambodian	3		
Georgian	1		
Hebrew	84		
Hoklo	3		
Japanese	129		
Karen	192		
Khotanese	5		
Korean	2		
Kuchean	2		
Laocian	2		
Malay	197		
Manchu	15		
Mongol	13		
Philippine Island	9		
Shan	27		
Siamese	165		

Other Oriental languages—*contd*

Sinhalese	175	
Syriac	15	
Turki & Turkish	50	1,088
		157,615
Oriental polyglot	12	
European and Oriental books		220,615

Manuscripts

The manuscript collections comprise documents written or inscribed on paper, palme leaves birch bark and other materials. The Tibetan documents known as 'xylographe', which are actually printed from carved wooden block, are for convenience classed with the Tibetan manuscripts are grouped, irrespective of provenance, in language collections according to the language in which they are written, even when translated from another language.

The figures given below refer, in general, to the number of separate works (or fragments two or more of which may constitute a bound volume), in each collection. But complete consistency of method in enumeration has not proved possible and in some instances, particulary in the European collections, it has been necessary to count volumes, each comprising many separte documents, instead of individual manuscripts.

EUROPEAN	364 & 837 vols. of mas.	
ORIENTAL—		
Classical—		
Arabic	2,720	
Parsian	7,250	
Sanskrit & Prakrit	8,300	
Pali (& Pali-Burmese Tibetan (see note).	385	
Zend & Pahlavi	27	
Chinese	1	18,683 *plus*
MODERN INDIAN-		
Indo-Aryan—		
Assamese	3	
Bengali	27	
Hindi	160	
Jaina (Gujarati & Marwari)	52	
Kashmiri	5	
Marathi	251	
Multani	1	
Oriya	50	
Panjabi	56	
Sindhi	15	
Urdu	269	889
Iranian—		
Pashto	54	54
Dravidian—		
Kanarese	14	
Kurukh	1	
Malayalam	69	
Tamil	13	
Telugu	12	109 1 052
Burmese		49
Other oriental languages—		
Batta	6	
Ethiopic	4	
Javanese	50	
Malay	26	

Other Oriental Languages—*Contd.*

Mo-So	111	
Siamese	21	
Sinhalese	46	
Syriac	9	
Turki & Turkish	23	29620,080
		20,444 *plus* 837 vols. of mas.

NOTE.—The above totals do not include a figure for Tibetan manuscripts. In the early years of the century the Tibetan collection comprised some 850 xylographs and 120 manuscript They have since been very greatly augmentated by the deposit of the Stein collections from Central Asia, but it has not been possible, in the time available for the preparation of this report to enumerate the Stein documents with any accuracy.

India Office Records

1. The Records in the India Office (including temporary repositories outside its walls consist of:—

(*a*) The Records of the East India Company, first as a commercial then as a territorial power, from 1600 to the abolition of the Company in 1858;

(*b*) The Records of the Board of Control, established in 1784, which governed India in conjunction with the Court of Directors of the East India Company until 1858

(*c*) The Records of the Secretary of State for India in Council from 1858 to 1935;

(*d*) The Records of the Secretary of State for India from 1935 to 1947:

(*e*) The Records of the Secretary of State for Burma from 1937 to the present time.

This report is concerned with the first four of these catgories, all of which can be regarded the Archives of the India Office as it existed on 14th Augut, 1947.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know, Sir, what becomes of our famous diamond-Kohinoor and whether it is in the assets?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That has nothing to do with the India Office.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Arising out of part (c), may I know what are the other assets of the India Office?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not an asset of the India Office.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Whose asset is it?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Well, presumably I cannot say off-haud. The position is presumably: It belongs to the King's personalia.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any information to show that any of the manuscripts or documents or other assets referred to by the Honourable the Prime Minister have either mysteriously disappeared or have been spirited away?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have heard nothing of the kind. If Mr. Kamath will give some information, we shall enquire.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Are Government aware that one of the gates of Somnath temple is in London and if the answer to my question be in the affirmative, what setps, if any, Government propose to take to get back that gate from London to India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid, I am not in a position to answer that question, because I do not know the facts. At the same time we should not mix up the two. We are dealing with the India Office in this question. No doubt, there are many things in the British Museum and other museums and various other places which can be considered separately as to how far we can get or not the valuable articles which had been taken away from India during the past century or more.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: I submit that all the properties belonging to us Indians, which were in India during the British rule were property or assets of the India Office. Now, Sir, I ask do Government propose to make enquiries into the matter regarding the Somnath Temple gate and all other assets of the Indian now?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know. Certainly we will make enquiries about the Somnath gate as well as other matters. But there seems to be a certain vagueness or looseness about calling all these things 'assets of India Office'. I still cannot see how they could belong to us by right for various reasons.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: May I add to the list also Baji Row's elephant which was alive till 30 years ago?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

INDIA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER'S STORE PURCHASES DEPARTMENT IN ENGLAND

690. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Store Purchases Department of the High Commissioner of India is still functioning in Great Britain;

(b) if so, the purpose, work and utility of the said department at present;

(c) whether Government have considered the need of having such activities in India and not in Great Britain;

(d) if so, when Government propose to wind up that department in Great Britain; and

(e) the number of officials in the Department and the cost incurred by way of pay on such officials employed in Great Britain as well as in the branches of the Department, if any, in the continent?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes, Sir. The Store Purchases Department referred to by the Honourable Member is known as the India Store Department.

(b) The India Store Department is to arrange for purchase of stores for Government which are not available in India; inspection of such stores during manufacture and before shipment; and engagement of freight. Its operations extend over the whole of Europe.

I place on the table of the House a statement (No. I) showing the approximate value of stores purchased by the India Store Department during the past few years.

(c) In India we have already established as a continuance of war-time arrangements, a Centralised procurement organisation, that of the Director General of Industry and Supply under the Ministry of Industry and Supply. This organisation has replaced the old Indian Stores Department and the Contracts Directorate, and is responsible for the supply of stores to all Government Departments, etc., by arranging the the procurement of stores from India or from abroad, according to the nature and availability of stores.

In view of the world shortage of certain key stores and unwillingness on the part of many manufacturers' agents in this country to quote against our invitations to tender on reasonable terms, shipping facilities, regulation of import licences and control of foreign exchange it is felt that until there is a change for the better in the present day sellers' market, certain purchases can be made more expeditiously through the India Store Department in the United Kingdom. So far as the purchase activities of the India Store Department are concerned, they can be considerably reduced when normal conditions are restored. We can then arrange for our requirements in full either from indigenous sources or through the manufacturers' agents in this country,

under the rupee tender system. Until such a stage is reached, and this presupposes extensive industrialisation of the country, we need the organisation of the India Store Department to watch our interests in the United Kingdom on the spot.

(d) In view of the position explained above, and judging from the volume of work done by the India Store Department, it will be realised that the India Store Department is fulfilling a real need and the question of winding up the organisation does not arise at present.

(e) The present strength of the India Store Department (including subordinate staff) is 477. A sum of Rs. 18,68,000 was provided by way of salaries to the staff for the 7½ months period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948 and Rs. 31,68,000 has been provided for the full year 1948-49. The annual cost has thus been reduced by about Rs. 166,000. I place on the table of the House two statements (Nos. II and III) showing (a) details of staff and (b) cost incurred by way of pay of establishment on such officials.

The Department works under the control of the Industry and Supply Ministry. It is being progressively Indianised in personnel and the key posts are held by Indian officers.

There are no branches of the India Store Department in the continent of Europe, but its opeartions in Europe are controlled from its office in Blackpool.

STATEMENT I

Approximate value of stores purchased by the India Store Department during the past few years. (Reference part (*b*) of reply to Quest on No. 690).

Year	Value in Lakhs of Rs.
1941-42	800
1942-43	1300
1943-44	933
1944-45	1366
1945-46	2730
1946-47	1730
partition period	
15th August to 31st December 1947	1133*

*1114 lakhs for India.
19 lakhs for Pakistan.

STATEMENT II

List of Sanctioned Posts in India stores Department under the High Commissioner for India and London.

Designation of post	*As on 1st December 1947* — *Sanctioned by* Government of India *Permanent*	Government of India *Temporary*	High Commr. *Temporary*
Head of Department (Director General)	..	.	
Officer on Special duty	..	1	
Deputy Head of Department (Dy, Director Generale)	1	..	
Controllers	3	1	
Principal/Executive Officers	5	4	
Higher Executive Officers	13	5	
Executive Officers	24	24	
Higher Clerical Officers	8	..	
Clerical Officers	67	..	
Superintendent of Typists	1	..	
Short-hand Typists and Typists	16	32	
Messengers	18	2	
Subordinate Grades	45	34	1
Clerks	..	87	13
Deputy Office Keepers	..	..	1

Technical Staff

Director of Inspection	1	..	
Dy. Director of Inspection	1	..	
Other Technical Staff	32	18	
Examiner of Surgical Instruments	..	1	
Examiner of Medical Stores	..	1	
Others			
Colliery Panel Officer	..	..	
Liaison Officer Armament Production	..	..	
Shipping Surveyor	..	1	
Assistant Electrical Engineer	..	..	1
Officer on Special Duty	..	1	
Total	236 +	212 +	29=477

NOTE.—*Sanctioned by the High Commissioner for India in London under his own power.

STATEMENT III

India Store Department, London

	Budget estimate for 1947-48 (15/8/47 to 31/3/48)	Budget estimate for 1948-49 (1/4/48 to 31/3/49).
	Rs.	Rs
Salaries	18,68,000	31,68,000
Wages of Artificers, Labourers, etc.	53,000	80,000
Professional inspection of stores	5,29,000	9,24,000
Officeconti ngencies, etc.	58,000	1,100

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of answer to part (e), may I ask how many of these 477 officials are Indians and how many foreigners?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I suggest that Mr. Kamath reads Statement II placed on the table.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the head of the India Store Department an Indian?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are the majority Indians?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

NON-PAYMENT OF RENTS BY PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT OF BUILDINGS REQUISITIONED BY THE LATE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT

691. ***Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Government of Pakistan do not propose to pay rents for the buildings which the Government of Punjab took on rent prior to 15th August, 1947?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to see that rent is paid to such land-lords whose buildings are now under the control of the Government of West Punjab?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b). Government are not aware that the Government of Pakistan do not propose to pay rents for buildings in Pakistan which Government of Punjab took on rent prior to the 15th August, 1947. I presume that in such cases the rent will be realized by the Custodian of Evacuee Property as under Section 4 of the West Punjab Ordinance No. VII of 1947, all tenants of evacuee property of which control has been taken over by the Custodian shall be deemed to be holding it on his behalf.

REGISTRATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN THROUGH EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES DURING PAST TWO YEARS

692. ***Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state the total number of ex-servicemen registered for employment in the various Employment Exchanges during the years 1946-47 and 1947-48 province-wise?

(b) How many of them were provided with jobs?

(c) What is the number of refugees registered for employment after the 15th August, 1947?

(d) How many of them have been provided with jobs?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) and (b). It is presumed that the Honourable Member desires to know the registration and placing figures for the financial years 1946-47 and 1947-48. On this presumption, the latest available figures are given in a statement which is laid on the table.

(c) The number of refugees registered for employment upto 15th January 1948 was 76,068.

(d) The number of refugees known to have been placed in employment by Employment Exchanges upto 15th January 1948 was 11,769.

STATEMENT

Province-wise Analysis of number of ex-Service personnel registered and placed by the Employment Exchanges

EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL ONLY

Province	1946-47 (April 1946—March 1947) Registrations	Placings	1947-48 (part year) (April 1947 Dec. 1947) Registrations	Placings
1	2	3	4	5
Ajmer	5,821	984	1,226	635
Assam	4,632	446	2,994	610
Baluchistan	1,358	415	508	328
Bengal	45,854	6,745	20,045	5,056
Bihar	27,533	4,742	11,130	4,173
Bombay	32,224	7,798	14,609	7,171
C. P. & Berar	11,920	2,909	4,891	2,279
Delhi	8,747	1,792	5,526	1,588
Madras	1,71,651	29,808	2,623	18,683
N. W. F. P.	25,747	5,355	6,857	3,882
Orissa	3,264	196	2,016	259
Panjab	1,13,593	17,759	48,366	13,032
Sind	6,630	2,038	2,782	1,141
United Porvinces	3,130	12,524	37,399	12,965
All India Total	56,22,094	93,511	2,10,972	71,802

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know, Sir, whether anybody other than refugees and ex-servicemen are registered in the employment exchanges?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: In the case of refugees there is no question of their being ex-servicemen.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What other efforts are being made to provide employment for the other 60,000 and odd men who are yet to be employed?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Efforts are being made by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation to find employment for them and also to settle them in life.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know, Sir, whether these employment exchanges are centrally administered or whether they are under the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: At present they are administered centrally; the Provincial Governments also contribute to the cost of their administration and are closely associated with it.

NON-MUSLIM REFUGEE CAMP AT ALIBEG (MIRPUR) UNDER KASHMIR RAIDERS CONTROL

693. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the non-Muslim refugee camp at Alibeg (Mirpur) is under the control of the Kashmir raiders and whether Government have received any report regarding the same?

(b) If so, what is the number of refugees in that camp?

(c) Are Government aware:

(i) that they are housed in a roofless deserted Gurdwara;

(ii) that all their beddings have been taken away from them;

(iii) that only three chataks of cereals per head per day are supplied to them;

(iv) that they have been deprived of water facilities; and

(v) that they have been living under such conditions for the last three months?

(d) Have Government received any information about the refugees who died for want of clothing and food in this camp?

(e) Have Government evolved any plan to save these refugees? If so, what is it?

(f) Did any society called the 'Friends Service Unit' offer its services to the Government of India for this purpose? If so, did Government accept it?

(g) On what date was this offer accepted?

(h) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the result of the efforts made by the society referred to in part (f) above for saving these refugees?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) to (h). Government have received reports from time to time about Alibeg camp where a large number of non-Muslim refugees from Jammu Province, and more specially Mirpur, were collected. They have had no means of getting direct information about this camp except from reports received through the International Red Cross and the Friends Service Unit. It appears that there were recently about 2000 refugees in this camp. Their housing conditions were bad, food was inadequate and clothing and bedding were often lacking. A considerable number of deaths, chiefly due to exposure and cold, have also been reported.

Government have been making every effort to get these refugees evacuated and brought to India *via* Pakistan. Their efforts have thus far been unsuccessful. But it is hoped that in the near future the refugees in Alibeg Camp might be brought to Lahore and from there to India.

CENTRAL WATER POWER IRRIGATION AND NAVIGATION COMMISSION

694. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state as to when the Central Water Power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission was started? What is the strength of the staff and what is their monthly pay-bill?

(b) What are the sections in the Department and what are the qualifications of the chief men of those sections?

(c) How many of them have the necessary training and experience in building dams? Where were they trained and where did they get their experience?

(d) What is the nature of research carried on in the Research Branch of the Department? How many Officers are working in that Research Department? What are the special qualifications of those Officers?

(e) Are Government aware that 17 junior posts and 20 senior posts in that Department were advertised on 22nd December 1947 and 14th February 1948 respectively in the local papers? If so, in how many provincial papers were these advertisements given?

(f) Are Government aware that in anticipation of these advertisements, the Head of the Research Department requisitioned hands from those already working in the Government of Punjab? If so, why was it done?

(g) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that in the latter advertisement dated 14th February 1948 from that Department, an M.Sc. Class III is mentioned as eligible for a Class I post and that the age limit is also relaxed?

(h) Why has this relaxation of qualifications been made?

(i) How many men have been sent abroad for study from this Department? What are their qualifications and who made the selection?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission was set up on the 5th April 1945 *vide* Labour Department's Resolution No. DW.101(2), dated the 5th April 1945.

The present strength of the staff is:

I.S.E. and Class I Officers—26.

Class II Officers—17.

Class III Officers—100.

Class IV Officers—73.

The monthly pay-bill is Rs. 76,000.

(b) (i) There are seven sections in the Commission, namely: Waterways Directorate, Irrigation Directorate, Navigation Directorate, Hydrology Directorate, Designs Directorate, Statistical and Publication Directorate, and Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Research Station.

(ii) Four fully qualified and well experienced engineers, who have held responsible charge equivalent to that of officers of the I.S.E. with a service of about 20 years were appointed to these posts.

(c) (i) Three out of four have the necessary training and experience of building barrages which are similar to dams and the fourth is a specialist in Navigation.

(ii) One is a B.Sc. (Eng.) (Glasgow) with 25½ years experience in the I.S.E. drawn from Bengal, second one is a Civil Engineer from Roorkee with 25 years experience in the I.S.E. drawn from Punjab Irrigation, while the third one is a B.Sc. (London) with 16 years experience in the I.S.E. drawn from the Sind Irrigation.

(d) Research carried out in the Research Station covers the following aspects:

Problems relating to river characteristics, behaviour and training, design of canals and canal works and navigational works. These problems generally comprise design, construction, operation and testing of scale models of hyraulic

structures and machinery and of masonry and earthen dams, embankments, spillways, outlet works, barrages, syphons, aqueducts, regulators, navigation locks, etc.

The following officers are working at the Research Station:

(1) Mr. K. K. Framji, M.B.E., B.A. (Bombay), B.Sc. (London), A.K.C. (London), I.S.E., Director, Research Station, Poona;

(2) Rao Bahadur D. V. Joglekar, B.E., B.S.E., Deputy Director, Research Station, Poona;

(3) Mr. S. T. Ghotankar, M.Sc. (Bombay), Assistant Research Officer; and

(4) Mr. C. V. Gole, B.E. (Bombay), Assistant Research Officer.

(e) Yes, As regards the latter part of the question the junior posts were advertised by the Central Waterpower Irrigation and Navigation Commission in the following 12 Provincial newspapers: *The Tribune*, Simla, *Amrit Bazar Patrika*, Calcutta, *Bombay Chronicle*, Bombay, *Times of India*, Bombay, *Hindu*, Madras, *Madras Mail*, Madras, *Star of India*, Calcutta, *The Leader*, Allahabad, *The Pioneer*, Lucknow, *The Hitavada*, Nagpur, *The Indian Nation*, Patna, *The New Orissa*, Orissa, *Hindustan Times*, New Delhi, and *Statesman*, New Delhi.

The senior posts were advertised by the Federal Public Service Commission.

(f) So far as the Government are aware, there has been no such case.

(g) Only in the case of candidates with specialised experience, lower class M.Sc. was mentioned as eligible for Class I post. The age limit was only to be relaxed in the case of Government servants.

(h) This relaxation was intended to consider appointment of candidates with specialised experience.

(i) Nil. The latter part of the question does not arise.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Sir, I feel, it would have been better if a statement had been laid on the table of the House; it would have saved some time of the House. Now, arising out of answer to part (c) the Honourable Minister said that the engineers have experience of construction of barrages. Does the Honourable Minister think that experience in building of dams is not necessary?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is necessary, if men with that experience are available. I may inform the House, Sir, that high dam constructions are very unusual and the two officers who have considerable experience in it belong to the Madras Government, which is unwilling to part with their services.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: Is the Honourable Minister aware that such dams have been built and are being built in Mysore and there are engineers who have experience of their construction?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am quite aware of it.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister—arising out of his answer to part (g)—whether he has satisfied himself that the advertisement has not been so framed as to fit in a particular candidates?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Sir, there are some retired men who have got experience of dam construction; could their services not be utilised in this connection?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is being done.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, is the Commission maintaining a list of names of experienced engineers, whether they may be in service or retired, in order that they may be consulted from time to time?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is being done, Sir. As a matter of fact, a committee consisting of experts has been appointed in which Sir M. Visveswarayya has been included.

Shri Khurshed Lal: May I know why the advertisement was not inserted in the United Provinces Papers, like the *National Herald*, the *Pioneer* and the *Leader*?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact, Sir, that so far as barrages are concerned, the tallest or the highest barrage is only 18 feet, whereas dams go up to a height of 700 feet, with the result that experience of barrage construction is not at all useful in the construction of big dams?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is a matter of opinion, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; we are entering into an argument.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that some experienced engineers of Madras have refused to join the C.W.I.N.C., because the person who is in charge of that organisation is inferior to them from the point of view of experience and seniority in service?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is cent. per cent. incorrect.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether there are any officers in this organisation who were connected with the construction of the Sukkur Barrage?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I require notice of that particular question, Sir.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Is the Kosi Dam that is going to be constructed 800 feet in height?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I cannot say exactly, but it is a high dam.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Arising out of parts (h) and (i), were the relaxations mentioned in the advertisements to suit particular persons?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: No, Sir. It is the normal rule that for people already employed under Government relaxation follows.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Why should it be mentioned at all in the advertisement?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is only to cover such cases.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, I am prepared to accept the statement of the Honourable Minister that my information is one hundred per cent. wrong. But will the Honourable Minister inquire once again and find out whether C.W.I.N.C. has not become a clique to deliberately keep out qualified persons?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I protest against it. The suppressed opinion which has been again and again whispered is that this is full of Punjabis. I will give the facts and figures and leave the House to draw its own conclusions. In the I.S.E. there are 111 people of whom 44 are from the Punjab. In this organisation of C.W.I.N.C. there are 73 gazetted posts of which only 12 are held by Punjabis.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Minister try to explore the possibility of getting engineers either from Mysore or from Hyderabad where similar dams of a height of 450 feet have been constructed?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am obliged for this useful suggestion.

RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF CENTRAL WATER POWER, IRRIGATION AND NAVIGATION COMMISSION AT POONA

695. ***Shri R. R. Diwakar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether there is a Research Institute of the Central Water Power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission at Poona? Are Government contemplating of starting one in Delhi? If so, why?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Government of India maintain a Research Institute at Khadakvasla near Poona called the Central Waterways Irrigation and Navigation Research Station. Till May 1947 this institute was known as the Indian Waterways Experiment Station. To cope with the increased demand for research in Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation as a result of schemes for development of the rivers of the country, the Indian Waterways Experiment Station, Poona, was reorganised and expanded in May 1947 into the Central Waterways Irrigation and Navigation Research Station. The reorganised station will be mainly located near Poona but such parts of it as could not be located in Poona will be located near Okhla near Delhi.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Are there any research stations also at Mahanadi and Kosi?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: No, Sir.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know if the Orissa Government were contributing to the Poona research station to carry on river control research for them?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: All problems referred by the provincial Governments are studied in this research station, and mostly the provincial Governments contribute.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is there a particular section for river training in the Poona research station?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes, Sir, there is one.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the size of that section?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know why some sections cannot be located at Poona? Is it due to want of space or want of any other conveniences?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is due to both.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has it been ascertained what those sections are which are sought to be located at Delhi and whether their location at Delhi would interfere with other research work?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I have already stated that one limiting factor in the research station at Khadakvasla is want of ample space ,and there may be certain sections which cannot be usefully pushed into the central station at Poona; they may be pushed here near about Okhla.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Are we to understand that Poona is the central station and that other stations like those at Delhi or Okhla are branch stations?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is obvious from the reply I have given.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know the distance of Poona from the nearest great river?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is just close to the river called Mutha. The confluence is only a few miles down below.

TECHNICAL PERSONNEL BOARD TO EXAMINE FOREIGNERS IN INDIAN EMBASSIES

636. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state if there is any proposal for the establishment of a Technical Personnel Board to examine the technical qualifications of foreigners before they are granted visas by the Indian Embassies abroad?

(b) Are Government aware that most of the independent nations have such Boards?

(c) Have Government any record of foreigners employed by Indian Companies and individuals?

(d) What is the number of foreign refugees who have been so employed?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) to (e). The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and has been transferred to his list.

PROGRESS OF FACT FINDING DEPARTMENT OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION MINISTRY

697. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the progress so far made by the Fact Finding Department of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation and the expenditure so far incurred thereon?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Fact Finding Organisation was established in October, 1947, with office at Delhi and three branch offices in the East Punjab. It has examined a large number of persons and recorded their statements on incidents which occurred in Pakistan just before and during evacuation of non-Muslims. Recently, a Fact Finding Officer has been appointed at Bombay with Assistants at Ajmer and Marwar. They will record events in Sind. The East Punjab High Court Bar Association has offered to collect further material, and this offer will be utilized. It is now proposed that the Organisation should be placed under a High Court Judge.

The Fact Finding Organisation has, so far, examined 5627 refugees and prepared accounts of a large number of incidents.

The expenditure incurred on the Organisation upto the 29th February, 1948, was Rs. 32,459.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has any officer been posted in Calcutta to investigate into incidents there in connection with the 'Direct Action' of 1946 and thereafter?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: No, Sir.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do Government propose to institute a branch of this organisation in Calcutta in view of the steady influx of people from East Bengal to West Bengal?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The question will be considered.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alarming condition that has developed in Eastern Pakistan. In view of that will the Honourable Minister immediately address himself to the necessity of starting a branch there in Calcutta so as to collect data relevant to the exodus?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As I said, the matter will be duly considered.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: When do Government expect to publish the report of this Fact-finding Committee?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am hoping that it will be possible to complete the work of this organisation in the next three or four months.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I also ask if Government are going to widen the terms of reference of this Committee so that it might go into the whole political background before the transfer of power?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is a proposal that has been made by certain Honourable Members of this House and it is receiving serious consideration.

ALLOTMENT OF VACANT TIFFIN ROOMS IN NORTH AND SOUTH BLOCKS OF IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT, NEW DELHI

698. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the tiffin rooms in the North and South Blocks of the Imperial Secretariat

buildings (New Delhi) previously run by Muslims are lying vacant since September, 1947?

(b) Have any refugees applied for the allotment of those tiffin rooms? If so, when were their applications received?

(c) Have any suggestions been made by the Delhi Provincial Congress Committee and All India Congress Committee, in this connection to Government?

(d) If so, what action has been taken, so far, in the light of the suggestions made?

(e) If the answer to part (d) above be in the negative, when do Government propose to make these allotments?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes; some are still lying vacant.

(b) Some applications have been received from refugees during the period 14th October, 1947 to 2nd March 1948.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise

(e) The allotment will be made as soon as the general principle of allocation which is at present under examination is settled.

EAST PAKISTAN ENCROACHMENT ON INDIAN TERRITORY IN ASSAM

699. *Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Press Note issued by the Government of Assam and published in the *Shillong Times* from Shillong dated the 17th February, 1948, under the Caption "Assam Government's Rejoinder to East Bengal's Claims"?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of Assam despatched a small rail force to protect the B. O. C. Oil Test point and that this rail force was overpowered by the superior forces of the Government of Pakistan and was virtually made to withdraw without orders?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of East Bengal, which originally claimed, upto the end of January, 1947, only the western boundary of Patharia Reserve, have, after driving out the Assam Rail Force, occupied the entire reserve and now claim it as a part of their dominion?

(d) What is the present position and what steps are being taken by the Government of India to remove the said encroachment and to protect the area from any such aggression in future?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A small rail force sent protest the B.O.C. oil test point within the Reserve was virtually cut off by armed forces sent by the East Bengal Government and had to withdraw.

(c) The East Bengal Government which first disputed the Assam Government's possession of a small area of the Reserve on the western side extended their claim about the end of January to the entire Forest Reserve. It is not a fact that the entire Reserve has been occupied by East Bengal.

(d) We are discussing the matter with the Pakistan Government and both Governments have agreed that all armed forces should be withdrawn five miles beyond the periphery of the Forest Reserve, and that the boundary should be determined by a Joint Commission consisting of the representatives of India and Pakistan. In the meantime I am assured by the Prime Minister of Pakistan that his Government fully appreciate the need for avoiding provocative action and that stringent orders to that effect have already been issued by the Government of East Bengal.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know under whose control the rail force is? Is it under the Government of India or under the Government of Assam?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not quite sure, but it is probably the provincial Government.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Under whose authority is the Reserve at present?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: This Forest Reserve is more or less an uninhabited locality; it is a forest with some Forest Rangers, etc. The only point which is partly inhabited is a small point where the B.O.C. people were exploring for oil. At the present moment the forces have been withdrawn. Exactly what authority is functioning in that forest it is difficult to say because normally there is no authority needed for a forest.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: At the moment it is No Man's land!

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot describe what it is. It is difficult for me to say exactly what is happening in the forest.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Arising out of the answer, may I know when is the Boundary Commission to be appointed?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The names have been selected and we have been informed of the names recommended by the Pakistan Government or nominated by them. Among our representatives is an Honourable Member of this House.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Are the Directors of Land Records of both the Governments associated with this Commission?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There is to be one representative each and advisers. It is open to Government to have any adviser, including a Director of Land Records.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is it a fact that the East Bengal Government is realizing taxes and forest dues from that area?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I doubt if there is anything in the nature of a tax in the forest. But I cannot say whether some kind of due might not have been realized.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the allegation that a vast field of forest land has been destroyed by the intruders who occupied it by the removal of valuable trees and timber?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know anything about this.

DEMAND OF COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION BY INDIANS IN EAST AFRICAN BRITISH COLONIES

700. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Indian in East African British colonies and dependencies have asked for communal representation in the Legislatures and local bodies?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: For some time past a section of the Indian Muslims in Kenya has been demanding separate electorates and reservation of seats in the Legislative Council and Municipal Councils and Boards.

Seth Govinddas: Is not it a fact that those representations which some of the Muslims made to the Colonial Office with respect to the reservation of seats has been acceded to and now out of the five Indian members of the Kenya Legislative Council, two seats have been reserved for Muslims?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, that is a fact, with this addition that the electorate is in a way a joint electorate.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether there is any truth in the assertion that this cry for communal representation has come in after the retired British section of the I.C.S. have chosen to serve in these East African Colonies?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know that.

Seth Govinddas: Is not it a fact that some of the Muslims in East Africa were against this reservation of seats in the Kenya Legislative Council?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I presume so.

Seth Govinddas: Did the Government receive any representation from the Muslims of Kenya saying that this reservation should not be made?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot answer that question without an enquiry.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Since when has this communal representation been given effect to in Kenya?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Just now. Just a short while ago a draft Ordinance has been published providing for the reservation of two seats for the Muslims out of five Indian seats. Two of these seats will be reserved for two double-member constituencies and the voting will be joint.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know the action taken by Government in bringing home to the people living in these East African colonies that such a course of action will be detrimental to their future in those colonies, and if so, how far has it been successful?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member has a supreme faith in logic prevailing and in people understanding anything from the right point of view as he conceives it. Government can take no action in this matter except to convey their views to both the Colonial Office and to the other people concerned.

Seth Govinddas: Did the Government of India express their views against the reservation of seats to the Colonial Office?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: In regard to this matter the Government of India has been opposing and protesting against many things which have happened in East Africa. I believe that the Government of India has also said something on this subject. But I am not quite sure, when this matter came up recently, whether we had the opportunity to say much, because it came up rather suddenly in the end.

REHABILITATION OF IMMIGRANTS FROM EAST BENGAL INTO INDIA

701. *Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-Muslim immigrants who came into West Bengal, Assam and other parts of the Union of India from East Bengal;

(b) the proportion of urban and rural people among these immigrants; and

(c) whether any arrangements for the relief and rehabilitation of these men have been made by the Government of India or by any local Government and if so, what arrangements?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No tally has been kept of the refugees from East Bengal who have come to West Bengal, but it is estimated by the West Bengal Government that their number is about 10 lacs. No estimate of the number of non-Muslim refugees from East Bengal who have gone to Assam or other parts of the Indian Union is available.

(b) No survey has been made so far.

(c) The homeless destitute refugees are admitted to Government relief centres. Other destitute refugees are given free foodgrains and clothing. Building materials are being supplied to some others at cost price.

These arrangements have been made by the West Bengal Government. The matter is under discussion with the Provincial Government.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is the Government ready to take up the matter with the Assam Government so that they can get some idea of the number that might have gone to Assam?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: We are in communication with the Assam Government.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that the Government of Assam has already been considering the appointment of a Refugee Officer there?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am prepared to accept that information from my Honourable friend. But I have no information myself.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister try to collect statistics of those persons who have come from East Bengal to West Bengal and gone to Assam?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It will necessarily have to be done by the Government of Assam.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Will the Honourable Minister be in a position to state what number might have gone to Cooch Behar and Tripura State?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: We have no information.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister try to get figures from the West Bengal and Assam Governments of the refugees from East Bengal?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact we did receive a reply from the Assam Government to the effect that they themselves have no information of the numbers of such people who have gone over to Assam.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Minister aware that since the receipt of the last report, there has been a further deterioration in the situation and consequent increase of immigrants to West Bengal, and has he asked the West Bengal Government to report from time to time about the numbers that had gone there?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know about that but I definitely remember to have seen a statement made by the Premier of Bengal, just three or four days back, in the course of which he mentioned ten lacs as the figure.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Minister aware that lots of people from Eastern Pakistan have tried to take shelter in the States of Tripura and Cooch Behar? Is the Honourable Minister aware of their number, and if not will he enquire from the Governments concerned as to what is the number of people who have migrated there?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I will make enquiries.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Will the Honourable Minister enquire from those two States if they have taken any measures for relief of those who have gone there?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, I will.

ALLOWANCES AND SALARIES OF INDIA'S DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD

702. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the salaries, allowances and other emoluments of India's diplomatic representatives abroad and the expenditure incurred as on the 31st December 1947 on their residential offices, equipment and furnishing, etc.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: A statement showing salaries, allowances and other emoluments of India's diplomatic representatives abroad is placed on the table of the House. Information regarding the exact expenditure incurred as on the 31st December 1947 on their residences, offices, equipment and furnishing etc. is not readily available.

STATEMENT

Showing salaries, allowances and other emoluments of India's diplomatic representatives abroad

S. No.	Name of the country and designation	Pay	Allowances
1	2	3	4
		Rs.	
1	Ambassador to the United States of America.	3,500 p.m.	Frais de Representation—Rs. 5,200 p.m. Free furnished house. Free car and chauffeur at Government expense. Free heating of the house.
2	Ambassador to China . .	4,500 p.m.	Free furnished house. Motor car and chauffeur at Government expense. Free service in the house.
3	Ambassador to U.S.S.R . .	3,50 p.m.	Frais de Representation—temporarily Rs. 9,000 p.m. Free furnished house and free heating of the house. A car and chauffeur at Government expense.
4	Ambassador to Iran . .	3,000 p.m.	Frais de Representation—Rs. 2,000 p.m. Free furnished house. A car at Government expense
	Ambassador to Nepal . .	2,250 p.m.	Frais de Representation—Rs. 750 p.m. Free furnished house. A car with a chauffeur and a cleaner at Government expense the Ambassador bearing the running expenses.
6	Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo and Political Representative of India with Supreme Commander Allied Powers, with personal rank of Ambassador.	3,500 p.m.	Representation allowance—Rs. 2,000 p.m. Free car with chauffeur. Free accommodation and free ration.
7	Charge d'Affaires, Indian Legation, Bangkok.	1,100 p.m.	Foreign allowance—Rs. 917 p.m. Free furnished accommodation Free car.
8	Ambassador in Burma . .	2,750 p.m.	Sumptuary allowance—Rs. 750. Car allowance Rs. 250 car provided at Government cost. House rent allowance excess 10% of pay. Dearness allowance Rs. 300.

1	2	3	4
9	High Commissioner in Canada .	2,250 p.m. (fixed).	Representation allowance $10,000 p.a. Free car and Chauffeur maintenance charges to be borne by the High Commissioner. House rent allowance of $650 p.m. with effect from the 1st March 1948 so long as he stays in a hotel.
10*	High Commissioner in the Union of South Africa.	£2,500 p.a. (fixed).	Sumptuary allowance £ 500 p.a. Special allowance £ 50 p.m. for period spent in Capetown for Parliamentary Session Car allowance £75 p.a.
11*	High Commissioner in the Commonwealth of Australia.	£2,500 p.a.	Equipment allowance £250 (once only). Sumptuary allowance £500 p.a. Car allowance £400 p.a. (including pay of Chauffeur). Free furnished house. Car provided at Government cost.
12	High Commissioner in Pakistan	Rs. 2,500 p.m.	Entertainment allowance Rs. 500 p.m. Free house and a car.
13	High Commissioner in United Kingdom.	£3,000 p.a.	Entertainment allowance £2,500 p.a. House rent allowance £400 p.a. Car allowance. Free car including cost of its maintenance and Chauffeur (being revised).
14	High Commissioner in Ceylon .	Rs. 2,250 p.m. (fixed).	Sumptuary allowance Rs. 500 *plus* local allowance Rs. 500 Car provided at Government cost (Maintenance of car borne by High Commissioner).
5	Representative in Malaya .	Rs. 2,250 p.m. (fixed).	Local allowance Rs. 500 p.m. Sumptuary allowance Rs. 500. Car allowance Rs. 125 p.m. House rent allowance Rs. 150 p.m. Cost of living allowance Rs. 350. Car provided at Government cost. (Maintenance of car borne by Representative).

*The post is at present vacant but the salary and allowances have been shown in columns 3 and 4 as admissible to the last incumbent.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to say what would be the yearly expenditure on the Embassies in the United States of America?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That is what the statement contains more or less.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government collected any information in regard to the similar expenditure incurred by other countries, and seeing whether India's expenditure is less or more?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot have exact information, but we generally know. India's expenditure bears no comparison with what other countries spend in such matters. It is infinitely less.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

FRANCHISE OF INDIANS IN CANADA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

703. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state with reference to Indians in Canada, particularly in British Columbia:

(a) whether they have received the Dominion and Provincial franchise and the municipal franchise and if so, when;

(b) whether their franchise differs from that of other Canadians and if so, in what respect; and

(c) whether they still suffer from any disabilities and discriminations?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c). Except in British Columbia Indians in Canada have not at any time been under any disability in respect of federal or provincial franchise. In British Columbia provincial franchise was conferred on Indians having adequate knowledge of English or French on the 2nd April 1947 and as a result Indians became eligible also for the federal franchise. They are not yet eligible for the municipal franchise in British Columbia but it is hoped that as a result of a resolution passed in September last by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities favouring removal of the disability of Indians in respect of municipal franchise, necessary legislation will be introduced at an early date to give effect to the resolution. So far as Government are aware, Indians in Canada are not subject to any other disability.

RECIPROCAL AND RETALIATORY ACTIONS BY INDIA AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

704. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the reciprocal and retaliatory measures taken by India against South Africa; and

(b) similar action, if any, taken by South Africa against India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government made rules in 1944 under the Reciprocity Act of 1943, (i) declaring all persons of South African domicile, who are not of Indian origin, to be prohibited immigrants and regulating their entry into India by permits; (ii) prohibiting South Africans of non-Indian origin, domiciled in Natal and Transvaal, from acquiring, hiring or occupying any immovable property except with the permission of the Central Government and (iii) declaring all South Africans except those domiciled in the Cape Province ineligible for election to any local authority or for voting in the election to any such authority. Further, Government of India issued a notification in July 1944 prohibiting all exports to and Imports from South Africa.

(b) The measures enumerated under (i), (ii) and (iii) in reply to part (a) of the question were taken by Government in reply to similar measures which had already been adopted by the Government of South Africa against persons of Indian origin domiciled in South Africa. Government of India are not aware of any action taken by the South African Government in regard to trade relations with India.

ALLOTMENT OF MUSLIM EVACUEES' CINEMAS AND THEATRES

705. *Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cinema theatres which belonged to Muslims who left for Pakistan;

(b) to whom these cinema theatres were allotted and on what terms; and

(c) whether any Association of Refugee Exhibitors approached Government for the allotment of such theatres to them on co-operative basis and if so, with what results?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Seven cinema theatres have been abandoned by Muslims in the East Punjab. No cinema theatre has been abandoned by any Muslim in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Provinces.

(b) No allotment of cinemas has been made so far.

(c) Yes, the representation has been forwarded to the East Punjab Government and is receiving consideration of the Provincial Government.

POOR HEALTH OF LABOURERS IN TEA PLANTATIONS

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the observations of Major E. Lloyd Jones, Director General of Health Services, published in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 19th February, 1948, regarding the poor health of labourers engaged in tea plantations, owing to undernourishment, defective and impure water supply and poor housing; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take immediate measures to give effect to the suggestions made by Major Jones for providing them with better medical facilities and more nutritive diet?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: At the first session of the Plantation Labour Conference held on the 8th and 9th January 1947 it was agreed that Government should prescribe the standards of medical services to be maintained in the plantations. To assist Government in the prescription of the standards, Major Lloyd Jones was deputed to visit the plantations and draw up in consultation with the Provincial Governments, Employers and Employers' Associations suitable standards of medical care. In submitting his report he has naturally referred to the poor health conditions, defective and impure water supply, undernourishing and poor housing conditions.

The programme suggested by Major Lloyd Jones in regard to the improvement of medical services will be discussed at the next meeting of the Industrial Committee on Plantations, which has been fixed for the 31st of this month. To the extent to which provision of better diet is bound up with wages, the question will be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee in connection with the question of fixation of wages. Other suggestions relating to the improvement of cattle, poultry farming, vegetable growing are for the provincial Governments to consider and act upon. Copies of reports have been sent to them.

BILL TO LIFT POST WAR MORATORIUM OF DEBATES IN SINGAPORE AND ADVERSE EFFECT ON INDIAN FIRMS

707. { Shri K. Santhanam: / Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government of Singapore have published a Bill to lift the post-war moratorium on debts incurred prior to or during the period of enemy occupation of the colony;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Bill provides for full validation of payment during the period of Japanese occupation?

(c) whether Government are aware that under the provisions of the Bill all debts incurred during enemy occupation which are still partly or wholly outstanding are to be re-valued according to a sliding scale;

(d) whether Government are aware that the Bill provides for a differential treatment of Banks and money lenders;

(e) whether, as a result of the proposed Bill, the Indian firms will be hard

hit in their relations with the customers on the one hand and the European Banks on the other; and

(f) whether the Government of India have taken or propose to take any action in the matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the "Debtor and Creditor (Occupation Period) Ordinance, 1948" introduced in the Malayan Legislatures. Government have seen the Bill.

(b) The Bill provides for recognition of payments made to a creditor or his agent in occupation currency during the Japanese occupation of Malaya at the face value of such currency except when it can be proved that acceptance of payment in occupation currency was the result of duress or coercion or if the payment was made even though it was not due. In these exceptional circumstances any payment made shall be revalued in accordance with a prescribed scale.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes. A large number of Indian money lending firms and individuals whose agents were in the occupied territory during the war, will be adversely affected by the Bill.

(f) Suitable representations have already been made by the Government of India to the Malayan Governments and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

WORKING AND EXPENDITURE OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

708. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the year and month of the starting of the Employment Exchange;

(b) the up-to-date total expenditure incurred on this Department;

(c) the number of persons at present employed there;

(d) the present monthly expenditure; and

(e) the monthly average of persons for whom employment was found during the year 1947?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The 54 Employment Exchanges and 22 District Employment offices at present functioning in the Dominion of India were started at different dates between December 1943 and November 1947 as shown in the statement which is placed on the table. The Employment Exchanges at Bombay, Nagpur, Delhi, Cawnpore, Ahmedabad, Dhanbad, Madras and Calcutta which were started before the setting up of the Resettlement and Employment Organisation in July 1945 dealt with technical personnel only and were merged in that organisation.

(b) The total expenditure incurred on Employment Exchanges from July 1945 (the date on which the Resettlement and Employment Organisation came into existence) to 31st December 1947, is approximately Rs. 59,28,500, out of which Central Government's share is about Rs. 41,36,000 and the Provincial Government's contribution about Rs. 17,92,500.

(c) The total number of persons employed in the Employment Exchanges at present is 1,271 (Gazetted 172 and non-Gazetted 1,099).

(d) Approximately Rs. 1,82,800; the Central and Provincial Government's shares being roughly Rs. 1,14,500 and Rs. 68,300 respectively.

(e) The average monthly number of persons placed in employment by the Employment Exchanges during 1947 was 13,448.

Statement

Showing the year and month of the opening of the Employment Exchanges and District Employment Offices

Region	Employment Exchange District Employment Office	Month and year of opening
Bihar and Orissa	Cuttack	December 1945.
	Dhanbad	February 1944.
	Jamshedpur	November 1945.
	Muzaffarpur	February 1946.
	*Patna	October 1945.
Bombay	*Bombay	December 1943.
	Ahmedabad	July 1944.
	Bombay (Dockyard)	June 1947.
	Hubli	February 1946.
	Parel (Bombay)	May 1946.
	Jalgaon	May 1946.
	Poona	February 1946.
	Sholapur	February 1946.
	Surat	February 1946.
C. P. and Berar.	Amraoti	November 1946.
	Jubbulpore	October 1945.
	*Nagpur	February 1944.
	Raipur	April 1946.
Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara	Ajmer	December 1945.
	*Delhi	January 1944.
East Punjab	Ambala	December 1945.
	†Kurukshetra	October 1947.
	†Simla	October 1947.
	Amritsar	November 1945.
	Dharamsala	May 1946.
	†Gurdaspur	October 1945.
	Ferozepore	November 1947.
	Jullundur	September 1945.
	†Hoshiarpur	October 1947.
	†Ludhiana	October 1947.
	Rohtak	May 1946.
	†Gurgaon	October 1947.
	†Hissar	October 1947.
Madras and Coorg	Anantapur	January 1946.
	†Bellary	January 1947.
	†Cuddappah	January 1947.
	†Kurnool	January 1947.
	Bezwada	October 1945.
	†Elore	January 1947.
	†Guntur	January 1947.
	Calicut	December 1945.
	†Mangalore	January 1947.
	Coimbatore	October 1945.
	†Salem	January 1947.
	*Madras	December 1943.
	†Nellore	January 1947.
	†Saidapet	January 1947.
	Madras	April 1946.
	Madura	April 1946.
	†Ramnad	January 1947.
	†Tinnevelly	January 1947.
	Trichinopolly	April 1946.
	†Cuddalore	January 1947.
	†Tanjore	January 1947.
	Vellore	April 1946.
	†Chittoor	January 1947.
	Vizagapatam	December 1945.
	†Coconada	January 1947.
United Provinces	Agra	September 1945.
	Allahabad	November 1945.
	Almora	February 1946.
	Bareilly	December 1946.

*Indicates Regional Employment Exchange.
†Indicates District Employment Office.

Region	Employment Exchange District Employment Office	Month and year of opening
	Gorakhpur	November 1945.
	Jhansi	January 1946.
United Provinces—contd.	*Kanpur	January 1944.
	Lansdowne	May 1946.
	Lucknow	September 1945.
	Meerut	September 1945.
West Bengal	Asansol	January 1946.
	Barrackpore	January1947.
	Calcutta	December 1943.
	Darjeeling	March 1946.
	Howrah	July 1947.
	Jorhut	July 1946.
	Kidderpore	January 1947.
	Shillong	November 1945.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND U. S. A. *RE* EXCHANGE OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATION.

709. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power 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?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Certain priced publications of the Government of India are supplied free of charge to the Library of Congress, Washington. This Government also receives copies of certain publications from the United States of America Government.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

NON-AVAILABILITY OF COPIES OF THE 'DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF INDIA' TO THE PUBLIC.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that sufficient number of copies of the 'Draft Constitution of India' are not available to the public; and

(b) the arrangements Government propose to make to meet the demand of the public immediately?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (b). 3,000 copies of the "Draft Constitution of India" were supplied to the Constituent Assembly on or about the 26th February, 1948. 7,000 more copies have since been printed up, while a fresh order for another 5,000 copies has just been received. Over and above this, 5,900 copies of the *Gazette Extraordinary*, containing the "Draft Constitution" have been printed up and another 700 copies will be supplied very shortly.

Copies of the "Draft Constitution" have already been kept for sale through our agents at the Railway Book-Stalls and in various important towns throughout India. Government consider that the arrangements made for sale of copies to the public are adequate

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: May I know if any instructions have been issued to provinces and states to have the Draft Constitution published in their gazettes?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: If we find that the copies we print are insufficient that will be done.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Will Government issue instructions so that the Draft Constitution may reach all persons interested in public life like District Board members, members of municipalities and provincial assemblies?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That will be done.

Seth Govinddas: Are Government going to publish a Hindi translation of the Draft Constitution in the near future?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is for the Constituent Assembly to say. Whatever they ask us to publish we publish.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that copies are not available and people are hankering after them? Will the Honourable Minister see that copies are made available?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: So many copies have been printed, more will be printed and they will be available in the near future.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Could not the Honourable Minister have anticipated the demand? Did he not expect that about 50,000 people at least will be interested in the Constitution of India?

Mr. Speaker: That is hardly a question.

Shri K. Santhanam: Have any arrangements been made to see that the Draft Constitution is translated in the various provincial languages?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is for the President of the Constituent Assembly to decide. I merely execute the orders.

Seth Govinddas: Has any Hindi translation of the constitution been sent to the Government of India for publication?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Whatever the President of the Constituent Assembly wants we are bound to do.

Seth Govinddas: Have they sent any Hindi translation?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Not so far.

DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA LAND DEVELOPMENT BILL.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram (Minister of Food and Agriculture): 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 further extended upto Monday, the 29th March, 1948."

[Shri Jairamdas Daulatram]

May I, with your permission, just say that a meeting of the Select Committee was held a few days ago and it was felt that the machinery for the preparation and execution of the schemes of development needed further reconsideration. A sub-committee was appointed and its report was received yesterday The Committee will need time to go into that report and other provisions of the Bill. So I request that the time for the presentation of the report be extended upto the 29th 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 further extended upto Monday the 29th March, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

RAILWAYS (TRANSPORT OF GOODS) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Railways (Transport of Goods) Act, 1947.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Railways (Transport of Goods) Act, 1947."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

PROTECTIVE DUTIES CONTINUATION BILL.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha (Minister for Commerce): Sir, there is a motion in my name which is first on the list of business and it has been passed over.

Mr. Speaker: This item was included in the original agenda and then a supplementary agenda was issued stating that this motion was not to be included in today's agenda.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: I had no information about it, Sir. That was why I raised the issue.

Mr. Speaker: If the Honourable Minister is willing and ready he may introduce his Bill now.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to extend the date up to which duties characterised as protective in the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, shall have effect, and further to amend the Sugar Industry (Protection) Act, 1932.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to extend the date upto which duties characterised as protective in the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, shall have effect, and further to amend the Sugar Industry (Protection) Act, 1932."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*
SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the Demands for Grants. The Demands that are coming up today for discussion are Nos. 23, 16 and 50. I shall now place these Demands before the House.

DEMAND No. 23—MINISTRY OF WORKS, MINES AND POWER.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,95,000 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 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power'."

DEMAND No. 16—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,33,000 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 'Ministry of Education'."

DEMAND No. 50—EDUCATION.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 96,31,000 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 'Education'."

DEMAND No. 23—MINISTRY OF WORKS, MINES AND POWER.

Utilisation of Water Resources and Policy of Central Water-power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay (West Bengal: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Policy re. Building of Houses and Quarters.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Policy re. Development of Mineral Resources

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I presume the Honourable Minister will require about half an hour for his reply to the debate.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, there are three cut motions practically covering the whole of the field of activities of my Ministry and 15 minutes for each cut motion will be appropriate.

Mr. Speaker: That will leave one hour for general discussion.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: Mr. Speaker, the question of conservation and utilisation of the water resources of India is a matter of the utmost importance, which can not be exaggerated. The importance of this matter is accentuated all the more due to the division of this country. This division has not only cut the geographical unit of the country but its economic unit as well. India, as it is constituted today, has great potentialities in industrial and mineral resources. But the part of the country that has been cut off had greater resources in agricultural development. To make up this deficiency of agricultural development and the internal economy of this country it is of the utmost importance that the water resources of our country should be developed to the utmost limit of utility. It is an unfortunate matter that only 6 per cent. of the available water resources of this country are utilised for agriculture and other purposes through irrigation channels or other means. The remaining 94 per cent. of the water, without doing any benefit to the country, flows waste to the seas and in very many cases causes damage to property, crop and other things. If India is to have a balanced economy it must have to develop the water resources to the maximum limit and here comes the duty of the Minister in charge of Works, Mines and Power.

While coming to deal with the Ministry I would like to say that the future of the country depends much on the activities of this Ministry. The development of the country lies in its hands. Though this Ministry has come forward with a Bill regarding the Damodar Valley Project which is calculated to be an eye-opener in the matter of the development of our waterways, there is still much left to be done. While reminding the Ministry about the urgency of developing the water resources I am fully aware that this Ministry has got in hand many big schemes which are likely to take shape some day and shape the destiny of this nation. Some of the schemes have gone well ahead, some are in the process of execution. But in the matter of execution of these schemes it is generally felt that co-operation and co-ordination of the Provinces are of the utmost importance. I well realize the fact that the Central Government may be too willing and eager to help these projects with money, technical skill and other advice. The Provinces ought to take full advantage of them. But it very often happens that some project which might be the concern of two Provinces ultimately becomes the responsibility of none. In India at this stage we have to feel that the prosperity of the country is one and indivisible and any obstacle created by any Province in the development of these multi-purpose schemes will not only stop the onward march of progress and prosperity but also spell disaster to this country. Many of the rivers take their origin in one Province and get into

another Province, and any scheme which is calculated to control and utilise such rivers must have the assistance and co-ordination of both the Provinces. Unfortunately for our country the provincial jurisdictions are of such a nature that natural frontiers and jurisdictions have seldom been observed in the creation of the Provinces, as a result of which many impediments and difficulties arise from time to time in the path of fructification of these multi-purpose schemes. I request the Central Government to take initiative in these matters. It might be that any multi-purpose scheme may benefit one Province more and another Province to a less degree. The Province that is likely to get less benefit may feel lukewarm or it may often be that it may create impediments and difficulties. In this connection I would like to cite as an instance a particular scheme involving the Provinces of Bihar and Bengal. A river, Mayurakshi that takes its origin in the hilly tracts of Santal Parganas in Bihar flows into Bengal and that river, without doing much good to the people, had been allowed all these years to flow absolutely unutilised. These are days of the utmost scarcity of food. Every year crores of rupees worth of food we have to purchase from outside. Our economic wealth is being drained away like anything. In connection with this project I understand good deal of difficulties have arisen. The Province of Bihar not being eager to afford facilities for the construction of a dam has been creating a direct obstacle in the path of agricultural development of West Bengal. West Bengal unfortunately is a deficit Province. Over and above that, it has to receive a very large number of people—far larger than the number that have migrated from West Punjab or Sind. These people have been migrating from East Bengal. They have to be rehabilitated. Food has to be found out for them and agriculturists have also to be provided with land. The Damodar Valley Project is really a marvellous attempt on the part of the Government of India. Similar is the Mor-project. It costs much less than the Damodar and proportionately yields much more result so far as agricultural produce is concerned. It is really the duty of the Central Government to take up this project in right earnest and try to persuade the two provinces to come to an agreement as early as possible so that the River Mayurakshi may be developed to the best prosperity of Bengal and by that, the prosperity of India.

I would like to speak about the necessity of resuscitating and reclaiming the various waterways of India. This is urgent from various standpoints and particularly from the standpoint of navigation. There has been a good deal of burden on the railway system. The railway system cannot by itself deal effectively with the commerce and trade of this country. A secondary transport system has got to be found out. There was a time when the entire trade of the country was being carried along the river. There was a time when the river Indus was navigable to the extent of 1,000 miles. There was a time when the rivers in the Punjab were navigable to the extent of 800 miles, and even 50 years before the Ganges was navigable from the mouth right up to Cawnpore. But unfortunately the river Ganges has dried up and in the rainy season it is navigable only upto a few miles beyond Patna. In Bengal this river Ganges, usually known as Hooghly or Bhagirathi, is the lifeblood of the province. On it depends the prosperity and wealth of the province. That river is completely dried up. Even within the province the river is not navigable all through the year. If trade and commerce is to be improved, if the village people have to be provided with occupation in the transport services of India, it is of the utmost importance from the health point of view, the prosperity standpoint and from the standpoint of movement of trade and commerce that the river Ganges should be reclaimed, resuscitated and trained. In this connection I would also urge the importance of affording navigational facilities in the rural areas all over the country. Navigation has been neglected and it is up to the Department of Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation to prove their merit and worth, and do everything for the improvement of navigation.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, of so many miseries that the war has brought in this country, one is the dearth of houses, the population of so many towns has increased both during and after the war to such an extent that in big cities it has doubled and even trebled. Notwithstanding this fact it is very regrettable that the Government has taken no bold policy or programme to improve the miserable condition of the people who roam about day to day from door to door in search of living space. I do admit that on top of this the unfortunate partition came and the refugees' trouble became more miserable. But, Sir, cities were actually bombed during war: but their Governments immediately planned out and they realised that for the prosperity of their own country and for the good of the people whom they rule, the first thing to do is to provide them with houses. I would submit a few figures in this connection. In Britain, up to July 1947, 2,76,000 houses were provided, and in only one month—June 1947—17,000 houses were built. In Russia, Leningrad was half bombed and destroyed. A friend from Moscow who came and saw me yesterday tells me that half of Leningrad, with all its houses, which was destroyed has been built up, and that by 1951 Leningrad will be something to be proud of by the people of Russia when the 5-year programme is completed. Well, Sir, I want to know what has our Government done? This Government has adopted the policy of requisitioning houses. That is their policy. Instead of going on with the programme of building houses, they have requisitioned houses and aggravated the situation. I know that they require houses for their officers, for their staff, chaprasis, for Embassies and all sorts of persons; they have requisitioned houses for big people and small people. But let me tell the Government that the smallest of the small men have also suffered due to requisitioning, and instead of this requisitioning business being discontinued or reduced to a minimum, the number of houses that are requisitioned is increasing. Would you solve this problem by the requisitioning of houses? I want to know what is the policy of the Honourable Minister in order to remove this misery. Nothing has been done. During the last session he told us that so many thousands of houses for officers, clerks and peons have been built. I carried the impression from his answer that within one month the work would be started. But only a few days ago I put the same question and he said everything was ready and the work will soon be started. From the Budget, you will see, Sir, that he has made a provision, but my point is there is no initiative, no imagination in this matter to see that the sufferings of the people are removed. Government have done nothing to remove the sufferings of the people, and I dare say Government have failed in the discharge of their duty as far as this particular subject is concerned.

The excuse has been levelled that we have no building material, that iron and steel are not available, that cement is not available. It is a fact. But may I know how many buildings were built during the war, known as hutments? The meaning of the hutments in the dictionary is: "A small mean house of wood structure". These buildings known as huts, in our Indian language are known as *jupri*. But would you call these *jupris*? They are fine buildings built of baked bricks without any cement being used excepting on the floor, and the roof is constructed of wooden rafts and stone slabs. These are fine dwellings. You have got enough bricks today, you have got enough stones and enough wood. I fail to understand why thousands of such buildings should not have been constructed by this time; and even today the Government is sleeping in this direction. Sir, I am staying in the Constitution House and it is exactly of the same type as the so called hutments, and I can say that the life of the building, if properly cared for, will be 100 years. It may be that there are no amenities in this building but there are in other hutments. Why have Government not constructed buildings like these? If you say we have no steel, what has become of ten lakhs tons of steel we produce annually.

Government have distributed five lakhs to Railways; quite right, I know it is necessary, if it goes to the Railways. 1½ lakh tons go to the packing industry, which is only a fraction. Then 2½ lakhs go to fabricators—and this is the black-marketing field. After fabricating the article there is no control over the matter and wholesale black-marketing of articles of manufacture is done. 2½ lakh tons have been given to Provinces; I am very glad that the Provinces have been encouraged to build houses. But is it so? Out of that, 70 per cent. is again reserved for fabricators. This fabricating business is something very much to be heard of. It was the European concerns who have got these big iron foundries and they have taken, in the name of small fabricators, a large quota of steel from Government; representations have been made from time to time but no attention has been paid to it. If any control has to go immediately, it is the steel control. Half a lakh is provided for private industries; I know there are many industries coming up and they have got no steel or iron.

I say that even if you want steel or iron to be used, we have got our own factories; why do you not commandeer those? If you can commandeer them and distribute the steel properly, you can certainly use the steel for houses. But let me tell you that steel is not necessary unless you want to build palatial houses—in that case you may require large quantities of cement or iron—but if you want it for the immediate purpose, when we have not got cement and iron, why not build thousands of blocks like these? These blocks are accommodating thousands of clerks and officers. So many of our clerks are without houses. The policy of the Government is to build somewhere in Timarpur in the Civil Lines, which is nearly nine miles from here—for our poor clerks it is at the other end of Delhi. The site is further up the Maidens Hotel. These are the quarters they are building—I saw in the Budget—for our clerks and our peons. I put a question the other day: in New Delhi you have enough space, why do you not build there? The answer was, "No; these are reserved for construction of better type of buildings for officers"; You must provide for your staff near the Secretariat so that they must be available at hand and you can save the conveyance allowance paid to them. The poor clerk has to come from his house one hour in advance; if you go into the streets, lakhs of people are going on cycles—they have come from one end to the other for their duty. Cannot Government use imagination for this purpose and see that when space is available they should be housed nearer to the office? Curzon Road is 1½ miles from here and I say there, on one side 24 bungalows and 19 bungalows on the other side; I do not want to go into details because those bungalows are sold in the past to private people. But there is ample space existing in New Delhi; what is the Government doing? I expected that the Honourable Minister who is our man—he was a middleclass man like myself, lower middleclass man—would really feel the inconvenience of the lower middleclass men; and he, of all the Ministers, has taken absolutely no pains in this matter. I am pained to see it.

On the other hand, what are the Provinces doing? Despite scarcity of material they are doing something. Go to Bombay, you find some houses built by private enterprise. I went to Madras, I saw houses there. Although they cannot do much, they are doing something.

I will give an illustration. The Pakistan Government came into Karachi in the month of August. Pakistan had no Pakistan offices there. Sind Government invited tenders for Rs. 2 crores with the condition that they must construct buildings worth one crore within two months. I can bear testimony —and I was present there in the month of June. The contract was given in June and by the 1st of August quarters for the accommodation of 7,000 office clerks and 25,000 of the family members were completed, and by the end of August fine modern type of sanitation etc. was provided. You can ask your Engineer who has come from Sind; you have got your Superintending Engineer for further testimony as to how they built these blocks. If the Pakistan

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva.]

Government—a small Government—can do such a thing within two months, I am ashamed to see that our Government, a bigger Government, could not do anything. My regret is that they have not energy in this matter. They do not feel like us, they do not feel like the average man who is roaming about for search of a house. I know people in Bombay running from place to place for a house. When I go to Bombay people come to me, here in Delhi people come to me for houses—small men, I am not talking of big men—and nobody takes notice of it. Is this our Government? I am asking in all seriousness. I cannot help them; how can I?

Sir, this is the condition in which our Government is functioning. I do hope that if Government has really to see to the feelings of these poor, fallen people, the first thing they must do is to provide more houses. It is no use saying we have built so many houses for so many clerks etc. I want him to plan immediately a programme of 5 years, and within the next year he must spend Rs. 10 crores. It will be a capital sum; they will get realization, it is not money to be wasted—after all you will get 5, 6 or 7 per cent. return on it. It is a business proposition which will require a little grip to understand the whole position.

Sir, if you go over page 202 you will see under item "Staff". It gives Chief Engineers—2; Superintending Engineers—18; and may I tell you that the grade of a Superintending Engineer is not less than Rs. 1,500—2,000. Then Executive Engineers—62. I do not think that these are only for building houses—they may be for irrigation, they may be for our Central purposes. Irrigation is a provincial subject and yet we have such a large number of high paid staff. You have got here 18 Superintending Engineers and 62 Executive Engineers to look after your building work and we have no building work being done. Let me tell you so many of them are without proper work; they are idling there. Go to the P.W.D. office; I have gone there; I have seen an officer stretch his leg, reading a newspaper—a high-paid officer. And they say, "We have not got work, building work is not there"; I would not like to mention the name. I do not want to harm anybody but the fact is there. Government do not feel the waste of maintaining a large staff for this purpose, although the work is not sufficient.

Then, Sir, no initiative, no encouragement, is given to private builders. No co-operative society is being formed. In every city—go to Madras, go to Karachi—of course, Karachi is out of the question now—go to Bombay, everywhere you will find housing co-operative societies. In the same way, here also land should be given away to the people who want to build houses of their own. There are three types of builders. There are men who want to build houses for other people on a hire purchase system. Then there are men who want to build for themselves. Then there are those who want to build through co-operative societies. Through these three types of builders houses are being built in the Provinces. I fail to see why such an encouragement should not be given by this Government, which adds to the difficulties rather than removing those that already exist. Government do not do anything. Government do not want to help the public to do anything. If they will let the public to build on a co-operative basis and give them land, I can assure you, Sir, a large number of houses could be provided for the middle class people and for the lower middle class people.

Sir, I shall finish soon. I shall only take one minute more with your kind permission. Delhi ought to be a specimen and a model for people to come and see. The Provinces ought to come to Delhi and see everything. They should say: "This is a specimen. This is our capital. We must go to Delhi and see what they are doing." Today Delhi is third rate in communication; it is third rate in post offices; it is third rate in telephones; it is third rate in houses; it is third rate in every respect, whereas other towns are progressing. It should be, Sir, the desire of the Honourable Minister and it should be his pride that he should build Delhi in such a manner that everyone from outside should come and see and imitate what Delhi is doing.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, the cut motion of which I have given notice is for the purpose of discussing the policy of the Government of India with regard to the development of the mineral resources of the country. Actually, it is the exploitation of mineral resources that is more important than development. Mineral exploitation and development form the basis of modern industrialisation, as it is through mining and minerals that industry gets the ores and raw materials required. These are the two starting points of manufactures which are essential for the welfare of individuals and of nations.

The list of India's imports shows that 50 per cent. of them are goods manufactured out of mineral raw material. Our key industries and most of our strategic requirements depend upon the products of mines. Although the mineral resources of India are not considered enormous in comparison with the size and population of the country, they are none the less not inconsiderable. In at least three minerals we are said to have an exportable surplus which can dominate the world market. These are iron-ore, Titanium-ore and mica. Besides these, there are at least a dozen materials including manganese-ore, bauxite, silica, monosite etc. in which we have an exportable surplus which can be regarded as an important factor in world market. There are two dozen others in which we are not only self-sufficient for our present but even for our immediate future needs. These include coal, aluminium-ore, gold, marble, slate, building-stone, lime-stone, alum, arsenic, sodium salts, alkalis etc. This leaves only a dozen and a half others, for which of course we have to depend entirely on foreign imports. But even considering what we have, if we were to exploit the reserves that we possess, that would take us very far in meeting the needs of both the industries as well as the Defence Department.

Until very recently, Sir, the Provincial Governments were looking after these mines, and even now the subject falls within their jurisdiction. Unfortunately, however, they have paid very little attention to either the development or the utilisation or conservation of the mineral deposits. The Government Department which is in charge of the mineral resources of the country depended almost wholly on the Geological Survey of India, and although this Department has been maintained by the Central Government, right up to 1942, it was primarily a scientific organisation, engaged in the preparation of a geological map of India. In 1942, owing to the exigencies of war there was a departure, when the utilisation branch of this organisation for detailed exploration of promising mineral deposits was established. That too was a war-time measure and therefore it was also abolished before it could prove of any use or develop any capacity for production. According to my information, Sir, even today there is no single Department that determines the general policy with regard to this matter. The salt mines, for instance, are mainly operated by the Central Board of Revenue, a number of coal mines are worked by the Railway Department and some by the Labour and Supply Departments. The Works, Mines and Power Department which was the head of the Geological Survey of India and in charge of the Indian Mines Department had no statutory authority to regulate the mining industry of the country or to direct the utilisation of minerals for the most appropriate and economical and remunerative purposes. Nor did it possess any effective agency for safeguarding the conservation of national mineral resources or the prevention of uneconomic and wasteful exploitation.

Sir, I would like to give an instance of how our mineral resources are neglected and wasted. We have a very important mineral known as Titanic

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

It is also known as Ilmanite and these are translated as ores of Titanium. There are large reserves of this in the south of India, between Travancore and the Comorin coast, and until recently we were selling the material produced in these mines at the rate of 10 shillings per ton. (*An Honourable Member*: "Ten shilling per ton! Really") Yes. That is what is stated in Government publications. While Titanic was selling so cheap Titanic di-oxide which did not require much of processing was sold at £100 per ton! This is a glaring instance of the way in which we have neglected our natural resources and how we have permitted their exploitation by foreign firms to an absolutely disconcerting extent.

After a long time, Sir, we held a Conference for the purpose of revising and if possible evolving some sort of a general and definite policy. The Conference took place more than fourteen months ago, *i.e.* in the month of January 1947. As all conferences, the conference was held and it dispersed. But there are neither any specific resolutions on record nor have I learnt of any specific decisions having been taken and given effect to. It is a matter of common knowledge that we, inspite of our desire to the contrary, are living in almost war times. An interminable war is going on in China. The Indonesian issue is still unsettled and the partition of Palestine and the exploitation of European countries are all sowing the seeds of another world war. It is quite patent that only by being fully prepared for war we can assist peace. It is time, therefore, that we place our whole administration on a war basis and do not allow any time to pass which may bring about our undoing in the near future; and we could do nothing better than paying our most earnest attention to the development of the mineral resources of our country. I have referred to the conference that was recently held and one of the proposals that emanated from the discussions in the Conference was that there should be a Central Bureau of Mines. I do not know, Sir, what steps have been taken for giving effect to this recommendation. One of the complaints that is being made with regard to the development of this department is that we have not the personnel and the experts that are needed. It was pointed out that we will require a large number of geologists and they are not easily available. I would like to know, Sir, what steps are being taken for obtaining the necessary experts. In this case, Sir, Government ought to have a well-defined policy of sending out our young people to foreign countries. Now, there has been a considerable amount of bungling in this sphere also. Last year, a very large number of foreign scholarships were given in an indiscriminate manner. And having burnt their fingers owing to the bad experiment they performed last year, I am told, Sir, that there is no provision for foreign scholarships this year. Now, this is ridiculous. The Government first of all does a thing on the wrong basis, itself commits a mistake, and then wishes to utilise that mistake as the basis for stopping the sending of our young men to foreign countries. This is not the way in which a modern Government of an Independent country could be allowed to work. So, I suggest to the Honourable Minister that even if there is no provision so far made for foreign scholarships, he will move in the matter and at least for the sake of working our mineral resources send a batch of properly qualified young men to foreign countries. Then, Sir, it is not a good policy of starting at the very end in the matter of scholarships and getting technical personnel. If we want to plan for a longer period, we must also go to the schools and get hold of proper talent there, give them proper encouragement so that they may take the subjects and gradually after acquiring proper proficiency in those subjects become capable of benefiting themselves and the country to the utmost by going to foreign countries. That should be the sort of system which I hope, my Honourable friend will attempt to evolve.

Lastly, I would come to the question of nationalization of these resources. I am echoing the feelings of everyone here when I say that these resources

are of a nature which should be the nation's property; and if we have not as yet taken any steps in that direction, it is high time that we did so. It is also well-known, Sir, that most of our mineral resources are exploited by foreigners. Most of these contracts are given to foreign firms if any Indian firms are there the foreigners have a dominating voice even there. I am not one of those, Sir, who is out to quarrel with the foreigners on every score. We need the assistance of many a foreigner, but wherever it is possible to displace them and whenever we find that because of the presence of the foreigners our national interests are suffering there should not be a minute's delay in ousting the foreigner and bringing the Indian. That would be the criterion that I would like to lay down.

I hope, Sir, between the conference and now, my Honourable friend would have something to tell the House in the way of taking active steps so as to increase the wealth of the nation and to remove the dependence of India on foreigners and foreign countries.

شری دیش بندھو گپتا : جناب صدر ! انگلینڈ کے ایک پرائم منسٹر نے ہاؤسنگ کے بارے میں یہ شبد کہے تھے ؟

"If any thing can afford the means of personal growth, it is the ownership of a house howsoever small but one's own."

مگر دکھ کی بات یہ ھے کہ جہانتک ھماری گورنمنٹ کا تعلق ھے اسوقت تک ھمارا سارا پریتن یا کوشش یہ رھی ھے کہ جن بھلے آدمیوں کے پاس کچھ مکان ھیں اُنھیں بھی dispossess کرنے کی کوشش کی جائے نئے مکان بنانے کی کوشش نہیں کیجاتی۔ جناب من ! میں ہاؤسنگ کے مسئلے پر ہاؤس کے سامنے اس سے پہلے بھی کئی مرتبہ اپنے وچار رکھ چکا ھوں جناب! آج دھلی میں اگر سب سےزیادہ کسی چیز کی تکلیف ھے تو وہ مکان کی ھے - پنجاب سندھ اور سرحد سے آئے ھوئے بھائی جو لکھپتی تھے جنکے پاس بڑے بڑے محل بنی بڑی جائدادیں تھیں آج وہ ایک ایک کمرے کیلئے ترس رھے ھیں - اور ھم اُنکی کوئی سہایتا نہیں کرسکتے .حالت یہ ھے کہ نہ روپیہ سے انکی مدد ھوسکتی ھے اور نہ دوستی کا حق ادا کرکے انکے لئے کچھ کیا جاسکتا ھے - اس پر بھی ھماری سرکار کو جتنا دھیان اسطرف دینا چاھیئے تھا وہ نہیں دے سکی اس سے پہلے جب یہ مسئلہ ھمارے سامنے آیا تھا تو میں نے ہاؤس کی توجہ اسطرف کھنچی تھی - کہ دھلی میں امپرومنٹ ٹرسٹ نے جو پلاٹ تیار کئے ھیں اور بڑے اونچے داموں پر بیچے ھیں - انکی سنکھیا چارھزار سات سو ھے یہ چارھزار سات سو پلاٹ امپرومنٹ ٹرسٹ کے بنائے ھوئے ھیں - لیکن اب تک ان پر مکان نہیں کھڑے ھوسکے اسکا مکھکارن یہ ھے کہ ھماری سرکار نے مکانوں کی تعمیر کا کوئی خیال ابھی تک نہیں کیا ھے اسکے لئے بلڈنگ مٹیریل مہیا کرنے کا کوئی پریتن (کوشش) نہیں کیا ابھی چند روز ھوئے پراونشل ریہیبلیٹیشن بورڈ کی ایک سب کمیٹی کی میٹنگ ھوئی تھی میں بھی اس کمیٹی کا ایک ممبر ھوں - اس میٹنگ میں میں نے کمیٹی کے چیرمین سے آرتھرتین

[شری دیش بندھو گپتا]

سے کہا کہ ہم جو نئی Townships بنا رہے ہیں یہ تو ہمارے Refugee بھائیوں کو تسلی دینے کی بات ہے - سوال یہ ہے کہ کیا کوئی ایسا طریقہ ہوسکتا ہے کہ ہم تین چار مہینے میں اُنکے لئے کچھ مکانات کھڑے کردیں اس وقت انہوں نے بتلایا کہ سوا سو کے قریب ایسے پلاٹ امپرومنٹ ٹرسٹ کی ملکیت ہیں جنکے لئے لائٹ کا بندوبست ہے سیوریج (Sewerage) کا بندوبست ہے پانی کا بندوبست ہے کہ ان پر مکان کھڑے کئے جاسکیں - لیکن آپتی (مشکل) یہ ہے کہ گورنمنٹ نے اسوقت تک بلڈنگ متیریل مہیا کرنے کی کوشش نہیں کی - گورنمنٹ کیطرف سے جناب صدر پچھلی مئی میں ایک کمیٹی بٹھائی گئی تھی جو اسبات پر وچار کرنے کیلئے تھی کہ امپرومنٹ ٹرسٹ جس طریقہ پر زمینیں دیتا ہے اس پر نظر ثانی کیجائے میں بھی اسکا ایک ممبر تھا اسوقت اس کمیٹی نے سفارش کی تھی کہ گورنمنٹ ایک ایسی Experts کی کمیٹی بٹھائے جو یہ سوچے کہ بلڈنگ میٹریل کیسے مہیا ہوسکتا ہے - امپورٹ کا بدل کیا ہوسکتا ہے سیمنٹ کا کیا بدل ہوسکتا ہے - اینٹوں کا کیا بندوبست ہو کچی اینٹوں سے گزارہ ہوسکتا ہے یا نہیں - لیکن کھید (دکھ) ہے کہ اتنے دن گزر جانے کے باوجود عملی طور پر کوئی کاروائی نہیں ہوئی - چالیس کروڑ اینٹوں جنگ کے زمانے کی بنی ہوئی گورنمنٹ کے پاس موجود ہیں اس کمیٹی نے یہ سفارش کی کہ پندرہ روپیہ ہزار کے بھاؤ سے یہ اینٹیں پبلک کو دے دی جائیں تاکہ یہ چار یا پانچ ہزار پلاٹ جو پڑے ہوئے ہیں ان پر مکانات بنائے جا سکیں بہت سے لوگ مکانات بنانے کو تیار ہیں اور مکان بن جانیکے بعد گورنمنٹ رنٹ ایکٹ بموجب کرایہ Fix کر سکتی ہے اور انکو چاہے تو Requisition بھی کر سکتے ہے اسطرح سے نہ گورنمنٹ کا روپیہ خرچ ہوگا اور نہ کوئی اور آپتی بیچ میں آتی ہے اور مکانات تیار ہو سکتے ہیں لیکن ہمیں ماننا پڑیگا کہ اس سمے تک جو Importance ہاؤسنگ کے مسئلہ کو ہمیں دینا چاہئے تھی وہ ہم نے نہیں دی - دھلی میں امپرومنٹ ٹرسٹ کو بنے ہوئے ۱۱ سال ہو چکے ہیں - امپرومنٹ ٹرسٹ نے ۳۷ء سے لیکر ۴۷ء تک جناب صدر ایک کروڑ ۳۸ لاکھ ۲۷ ہزار ۹۴۵ روپیہ کی 11½ آنے زمینیں بیچی ہیں اس عرصہ میں امپرومنٹ ٹرسٹ نے یہی کوشش کی ہے کہ زمینیں بیچنے سے زیادہ سے زیادہ Price اصول کیجائے اسکا پوینام (نتیجہ) یہ ہے کہ ۳۷ء میں minimum average sale price چھ روپیہ آٹھ آنے تھی تو ۴۸ء میں جا کر چھتیس روپیہ تیرہ آنے ہوگئی - اسیطرح سے average maximum price ۲۲ روپیہ سے ۴۶ روپیہ ہوگئی - ان حالات کی موجودگی میں یہ بات ماننی پڑیگی اور اسکا جواب گورنمنٹ کے پاس کوئی نہیں کہ ہاؤسنگ کے مسئلے کو ہم اتنی اہمیت نہیں دیتے رہے جتنی کہ ہمیں دینی چاہئے تھی جبتک ہم اسے پوری اہمیت نہیں دینگے تب تک جو Problems آج پیدا ہو رہے ہیں وہ حل نہیں ہو سکتے ہیں ہر عرض کرونگا کے گورنمنٹ کو اسطرف خاص توجہ کرنی چاہئے میں پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں

ہوں جو پلاٹ گورنمنٹ کے پاس پڑے ہوئے ہیں وہ اسکو کیوں نہیں بنواتی - پچھلے سشن میں جب ہاوسنگ کے مسئلے پر بحث ہوئی تھی تو میرے ایک لائق دوست مسٹر منو صوبےدار نے یہ تجویز کی تھی کہ ہاوسنگ کیلئے ایک الگ منسٹری ہونی چاہئے تاکہ وہ منسٹری یہ سوچ سکے کہ کسطرح ہم چھ مہینے میں مکان کھڑے کر سکتے ہیں- لیکن اتنےدن ہوگئے سرکار نے اس پر کوئی بھی عملی کارروائی نہیں کی اگر ہم لوگ واقعی اس بارے میں Serious ہیں اور یہ چاہتے ہیں کہ دھلی میں جتنی برائیاں ہاوسنگ کی کمی کیوجہ سے پیدا ہو رہی ہیں انکو دور کیا جائے تو ہمیں کوئی زبردست Bold Step لینا پڑیگا جس سب کمیٹی کا میں نے ذکر کیا ہے اس نے ایک سفارش یہ بھی کی تھی کہ کواپریٹو سوسائٹیز encourage کیا جائے اور کواپریٹو سوسائٹیز کے ذریعہ مڈل کلاس کے لوگوں کو زمینیں دس پندرہ پرسنٹ (مفاضع پر) دیجائیں تاکہ وہ لوگ کافی تعداد میں اپنے لئے مکانات بنا سکیں میں آخر میں اسطرف بھی توجہ دلاؤنگا کہ امپرومنٹ ٹرسٹ کا محکمہ کسی ایک منسٹر کے پاس نہیں ہے ضابطہ میں یہ ہیلتھ منسٹر کے پاس ہے مگر اسکا تعلق زیادہ تر پبلک ورکس منسٹری سے پڑتا ہے ہیلتھ منسٹر کا زیادہ واسطہ ہیلتھ اور میڈیکل ریلیف وغیرہ دینے کے کاموں سے رہتا ہے وہ ٹرسٹ کے دوسرے پہلوؤں پر پوری طرح توجہ نہیں دے سکتا پبلک ورکس کی توجہ تعمیرات کے کام پر مرکوز ہوتی ہے اسلئے اگر ہاوسنگ کیلئے علیحدہ منسٹر نہ بنایا جائے تو کم سے کم اس محکمہ کو پبلک ورکس منسٹری کے سپرد کر دیا جائے تاکہ جلد سے جلد اس بات کی کوشش کیجاسکے کہ دھلی میں ہاؤسنگ کا مسئلہ مناسب طریق پر حل ہو جائے ہماری گورنمنٹ کے دل میں غریبوں کا درد ہے اور مڈل کلاس کے لوگوں کے ساتھ پوری ہمدردی ہے لیکن یہ ماننا پڑیگا کہ اگر اس ہمدردی کا کوئی عملی نتیجہ نہ نکلے تو وہ لوگ سوائے اسکے اور کچھ نہیں خیال کرینگے کہ یہ گورنمنٹ callous ہے اور پبلک کا کوئی خیال نہیں کرتی - میں تو یہاں تک کہنے کیلئے تیار ہوں کہ ضرورت ہو تو گورنمنٹ نے جن لوگوں کے ہاتھ زمینیں بیچ ڈالی ہیں انکو بھی مناسب رقم دے کر واپس لے لے اور پھر اسپر مکانات بنوائے اور ملک کو معلوم ہوسکے کہ ہم نے اسوقت تک اس بارے میں پبلک کے لئے کیا کیا اور یہ بھی کہ جب ہم اگلے اجلاس میں بیٹھیں تو یہ دیکھ سکیں کہ واقعی کوئی Progress ہوئی ہے-

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (Delhi): Mr. Speaker, one of the Prime Ministers of England made the following remarks regarding housing:

"If any thing can afford the means of personal growth, it is the ownership of a house howsoever small but one's own."

It is sad that so far as our Government is concerned all efforts have been made to dispossess persons of the few houses which they possess and no efforts are made to construct new houses. Sir, on previous occasions also I have frequently expressed my views regarding the housing problem before this House. At present the greatest difficulty in Delhi is about accommodation.

[Shri Deshbandhu Gupta]

immigrants from the Punjab, Sind and the Frontier Province who were millionaires and owned palaces and large properties are these days pining for even a single room and we can give no help to them. Such is the state of affairs that we can neither help them with money nor as friends. Inspite of this our Government does not pay due attention to it. Earlier when this problem came before us I drew the attention of the House to the four thousand and seven hundred plots in Delhi of the Delhi Improvement Trust and which were sold at very high prices. No houses could so far be built on them. The main reason for this is that our Government has not so far given any attention towards the construction of houses. No efforts have been made to supply the building material. A few days back a meeting of a sub-committee of the provincial Rehabilitation Board of which I am also a member was held. In this meeting I told Sir Arthur Deen, Chairman of the Committee, that the new townships which we are building are merely for the satisfaction of our refugee brotheren. The question is whether we can devise means to build some houses for them within the next three or four months. He said at that time that the Improvement Trust owned about sixteen hundred plots for which arrangements were complete to provide electricity, water and seweage facilities and on which houses could be built. But the difficulty is that the Government has not so far tried to provide the building material. Sir, a committee was appointed by the Government in the May last to consider and review the method of allotment of land by the Improvement Trust. I was a member of that committee. At that time the committee recommended that the Government should appoint a committee of experts to devise means of providing building material, of substitutes of steel and cement and to make arrangement for bricks and also whether sun dried bricks would serve the purpose? It is a matter of regret that in spite of the fact that so much time has elapsed no practical measures are being adopted. There are 40 crores of bricks with the Government which were manufactured in war time. This committee recommended that these bricks be sold to the public at Rs. 15 per thousand so that houses could be built on the 4 to 5 thousand plots lying vacant at present. Many persons are prepared to build houses and when these houses are built Government can fix rent under the Rent Act. If desired these houses can be requisitioned also. In this way houses can be built and the Government will have to spend nothing and there will be no difficulty. We will have to admit that we have not attached due importance to the housing problem. Delhi Improvement trust was set up elever years ago. During the year 1937 to 1948 land worth Rs. 1,38,27,945-11-6 have been sold by the Trust. During this period the Improvement Trust tried to realise the maximum possible price from the sale of land. As a result, the minimum average sale price current during the year 1937 shot up from Rs. 6-8 to Rs. 36-13 in the year 1948. In this way the average maximum price rose from Rs. 22 to Rs. 46. Under these circumstances, it will have to be admitted and the Government have no answer that we did not attach due importance to the housing problem. Until we give due importance to this we cannot solve the problems that are arising today. I will again submit that the Government should devote particular attention to this. I would like to know why the Government does not construct buildings on the plots in its possession. During the last Session when the housing problem was brought up for discussion, it was suggested by one of my learned friends Mr. Manu Subedar that a separate Ministry to deal with 'housing' should be constituted to consider the methods by which we can construct houses within a period of six months. But time has passed and Government has not taken any action to give practical effect to it. If we are really serious about this matter and want that all the evils arising out of the housing shortage in Delhi be remedied, then we shall have to take some strong and bold action. The sub-committee to which I have referred to had also made this recommendation

that Co-operative Societies should be encouraged and through the agency of such societies the middle class people should be provided with lands at a profit of only 10 to 15 per cent. to enable them to construct sufficient number of houses.

In conclusion, I would also like to draw attention towards the Department of Improvement Trust which is not under the Control of any of the Ministers. Constitutionally it is under the charge of the Ministry of Health, but in actual practice it has more to do with the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power. The Ministry of Health is primarily responsible for matters concerning the health and provision of medical relief etc. It cannot devote its full energies towards other spheres of the working of the Trust. The attention of the Public Works Department is concentrated on the construction work. Therefore, if no separate Ministry for Housing is set up, atleast this Department should be put under the charge of the Ministry of Works, so that steps could be taken at the earliest possible moment to solve the housing problem in Delhi in a proper way. Our Government feels for the poor and it has got full sympathy for the middle class people. But if this sympathy is not translated into action and some concrete results achieved, it will have to be admitted that the people will have no other course except to think that this Government is callous and does not care for the public. I am prepared to say even this that if a contingency arises, the Government should get back the lands by payment of reasonable amount to those to whom these have been sold and then make arrangements for the building of houses thereon. It could thus be made known to the country what we have done for the public in this respect and when we reassemble for the next session we may be able to observe that some progress has actually been made.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P: General): Sir, I support the cut motion of my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh about development of the mineral resources of the country. I shall invite the attention of the House to a debate held in this House on 12th March, 1945, when Dr. Ambedkar pointed out and frankly admitted that this country had until then no mineral policy at all. That a Government which ruled this country for over a century had almost to the very end no mineral policy, speaks volumes as to how it governed. Dr. Ambedkar also said towards the end of his speech:

> ". . . . . an all-pervasive and dynamic mineral policy would depend upon three circumstances. It would depend upon the industrial drive in the country. If there is industrialisation this country will undoubtedly have to undertake a more vigorous mineral policy than it has done in the past. Whether our mineral policy will be successful and will be used for the benefit of the many will also depend upon two other considerations, namely, the constitutional position, the distribution of authority between the provinces and the centre and the rule the State is allowed to play in this matter."

So according to him it would depend on three things, namely, industrial policy, the constitutional position and the relation between the States, the provinces and the centre. Now all these three conditions are fulfilled. We are out to have a big industrial policy and to make our country one of the biggest industrial countries in the world. Only the other day we had an Industrial Conference where we had plans for a permanent industrial policy, and I hope that very soon we shall have an announcement, as was promised the other day, by the Industries Minister as regards our future industrial policy. We are also now free and can undertake any measures we like. But up till now the Honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power—who I know is very enthusiastic and active about it—has not announced his mineral policy. I got hold of a few reports in the library but have not been able to find any comprehensive plan which can assure me that very soon we will have a real mineral policy which will make us one of the greatest nations of the world so far as minerals are concerned. I tried to find out some figures as regards

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena.]

other countries. The principal minerals these days are coal, iron and steel, oil, copper, lead, tin, zinc and rubber.

I was surprised to find that in the bulletin published by the United Nations —in at least six of these minerals—India found no place. In Copper, lead, zinc we are almost nil. In others we have a very backward position. In fact I compared figures for October 1947 and I found that our total production of coal in 1937 was 1,891 thousand metric tons and in 1947, 62,290 thousand metric tons, whereas the U. K. had 20,297 thousand metric tons in 1937 and it has the same amount now. So we are less than one-tenth of the U.K. and about 1/40th of the United States in 1937 and 1/80th now. Even Japan, which in 1937 had double our production has now more than what we produce, even after defeat. And Germany which had about eight times our production in 1937 has now about five times our total production. France too has about double our production of coal.

Similarly in petroleum, we have no position in the world, whereas other countries have very huge amounts.

Similarly about pig iron. We had 139 thousand metric tons in 1937 and now we have 132 thousand metric tons. Compared to this, the U.K. has 718 thousand metric tons—about six times our production.

These are the chief minerals on which depends the wealth of a nation. If we compare the progress made by Russia you will be surprised how that country has progressed. I will read out some figures. About Iron: In 1935 Russia produced 26,845 thousand metric tons and this was about 100 times what it produced in 1913 and 50 times what it produced in 1928. Similarly is the question of other metals. As time is short, I would only draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to compare the figures of the various countries and especially see the progress which has been made by Russia in a short time.

Our Honourable Minister has been in office only about six months and I cannot blame him for all the sins of the past Government. He was one of the fighters who used to attack their policy, but now that he is in office himself, I think he will see that the same charge is not levelled against him, and we shall have a mineral policy worthy of our great country, so that in a very short time we may come to be one of the great countries of the world.

No industrial policy can be carried out without mineral resources. Even now the Geological Survey of India is not complete. I was reading just now and found that a very small portion of India has been geologically surveyed. I want that the Honourable Minister should promise that he shall have a plan for a proper geological survey of India, so that when we try to take our place among the nations of the world, we may not be second to anyone.

As a matter of fact, the last Russian plan has given figures of production of steel, iron and coal which are astronomical. It is well known that the position of any country depends on the production of iron, coal, steel and power. I hope that in the hands of the Minister that we now have we shall not lag behind and we shall make use of the time we have in a manner that we can very soon come to the stage into which we should be able to come.

I sometimes feel that we are not going with the speed that we should go. I see that up till 1945 we had no mineral policy. Our Minister will see to it that we make up this leeway and come soon among the front rankers. I know transport will be a difficulty which will hamper production of coal. But I hope all these things will be met and progress made.

With these words I support the cut motion.

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. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, three cut motions have been moved relating to the activities or rather the inactivities of the Government with regard to water power, building programme and the development of mineral resources. The speeches make it absolutely clear that Honourable Members are convinced that with regard to development of water power the Government are not very active. With regard to the building programme it is clear that the Government has been absolutely inactive. And with regard to mineral resources nothing whatsoever has been done. It will perhaps be said by the Honourable Minister that he is occupied with a large number of things. But I think the real position is just like the guard who was engaged by a rich man to defend him and his family in case of danger. The guard was fully armed with a shield and a sword. Robbers came into the man's house one night and beat him and his family and robbed him of all but the guard did not do anything. The rich man asked him "why did you not fight the robbers? I engaged you to fight robbers". "What could I do?" replied the Pahlwan "In one hand I had the sword and in the other I had the shield. Both my hands were thus engaged. With what hand could I fight? I have no third hand." The Honourable Minister will perhaps say "In one hand I have enormous resources, untold money"—the taxpayer has never grudged giving them grants.—"In the other hand I have ample resources, ample staff. There is money in one hand and there is staff in the other. Both of my hands are engaged. With what hand can I fight? I have not a third hand." This is perhaps the joke of the situation.

With regard to the development of water power and mineral resources the only mineral activity we find is that there is provision for mineral waters at railway stations and in restaurants. This is perhaps the only mineral activity of the Government. As the Honourable Members who have moved the cut motions are going to withdraw their motions. I think I should request them in anticipation of the Honourable Minister's reply to withdraw them because the reply that is going to be given would be completely satisfactory.

In fact, the question of activities brings to my mind another story. A school master explained to a boy what is immovable property. After the lecture he asked the boy to give him an example of immovable property. The boy replied that a lame man was an immovable property, because he could not move Considering their inactivity, probably the Government are to be considered akin to immovable property. It cannot move. It can talk, it can deliver long speeches and make wonderful promises but with regard to activities it is an immovable property.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (Madras: General): Sir, there are a number of subjects entrusted to the Honourable Minister. You will find from that how busy he must be and how overworked he and his establishment must be. There are three things under his charge. Works alone, as has been said by our friend Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta, could occupy all his time and attention. We are in need of buildings and the refugee problem has added to the want. That alone can occupy and make any Minister mad.

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]

The next subject is Mines and Power. The mineral resources of this country have not yet been exploited. Thanks to the British Government they have at least left the minerals for us as also the water power. That is a department which will occupy all the attention of a Minister. So far as power is concerned It is increasingly necessary. We are living in an age where electricity rules the world. Therefore if the Minister has not been able to rise to the expectations that were entertained of him, with all his knowledge and capacity, it only means that none other can possibly do better.

Instead of being critical I would like to point out that in some respects the administration can be improved and better results achieved. We all agree that water is necessary for irrigation and in view of the latest developments water is also necessary for production of power. My Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil is the successor of the old Bhagirath. I find from the *Puranas* that Bhagiratha must have been a very great engineer who thought of diverting all the rivers whose water flowed on the other side of the Himalayas. While he was digging a channel somehow the water went into a pit, that is *Shiva's Jatajuta*. Thereafter once again, he seems to have after a number of years ultimately dug a canal but his ancestors had already dug a portion in East Bengal and connected it with the sea, so that the water may flow straightaway, instead of inundating the entire valley below, the plains of the Himalayas. That was a very arduous task that was undertaken. Now the Honourable Minister is trying to utilise this water by daming the Damodar, which is called the Damodar Valley Project—a multi-purpose project like the Tennessee Valley Scheme meant, for both irrigation as also for production of power. So far as money is concerned we are prepared to vote it, even though there may be a deficit budget. But the bottleneck seems to be man power. I have no doubt about the qualifications of the persons engaged: they are all engineers. C.W.I.N.C. is the organisation that has been established for drawing up the schemes, making surveys looking after the regulation and finalising the entire scheme. Though the engineer at the top is an engineer of repute, unfortunately he has not had experience in dam construction. That is the difficulty. No dams have been constructed in the Punjab till now or anywhere in the North. Dams were constructed only in the south. There are a number of dams—the Krishnaraja Sagara and Vani Vilas Sagar in Mysore, three dams in Bombay, one dam in the Nizam's territory, one dam in Madras and another dam is being sought to be constructed in Madras.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Altogether six?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Altogether eight. They are all in the southern part of India.

An Honourable Member: What are the heights of these dams?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: They are 190 feet, 115 ft., 176 ft., 190 ft., 270 feet (the one at Bombay), 130 ft. and 142 ft. above bed level. The Honourable Minister will of course try to defend his staff. I want to remove any misapprehension. There is no question of opposition to his staff. We do want excellent men. Now, what is the difference between a barrage and a dam? Barrage is an obstruction put across a river for the purpose of diverting the flow, where there is a flow, for irrigation purposes. The height of the Sukkur barrage is only 18 feet above water level. Is a person who has built a hut to be put in charge of building a sky-scrapper? That is my difficulty. I have the greatest regard for the engineers in the Honourable Minister's Department but not one of them has ever been in charge of constructing a single dam If the Honourable Minister says "Yes", I will request my friends to withdraw their cut motions—even otherwise they will withdraw them. There is no question of opposition because we are wings of the same Government. I am only anxious to see that proper men are appointed for this job. An electrical engineer, for instance, will not be useful where there is some mechanical engineering work or a mechanical engineer in bridge engineering and so on and so forth. Likewise, the Chairman of the C.W.I.N.C., —he will admit,—has not directly been in charge of any dam construction. We are going to spend, not 2, 3 or 4 crores—4 crores was the maximum cost of those dams—but eighty, hundred and hundred and fifty crores. Are we to take risks in this matter and should we not have proper men? For the proper men the Honourable Minister looks to the west, to America. Why not we utilise the services of those engineers who were in charge of the dams in the south? His answer is that the Madras Government is not prepared to spare them My fear is this. There is a kind of jealousy amongst engineers and technical men. (*An Honourable Member*: "Amongst lawyers too"). Yes, but the lawyers are paid by their clients. In this Department persons who have themselves been in charge of dam construction works might not be prepared to serve under one who has not had any such experience. If the Government is not able to carry on its business and enter into an agreement with them, they can see to it that some other man is chosen and put in charge. The Honourable Minister must see that those persons are given responsible positions or at any rate see to it that this side of the Department is cut away from the other side, namely the C.W.I.N.C., and placed in sole charge of this work. I make this suggestion to the Honourable Minister.

Questions were put this morning regarding the manner of recruitment to the various Departments. A third-class M.Sc. has been advertised for, and some questions were put about this. Why are you going in for third-class M.A's when first-class M.A's are available? 'In certain circumstances age may be ignored'—there are some catches in them. There is also an explanation for this. There may be persons who have had an experience of ten or five years, who were entertained a number of years ago and therefore though they did not start service as first-class M.A's they may be useful now. But I ask the Honourable Minister to take care to see that persons in the guise of third-class M.A's having experience are not dumped into this and first-class candidates overlooked. It can be used both ways: experienced men may be brought in or good men may be avoided. The Honourable Minister is quite alert I am sure; he was only sitting by our side till recently; he is a *pucca* commoner; I have great regard for him; he is sure to be careful about this matter; he will count the rupee, anna and even pie as his own and take care to see that no wastage ever occurs.

There are a number of other bottlenecks. Cement may be a bottleneck. I suggest that a number of cement factories must be established by the state itself. These are the ways in which the construction can be helped. Even for the purpose of survey there was one American expert by name Mr. Savage. He was here on a contract basis on a salary of about Rs. 4,000 per month. But after the contract was over, finding that there was a paucity of men, he wanted to go away and demanded Rs. 10,000 a month if he was required to stay on. Instead of wasting Rs. 10,000 a month over such a person, let us have a pool of officers, give them an attractive salary, even Rs. 5,000 a month for a short term contract—a small organisation of all the engineers who had anything to do with dam construction—and let the work be entrusted to them. That is what I would suggest to the Honourable Minister.

The other allegations made are not proper. I have heard from the Honourable Minister that though a number of engineers came from one Province that Province unfortunately had no dams, that they have all been sent to other departments and that so far as dam construction is concerned only a few have been retained on account of their expert knowledge with regard to a dam or otherwise. I am sure he will prune the establishment and try to exact the greatest amount of work.

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I would say a word about the Research Institute at Poona. It was intended to be the biggest of the research institutes. I cannot pretend to be more interested in Poona than my honourable friend who comes from that place. But it is not a question of local or provincial patriotism. The Poona institute was intended to be a first class research institute. Let us not separate portions from that institute and concentrate all headquarters at Delhi. They are small beginnings, but gradually they have a tendency to settle down at Delhi with the result that all the branches are sheared and the head alone remains. That is what I wish to say so far as the various research institutes are concerned. Delhi is not a first-class place for agriculture. The Institute of Agricultural Research might have been removed to some other place—likewise research centres and institutes and so on. We did not concentrate on another aspect. It is close to the border land of another Dominion which is less than half an hour by aeroplane—we did not concentrate on this aspect. But there is a tendency to settle down everything at Delhi and I am sure my honourable friend would take care to see that by no disguise or by no device the Institute at Poona is disturbed.

Sir, a policy of building a number of houses must be undertaken. One million houses is the target in England for each year during a course of five years. They are having prefabricated houses. It was suggested that these hutments may be built. I am asking not for the rich but for the poorer section of the people. I suggest that a number of smaller houses must be built at an early date.

On the subject of minerals enough has been said. I may say that the Honourable Minister does not deserve all the criticism that has been levelled against him. He will certainly take action regarding the matters which have been brought to his notice.

As regards the establishment there is no question of any provincialism; I am not asking for the appointment of any particular persons; this is a matter requiring technical skill, and I am sure he will see to it that all the available technical skill is utilised for the purpose of building the various dams. There are so many projects, the Kosi project, the Bhakra project, the Mahanadi project; the Assam valley has to be exploited; and in the south a huge dam is thought of across the river Godavari—the Ramapadasagar project. These are projects which if constructed within five or seven or even ten years would remove the food scarcity for ever. I hope the Honourable the Minister will take the credit of doing this during his period of office.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Mr. Speaker, I have great and unbounded faith in the Honourable Minister who has been in the course of this debate alternately pushed and embraced. My Honourable friend the Minister told me the other day "that he had nothing but goodwill and future for Assam". I hope he meant seriously what he said.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (U.P.: General): Is any Maharatta ever serious in what he says?

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: It is very difficult to make out from what falls from the Honourable Minister's lips when and where he is serious. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. V. Kamath: My friend Mr. Balkrishna Sharma said something about Marathas. Is it not a reflection on Maratha members of this House?

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): My friend only wants to give publicity about a remark which was unheard.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: My grievance is, Sir, that it is difficult to know when and where my Honourable friend the Minister is speaking seriously.

Taking him seriously, I congratulate him and I thank him for his sympathy for the province of Assam. My Honourable friend appreciates work, works a good deal, he has a mind to work and he has unlimited power to work also. So it is in the fitness of things that he should be in charge of Works, Mines and Power Ministry. But one thing, I am afraid, he has entirely ignored. That is the question of petrol supply in the country. I can assure him that the petrol wells are gradually getting dry in Digboi, the place from where the major portion of the supply in India is obtained. Honourable members of the House will have heard this morning the reply given by the Honourable the Prime Minister which also said that there was another oil test point in the original district of Sylhet, now in the district of Cachar. That is the B.O.C. oil test point. That has been already occupied by the forces of the East Bengal Government. They are very serious about it, and in spite of the fact that so many months have elapsed since the unauthorized occupation of the East Bengal Government took place, nothing has been done to recover that oil point so far. It appears that the rail force, which undoubtedly belongs to the Government of India, was overpowered by a handful of Eastern Pakistan forces and withdrew—so it appears from the press note of the Government of Assam—without any reference to their superior officers or to the Government of Assam. That shows, Sir, how indifferent and negligent we have been to the question of petrol supply in India, and in the course of questions put to the Honourable Minister about a week ago, when it was suggested that he should employ a large number of trained men to explore sources of petrol in India. It is well known how seriously the Pakistan Government has taken this matter. They have already employed about 13 American officers to go about and explore sources of petrol in Pakistan. So I think, Sir, we should do something very intensively and seriously with regard to this.

The next point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister is about the Bharali River scheme. I depend on his good wishes and assurances, but I find my province is entirely forgotten the next moment. The Damodar Valley Project has been taken in hand: other projects in Madras have been taken in hand: those who have been very vocal have got what they wanted. I, sitting on this side, get nothing. The "Bharali River" scheme has been in the air for a very long time and there was an idea of starting the work immediately. Vast areas of cultivable land have become practically waste on account of the scheme not being undertaken at an early date. There was one survey actually made and the work should have been started if the survey was correct. But now I hear—I do not know how far my information is correct—that that survey has gone for nothing, that the facts were entirely either inconclusive or wrong, and therefore, another survey is going to be made sometime next year. When the work actually will be started, heaven alone knows, and by the time the survey is completed, it is quite possible the whole project may be abandoned.

I would therefore appeal to the Honourable Minister to give a little attention to these matters which seem comparatively insignificant but which is a matter of great importance to a province which is in an endeveloped condition but on which great responsibility rests. The entire brunt of the last war was borne by Assam, and if what I heard from my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is correct, namely that we are going to have a war very soon, and if what the war lord, Churchill, says is correct, we must have a war very soon, and if the Americans do not become our friends, Assam will become once more the battle front of India; and so it is all the more necessary for the Government of India at the present moment to give greater attention to that province, which serves as the eastern bastion not only against the other Pakistan provinces of India but also against Burma and China. We do not know who will be on the side of whom—China and Japan may be on the side of America: Burma may be on the side of Russia: we do not know where we stand. But

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whatever sides they may take, Assam will be the first gate to meet the enemy: and therefore, Sir, I particularly appeal to the Honourable Minister to give greater attention not only to the needs of the province of Assam, but also to the needs of India so far as this point is concerned.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Mr. Speaker, I am very much obliged to my Honourable friends for their speeches this morning and this afternoon. I do not look upon the cut motions as anything but an honest and constructive effort to help me in the proper discharge of my duties. I do not at the same time claim infallibility on my part, nor do I plead that the officers who are running this Ministry in all its various sections are infallible. I can assure all the Honourable Members who have participated in this debate that to the best of my knowledge, none of them will put his pride or personality above country's good, and if anyone even dares that, you rest assured that I, who am just one of you, will come down with a strong hand on him. Having said that, Sir, I shall take up the cut motions in the order in which they were moved. I will not confine myself to the mere technical points: but as I said, this is sort of constructive effort to help me and I will speak in that strain.

The Central Waterways, Irrigation, Navigation Commission organization was brought into existence in 1945. Knowing full well that floods occasionally cause great damage, the main objective of this organization was to devise schemes for flood control, and later on other objectives were added. This organization deals with the best utilisation of water power in this country. What is known as multi-purpose scheme aptly describes its activities—Irrigation, generation of power, fish culture, waterways—these are some of the objectives concerned by the multi-purpose schemes. This organization has not so much to do with the actual construction of any particular scheme as it has to do with planning. It has to adjudicate in matters in which there is a difference of opinion between province and province or province and state or state and state. And it has done so in the course of its brief career on more than two occasions. It supplies direction, it gives guidance, it gives advice and as in the case of the Mahanadi Project it has undertaken construction at the special request of the Provincial Government of Orissa.

I do not think there has been any criticism so far as the utility and the necessity of this Organisation are concerned. As far as I was able to see, much criticism was directed against the personnel, and particularly the Chairman of the Commission. I hold no brief for him, Sir, but he has been intimately associated with the work of this Organisation, and to his credit let it be said that he has produced the Mahanadi Valley Development and the Hirakud Dam project Report. How good it is, how detailed it is, how modern it is, if I were to say I may be misunderstood. I will just quote from a letter which Sir M. Visveswariah wrote to him when a copy of this was presented:

"The Report seems to be witty and modern and one of the finest publications of that class I have seen in India. I may be permitted to congratulate you on the production of such an able and comprehensive Report."

At the same time, I do not think that even the Chairman will claim infallibility. As has been stated by me during the Question Hour, this Ministry is perfectly conscious of the magnitude of Mahanadi Project and in fact projects of such kind, and it has been the policy of the Ministry to associate experts, both Indian and foreign, and to get the projects scrutinised by them—associate foreign experts and Indian experts wherever they are possible to be had, throughout this construction. Sir, I have already mentioned that an Expert Committee has been appointed which consists of Mr. Savage, Mr. Maclean and Sir M. Visveswariah.

My Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar referred to construction of high dams. Now, it is so clear that such high dams are very rare; in the Bombay Presidency the last high dam that was built was completed in the year 1930. In the last 17 years there has been no irrigation work of a major type; even in Madras and Mysore the total had not gone beyond four. I do not enter into the technical aspect, whether the barrage and the high dam are fundamentally different, whether an engineer who is expert in one cannot by any effort on his part be an expert in the other. My own feeling as a common man is that if a man can do a certain thing on a small scale, given the opportunity he can do the same thing on a large scale. If it is a question of preparing tea in a small kettle, if you know the proportion of tea, sugar, water and milk.....

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You can prepare coffee!

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: All right, it makes no difference. The real point at issue is whether it is a barrage or whether it is a high dam, what is required is a thorough knowledge of the soil of the river-bed.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The push and the pressure?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is the main principle. An engineer who has had ample experience of barrage construction extending to over 25 years you will easily concede that it is possible for him to acquire this knowledge. With this there may not be absolute agreement but as I have said it is the policy of this Ministry to associate experts from all over this country as well as from foreign lands.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: General): May I tell the Honourable Minister, Sir, that there are at least four retired Chief Engineers available in Madras?

An Honourable Member: Let them come as advisers.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: With respect to the suggestion which has been made by my friend Mr. Ayyangar and also reiterated by my friend Mr. Chettiar, I want to emphasise that there is not the slightest disinclination to have their services. In fact, when I received a sort of refusal from the Madras Government,—I have received a refusal from the Bombay Government and so far the East Punjab Government has not replied but it cannot be different—I am just trying to find out whether I cannot devise a plan of allowing these engineers of high talents to work in their respective Provinces and to come over occasionally to help us in the construction of these dams.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: I was talking of retired men in the construction of these dams.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: A suggestion about the re-employment of retired engineers has been made. Two of them are already in the employ of the Madras Government, and one—if my information is correct—is already in the employ of the Mysore Government. I do not know about the fourth man, but any such suggestion is welcome to me and I can promise that it will receive my best and earnest consideration. I have said that nobody will put personal pride or prestige above country's good. When that assurance is given I hope that if any Indian, whether in the employ of any Provincial Government or who has retired from service, offers his talents, not only will it be welcomed but I say that I shall feel grateful to him.

A point has been made about the Research Stations. I may assure my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar that when this question came two years ago in the Standing Finance Committee, when I was to the right—not to the left of this House—I had to fight hard in the Standing Finance Committee. The idea then was to close the whole business; I fought for it and I am glad to say that the Research that is carried on in the Khadakvasla Research Station is of a very high character. I also visited Pundi near Madras and I found that

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the quality of the research work carried on there also was of a very high character. As soon as I completed the visits, the first reaction of mine was that we could not progress in this line unless we strengthened our research front and it was at my initiative that the matter was taken up of having a subsidiary sort of station in Okhla.

There is no intention of concentrating in Delhi in order to benefit a particular Province or a particular section. I claim that every one of us is an Indian and everybody's talent must be at the service of the country. And if I ever find any narrow outlook, I shall either liberalise it or I shall go out. (Hear, hear). I feel that the office I occupy is a trust and if I abuse it, it is not only a discredit on me personally but it will be a discredit to the capacity of the whole Indian community as such. (Hear, hear).

As regards another smaller point which was introduced in the speech of my friend from Bengal, I assure him that I have been doing my best to bring about some understanding between the Government of Bihar and the Government of Bengal. I cannot in one single moment or with one single stroke of the pen wipe out the prejudices which have been existing for many long years, but if you trust me, without having recourse to anything like legislative action or administrative direction—for that is enduring which is based on goodwill and understanding—I shall do my best to see that that Mor Project which means a lot of prosperity to Bengal and also to Bihar is understood in its proper perspective and agreed to by the Government of Bihar and its people.

Sir, on this cut it is not necessary for me to dilate further but if Honourable Members will realise that only 6 per cent. of the water power available in India is used, they will understand how much work is ahead of us. A little less than 2 million kilowatts is all that we generate, both thermal and hydro-electric, and the total potential capacity is 40 million kilowatts. I am told. Fortunately for us, our rivers are so well situated that God has not been lopsided in generosity. Right from the Himalayan slopes up to Papanasam in the south, all the rivers are there, with their water resources challenging us to take advantage and turn this waste into wealth for the prosperity of this nation. I have no doubt that given the active cooperation of the members of this House, I can, within the next 20 years see—or my successor will see—that in every province two major schemes are completed, apart from smaller and minor schemes which the Provincial Governments concerned will look into. If that is done, then what I said on another occasion, will be true, namely, that this land will be worthy of its description in our national anthem: *Sujalam, supalam, malayja seethalam.*

We have to create a Central organisation for designing and planning. We are new in the line. We are moving cautiously. Instead of giving lakhs of rupees to foreign designers as was done in the case of the Bakhra Dam—it was absolutely necessary to do so in that case—we should have these things done here. We can just evolve an organisation in which Indian talent will have ample scope, and this will be a nucleus out of which a cadre will grow which will not only look after the construction of these various dams to be brought into being in a quarter of a century, but it will go on continuously. After all the schemes are completed, with the work of maintenance. That is my vision, Sir. I do not think there is anything further that I can say with respect to this cut motion.

The other cut motion referred to the policy of this Government in the matter of building, and my esteemed friend Mr. Sidhva—in whose speech I detected more excitement than eloquence,—made certain suggestions. I appreciate the sincerity with which he urged his viewpoint and I yield to none, not even to him, in doing my best to provide such accommodation as is possible within

the limits of the present availability of materials. In the first place, Sir, he has made this Ministry a scapegoat for all the ills of want of accommodation all over India. There let me tell him, Sir, that Government have not yet accepted the obligation of providing accommodation for everyone, whether he is a Government servant or not. I have no doubt there are certain Departments such as Transport, Posts and Telegraphs to a certain extent, Jail and Defence where accommodation is made available to every Government servant and that is absolutely necessary. Whether we should extend that principle to every Government servant is a matter which we must seriously think about. When our State is gradually becoming a sort of Social Service Corporation, when we are entering on every field of activity, leaving less and less for private enterprise, it only means that more and more people will become Government servants and correspondingly the obligation of the Government to provide accommodation must be accepted. It has been accepted so far as the industrial employees are concerned. It is an obligation which must be shared by the industry, by the State and by the labourers themselves. Now, if that is the objective, we will have to move on those lines.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: But no provision has been made for the contribution which the Government has to pay.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am speaking generally. So far as the present position is concerned, this Ministry is concerned with making available such accommodation for its servants as it can. My friend Mr. Sidhva said that a certain number of quarters have been promised to be built. As a matter of fact, the construction was undertaken in the month of October, but owing to the disturbances and sudden shortage in materials supplied to this Department, some of the activities could not be pushed.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What was that material?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Everything. I will just point out some figures. I asked for 5,400 tons of steel; I got only 1,200 tons. I asked for 66,000 tons of cement; I got only 15,000 tons. I asked for 50,000 tons of coal; I got 2,500 tons. Timber I asked for 4 lakhs 92 thousand cubic feet; I just got one lakh.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What about bricks?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Bricks I have. I am not pleading this as an excuse. I am only giving the facts as they stand. And now I am proceeding with whatever material that is available, I have cut down the standard.

Then, Sir, reference has been made to open spaces. New Delhi was built in the 1911 durbar spirit. I cannot disclaim this inheritance. It has come to me, whether I wish it or not. But I will be failing in my duty, I will be failing in the ideology I preach, if I do not turn it into the ideology for which you and I try, and you will be glad to know, Sir, that it has been decided that most of these open spaces will disappear and the Mogal style and standard will give place to a style and standard in which simplicity and utility will be the watchwords.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: But when?

An Honourable Member: Do not ask him that!

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: A reference has been made about the location of clerks' quarters at Timarpur. I just want to bring to the notice of my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhva that there are offices in Old Delhi and the quarters at Timarpur are near to those offices. It is on this principle that quarters are built there. Out of the total of 3,350 quarters to be built, 2,000 are to be built in New Delhi; only, 1,250 are to be built there and a few are to be built in Karol Bagh.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): You do not include Karol Bagh into New Delhi?

Mr. Speaker: I must remind Honourable Members that they must always address the Chair. This kind of constant interruptions and continuous sarcasm are not good.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I apologise to you.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Now so far as responsibility of this Ministry is concerned for the housing of non-officials, I should make it quite clear that this Ministry has nothing to do with it.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: You have joint responsibility?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The matter is not under this Ministry and whether such a thing is organizationally desirable or otherwise is another matter, but I can tell the Honourable Member this much that an effort has been made by me, so that everything connected with housing should be under one Department, whether it is mine or somebody else's.

Now, so far as the building material is concerned, there has been shortage in steel, apart from what is supplied to this Ministry and detailed figures were given in the Industrial Conference that was held a few weeks ago. It is needless to go into the causes which are responsible for this shortage; the existing industrial plant is not even working to its capacity, let alone consideration for its expansion. If the workers go on a strike or slow down work, if the merchants indulge in black marketing, if the officers, as has been described, occasionally put their legs on the table and read newspapers rather than look to their work, well, this is our society. We cannot blame anyone; an apple taken out of the box cannot be different from the apples in the box. I share that humiliation along with everyone of us. Therefore, the greatest responsibility on our part is that we must get out of this context of the past, both moral and psychological. That done, we would really raise ourselves to the requirements of freedom that we have won. It is our job; it is our country; it is our own houses that we have to build, and if we do in that spirit, I have not the slightest doubt that we can do the job. The problem is not insoluble—the problem is quite soluble. You will also realize that in the course of the last 6 months what difficulties after difficulties have come on our country. The moment I collect certain material, I am asked to divert it and the staff for strategical reasons to some place in the North, because the defence of the country is the highest priority. You know the number of refugees and if you ask me to accommodate 4 lakh and 50 thousand here in Delhi, no Minister can do that. The tendency has been towards urbanisation. The people have shifted to the towns in large numbers in the course of the 6 or 7 years and therefore, the problem of housing has become more and more acute. If, in course of the last 6 years, the population of Delhi and many other cities has increased 100 per cent. you cannot expect a 100 per cent. increase in the houses even in 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 years. The timber that was exhausted in the war would have sufficed for houses for one generation. These are the factors which we ought to take into consideration. Whether we can build with other materials, whether we can cut down our standards or whether we should go back to the mud-hut standard, that is another matter, but if we decide that housing or accommodation is a national responsibility, is the responsibility of the Government of the day, then certainly we shall move on lines on which Western countries have moved. Reference was made to what has been done in England. It is not so rosy as that. They have not been able to reach the target. There has been shortage of materials, shortage of skilled labour, and those factors which have worked to slow down progress in this country are also in evidence there. I agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta that requisitioning is not the solution. I have said that before. But in the emergency in which we all of us find ourselves requisitioning has got to be resorted to and I have done my level best and I can say that the hardships that necessarily follow such action has been reduced to the minimum; I have not deprived a single owner of his house and I have not thrown him on the streets, nor have I thown any legal occupant or tenant on the street, and wherever it was necessary absolutely in the highest interests of the State, I have gone out of my way to provide alternate accommodation, howsoever meagre it may be. I am not able to give accommodation to every refugee but certainly I have made them appreciate my difficulties and although they leave displeased, they at least know that here was a man who understood their difficulties.

Sir, this housing problem is a big problem and it has got to be solved by the Provinces. If the Provinces are doing what has been described by my Honourable friend, Mr. Sidhva, I wish them God-speed. But from what little I know, they are up against the same difficulties which we are experiencing here.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, may I say that the Bombay Government have issued a Press Note announcing a five year programme for building houses for 35,000 tenements; they have already laid the foundation-stone.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I wish them God-speed; I do not want to belittle it and I shall help them in whatever way I can, but I know that even in Bombay, cinema houses are being built, big hotels are being built and no steel is made available for smaller houses. So if you have to do this, you must enlist the help of the labourers, the good wishes of the merchants and the efficiency of your Government servants. Then alone it is possible and not otherwise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): What is lacking here, Sir?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The only thing that is lacking here is the building material and nothing else. Out of the four things that are needed, steel, cement, timber and bricks, bricks are there, and steel as I just gave figures is not enough for my purpose, but with all that, it has now been decided to construct these 3,350 tenements within 15 months, and knowing the keen feeling of this House, I have no doubt that those who are responsible for the actual execution of the scheme will try to expedite the same.

The third cut, Sir, referred to the policy of this Government with respect to minerals.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Before the Honourable Minister comes to the third cut, may I ask one question, will Government consider the desirability of handing over charge of this Department to one Ministry?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Well, that is a matter which the Prime Minister can settle. The Honourable Member was not here when I said that efforts were made to bring under one Department all matters relating to housing, but so far they have not been successful. Whether housing should be under one Department and whether that Department should be a fullfledged Ministry is a matter for the Prime Minister. There is nothing to prevent him from doing it, if he is convinced that it is conducive to greater efficiency.

Now, Sir, with respect to the last cut.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): What about so much bricks and land lying about in Delhi?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Steel is not available in sufficient quantities.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am prepared to give the land, but where are the building materials? As a matter of fact, my Honourable friend Shri Deshbandhu Gupta knows that plots were auctioned by the Improvement Trust and there have been a good deal of speculation; they passed from hand to hand at enhanced prices without bringing in even a small hut to anyone of us. It is not necessary for me to go into it in detail now. All I want to say is that it is not enough to give vacant lands; if that is so Government is quite prepared to give small plots of land or big plots of land, as they choose to have it, to housing societies and other building societies.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: The condition of sale in other provinces, for instance Bombay, is that when a plot is sold, the purchaser must build the house within two years or even eighteen months.

Mr. Speaker: I think we are departing from the best traditions of a debate. We must take the Honourable Minister seriously when he is speaking—there should not be inter-talks and jocular remarks. That takes out the seriousness of the whole debate. Nor should there be questions and counter-arguments. An occasional question is quite a different thing. But putting questions by way of cross-examination, or constant interruptions does not add to the usefulness of the debate and the time of the House is taken up unnecessarily. That is my reaction. I have been watching the debate and I must express my regret to the House that, I do not feel satisfied about the attitude which I see on the part of some members on this subject. If questions are raised seriously, then replies must also be heard equally seriously. That is the only request which I would like to make to the House in the interest of the debate. The Honourable Minister may now proceed.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: That is not doing justice to the House.

Mr. Speaker: That may be the view of some people; but I have been seeing the jokes and light-hearted remarks, and the members engaging themselves in private talks. It really pains me to have to say that, but I think it is my duty to say it.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Now, with regard to the last cut which was moved by my Honourable friend, Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh in a telling manner, I wish to state that matters relating to this were considered by a Conference to which reference has been made by him. This Conference considered, among other things the attainment of mineral self-sufficiency, bringing under central control key minerals, regulation of the export of key minerals, better adjustment of mineral tariff, encouragement of local manufacture, revision of mining rules and a progressive change-over to State-ownership where economically feasible, of coal, petroleum and basic metals. In the way of achieving these objectives there were some difficulties and those difficulties were pointd out. One of them was the lack of a proper organisation to co-ordinate mineral policy, meagre geological knowledge, paucity of trained mining engineers and geologists, non-acquisition of mineral rights by the State and lack of proper legislative power. Now, with respect to these impediments, I will only detail what has been done. So far as the central co-ordination of mineral development is concerned the recommendation of both the committee and the conference was the establishment of a Bureau of Mines. My Honourable friend will realise that when a recommendation is made and when it is sent up to the Ministry of Finance, in the past it would have been immediately accepted in anticipation of the sanction of the Standing Finance Committee. But in the new set-up, Sir, it has to go before the Standing Committee of the Department; when approved by the Standing Committee of the Department it has to go to the

Standing Finance Committee and when it is approved by the Standing Finance Committee, then it is approved by the Finance Ministry. That entails a good deal of delay. But I am glad to say, Sir, that all these hurdles are now over and you will find from the budget that provision has been made for this bureau of Mines. This Bureau will do the co-ordination work and enunciation of policy.

Now, with respect to the second, the Geological Survey of India was only a small organisation. There were only 28 officers before the war. Now the number is 120 and only last month I had a scheme prepared in which there will be 100 per cent. increase in the course of the next three years.

Reference was made to Soviet Russia by my Honourable friend, Professor Shibbanlal Saksena. I understand there are 10,000 geologists working today in Russia. On that basis we must have at least about 15,000 geologists. How long it will take to get this 15,000, I do not know, but if I am able to increase our present number by 100 officers by the year 1951, I would consider it a modest achievement. The functions of the Geological Survey have been often misunderstood. It has nothing to do with the commercial aspect or utilisation of the minerals. It simply surveys and the results show the possibilities of geological resources to the general public. It is for the industrialists and financiers to make use of this knowledge for the industrial development of the country. That was the policy of the old Government. This Government has accepted the policy that it will not rest content with mere survey, but it will actively participate in working out some of these detailed schemes.

Secondly, Sir, there is another institution, called the School of Mines at Dhanbad. Honourable Members might be aware that very recently my Department put up a scheme for its expansion and it has been accepted and in addition to the 60 students, another 60 students will be taken every year. That also is a small beginning, no doubt, but a beginning all the same.

Then, Sir, the larger question of nationalisation is a question in which the States and provinces are also interested and this Ministry is in correspondence with the Provincial Governments as well as with the States, so that a definite policy on this aspect may soon be enunciated. This was made perfectly clear in the Industries Conference which was held a few weeks ago.

As regards legislative action, as things stand today "Mines" is a Provincial subject and it so often happens that the outlook of the Central Government does not accord with that of the Provincial Governments. Now it is not a matter which we can take out in the public and fight to the benefit of our critics, but if the Indian nation is to move on sound industrial lines, matters relating to mines and minerals cannot be entirely left to the provinces. If in the New Constitution some such provision is made then we can certainly have an all-India mineral policy but no policy can succeed unless there is provision made for its implementation. In the existing circumstances, Sir, we are thinking of soon introducing legislation in which we shall try to secure uniformity in some of the mining concession rules. But beyond that I do not think much can be done.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: What is the use of laying down the policy if the personnel required is not supplied?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Central Government can only supply the personnel to the extent it has got them. As a matter of fact only in the course of the last four or five months demands have come from various provinces for quantitative surveys. Now to the extent to which it is possible to spare them without prejudice to the schemes which are already undertaken

[Shri N. V. Gadgil]

we have helped the Provincial Governments. But if the Provincial Governments themselves try to have their own schools and colleges I do not think the Central Government will stand in their way.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: But that will take years.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes. Honourable Members will realise that the Government that was in power six months ago had a different outlook; it was not very keen. And if today we have a different policy we cannot implement it all too soon; it will take a pretty long time. But you will agree that a definite step and a step in the right direction has been taken.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is there any scheme for training of personnel?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes, Sir. As stated by me, the School at Dhanbad will have sixty more students. So far as the staff in the Geological Survey of India is concerned, I have already indicated the lines on which it is proposed to move. Also it is proposed to send some scholars outside.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: At Dhanbad there is only a School; will it be raised to the status of a college?

Mr. Speaker: I will invite the Honourable Member's attention to his time limit.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am finishing, Sir. All I have to say is that you do not expect this Government, with all its inheritance to its credit or discredit, to turn the whole thing immediately into what you want it to be. You must give this Government some time; and any man, however eloquent and howsoever earnest he may be, can only mint out words but not actual deeds.

Sir, I will again end by saying that I look upon the speeches that have been made as a contribution and a constructive effort to help the Ministry to see its schemes materialise in the shortest possible time.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: May I know what is being done in the execution of the Damodar Valley Scheme?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Corporation will be established and before the 1st April the members will be appointed.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Has the site also been selected?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, there will be no further questions.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: Sir, I beg leave 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.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, I beg leave 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.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, 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. 16—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Adult Education

Shri R. R. Diwakar (Bombay: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Education' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Education' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, on a point of order, in view of the statement of policy of the Education Ministry which has already been placed in our hands and which shows that the Honourable Minister has listened with great interest to the speeches made by Honourable Members, what is the need at all for moving these cut motions and making speeches?

Mr. Speaker: The point of order illustrates what I said, that there seems to be some lack of seriousness about the business in the House. Obviously there is no point of order in what the Honourable Member has stated. The Honourable Minister knows from his knowledge of what he has heard till now, what the Honourable Members are going to say and what they have in mind. The document is a statement of policy, as the Honourable Member will be pleased to see; and except the introductory remarks saying that he has heard the speeches, there is nothing in it, which could be found fault with.

Shri H. V. Kamath: But does it not render the proceedings unreal?

Mr. Speaker: No, the raising of such a point of order makes it unreal.

Provision for increased Facilities for Technical Training

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Education' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Education' be reduced by Rs. 100."

DEMAND NO. 50—EDUCATION

Policy re *Grant to Universities*

Shrimati Hansa Mehta (Bombay: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Education' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"*That the demand under the head 'Education' be reduced by Rs.* 100."

Policy re *Admission of Students in Universities on Communal Basis.*

Shrimati G. Durgabai (Madras: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Education' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Education' be reduced by Rs. 100."

DEMAND NO. 16—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Need for a Uniform Language Policy

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Education' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Education' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri R. R. Diwakar: May I know how long I will be allowed for my speech?

Mr. Speaker: That is a little difficult to say. There are five cut motions and the Minister has twenty minutes for his reply. That works out to ten minutes each.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: I wish to point out that Mr. Anthony will be speaking and he is going to discuss a subject which may be a very thorny subject for some of the members here.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that there are five cut motions and other members may care to speak, the House could sit till 5-30 P.M.

Mr. Speaker: I already stated yesterday that, this is an arrangement which members have arrived at by agreement and therefore I would not try to exercise any of my powers or rights in this matter. I, however, express a disinclination to sit later than 5 P.M. I also suggested yesterday that members may consider the desirability of doing away with their arrangement of having a department discussed only for 1¼ hours. If they propose to do so let them agree on one motion, or at the most two cut motions. A large number of cut motions create these kinds of difficulties.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (Madras: General): I would like to say that I do not wish to speak, though I gave my name as one of the speakers: and for a matter of this kind, I think that five minutes is far too short for Mr. Diwakar and so I give up my time to him.

Mr. Speaker: There is no question of a member giving up his or her time. Let us take ten minutes as the time for each speaker.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: I make some apologies in the beginning for not being able to speak in Hindusthani which I would have very much liked, since the Honourable Minister for Education especially has made a standard so to say by insisting upon speaking in Hindusthani, which is the natural, proper and national language of our country.

While I move this cut motion, I do realise that Education is a provincial subject and there are limitations as to what can and cannot be done, and what can and cannot be taken up by the Education Minister in the Centre. But I think that since the Education Ministers in the different provinces are absorbed and engulfed in their own educational programmes, the Education Department in the Centre can very well act as one which can stand at a higher level and have an overall picture of education throughout the country.

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

The Education Department in the Centre can take a better national view and have a more integral outlook on education than the provinces concerned. From that point of view possibly, research and education, co-ordination of work in the provinces and initiation of new schemes would be the best three functions that can be performed by the Central Department of Education.

As I have taken up one subject, adult education, in the very beginning I would like to make it very clear that many times adult literacy and adult education are confused, which I really want to emphasize. The word adult education has been used in the cut motion simply because it may not sound that something strange has been put in. Really speaking, what I want to move and bring to the notice of the House and of the Ministry is the extreme necessity of taking up a big programme of mass education for citizenship in India. I have had conversations with certain provincial Ministers and some correspondents as well. What I found was that they over-emphasized adult literacy and adult education with mass education or what may be called social education for citizenship, and thus they spoke in terms of a long-term programme. What I insist on here is a short-term programme. It might be of five years, by which time we should be able to irrigate the whole of India with the new ideas that are necessary for the citizens to discharge their new responsibilities. I am speaking this in the context of free India. I am speaking this in the context of democracy on the widest possible basis. I am speaking this in the context of adult franchise which is going to be extended to every Indian who is above 21 years of age. Therefore, what I feel necessary is not only adult literacy or adult education or basic literacy education, which has its own place and has to go ahead, in addition to all that an all-out effort is necessary to see that in the country-side as well as in the cities all citizens get to know the elements of citizenship, their rights as well as their duties. It must be that someone may criticise that this is propaganda and not education. I beg to submit that there is a line which can clearly demarcate education from propaganda. I am speaking here of mass education and not of propaganda. Propaganda is really purposive and has certain immediate results in view, whereas I am speaking of mass education from the point of view of acquainting every citizen in India with the elements which he ought to know in order to exercise the rights of citizenship that he has become heir to now. Therefore I am putting forth these views before the House in order that not only the Central Government but also the Provincial Government may take up the question in right earnest and see within the next five years we reach almost every citizen in the whole of India. I know that some work has been done in this behalf. There was a small sub-committee appointed at the time of the Educational Conference held in January last. I know also that the Provinces and States have been approached in this regard. But even so I fear that the whole process might be very slow. In fact if the process is slow it loses the real importance which ought to be attached to a subject of that nature. Unfortunately in our country literacy is too low. At the highest computation it is 14·1 per cent. But when we are asked to define literacy, literacy consists in India in merely being able to sign our names and read a letter or write a letter. That is all the test of literacy in our country. This being the case, I think in the mass education that we visualise and which we feel we ought to convey to the citizens in the rural areas we will have to use the visual means of instruction as well as vocal means of instruction much more than the written word. Therefore what is needed is education through films, education through posters, education through *bhajan mandals* and such other indigenous means of education and I think the minimum elements which we ought to convey to our citizens should be of such a nature that every one of the citizens ought to feel that he is an integral part of the whole nation. In fact, ultimately the evils of communalism or even a lopsided provincialism are problems for education to tackle. We feel that something done temporarily can wipe away these evils but I take a different view altogether and I think most of the educationists will agree with me that these are matters for real education to tackle.

With these few words I move the cut motion on the demand for the Education Ministry.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, the cut motion standing in my name is for the purpose of discussing the provision or lack of provision for increased facilities for technical training. The question is obviously one of supreme importance in view of our seriousness in industrialising our country and developing its trade and commerce. The much-maligned predecessors of the present Government had done quite an amount of spade work, so far as the educational progress of the country is concerned. They not only had appointed a committee and produced a report which goes by the name of Sargent Report but there were subsidiary committees which went into the qusstion of providing technical training in all its details. I need hardly dwell upon either the importance of education much less on the importance of technical education. Everybody knows now that the fate of a country depends upon the education of its people and the future prospects of our country, nay I would say the very existence of a country, is likely to depend upon technical education. Technical education does not necessarily mean catering merely for the needs of commerce and industry but it has also very intimate connection with the various branches of scientific researches which every independent nation must undertake. I would like specifically refer by way of an example to atomic research. As I said in my morning speech, there appears to be war being waged on all our sides and this situation is likely to intensify. What is the remedy for us in order to achieve the progress that is necessary in maintaining our strength and our position among the independent countries of the world? It is largely based, if not entirely, on the provision we would be making for training in technical education and scientific researches. I am probably not very wrong in saying that the position is not quite satisfactory and the spade work that had been done has not been fully utilised and no real progress appears to have been made. We are still in the stage of merely considering and further considering this report or that: some of these reports have recommended the establishment of definite institutions and there is hardly any dispute or disagreement or difference of opinion among the members of the various committees. And yet the fact remains that they have not been started and no beginning in the training that we all are looking forward to have been made. Our Government, as in other things, so in education appears to move compartmentally. For instance, I have two reports before me. One is the report of the Advisory Committee on Technical Training. This was produced by the Department of Labour. I do not know to what extent the Education Department holds itself responsible for providing this sort of training. In any case I have not seen anything coming out from the Education Department for furthering the objectives which have been detailed in this report.

Then there is the high-sounding report on the Development of Higher Technical Institutions in India. This was an interim report produced in the month of February, 1946 by a committee which goes by the name of the Sarkar Committee'. This is a very ambitious plan, expenditure on which runs into crores The mere acquisition of land is supposed to cost something like 25 to 30 lakhs. Every thing is on a big and colossal scale. But unfortunately this has also remained where it was although I find that we are likely to meet again—I being now a member of the Council for Technical Education—in the month of April at Bombay. I hope some real progress would be made at least then. But as yet no steps have been taken to provide greater facilities for either higher technical training or the other training which is to be under the Labour Department. I hope the Honourable Minister would be able to tell us what were the difficulties in not giving effect to these recommendations and as to when it will be possible for us to expect these institutions to be started. If we do not take time by the forelock and utilise all the facilities which exist it is likely that we will be lagging behind in this important respect. I do not want to take the time of the House and probably my time is likely to come to an end. I want

to finish before you ring the bell, Sir. All that I would like to wait for is an answer from the Honourable Minister telling us that these Reports have been fully considered that the recommendations contained therein are to be given effect to and that in the near future we will have established all these institutions, both those on a lower as well as the higher standard.

There is one thing more. I would like to tell the Honourable Minister that the Province from which I come, namely the Central Provinces and Berar, is regarded as a specially backward Province, especially in regard to offering facilities of education. The people of C. P. and Berar are in need of technical Central Provinces wherever my friends of the south are hoping to shift the institutions. I would be granted to the Central Government on behalf of the very capital of India,—if it were to consider this favourably and establish a Polytechnical Institute in my Province of Berar.

Shrimati Hansa Mehta: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the object of my cut is to raise the question of policy with regard to the distribution of grants to the Universities. There is a feeling that while some of the Universities get lavish grants there are others, equally deserving, which get nothing at all. It is necessary to have some basis for the distribution of grants. Government have reconstituted the University Grants Committee and their scope also is extended to cover the work of all Universities. But they have not clarified whether this Committee is to distribute the grants on the same basis on which they are distributing the grants to Central Universities and unless this is done it will be difficult for this Committee to function well. The point at issue is whether any distinction should be made between the Central Universities and the other Universities as far as the distribution of grants is concerned. My point is that there should be no distinction in this matter. It is true that education is a provincial subject. But the provincial revenues are mostly spent on primary education and secondary education, and the Universities get very meagre grants from Provincial Governments. It is therefore necessary for the Centre to help these Universities if at all we wish to keep up the high standard that they have so far maintained. Besides that, a Province which has more than one University within its boundaries will find it extremely difficult to help substantially all the Universities within its jurisdiction. That is another reason why the Centre should come to the help of the Provinces There will be many more Universities in the future. Today there are twentyone altogether including Mysore, Travancore and Hyderabad. But in the near future Provinces may have more than one University. In a vast country like India this number is not very large. In America there are a number of Universities and if we wish to spread education we shall also have to have a number of Universities; and it will be for the Centre to come to the help of these Universities. Besides that, our education has to expand according to our national needs; and our national needs are considerable. The burden of this expansion will fall on the Universities. It will therefore be for the Centre to come to the help of these Universities. I know that the Centre do wish to help the Universities which help in their development schmes. But I also wish the Centre to give them general grants—not merely grants for specific purposes. With that view I have brought this cut.

There is also another point which I wish to raise at this stage and that is with regard to the two Central Universities, namely the Benares Hindu University and the Aligarh Muslim University. I think the time has come when we should change the names of these two Universities. They can no longer be called Hindu University and Muslim University. A University can specialise in, say, Hindu culture or Islamic culture; but for that reason it should not be called a Hindu University and a Muslim University. I hope that Government will bring in legislation to change the nomenclature of these two Universities. Sir, I move my cut motion.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Mr. Chairman, the object of my cut is to discuss the policy of admission of students on caste and communal bases. My Honourable friend Mrs. Mehta has covered many important points which the Education Ministry ought to bear in mind in the administration of this all important subject. Education is the foundation of citizenship. The fact that huge masses of our people are denied this elementary right makes the task of our Education Minister very difficult. Viewed purely from this background of vast illiteracy prevailing in our country, the allotment made in the budget looks hopelessly small. Sometime ago the Honourable the Education Minister made an announcement in favour of conscription—conscription of University men and women—to serve as teachers before their degree are recognized. Today unfotunately our circumstances are such that we have to give precedence to conscription of men to strengthen home-guards.

I will now pass to the subject matter of my cut motion. My Honourable friends from the north can realize the horror of only one phase of communalism. If I am permitted to say so, the All-India Congress Committee which has recently declared a war on communalism has only this one phase in its mind, namely, the Hinu-Muslim problem. There is a greater monster in that part of the country which I have the honour to represent, that is, the Brahman Non-Brahman problem. Sir, I very much dislike to talk about this, but it is not only a matter affecting the distribution of patronage, that is one community getting more representation in the services than the other community. Sir, I do not really mind if people belonging to one community get more ration of foodstuffs than people belonging to the other community. But, Sir, as I have already said, in my province law recognizes patronage in the matter of the admission of students to the universities. Merit does not count, but community counts. Seats in arts, science, engineering, technology and other such colleges are allotted community-wise and heads of institutions are directed by law to overlook merit.

Shri C. Subramaniam (Madras: General): On a point of order, Sir. Are we in order in discussing this point, which is really a provincial matter, because that government is not represented here to answer these points. I do not know whether we will be in order in discussing a subject which is purely provincial on the floor of this House.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: There is a Grant here under Demand No. 50 A. 2. Demands to other Universities and non-Government Arts Colleges,—and for this a sum of Rs. 16,56,000 is allotted. Therefore the object, as I have already stated, of my cut motion is to criticize the policy of the Centre giving grants to universities which are still pursuing the policy of communalism in the matter of admission of students. Therefeore I am absolutely within my rights when I am criticizing this policy. Right to education, Sir, as I have already said, is one of the most important and fundamental rights. Now if you, Sir, do not permit the free enjoyment of this right, then I should venture to say that it is not worth the paper on which it is written. I earnestly implore the Honourable the Education Minister not to ignore or brush it aside, and also resort to the common argument that this is a matter under the jurisdiction of the provincial government. I ask when a fundamental right like this is trampled upon, is it not the duty of the Central Government to step in and does it not reflect on this government if this government keeps dumb or mum or indifferent?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Was it not because of the domination of a particular community that this law was passed?

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member should not interfere in the debate in this manner, which is more in the nature of an argument than a question.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Sir, this Parliament has got a right to demand an assurance from the Government that it will take steps to prevent communalism from casting its pernicious shadow in the sphere of education.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, no.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: I realise that economically backward communities do require encouragement, but that can be given in other forms. Under the guise of giving encouragement to backward communities, one section or one group of the community should not be deprived of this elementary right. Sir, it pains me very much to talk like this, but I should be failing in my duty if I am not courageous enough to speak about our own weaknesses. Sir, I request the Honourable Minister to enquire forthwith into these charges and set them right if they are found true. I say that this enquiry would serve a double purpose—it serves us in seeing that the education grants voted in this House are not ill-spent: also it helps us to gather material for the use of the Constituent Assembly which is shortly meeting to pass the Constitution.

Sir, there is one point more. The right to equal facilities for education is the most important among fundamental rights. The information which I am requesting the Honourable Minister to gather by the enquiry would help us and the Constituent Assembly to tighten up this fundamental right which is laid in the Constitution.

There is another point which I want to emphasize in this connection. We are building up a secular state. Theocracy or religion, caste or community or sect has absolutely no place. The universities and educational institutions of India have a vital role to play at this time in the future building up of this secular state. Therefore, Sir, great care should be taken to see that any university that still retains this policy of communalism does not get the benefit of these grants. My Honourable friend Mrs. Hansa Mehta has advocated that the grants should be given to all universities and the Centre should help to see that the universities in the provinces also get the grants. But I ask the Honourable Minister to see that before a grant is given to a particular university, he should make sure that the benefit of such a grant does not go to any university which follows, either directly or indirectly, the policy of communalism in the manner I have explained. Sir, I move.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have moved my cut motion to discuss the need of a uniform language policy because I feel very strongly that the Centre must now adopt a very definite role not only in giving advice or guidance to the provinces, but, if necessary, a very specific directive in order to secure uniformity in the matter of linguistic policies. The country is so vast, our language problems are so complex, that in this particular fluid and formative period I feel that the Centre dare not look on. If the Centre looks on and allow linguistic policies to develop in their own haphazard and unplanned way, then my own feeling is that inevitably sooner or later—perhaps sooner—we will reach a state of linguistic chaos in this country. And if chaos supervenes, it will be too late to retrace our footsteps, it will be too late to undo the harm because it will then be like trying to unscramble an scrambled egg. I feel, Sir, very definitely that in this particular matter the Centre should lay down a uniform plan for the evolution of our national language, and that in that uniform plan, in that overall picture of uniform evolution, we should also find an appropriate place for the respective provincial languages.

I know, Sir, that the problem is not an easy one. On the other hand it is a supremely difficult problem, but I feel that it is as vital as it is difficult. And it is a problem which requires the maximum not only of vision but of courage. I feel that in dealing with this problem the Central Government may come up against many susceptibilities, not the least being provincial susceptibilities. If necessary, in the interests of the country, these provincial and linguistic susceptibilities, however delicate, must be faced and overcome. It is, Sir, natural and inevitable that India must and will develop her own national language. It is likely, more than likely, that Hindi will be that language. The name does not matter; to my mind whether we call it Hindi or Hindustani it does not matter, but what does matter is that the approach should be both liberal and statesmanlike. I for one cannot understand the

[Mr. Frank R. Anthony]

reason for aggressive, intolerant, narrow policies in the matter of our national language. No one is going to take away India's independence. As I have said, we will and must evolve our national language, but it must be by an evolutionary and not by a revolutionary process. Those persons who are over impatient, who are overzealous, who seek to impose by revolutionary methods a national language on this country, will stultify their own purpose.

I ask those people who are overimpatient in this matter to remember that only ten crores out of a total population of thirty crores, are Hindi-speaking. Not only statesmanship but commonsense should prompt the Hindi-speaking people to insist on an evolutionary programme in this matter. It is only in that way, Sir, by planning in an evolutionary, liberal and statesmanlike way, that we can ultimately bring in and embrace the other two-thirds of the population. It is only in that way that we can ultimately ensure the growth of a healthy national language, that we can ensure the emergence of a real *lingua franca*.

That is why, Sir, I fail completely to understand aggressive and intolerant linguistic policies. I know that I am perhaps touching a raw spot in this matter, but I was very distressed—some friends here may say that I am unjust—but to be quite frank, I was more than disappointed—there are many who agree with me—I was more than disappointed with what I regard as the precipitate linguistic policies of certain Provinces such as the United Provinces. I have nothing but the very highest regard for its very capable Premier, a man of tremendous stature, and yet the policy of that Province in changing overnight its official language, has been definitely misunderstood apart from the harm that it has done to the minorities. The minorities for no fault of their own have, because of past policies when life in that Province had a bias in favour of Urdu, had to learn Urdu; overnight Hindi in the Devnagri script has been made the official language. In effect, the minorities have been blacked out overnight from all opportunities of service in the U.P.

That is not the only consequence. The worst consequence is what I regard as the repercussions to this precipitate language policy in the U.P. They may not be recognised, they may not be admitted, as repercussions, but what is happening in Bengal? Bengal has already plumped for Bengali as the official language. It is also likely to make Bengali the medium of instruction in the University. My friends from the South tell me quite plainly, without any equivocation, that they will resist any attempt to impose any ill-conceived, illiberal, precipitate linguistic policy on the South: if necessary, they will break away from the Indian Union.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is it you are saying?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Many people have told me this, and that is why I am arguing, I am pleading for a liberal statesmanlike attitude in this matter. Ten years, twenty years or even thirty years in the matter of a planned evolution of our national language is not going to place any serious obstacle in the way of national progress. Ten or twenty years are but a moment in the life of a nation. But precipitate linguistic policies on the part of certain sections, on the part of certain Provinces, are provoking retaliatory linguistic measures in other Provinces. What is happening? Some of my friends here may not agree with me, but these precipitate linguistic policies or definitely provoking and emphasising the cry for linguistic provinces. I am one of those who believe that if this cry is conceded it will do untold harm to the country. I refuse to believe that once India is divided up into water-tight linguistic and cultural compartments, she can ever achieve her goal of a real common nationality, that India can ever achieve real national integration.

Signs of that, Sir, are not wanting. When I visited Bengal recently I was told by Punjabis who have been uprooted from the Punjab, "We have lost our home in the Punjab, we felt we had found a home in Bengal. Now we have been severely disillusioned. By this cry of Bengal for Bengalis, this insistence on Bengali as the official language, this insistence on Bengali as the medium of instruction by all this insistence we Punjabis are being made to feel as aliens and strangers." When I broached this matter to some of my Bengali friends, one said, "We Bengalis are comparatively liberal; in Bihar we are not only insulted but assaulted." (Interruption). I have not got much time.

Sir, where is all this going to lead to? The signs are that these precipitate linguistic policies are provoking a new form of communalism, a new and a more dangerous form of communalism. (Interruption). My friends may not recognise it as Provincial and linguistic communalism. We have seen and experienced the bitterness of religious communalism. We are quite rightly in a state of revulsion against what we regard as religious communalism. But in its place today raising their heads are provincial and linguistic communalisms. And to my mind they will do infinitely more damage, they will be greater sources of evil than religious communalism. Because once provincial communalism, which is on the march today, is fostered by linguistic communalism, then inevitably, Sir, I can see this country not marching towards its goal of national integration, I can see this country disintegrating from top to bottom into water-tight linguistic, cultural and political enclaves.

That is the danger, as I see it, Sir, in allowing the different Provinces to plough lonely and unreal and unrelated linguistic furrows. I make an earnest appeal to the Honourable Minister in charge and to the Central Government to lay down some uniform plan in this matter. Let us be guided, Sir, by the example of other countries which have had to face this problem of a multiplicity of languages. What has happened in America? America did not allow its different States, its different blocks to pursue their own liguistic politics; it did not allow States with a predominance of Germans to set up German as the official language in that particular State; it did not allow a State with a predominance of Italians to establish Italian as the official language. No, Sir; while respecting the culture and the language of the different cultural groups, at the same time it evolved and implemented in a liberal way an overall policy calculated to evolve a real national language. I ask the Central Government to do precisely the same thing in India. It is a task requiring both vision and courage. Unless we set ourselves with urgency and courage in this task, repudiating if necessary the susceptibilities of Provinces, we cannot achieve real unity. Sir, I am amused sometimes by the element of irony and hypocrisy in the spectacle of some persons who, while they are violent opponents of religious communalism, are equally great exponents of provincial and linguistic communalism.

I will end on this note, Sir. I will ask the Government and the Minister in charge to take immediate and active measures to implement a uniform scheme for the evolution of a national language. Sir, I move:

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Maulana Saheb.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U.P.: General): Is there to be no discussion on this question?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, I have called on the Honourable Maulana Saheb to reply.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: It means that the discussion will be over as soon as the Movers of the various cut motions have spoken, and no further discussion shall be allowed.

Mr. Chairman: That was the arrangement. There is no more time.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: I do not know what is meant by "This was the arrangement". It may have been the arrangement made by the Congress Party. You cannot force it on everybody here. I do hope that it will not be attempted to do that day after day. This is a very important question and to ask those people who are not members of the Congress to keep quiet on so important an occasion is not fair.

An Honourable Member: The member who spoke last was not a member of the Congress Party.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Speaker has already pointed out that the number of cut motions is very large and the time allotted is not so adequate and therefore it may be difficult for other Honourable Members to participate in the debate. According to agreement we had to confine the whole discussion to one and a quarter hours. According to that agreement we are proceeding. The Honourable Maulana Saheb.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جناب ! وقت کی کمی کی اسوقت عام طور پر شکایت کی گئی ہے - میں بھی اس شکایت میں شریک ہوں لیکن بہر حال جو وقت تھہرایا جا چکا ہے اب اسمیں ردوبدل نہیں ہو سکتا - میں کوشش کرونگا کہ اس تھوڑے وقت کے اندر جو کچھ کہہ سکتا ہوں کہدوں - میں نے ایک بیان آنریبل ممبروں کی واقفیت کے لئے ہاؤس میں تقسیم کرا دیا ہے - اس سے وہ اندازہ کر سکینگے کہ ایجوکیشن منسٹری کے کاموں کا پورا نقشہ کیا ہے اور نئے برس کے بجٹ میں جو گنجائش رکھی گئی ہے وہ کاموں کو کہاں تک آگے بڑھا رہی ہے -

پہلا کٹ موشن ایک نہایت ضروری معاملہ سے تعلق رکھتا ہے - یعنی ایڈلٹ ایجوکیشن سے - اس سلسلہ میں میرے آنریبل دوست نے جو کچھ کہا ہے مجھے اس کے مقصد سے پورا اتفاق ہے - اس میں کوئی شبہ نہیں کہ اسوقت جتنا ضروری ہمارے لئے بچوں کی تعلیم کا معاملہ ہے اتنا ہی ضروری بڑی عمر کے لوگوں کی تعلیم کا بھی معاملہ ہے - اور بڑی عمر کے لوگوں کی تعلیم کا مطلب صرف یہی نہیں ہے کہ انہیں لکھنا پڑھنا سکھا دیا جائے بلکہ اس سے کہیں زیادہ ہے - ہمارا فرض ہے کہ ہم انکے دماغوں کو اونچا کرنے کے لئے دماغی تعلیم دیں ، اور انکے اندر ایسی سمجھ بوجھ پیدا کر دیں کہ وہ ایک فیمو کریٹک اسٹیٹ اور سوسائٹی کی زندگی میں پوری دلچسپی لینے لگیں - ہم اپنی قومی زندگی کے کسی راستے میں بھی تیزی سے چل نہیں سکتے اگر ملک کے لاکھوں کروڑوں باشندے سمجھ بوجھ کے ساتھ ہمارا ساتھ دینے کے لئے تیار نہیں ہیں - بہرحال اس کام کے نہایت ضروری ہونے سے کسی کو انکار نہیں ہو سکتا - دیکھنا یہ ہے کہ اس بڑے کام کو تھوڑے وقت کے اندر کیونکر پورا کیا جا سکتا ہے -

سنٹرل ایڈوائزری بورڈ نے سنہ ۴۳ء میں جو رپورٹ پیش کی تھی ، اسمیں ایڈلٹ ایجوکیشن کی بھی ایک اسکیم رکھی تھی - لیکن اس اسکیم کو عمل میں لانے کے لئے کوئی کارروائی نہیں کی جاسکی - پچھلے جنرل الیکشن کے

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*Printed as Appendix to the day's debate.

بعد جب از سرنو کانگریس منسٹریاں صوبوں میں قائم ہوئیں، تو اُنہوں نے اس طرف توجہ کی اور تھوڑا بہت کام ہونے لگا لیکن یہ جو کچھ ہوا بہت چھوٹے پیمانے پر ہوا جو کسی طرح بھی وقت کی پیاس کو بجھا نہیں سکتا - پچھلے سال جب میں نے اس منسٹری کا چارج لیا تو سب سے پہلا کام جو میرے سامنے آیا تھا وہ بیسک ایجوکیشن اور ایڈلٹ ایجوکیشن اسکیم کا تھا - لیکن ملک کی پولیٹیکل حالت ایسی ہو رہی تھی کہ اس طرح کے کاموں کے لئے وقت نہیں نکالا جا سکتا تھا - اور حکومت کی تمام قوت دوسری باتوں میں خرچ ہو رہی تھی - میں نے صوبوں کے ایجوکیشن منسٹروں اور یونیورسیٹیوں کے نمائندوں کی کانفرنس بلانی چاہئی ، لیکن دو مرتبہ تاریخ ٹھہرا کر پھر اُسے ملتوی کر دینا پڑا کیونکہ اُس کے حالات میں لوگ اکٹھے نہیں ہو سکتے تھے - بالاخر کسی نہ کسی طرح پچھلی جنوری میں اسکا موقعہ نکلا اور ایجوکیشنل کانفرنس اور سنٹرل ایڈوائزری بورڈ کے اجلاس ہوئے ان دونوں کے آگے میں نے ایڈلٹ ایجوکیشن کی ایک نئی اسکیم رکھی اور آپ کو معلوم ہے کہ دونوں نے اس سے اتفاق کیا - ایڈوایزری بورڈ کی اسٹینڈنگ کمیٹی نے ایک سب کمیٹی اس غرض سے بٹھائی تھی- اسکی رپورٹ بھی پیش ہوئی اور کسی قدر ردو بدل کے ساتھ اسے منظور کر لیا گیا - اب ہماری اسکیم تیار ہے - اسکی ایک شاخ لکھنے پڑھنے سے تعلق رکھتی ہے ، دوسری عام دماغی تعلیم سے - دماغی تعلیم میں زبانی لیکچروں کے ساتھ ویڈیو «فلم» اور کھلے میدانی ڈراما کے ماڈرن طریقے بھی رکھے گئے ہیں، اور کوشش کی جا رہی ہے کہ انکا اچھا سے اچھا سامان تیار ہو جائے اسی غرض سے اس برس فلم لائبریری کے لئے ایک رقم رکھی گئی ہے اور تعلیمی فلموں کی تیاری کا کام شروع کیا جا رہا ہے - منسٹری میں ایک خاص سیکشن بھی کھول دیا گیا ہے تاکہ ضروری لٹریچر کی تیاری میں اس سے برابر مدد ملتی رہے - ایڈوایزری بورڈ کی سب کمیٹی نے اس بات پر زور دیا تھا کہ اس تعلیم میں ٹیکنیکل تعلیم کا بھی کچھ حصہ رکھنا چاہئے کیونکہ بڑی عمر کے جن لوگوں کو تعلیم دی جائیگی ، ان میں بڑا حصہ ایسے لوگوں کا ہوگا جو کسی نہ کسی پیشے اور کاریگری سے واسطہ رکھتے ہونگے - چنانچہ یہ بات بھی اسکیم میں شامل کر دی گئی ہے اور اس بارے میں صوبوں کی حکومتوں سے رائے مانگی گئی ہے - ہم اس اسکیم کو اس طرح چلانا چاہتے ہیں کہ بیسک ایجوکیشن کے اسکول ایڈلٹ ایجوکیشن کی تمام سرگرمیوں کا سینٹر بنا دیئے جائیں ، اور اس طرح تمام ملک میں ایک نئی دماغی آب و ہوا یعنی وایو ماحول پیدا کیا جا سکے -

یہانتک میں نے جو کچھ آپ سے کہا، ایڈلٹ ایجوکیشن اسکیم کی کہانی تھی ، لیکن اسکیم صرف کاغذ پر بنا دینے سے نہیں چل جاتی ، اسکے لئے سامان کی ضرورت ہے - اور سامان میں پہلا سوال روپیہ کا ہے - اس وقت تک سنٹرل

[آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد]

گورنمنٹ کا جو ڈھنگ اس بارے میں رہتا آیا ہے ، وہ آپ سب کو معلوم ہے - وہ ایک خاص حد تک بڑھتی ہے ، مگر اُس سے آگے راستہ نہیں پاتی - میں چاہتا ہوں ، یہ پورانی حدبندی ٹوٹے اور نیا راستہ ہمارے سامنے کھلے - آئیندہ برس کے بجٹ میں تعلیم کے لئے جتنی رقم رکھی گئی ہے ، میں چاہتا تھا کہ اس سے دوگنی رقم رکھی جاتی - لیکن جب فائنانس منسٹری نے آنے والے برس کی رکاوٹوں پر زور دیا، تو مجھے مجبور ہو جانا پڑا - پولیٹکل حالات نے اور خاصکر پنجاب کی مصیبتوں نے ایک بہت بڑا بوجھ سنٹرل گورنمنٹ کے فائنانس پر اچانک ڈال دیا ہے ، اور اسکی وجہ سے ہمیں رک رک کر قدم اُٹھانا پڑا ہے - تاہم میں یہ بھی مانتا ہوں کہ وقت کا ہر کام انتظار کر سکتا ہے مگر تعلیم انتظار نہیں کر سکتی - ضروری ہے کہ کسی نہ کسی طرح اسکے لئے روپیہ کا انتظام کیا جائے -

۱۶ جنوری کی ایجوکیشنل کانفرنس کے سامنے جو سوالات آئے تھے ان میں ایک بنیادی سوال یہ بھی تھا - کانفرنس نے ایک کمیٹی بٹھائی ہے کہ وہ اس بارے میں سوچ وچار کرکے اپنی سفارش پیش کرے ، مجھے اُمید ہے کہ جون تک اسکی سفارش گورنمنٹ کو مل جائیگی اور ہم تعلیم کے تمام ضروری کاموں کے لئے کافی روپیہ کا انتظام کر سکینگے -

دوسرا کٹ موشن پیش کرتے ہوئے آنریبل شری دیش مکھ نے ٹیکنیکل ایجوکیشن کی ضرورت پر توجہ دلائی ہے - میں انہیں یقین دلاؤنگا کہ اس بارے میں گورنمنٹ جو کچھ کر سکتی تھی کر رہی ہے ، اور آئیندہ برس کے بجٹ میں ہم نے تیزی کے ساتھ آگے بڑھنے کی کوشش کی ہے - میں نے جو اسٹیٹ ملٹ آنریبل ممبروں میں تقسیم کیا ہے ، اگر اس پر ایک نظر ڈال لی جائے تو غالباً اس کٹ موشن کی ضرورت باقی نہیں رہتی - اُس سلسلہ میں جو کچھ کیا گیا ہے ، میں اسے مختصر طور پر بیان کردیتا ہوں :-

(۱) گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا فیصلہ کر چکی ہے کہ امریکن انسٹی‌ٹیوٹ کے ڈھنگ پر چار ہائر ٹکنیکل انسٹی‌ٹیوٹ ملک میں کھولے جائیں - ان میں سے دو کلکتہ اور بمبئی کے آس پاس کھولا جانا طے پایا تھا اور ان کا کام فوراً شروع کر دینا تھا - فائل کے دیکھنے سے مجھے معلوم ہوا کہ دو برس سے یہ معاملہ چل رہا ہے لیکن ابھی تک نہ تو جگہ چنی گئی ہے ، اور نہ کام کے آگے بڑھنے کا راستہ کھلا ہے - میں نے کوشش کی کہ یہ ڈھیل دور کی جائے اور اسکیم کو جلد سے جلد عمل میں لایا جائے - چنانچہ اب جگہ چن لی گئی ہے اور سٹاف کا انتظام کیا جا رہا ہے - ان میں سے ہر انسٹی ٹیوٹ پر تین کروڑ روپیہ کیپیٹل اور ۴۴ لاکھ ریکرینگ خرچ ہوگا اور تین ہزار طالب علم تعلیم پاسکینگے - دو ہزار انڈر گریجویٹ اور ایک ہزار پوسٹ گریجویٹ - پوری اسکیم دو سے تین برس کے اندر پوری ہو سکیگی -

(۲) انڈین انسٹی‌ٹیوٹ آف سائنس بنگلور کے لئے چار برس کا ڈیولپ منٹ پلان منظور ہو چکا ہے اور پاور انجنیرینگ ڈپارٹمنٹ کھولا جا رہا ہے -

(۳) پولیٹکنک انسٹی‌ٹیوٹ دھلی کے لئے تین برس کا ڈیولپ منٹ پلان منظور ہو چکا ہے اور کام شروع کیا جا رہا ہے -

(۴) آل انڈیا کونسل فار ٹیکنیکل ایجوکیشن نے سفارش کی تھی کہ ملک میں جو ٹکنیکل انسٹی‌ٹیوٹ موجود ہیں انہیں سنٹر سے گرانٹ دی جائے - چنانچہ پانچ برس کے لئے یہ امداد منظور کی جا چکی ہے اور گرانٹ دی جا رہی ہے -

(۵) ہاؤس کو معلوم ہے کہ سنٹرل گورنمنٹ نے سنہ ۴۴ میں ایک اسکیم اورسیز اسکالرشپ کی منظور کی تھی ، اور باہر کے ملکوں میں ہندوستانی اسکالرز تعلیم کے لئے بھیجے جا رہے تھے - نئی گورنمنٹ نے جب چارج لیا تو اس نے محسوس کیا کہ یہ اسکیم ٹھیک طریقہ پر نہیں چلائی گئی ہے - پہلے اس بات کی کوشش کرنی تھی کہ جو انسٹی‌ٹیوشن ملک میں موجود ہیں ، انہیں ترقی دے کر ایسا بنا دیا جائے کہ زیادہ اونچے درجے کی قابلیت کے آدمی وہاں تیار کئے جا سکیں - پھر اُس نقشہ کو سامنے رکھکر سوچنا تھا کہ کن کن سبجکٹ کے لئے ہمیں اسکالرز باہر کے ملکوں میں بھیجنے چاہئیں اور پھر صرف انہیں سبجکٹ کے لئے اسکالرشپ دینے کا انتظام کرنا چاہئے تھا - چنانچہ اس مقصد کو سامنے رکھکر گورنمنٹ نے ایک کمیٹی سائنٹفک مین پاور کمیٹی کے نام سے بنائی تاکہ ملک کی فوری سائنٹفک ضرورتوں کی دیکھ بھال کر کے وہ ایک نقشہ بنائے اور بتلائے کہ ان ضرورتوں کا انتظام جلد اور بہتر طریقہ پر کیونکر ہو سکتا ہے - اس کمیٹی کا کام ابھی جاری ہے لیکن اس نے انٹریم رپورٹ پیش کر دی ہے - گورنمنٹ نے اس رپورٹ پر فوراً غور کیا اور اس کی اکثر سفارشیں منظور کر لیں - ان سفارشوں میں اس بات پر زور دیا گیا تھا کہ ملک کی یونیورسٹیوں اور انسٹی ٹیوشنوں کو نئے سرے سے گرانٹ دینی چاہئے تا کہ وہ سائنٹفک اور ٹیکنیکل سبجکٹس کے لئے اپنی تعلیمی طاقت اور زیادہ بڑھائیں - اس برس سے یہ گرانٹ دینا ہم نے شروع کر دیا ہے اور تین سنٹرل یونیورسٹیوں کے لئے رقمیں رکھی گئی ہیں -

(۶) ان کاموں کے علاوہ عام طور پر بھی تمام صوبوں میں ٹکنیکل تعلیم کا کام تیزی کے ساتھ آگے بڑھایا جا رہا ہے - سنٹرل گورنمنٹ نے اس سال پراونشیل گورنمنٹوں کو اچھی رقمیں اس غرض سے دی ہیں کہ وہ اپنے اپنے ڈیولپ منٹ اسکیموں کو جلد عمل میں لائیں، چنانچہ :

۲۹ - جونیر ٹیکنکل انسٹی ٹیوشنیز ری آرگنائزڈ کئے جا رہے ہیں اور انکی تعلیم کا دائرہ پھیلایا جا رہا ہے -

۴ - ٹکنیکل ہائی اسکول کھولے جا رہے ہیں -

[آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد]

۱۱- سینیر ٹکنیکل انسٹی ٹیوشنز -

۱۲- جونیر ٹکنیکل اسکول-

۱۳- ٹکنیکل ہائی اسکول-

۱۴- پولی ٹیکنکس -

۱۵- سینیر ٹکنیکل انسٹی ٹیوشنز -

بہت جلد کام کرنے لگیں گے - یہ تمام شمار واعداد جنرل پوسٹ وار ٹیولپ سٹ پلان سے تعلق رکھتے ہیں -

تیسرا کٹ موشن پیش کرتے ہوئے آنریبل مسٹر مہتا نے اس بات پر ہمیں دھیان دلایا ہے کہ یونیورسٹیوں کو مدد دینے کے لئے ابھی تک کوئی قاعدہ نہیں بنایا گیا ہے ، اور ضروری ہے کہ اس بارے میں سنٹرل گورنمنٹ اپنی پالیسی صاف کر دے - میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ اس بارے میں اسطرح کا کوئی سوال پیدا نہیں ہوتا - پچھلی گورنمنٹ کا ٹھاٹھ یہ تھا کہ وہ تین سنٹرل یونیورسٹیوں کے سوا اور کسی یونیورسٹی کو ڈائرکٹ گرانٹ نہیں دیتی تھی اور انہی تین یونیورسٹیوں کو گرانٹ دینے کے لئے یونیورسٹی گرانٹ کمیٹی کے نام سے ایک کمیٹی بنائی گئی تھی - نئی گورنمنٹ نے محسوس کیا کہ اگر ہم چاہتے ہیں ، تمام ملک کی تعلیمی سطح کو ایک ساتھ اونچا کریں تو ہمیں چاہیئے کہ سنٹرل گورنمنٹ کی امداد کا دائرہ صرف تین یونیورسٹیوں کی امداد ہی میں سمٹا ہوا نہ رکھیں- اسے زیادہ وسیع ہونے دیں- یعنی دوسری یونیورسٹیوں کو بھی مدد دینے کا دروازہ کھول دیں - چنانچہ یہی بات سامنے رکھکر یونیورسٹی گرانٹ کمیٹی نئے سرے سے بنائی گئی ہے اور اسکے ٹرمس آف ریفرنس ایسے رکھے گئے ہیں جو اس نئی پالیسی کا پوری طرح ساتھ دیتے ہیں - منسٹری کے پاس اب جتنی درخواستیں آئینگی وہ یونیورسٹی گرانٹ کمیٹی کو بھیج دی جائینگی، اور کمیٹی اسہارے میں جو سفارش کریگی اس پر گورنمنٹ پوری طرح توجہ دیگی -

Shrimati Hansa Mehta: It is true that I mentioned in my speech also that the scope of the Grants Committee is extending, but on what basis are we to give grants to other Universities. It should be on the same basis as the Central Universities and there should be no distinction, that is what I said.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: آنریبل مسز مہتا اس کمیٹی کی ایک ممبر ہیں اور انہیں پورا موقعہ حاصل ہے کہ وہ کمیٹی کے اندر اس معاملہ پر غور و بحث کریں- میں نہیں کہہ سکتا کہ انہیں کیوں یہ خیال پیدا ہوا کہ اس سوال کو اٹھانے کیلئے اسکی ضرورت ہے کہ ایک کٹ موشن ہاؤس کے سامنے رکھا جائے -

اُنہوں نے اپنی تقریر میں کمیونل انسٹی ٹیوشنوں کا بھی حوالہ دیا ہے ، اور اسبات پر زور دیا ہے کہ علی‌گڑھ اور بنارس کی یونیورسٹیوں کے نام میں "مسلم" اور "ہندو" کی قید کیوں رکھی جائے - مجھے انکی رائے سے پورا اتفاق ہے - مجھے صرف اتفاق ہی نہیں ہے بلکہ میں اس خیال کو خوش آمدید کہتا ہوں - یعنی اسکا سواگت کرتا ہوں - مجھ سے زیادہ کوئی شخص اس بات سے خوش نہیں ہوگا کہ ان دونوں یونیورسٹیوں کے ناموں سے "مسلم" اور "ہندو" کا لفظ نکال دیا جائے - مگر یہ ظاہر ہے کہ دونوں یونیورسٹیوں کا ایکٹ اسی ہاؤس سے منظور ہوا ہے ، اور اب جب تک ان میں ترمیم نہیں کی جاتی ، ہم محض اپنی خواہش سے انہیں بدل نہیں دے سکتے -

ایک آنریبل ممبر: آپ خود کیوں املاءمنٹ نہ پیش کریں ؟

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: ہاں گورنمنٹ بھی پیش کر سکتی ہے اور ہاؤس کا کوئی آنریبل ممبر بھی پیش کر سکتا ہے بہر حال یہ تبدیلی ضرور ہونی چاہیئے آنریبل شریمتی درگا بائی نے جس بات پر زور دیا ہے اُس سے بھی گورنمنٹ کو پورا اتفاق ہے - ہماری قومی زندگی کے پھولنےپھلنے کے لئے اس سے زیادہ غلط بات کوئی نہیں ہو سکتی کہ تعلیم کے میدان میں قوم کی جن کمیونیٹی، مذہب، اور کاست کو اُبھارا جائے اور ایسی حدبندیاں بنائی جائیں جن کی وجہ سے ایک جماعت دوسری جماعت سے اپنے کو الگ سمجھے- ہم جب اس بات کی مخالفت کرتے ہیں تو یقیناً ہمارا مطلب یہ نہیں ہوتا کہ بیکورڈ جماعتوں کو آگے بڑھانے کے لئے سہارے نہ دئے جائیں- انہیں زندگی کے ہر راستے میں سہارا دینا چاہیئے اور بلا شبہ اُن کے لئے ایک بڑا ضروری راستہ تعلیم کا راستہ ہے - وہ اگر ترقی کے میدان میں دوسروں سے پیچھے رہ گئے ہیں ، تو یہ خود اُن کا قصور نہیں ہے - سوسائٹی کا قصور ہے ، اور ضروری ہے کہ جس سوسائٹی نے اُنہیں آج تک اپنے ساتھ چلنے نہیں دیا تھا ، وہی اُنہیں سہارا دے کر اب آگے بڑھائے - مثلاً ہمارے ہریجن بھائی ہیں - اگر ان کے لئے کسی انسٹی ٹیوشن میں کچھ سیٹیں ریزرو کر دی جاتی ہیں تو یہ اس لئے نہیں کیا جاتا کہ اُنہیں دوسری جماعتوں پر کوئی خاص امتیاز دیا جاتا ہے ، بلکہ صرف اس لئے کہ اگر ایسا نہ کیا جائے تو اندیشہ ہے کہ وہ بالکل پچھڑ جائینگے اور اپنے حصہ کے مطابق تعلیم نہیں پاسکینگے - بہرحال یہ تبدیلی ضرور ہونی چاہیئے - گورنمنٹ کو اس سے پورا پورا اتفاق ہے کہ تعلیم کے میدان میں کمیونٹی اور کاست کی دل بندیاں نہیں ہونی چاہئیں ، اور اس وقت تک صوبوں کی حکومتوں اور یونیورسٹیوں کا ٹھاٹھ کچھ ہی کیوں نہ رہا ہو ، لیکن اب اُن سب کو سنٹرل گورنمنٹ کی نیشنل پالیسی کا ساتھ دینا چاہیئے - آنریبل ممبر نے خاص طور پر مدراس کا حوالہ دیا ہے - میں نہیں کہہ سکتا کہ

[آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد]

وہاں کی صورت حال ٹھیک کیا ہے - میں گورنمنٹ مدراس سے دریافت کرونگا اور پورے زور سے اس بات پر اسے توجہ دلاونگا -

آخری موشن آنریبل مسٹو فرنگ انتھونی کا تھا - انہوں نے اس بات پر توجہ دلائی ہے کہ زبان کے بارے میں گورنمنٹ کی ایک یونی فارم پالیسی ہونی چاہئے اور جو تبدیلی بھی کرنی چاہئے ، سوچ سمجھکر اور آہستہ آہستہ کرنی چاہئے - اس طرح نہیں کرنا چاہئے کہ اچانک انگریزی کو ہٹا کر کوئی دیسی بھاشا رکھدی جائے اس کی وجہ سے تعلیم کا اسٹینڈرڈ بھی ہل جائے اور لوگوں کو پریشانی بھی پیش آئے - میں انہیں دلاونگا کہ اس بارے میں گورنمنٹ کی پالیسی یہی ہے اور اس نے پراونشل گورنمنٹوں کو بھی یہی مشورہ دیا ہے کہ جو قدم اٹھائیں اچانک نہ اٹھائیں - دھیرے دھیرے اٹھائیں - آنریبل ممبر اس سے بے خبر نہ ہونگے کہ سب سے پہلی آواز اس بارے میں جو اٹھی ہے ، وہ میری ہی آواز تھی میں نے لوگوں کو سوجھایا کہ اس راستہ میں دوڑنے کی جگہ آہستہ چال سے چلنا مناسب ہوگا - میں نے پہلے پٹنہ یونیورسٹی کے کنو کیشن آڈرس میں یہ رائے ظاہر کی کہ ہمیں زبان کی تبدیلی اس طرح کرنی چاہئے کہ پانچ برس کی مدت اس کے لئے رکھدی جائے ، اور گو کام ابھی ہے شروع کر دیا جائے لیکن انگریزی زبان کو اس مدت کے اندر رہنے دیا جائے - میری یہ رائے صرف تعلیم ہی کے لئے نہ تھی - تعلیم اور ایڈمنسٹریشن دونوں کے لئے تھی - پھر جب پچھلی جنوری میں سنٹرل ایڈوایزی بورڈ اور ایجوکیشنل کانفرنس کے اجلاس ہوئے تو ان کے سامنے بھی میں نے یہی رائے رکھی اور اس پر زور دیا کہ یہ تبدیلی ہمیں سمجھ بوجھ کر اور بتدریج کرنی چاہئے - میں خوش ہوں کہ سنٹرل ایڈوایزری بورڈ اور ایجوکیشنل کانفرنس دونوں نے اس رائے سے اتفاق کیا ، اور میں بھروسہ کے ساتھ کہہ سکتا ہوں کہ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کی عام پالیسی بھی اس بارے میں یہی ہوگی - پس جہاں تک سنٹرل گورنمنٹ کا تعلق ہے ، ہم نے ایک صاف پالیسی ٹھہرا دی ہے ، - اب انگریزی کی جگہ قومی زبان کو یا قومی زبانوں کو میڈیم آف انسٹرکشن ہونا ہے ، - لیکن ہم اس تبدیلی کو اچانک نہیں کر دینا چاہتے - ایک کے بعد ایک قدم اٹھاتے ہوئے کرنا چاہتے ہیں اور اور پلان ہمارے سامنے یہ ہے کہ پانچ برس کے اندر یہ تبدیلی عمل میں آئے ، اور اس طرح عمل میں آئے کہ چھٹے برس انگریزی کی ضرورت باقی نہ رہے -

جتنے تلے لفظوں میں اگر گورنمنٹ کی پالیسی کو ہم سمیٹنا چاہیں ، تو اور اسے اس طرح بیان کر سکتے ہیں -

(۱) جہاں تک پرائمری اور سکنڈری درجہ کا تعلق ہے ، یہ بات فیصل ہو چکی ہے کہ تعلیم مادری زبان کے ذریعہ ہونی چاہئے اور تمام صوبے اسے عمل میں لانے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں -

(۲) جہاں تک یونیورسٹی اسٹیج کا تعلق ہے ، یہ بات طے پا چکی ہے کہ آئندہ میڈیم آف انسٹرکشن انگریزی زبان نہیں رہ سکتی ، لیکن یہ تبدیلی ہمیں پانچ برس کے اندر اس طرح کرنی چاہئے کہ چھٹے برس انگریزی کی ضرورت باقی نہ رہے -

زبان کے بارے میں گورنمنٹ کی پالیسی یہی ہے ، اور ایجوکیشنل کانفرنس میں صوبوں کے نمائندوں نے بھی اس سے اتفاق کیا ہے اس لئے میں سمجھتا ہوں ، ایسا کہنا درست نہ ہوگا کہ زبان کے بارے میں گورنمنٹ کی کوئی یونی فارم پالیسی نہیں ہے -

مسٹر آر - کے - سدھوا : آپ کی اجازت سے میں ایک بات پوچھنی چاہتا ہوں ، اور وزیر صاحب کو بجٹ قیمانڈ کے صفحہ ۱۰۲ کی طرف توجہ دلاتا ہوں اس میں ۲۴ ہزار پانچ سو کی رقم گرجوں کے لئے رکھی گئی ہے - گورنمنٹ کی طرف سے یہ بات کہی گئی تھی کہ آئندہ یہ رقم نہیں دی جائیگی - میں معلوم کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیوں اسے جاری رکھا گیا ؟

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں اس وقت آپکو اس کا جواب نہیں دے سکتا - کیونکہ اس ایٹم کے بارے میں ضروری تفصیلات میرے سامنے نہیں ہیں - میں صرف یہی کہہ سکتا ہوں کہ گرجوں کے لئے یہ رقم پہلے ہی دی جا رہی ہے ، اور اس کا تعلق ایک خاص فنڈ سے ہے -

شری آر - آر دیواکر : یونیورسٹی میں نیشنل لینگویج کیا ہوگی ؟ اس کا جواب رہ گیا -

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس کا جواب اس لئے نہیں دیا گیا کہ اس بارے میں ابھی تک کوئی فیصلہ نہیں کیا گیا ہے - جیسا کہ میں ابھی کہہ چکا ہوں ، اس بات کا فیصلہ ہو چکا ہے کہ یونیورسٹی اسٹیج میں بھی میڈیم آف انسٹرکشن ملکی زبان ہوگی ، لیکن یہ ملکی زبان ایک ہی ہوگی ، یا ایک سے زیادہ ، اسکا فیصلہ ابھی ہم نے نہیں کیا ہے ، اور آل انڈیا ایجوکیشنل کانفرنس نے جسے میں نے پچھلی جنوری میں بلایا تھا اس غرض سے ایک کمیٹی بٹھا دی ہے - ہمیں اس کمیٹی کی سفارش کا انتظار ہے -

آنریبل ممبر نے یو - پی گورنمنٹ کے طرز عمل کا خاص طور سے ذکر کیا ہے - میں نہیں کہہ سکتا کہ ان کا اشارہ خاص طور پر کس معاملہ کی طرف ہے - پچھلے نومبر میں ایک پریس رپورٹ میری نظر سے گزری تھی کہ یو - پی گورنمنٹ نئے سال

[مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد]

سے گورنمنٹ گزٹ انگریزی میں نکالنا بند کردیگی - میں نے یو پی کے پریمیر سے اسی وقت خط و کتابت کی اور انہیں اس بات پر توجہ دلائی کہ اس طرح اچانک انگریزی کو ہٹا دینا درست نہ ہوگا - اِس خط کے جواب میں انہوں نے مجھے اطمینان دلایا کہ انکی گورنمنٹ اچانک تبدیلی کے حق میں نہیں ہے اور پٹنہ یونیورسٹی کے اقرس میں میں نے جو رائے ظاہر کی ہے اس سے انہیں پورا اتفاق ہے - چنانچہ یہ بات میرے علم میں آ چکی ہے کہ یو - پی گورنمنٹ کا گزٹ انگریزی میں بدستور نکل رہا ہے -

شری کے سنتھانم : میں مولانا صاحب سے ایک بات معلوم کرنا چاہتا ہوں میں سمجھتا ہوں انکے انکاش اسٹیٹمنٹ میں جو فارسی شعر نقل کیا گیا ہے شاید اس کا ترجمہ صحیح نہیں ہوا ہے

ٹریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد - ترجمہ غلط نہیں ہے لیکن اس کا مطلب زیادہ کھول کر بیان کر دیا جائے تو بہتر ہوگا - شاعر کہتا ہے :

مے خواهی و تند و تیز و وانگه بسیار
این باده فروش هست ساقی کوثر نیست

یعنے آپ شراب چاہتے ہیں ، اور صرف شراب ہی نہیں چاہتے یہ بھی چاہتے ہیں کہ نہایت عمدہ اور تیز ہو - اور پھر اتنا ہی نہیں ، یہ بھی چاہتے ہیں کہ بہت ہو - شاعر کہتا ہے یہ نہ بھولئے کہ یہ فرمائشیں آپ جس سے کر رہے ہیں وہ بیچارہ شراب بیچنے والا کلال ہے - جنت کا پلانے والا نہیں ہے جو آپ کی ایسی فرمائشیں پوری کر سکتا ہے -

میں بھی ہاؤس سے کہونگا کہ آپ تعلیم کے لئے جتنی فرمائشیں کرنی چاہتے ہیں شوق سے کیجئے - میرے سر آنکھوں پر مگر مہربانی کرکے ایک بات ضرور یاد رکھیئے میں ایجوکیشن منسٹر ہوں جنت کا داروغہ نہیں ہوں اور نہ جادوگر کی پٹاری میرے پاس ہے کہ چھو منتر کیا اور درخت کھرا ہو گیا -

(*English translation of the above speech*)

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Minister for Education): Sir, general complaints have been made about the shortage of time. I share this view. The allotted time, however, cannot be changed and I shall try to have may say within the time permitted. For the information of Honourable Members, I have had a *statement circulated which will give them an idea of the complete picture of the work before the Ministry of Education and they can have an idea of the progress than can be possible with the help of the grants provided in the Budget for the new year.

The first cut motion relates to an important matter namely Adult Education. In this connection I fully agree with the object of my Honourable friend. There is no doubt that the problem of adult education is as important as that of child education. The adult education has far greater aims than merely teaching

*Printed as Appendix to the day's debate.

adults how to read and write. It is our duty to impart to adults an education which should develop their thinking faculty so that they are enlightened and enabled to take due interest in the affairs of a democratic state and society. In no walk of our national life can we progress without the considered and judicious cooperation of millions of our countrymen. Anyhow no body would deny the extreme importance of this work. What we have to see is how best this work can be accomplished in the shortest time.

The report submitted by the Central Advisory Board in the year 1944 contained also a scheme for adult education. But this scheme could not be enforced. It was after the last general elections, when the Congress Ministries were reestablished in the provinces, that attention was paid to this thing. Work was taken in hand but on too small a scale to meet the demands of the day. After my assumption of office as Education Minister last year the first task that confronted me was the Basic Education and Adult Education schemes. But the political condition of our country at that time was such that no time could be spared for attending to the task of education. Government was over head and ears engrossed with other affairs. I wanted to convene a meeting of the provincial education ministers and representatives of the Universities. Twice a date was fixed but every time it had to be postponed because conditions at that time made it impossible for men to assemble for a conference. Opportunity offered itself at last, and in January meetings of the Educational Comerence and the Central Advisory Committee were held. I placed before them a new scheme for Adult Education; and you know that it was approved by both of these bodies. The report of the sub-committee appointed for this purpose by the Standing Committee of the Central Advisory Board was presented and accepted with some modifications. Our scheme is ready now. Its one branch concerns literary education and the other with the development of mental faculties. The latter provides besides oral lectures the media of radio, films and modern methods of open air dramas. Efforts are being made to secure the best equipment. For this very reason this year money has been earmarked for a film library. Production of educational films is being undertaken. A separate section has been started under the ministry for the purpose of helping in the preparation of necessary literature. The sub-committee appointed by the Advisory Board had stressed the inclusion of certain amount of technical education in this scheme because a majority of the adults receiving education under this scheme would be connected with some profession or art. This suggestion has therefore also been incorporated in the scheme. Opinions of the provincial Governments have been invited in this connection. We intend to introduce this scheme in such a way as should enable the schools of Basic Education to become centres of all activities of the Adult Education as well. In this way we want to create a new intellectual atmosphere in this country.

So far I have told you the story of Adult Education. But mere paper scheme does not do. It requires material and for material the question of money comes first. The House is familiar with the attitude the Central Government have hitherto been adopting in this connection. Government proceeds upto a certain point beyond which it cannot proceed. I wish we could cross these old limits and move along new lines.

I wanted to have double the present grant but due to the emphasis laid by the Ministry of Finance on our limitations for the year I had to content myself with it. The political conditions and especially the misfortunes of the Punjab, have suddenly burdened the finances of the Central Government; and due to this we have been forced to proceed slowly. Nevertheless I admit that other things can afford to wait but not education. It is necessary that somehow or other provision for money for this work must be made. This was also one of the fundamental questions which were raised in the Educational Conference which met on the

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16th January. The Conference has appointed a committee to go into this question and to make its recommendation. I hope Government will receive their recommendation by June and we will be able to arrange sufficient funds for carrying out essential schemes of education.

In moving the second cut motion the Honourable Shri Deshmukh has drawn the attention of Government to the necessity for technical education. I may assure him that Government have been doing everything possible in this connection and in our plan for the next year's Budget we have tried to move quickly. If the Honourable Members had glanced through the statement circulated to them, this cut-motion would probably have not been necessary. I will briefly tell to the House what has been done in this connection.

(1) The Government of India have decided to open four Higher Technical Institutions on the model of American Institutes: of these two will be located near about Calcutta and Bombay and work has to be started atonce. From the files I find that this matter has been under consideration for the last two years; but so far neither any site has been selected nor any progress made in pushing through the work. I tried to remedy this state of affairs, and to enforce the scheme as soon as possible. The site has now been selected and arrangements for the staff are being made. Each of the four institutes would cost Rs. three crores as capital expenditure and rupees forty four lacs as recurring expenditure and will provide for the training of 3,000 students—2,000 Under graduates and 1,000 Post-graduates. The whole scheme is expected to be completed within two or three years.

(2) Four years' development plan for the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, has been sanctioned, and the power engineering department is being opened.

(3) Three years' development plan for the Delhi Polytechnic has been sanctioned and the work is being started.

(4) The All India Council for Technical Education recommended to give from the Centre a grant to the existing technical institutions in the country. Accordingly the grant has been sanctioned for five years and it is being given.

(5) The House might be aware of the fact that an Overseas Scholarship scheme was passed by the Central Government in 1944 and scholars from India were being sent abroad for training. When the new Government assumed office it was felt that this scheme was not followed properly. Therefore the first thing was to try to raise the status of the existing institutions to a level so as to train students with much higher qualifications, and then to determine according to the plan the subjects for the study of which scholars should be sent abroad and then to grant scholarship for those subjects only. Accordingly with this object in view a committee called the Scientific Man Power Committee was set up, to investigate into the country's immediate scientific requirements and to prepare a plan how arrangements can best be made to carry out these requirements earlier. The committee is still functioning. It has submitted its interim report and Government gave their immediate attention to it and have accepted most of its recommendations. The recommendations stressed the need for giving fresh grants to the country's universities and institutions to enable them to augment their resources for imparting educational facilities in scientific and technical subjects. We have started giving grants from this year, and allotment of funds has been made for the three Central Universities.

(6) In addition to these activities of the Central Government the technical education work is also being generally accelerated in all the provinces. The Central Government have this year given handsome amounts to the Provincial Governments to enable them to implement their development schemes quickly.

Accordingly;

29 Junior Technical institutions are being reorganised, and their scope of instructions is being enlarged.

4 Technical High Schools are being opened;

11 Senior Technical Institutions;

140 Junior Technical Schools;

88 Technical High Schools;

16 Polytechnics;

4 Senior Technical Institutions, will soon begin to function.

These statictics relate to the general Post War Development Plan.

In moving the third cut motion, the Honourable Mrs. Mehta has drawn our attention to the fact that no rules have yet been prescribed for grants to the universities. And it is necessary that the Central Government should elucidate its policy in this respect. I feel that no such question arises. The practice followed by the previous Government was to give grants to the three Central Universities only and with a view to give these grants a committee called the University Grants Committee was constituted. The present Government felt that if it was desired to raise the standard of education of the entire country to the same level, then the scope of Central Government's help should not be confined to the three Universities only. It should be further expanded. In other words we should open its doors for the distribution of grants to other Universities also. With this object the University Grants Committee was constituted *de novo* and its terms of reference have been framed in such a manner so as to fully conform to this new policy. All the applications which are now received by the Ministry will be passed on to the University Grants Committee. The Government will carefully consider over the recommendations made by the Committee in this respect.

Shrimati Hansa Mehta: It is true that I mentioned in my speech also that the scope of the Grants Committee is extending, but on what basis are we to give grants to other Universities. It should be on the same basis as the Central Universities and there should be no distinction, that is what I said.

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Honourable Mrs. Hansa Mehta is one of the members of this Committee and she has every opportunity to discuss this matter in the Committee. I cannot say why she thought it necessary to move a cut motion to discuss this point.

She has also referred in her speech to the existence of communal institutions and has stressed the point as to why the word 'Hindu' and 'Muslim' should at all be associated with the names of Benares and Aligarh Universities? I fully agree with the views expressed by her. I do not only agree but I welcome this idea. I extend a hearty welcome to this. No one else than myself will be happier if the words 'Hindu' and 'Muslim' are eliminated from the names of these two Universities. But it is clear that legislation establishing these Universities was passed by this House and until the Acts are amended we cannot make any change.

An Honourable Member: Why can't you amend the Act?

The Government are also in full agreement with the point stressed by Shrimati any Honourable Member of the House can move for an amendment of the Act. In any case this change must be made.

The Government are also in full agreement with the point stressed by Shrimati G. Durga Bai. Nothing can retard more the growth of our national life than the encouragement of 'community' 'religion' and 'caste' in the educational

[Maulana Abul Kalam Azad]

sphere and placing of such limitations as would separate one class of people from the other. When we oppose this, it is not our intention that the backward classes should not be provided with facilities for advancement. On the contrary they should be helped in every walk of life and there is no doubt education is the high-road for their advancement. If they have been left behind in the sphere of progress it is not their fault The society is to be blamed for this. It is all the more necessary therefore that the society which has not uptil now placed them on an equal footing, should help in their advancement. Take the case of our Harijan brethren. If seats can be reserved for them in some institutions it does not mean that they are accorded discriminatory treatment over other classes. The reason is that if such a course is not adopted there is danger that they would be lost and will not be able to receive the benefit of education according to their share. The Government quite agree with the view that there should be no distinction of caste or creed in the sphere of education and whatever policy the Government and universities of the provinces have so far followed in this respect they should now adopt the national policy of the Central Government. The Honourable Member has in particular referred to the Madras Government, but I cannot say what is the actual position there. I shall find out from the Madras Government and will invite their attention to this point.

The last motion was moved by the Honourable Mr. Frank Anthony, pointing out that the Government should have a uniform policy regarding language. If any change has to be introduced it should be done slowly and gradually after full consideration. The change from English to an Indian language should not be sudden as this will disturb the standard of education and will result in ... to people. I can assure the Honourable Member that this is the ... of the Government who have advised the Provincial Governments to move ... and slowly in this matter. It must be known to the Honourable ... that I was first to raise my voice and warn the people against taking ... steps and to move slowly. In my convocation address at the Patna ... I first expressed my view that we should substitute the language ... course of five years and though we should start the process now the ... language should continue for five years. This opinion applies not only ... of education but also to matters of administration. Later on in the ... of January when the Central Advisory Board and the Educational Con... met I placed the same view before them and laid emphasis on the ... that English should be replaced gradually and after due consideration. I ... glad the Central Advisory Board and the Educational Conference both ... to this view, and I can say with confidence that the general policy of the Government in this connection will be as was indicated by me. Thus the Central Government have, so far as they are concerned, laid down a definite and clear policy on this subject and as medium of instruction English will be replaced by one or more Indian languages. We do not want a sudden change but the change should be effected step by step. Our plan is that this should be accomplished in five years and in such a manner that in the sixth year the need for English should vanish.

To put it succinctly the Government policy can be described as follows:

(1) So far as the primary and secondary stage is concerned it has been decided that the medium of instruction will be the mother tongue, and this is being put into practice by all the provinces;

(2) for the University stage it has been decided that English can not continue as the medium of instruction but this change we should bring about in five years so that in the sixth year English will be fully replaced.

This is then the policy of the Government on the language question and the representatives of the provinces who came to attend the Educational Conference also agreed to it. It is, therefore, not correct to say that the Government have no uniform policy in this matter.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: With your permission I want to ask one question and invite the Honourable Minister's attention to page 102 of the Budget Demand. In this a sum of Rs. 24,500 has been provided for Churches. In respect to this Government has stated that no grant would be given in future and I want to know why is this being continued?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot answer this at the moment because the details of this item are not before me. I can only say that this amount is being given to Churches since previous years and it is related to a separate fund.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Sir, The question about the future national language in the Universities has not been answered.

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No reply has been given to it because no decision has been taken about it so far. As I have already said it has been decided that the medium of instruction even in the University will be the national language. But we have not decided yet whether we are going to have one or more national languages. The All India Educational Conference which I convened in January last has appointed a Committee to go into this matter and we are awaiting the recommendations of this Committee.

The Honourable Member has specially mentioned the U. P. Government. I cannot say what exactly his point is? In November last I saw a press report to the effect that the U.P. Government will stop printing the U.P. Government Gazette in English from the new year. I immediately wrote a letter to the U.P. Premier suggesting that it will not be proper to do away with English so suddenly. In his reply to my letter he assured me that his Government was not in favour of making sudden changes and that he fully concurred in my opinion expressed in my address at the Patna University. Now I am aware that the U.P. Government Gazette is still being published in English as usual.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I enquire from Maulana Sahib whether the English translation of the Persian-couplet appearing in his English statement is correct?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The translation is not incorrect but I had better explain the meaning fully. The poet says:

مے خواهی و تلخ و تیز، وانگه بسیار

این بادهفروش هست ساقی کو سرنیست

"Thou desirest wine? and not only wine but wine that is good and strong, and not only good and strong but in abundance?

Then the poet says: forget not ye, thou art making these requests to a petty wine dealer (a *Kalal*). He is not the wine server of paradise who can give you what you want."

I will also tell the House that it is welcome to make as many requests as it pleases regarding matters educational and I will welcome all such requests but it should not forget that I am only a Minister of Education and not an Officer-in-charge of paradise, nor have I a magician's basket with me to produce a full grown tree at a moment's notice.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

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?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Shrimati Hansa Mehta: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,95,000 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 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 86,31,000 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 'Ministry of Education'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 86,31,000 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 Education'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 12th March, 1948.

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF POLICY BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE CUT-MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 1948-49 AS CIRCULATED TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS.

"I feel that giving a general outline of the Government's educational policy is necessary in view of the fact that this is the first Budget for a full year of free and independent India. I am, therefore, availing of this occasion to place before the Honourable Members a statement not only of schemes we have in hand and the moneys involved in their execution, but also a blue-print of our future educational edifice.

2. When the National Government was formed in August 1947, it entered into a heritage which was burdened with many encumberances. There was no clean slate to write upon but a palimpsest on which was scrawled the marks of generations of scribes who had each his own mode and style. For 150 years, there had been in this land a government imposed from above with an attitude, a tradition and a method of work which was largely alien. The first task of the National Government was, therefore, to avoid being swallowed up by the past. It was easy to fall in line with existing tendencies and take the line of least resistance. The National Government resisted that temptation and sought to create new traditions, a new point of view and a new attitude towards our problems and their solution. I do not say that the slate has been wiped clean, for the work of generations cannot be swept away in a day. No efforts have, however, been spared for the reorientation of the policy of Government, and I hope that the House will agree that success in a large measure has been achieved.

3. I assumed charge of what was then the Department of Education on the 15th January 1947. My task was to survey the schemes, some of which were already in operation, some just started and others yet in the planning stage. These schemes were, however, all conceived at a time when an alien Government was in the seat of power and I had to examine what modifications were necessary in order to bring them into line with the spirit of the changed time and circumstances. I also conceived it as my duty to undertake new plans in the educational field to enable us to realise the objectives for which the Indian people have been striving for the last 60 years or more.

4. I need not dilate on the difficulties which we have had to face during the last year. There was almost from the beginning political uncertainty and the fate of the country hung in the balance. The Cabinet Mission's plan was in the melting-pot and soon after there emerged the plan for a division of the country into two States. In addition, there were, as every member of the House is aware, internal stresses inside the Government itself which made it impossible for us to function as a homogeneous Cabinet and pull our full weight in advancing the interests of India.

5. It is true that after the 15th of August, most of these uncertainties were set at rest and the internal stresses within the Cabinet resolved. There were, however, new and stupendous happenings beginning with the Punjab upheavals when for full three months the Government had to suspend and hold in abeyance almost all its activities and gear the administrative machinery to one and one purpose alone, *viz.* the rescue of those unfortunate countrymen of ours who had been involved in this terrific catastrophe.

6. In spite of all these distractions, the Government have spared no efforts to advance the cause of education in the country. One thing which struck my notice soon after I assumed charge was that even where the Government had formulated well thought-out and beneficial schemes, the execution was so slow that no appreciable results could be expected unless the process was

accelerated. I will give you one or two instances of the slowness of the Government machinery when we took over charge. It was decided to establish a Central Institute of Education full two years ago and a budget provision of Rs. 22 lakhs was sanctioned for the purpose. It is true that lack of building material was partly responsible for failure to implement the plan, but in my opinion, this is not sufficient justification for having failed to bring the institute into existence. If necessary, a start might have been made and the institute housed in a temporary or hired building while its permanent edifice was being constructed.

7. Another example to which I must draw your attention is the scheme of basic education for the country. Both the Central and the Provincial Governments had agreed to put into effect immediately the first 5-year plan of the basic education scheme which aimed at providing free and compulsory training to all citizens between the ages of 6 and 14. I feel that the Centrally Administered Areas should have served as a model and even if there were delays elsewhere, these areas should have put the scheme into immediate effect. I regret to say that though huge files of correspondence piled up between the Central Government and the Delhi Local Administration, the work did not start.

8. I now come to schemes which had already started when I assumed charge but not in the spirit and manner that I considered necessary. The scheme of overseas scholarships was conceived in 1944 and a beginning was made during that very year. This was a most important scheme and should have been carried out according to carefully thought out plans. We should have examined what is the capacity of existing institutions in India and how far they can be quickly expanded in order to meet our requirements. Where conditions in the country demanded that students must be sent abroad, it was necessary that great care and thought should be exercised in the choice of scholars and the institutions to which they were sent. We should have considered that the exigencies of war made conditions extremely difficult in both U.K. and U. S. A. Even when war was over, 90 per cent. of the seats in most of their universities and technical institutions were reserved for their own ex-service personnel. In addition, there were great difficulties with regard to housing and food for students who would go to the U. K. I am afraid that these factors were not properly weighed, and a decision was taken to send 500 students abroad every year. Two batches had already gone and the selection of a third a most completed when I assumed charge. I did not want to stop this third batch from going abroad but considered that a further survey of the entire scheme was necessary. Accordingly I appointed an Overseas Scholarship Committee which has already submitted its report and the Scientific Manpower Committee which also has submitted an interim report. In the light of their recommendations, new plans are being made and I can indicate the general policy of Government. From now on, more money will be spent on the expansion of Indian institutions and only in exceptional circumstances will selected candidates be sent for training abroad at Government expense.

9. One of our biggest, and perhaps our most important scheme is the Basic Education Scheme for universal compulsory education Important and valuable work was done by the Central Advisory Board of Education under the last Government. We could not, however, take their recommendations as they stood and felt that certain important modifications were necessary. According to that plan, the full implementation of the scheme would take 40 years but people of India are not prepared to wait for even half that period. I have said earlier that in my opinion the Centrally Administered Areas should serve both as a pioneer and a model, and accordingly I have set up the Delhi Provincial Education Board, and I am taking steps to see that from the 1st of July this year, the basic education plan starts operating in this area.

10. I felt that we should go ahead with the scheme in other areas of India as well. For this, however, it was necessary to get the fullest cooperation from the Provinces and the States. I, therefore, proposed an All India Educational Conference and had originally intended that this should meet in June 1947. Political uncertainties compelled postponement of this Conference twice but ultimately it was held in January 1948. I suggested to the Conference that instead of 40 years, we should aim at a target of five years for the completion of the plan and in any case see that the plan is fully executed and worked out within a period of ten years. The Conference agreed with me and unanimously resolved that steps should be taken to bring this about. There were the problems of trained teachers and finance. The Conference held that while every effort must be made to increase facilities for training teachers, we cannot wait till a sufficient number of trained teachers are available but must go ahead with existing material in the country. It was therefore proposed that there should be some kind of educational conscription for five years during which every literate man in the country would be expected to put in a period of service as a teacher of the nation. The finances involved are an additional expenditure of about Rs. 24 crores per year for the next five years. The Conference suggested that a Committee should be appointed to examine all available methods for meeting the financial requirements.

11. I have referred to the Central Institute of Education, the establishment of which was approved two years ago. I decided that we should not wait because of shortage of building material but go ahead with the scheme with whatever housing was available. Accordingly, the Institute was started in December 1947 and is housed partly in tents and partly in a bungalow in the Cavalry Lines. I am hoping that very soon the foundation-stone of its permanent buildings will be laid.

12. I will now briefly refer to the schemes for which funds are needed during the coming year. You will find that the Tata Institute of Science was given a grant of Rs. 3.5 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 0.5 lakh recurring in the year 1947-48. Provision for an equal amount had been made during the coming year. Provision has also been made in the budget for 1948-49 for a library of educational and cultural films which will be used to carry out the scheme of adult education. Without simultaneous drive for adult education our schemes for basic education for children of 6—14 years cannot be fully implemented.

13. Provision has also been made for the establishment of a National Museum of Art, Archæology and Anthropology. Here the amounts provided are less than what are required. The financial stringency compelled us to slow down the rate of progress, but I trust that we will very soon be able to go ahead with the programmes at full speed.

14. You will find that provision has also been made in the budget for helping the universities in schemes of fundamental research. The importance of such fundamental research need hardly be emphasized before so responsible a body as this House. I may only add that with the same end in view, we have also provided moneys for research in Higher Polymer Physics and Chemistry at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Calcutta, and the establishment of a Power Engineering Department at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

15. Honourable Members are aware that the Central Government have a special responsibility for the development of the Central Universities, and under this head provision has been made both for implementation of the interim scheme and the execution of the post-war development plans.

16. I have referred earlier to the new policy of the Government to expand facilities for training within the country itself instead of sending scholars abroad.

In pursuance of that policy, you will find in the budget provision for improvement and development of existing technical institutions according to the recommendations of the All India Council for Technical Education. The most important projects in this respect are the establishment of the Eastern and the Western Higher Technical Institutions near Calcutta and Bombay respectively. The site for the Eastern Higher Technical Institute has already been approved and the site for the Western Higher Technical Institute has also been provisionally selected. A start has been made in regard to the recruitment of expert staff and advertisements issued simultaneously in India, U. K., and U.S.A. for recruitment of 1 Director and 8 Heads of Departments for the Eastern Institute. They will also be responsible for the planning work for the Western Institute in the initial stages. Provision has also been made for the establishment of Regional Committees for the All India Council for Technical Education.

17. There is today an extreme emphasis on development of facilities for scientific and industrial training. I, however, feel that a country like India with its age-long traditions can ignore the humanities only at the risk of jeopardising her ancient civilization and culture. Provision has, therefore, been made in the budget for the reorganisation of the Marris College of Hindustani Music, the establishment of a Central College of Karnatak Music in South India and, most important of all, the establishment of a National Cultural Trust. For the Marris College, a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,45,000 was sanctioned for the year 1947-48 and an equivalent amount has been provided in the next year's budget. For the Central College of Karnatak Music an amount of Rs. 4,25,000 has been provided in the budget. The establishment of a National Cultural Trust with 3 Academies to cater for Arts, Architecture, Letters, Music, Drama and Dancing will serve to focus the artistic and cultural life of the nation in one common Centre.

18. Schemes have also been formulated for the establishment of a Training College of Physical Education and a sum of Rs. 2,10,000 provided in the budget for the purpose. Provision has also been made for a Training College for Teachers in Domestic Science in cooperation with the Lady Irwin College in New Delhi. Admission will be on an All-India basis with provision of scholarships as well as maintenance in deserving cases.

19. I have referred earlier to the necessity of increasing facilities for training of teachers. The two schemes of Training College for Physical Education and for Domestic Science are meant to meet the requirements from one point of view. For general training of teachers, in addition to the schemes already referred to, provision has been made for expanding training facilities at the Viswabharati. Training in arts and crafts, dancing and music and in basic education will be provided there.

20. Provision has also been made for the establishment of a Central Braille Press for the service of the blind. There are several other schemes which had to be either postponed or slowed down because of financial stringency. I may refer to the proposal for the establishment of a Central Institute of Foreign Languages. With India's expanding contacts with all countries of the world, the need for such an Institute is obvious. A Central Bureau of Psychology is also a pressing need but no provision could be made for it in next year's budget. The matter is, however, under consideration. Another scheme which has had to be postponed is the establishment of an Experimental School in Delhi on the lines recommended by the Central Advisory Board. I trust that after the Basic Education Plan has been put into operation, it will be found possible to revive this project. The establishment of a National Central Copyright Library as well as a Central School of Indian Architecture and Regional Planning had also to be postponed for financial reasons. I would not have, in normal circumstances, agreed to anyone of these schemes being

postponed or slowed down, but on account of the extraordinary circumstances of last year and particularly the drain upon the nation's resources on account of the Punjab calamity, I have reluctantly agreed to this slowing down. I however, trust that this is purely temporary and we shall soon be able to go fullsteam ahead.

21. I have given some account of the work in hand. I may frankly say that I am not fully satisfied either with the progress achieved or the number of schemes in operation. I would, however, like the Honourable Members to remember that nothing can be done without adequate finances. I will give three further instances of the way in which extremely important work has had to be postponed or slowed down because of shortage of funds. The Honourable Members are aware that the Archæology Department is one of the most important sources from which we get material for the "Discovery of India". It is well known that the history of India is still a wide and uncovered field, and it will be no exaggeration to say that our real history lies burried underground. Excavations on large scale are necessary to unearth the re ics of the past and reconstruct our history, but mean funds which are not at the moment available.

22. Our National Archives, formerly known as Imperial Records, are a treasurehouse for the history of last 200 years. These records must be carefully preserved for the loss of one record means that one chapter of our history has been lost. Further, once these records are lost, they can never be recovered again. Schemes for air-conditioning and use of modern scientific methods for the preservation of these documents had been planned. We had also planned the classification and arrangement of the records for facility of reference and study, but the lack of funds prevented the provision of any money this year and there is nothing in next year's budget as well.

23. The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal is also a veritable treasurehouse of Sanskrit, Pali, Arabic, Persian and Tibetan records. The collection there is one of the richest in the world. The climate of Calcutta, however, has led to damage of many old manuscripts. It is essential that immediate steps must be taken to restore and preserve 9000 of such manuscripts. Air-conditioning is indispensable in a climate like that of Calcutta but this again means additional expenditure. I propose to appoint a Committee to report on the best methods of preservation of these records and finding necessary finances for the purpose.

24. There are also new schemes of study which are necessary, if we are to give a proper orientation to our national outlook. There must be a revision of syllabus and courses of study from the primary to the university stage. I will mention only two fields where immediate work in this connection is essential. The history of India is a proud heritage of every Indian citizen. Yet there does not exist as yet any true national history of our land. It is necessary that a history of Indian civilization and culture from the earliest times must be taken in hand at an early date. Honourable Members are also aware that Indian philosophy is one of the proudest possessions of human civilization. In our college histories of philosophy, Indian philosophy is, however, relegated to an obscure corner. In order to get a true perspective of philosophy, it is necessary that a student should know of the great contributions of India, along with the developments which took place in Greece and modern Europe. I propose to appoint a Committee of eminent philosophers with Dr. Radhakrishnan as the Chairman to write a history of Philosophy in which due and proper emphasis will be given to these facts. It is my intention to have a similar Committee for supervising the preparation of a history of India.

25. I would like in passing to mention that with a view to providing necessary education for the masses, a new Section of Social Education has just

been started in the Ministry. I need hardly remind you of Disrael's famous saying that we must educate our masters, but to serve its real purpose, this education must be not only a teaching of the R's but an education in the structure, traditions and purposes of society.

26. I would also like to inform Honourable Members that we have just started an interesting experiment for encouraging young artists by the award of an honorarium. Six artists have been chosen this year and have been awarded a grant of Rs. 2,500 each. The grant is unconditional but given only to artists who are young, full of promise and in such financial conditions that they require State help to develop their genius. The artists were selected by a Committee of experts of established reputation.

27. I have again and again emphasized the need for providing more funds for education. I would like Honourable Members to consider the proportion of money spent by the Central Government for educational purposes. For the year 1946-47, the total Central budget was Rs. 421,35,86,000. Out of this only Rs. 1,87,13,500 were spent on Education. This represents only 0·4 per cent. of the total budget. If the expenditure on Defence, Posts, Telegraphs and Railways is excluded from the budget, the percentage of expenditure on Education would work out at 1.3 per cent. This represents an unhappy state of affairs and must be remedied as early as possible.

28. It is true that Education is a Provincial subject but during the present phase of the country's development, it is absolutely imperative that the Centre must take the initiative. I have already referred to the Scientific Manpower Committee. In its interim report, it has urged the necessity of the Centre taking the initiative in the provision of technical education of different grades and types throughout the country. What applies to technical education holds equally true of art, archæology, anthropology and other specialised studies.

29. I know that generally the Treasury Benches want to avoid pressure from Honourable Members and are happy if their proposals are accepted without comment or criticism. I, however, welcome the constructive suggestions they have made and shall be glad if they put further pressure on me and the Government to do as much as possible for a new expansion of education in this ancient land. I need hardly say that whatever be our programme for industrial, scientific, agricultural, commercial or material progress and development, none of them can be achieved without an improvement of the human material which is the basis of our national wealth. That human material is largely conditioned by the training and education which it receives. It seems to me that whether we think of defence or of food or of industries and commerce we must take every step to see that education is given the first priority among all our national requirements. If this is also the opinion of Honourable Members, and they urge upon the Government to act in that light, no one will be happier than myself, whatever may be said in criticism of the proposals or schemes that I have presented before the House.

30. I know that these schemes are not fully satisfactory. I myself would have liked to present before the House a more ambitious scheme of Educational programme and development. Conditions, were, however, against us and we had to fight against tremendous odds, unprecedented in the history of our land. I would, therefore, plead that the House, should judge us, not by the quantum of results achieved, but by the effort and strain involved in achieving them in the face of stupendous difficulties. Honourable Members are aware of the existence of these obstacles, but perhaps do not always realise their magnitude and extent. The Government have no Alladin's Lamp which can

build palaces overnight and must, through days, months and years, strive to erect the edifice which all of us desire. In the words of the Persian poet:

Mai khwahi o tund o tez wangah bisiar
Een badah farosh hast Saqi-e-Kausar nest.

Thou desirest wine: wine that is strong and powerful—

And not only strong and powerful but in profuse and abundant measure. Remeniberest thou that here is a vintnex no servitor of Paradise.

31. If you remember our difficulties and also remember what has nevertheless been achieved, I feel confident that you will command the manner in which a beginning has been made. I make bold to say that though difficulties and obstacles prevented us from completing the house, yet no obstacle, no difficulty, no diversion, no opposition could make us desist from our task. I would submit that though the house has not yet been built, foundations have been laid on true and sound lines.

The 11th March 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Friday, 12th 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

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

BROADCASTING STATIONS ESTABLISHED DURING 1947-48.

710. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state how many new Broadcasting Stations have been established in various places in India during the year 1947-48 and the names of such places?

(b) What is the criterion for sanctioning new Broadcasting Stations?

(c) Are Government aware that some language units have more than one station and there is no station at all for some other language units?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Three new Broadcasting Stations have been established at the following places: (i) Jullundur with a relay centre at Amritsar, (ii) Patna, and (iii) Cuttack.

(b) Some of the considerations that are taken into account in selecting new centres for Stations are as follows: (i) Relative needs of the Provinces and the various linguistic areas, (ii) Availability of programme talent in and around the centre and the effective range of the Broadcasting Station, and (iii) Need for meeting the requirements of the various Provinces and at least of the major language and population groups in the country.

(c) The Honourable Member would appreciate that language is not the only criterion. Nevertheless the present Stations of the All India Radio cater for all the principal languages of India and with the expansion of facilities contemplated during the next few years, the service in all these languages would be much improved and Stations would cater individually also for most languages.

Seth Govinddas: May I know by what date is it expected that the Nagpur station would be working?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member will remember that I am acting as a kind of substitute and it is difficult to give specific information about dates, etc.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Minister aware that so far there has not been any broadcasting station in the Central Provinces and that being a big Province is Government contemplating to start one more broadcasting station at Jubbulpore?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I find from the notes here that a broadcasting station in the Central Provinces is contemplated.

Seth Govinddas: There is only one broadcasting station contemplated for the Central Provinces. I want to know, that province being so big, whether Government will consider the desirability of opening one more broadcasting station at Jubbulpore.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have an idea that that is being considered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if Governmennt have decided to establish a broadcasting station for the Andhra area at Bezwada and if so, when they are going to open it?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The East Punjab, Bihar and Orissa have already been provided with broadcasting stations. This will meet the linguistic needs of those provinces. Similarly the projected broadcasting centres in Assam and C.P. will serve the listeners in those provinces in the prevailing principal languages. The next major linguistic groups to be taken up will be Telugu, Gujarati, Malayalam and Kannada. Telugu and Gujarati are to be served from Bezwada and Ahmedabad respectively. Malayalam will be served from Calicut and Karnada from Dharwar.

Shri H. V. Kamath: While extending the broadcasting system as a whole will Government take steps to supply cheap radio sets to the rural areas, so that our villagers might benefit by the extension of the system?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I believe that is the idea.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether it is a fact that the one kilowatt transmitter installed in some of the new stations are capable of radiating only within a small radius of 10 to 15 miles and if it is so, will it not be better to provide some better equipment in all these new stations which are very important?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That is a matter of balancing our requirements with our resources.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: In view of the fact that there is no recording machine in Patna broadcasting station, do Government propose to instal a recording machine there, so that when a speaker is absent his recorded speech may be broadcast?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is a question of detail: it is a question again of balancing. If we set up recording machines in some places only it means that we do not do something which ought to be done elsewhere.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know the time allotted to Telugu broadcasts from the All India Radio Station at Madras?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am sorry I cannot tell you that.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know in what town the proposed broadcasting station for Assam is going to be established?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have read the relevant passage relating to Assam from my notes. I cannot say how far the scheme has proceeded.

WORK DONE BY RESEARCH ENGINEERS' SECTION OF A.I.R.

711. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state what is the work done by the Research Engineers' Section of the All India Radio, so far?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Research Department of All India Radio is responsible for carrying out research work on such problems as have a practical application to and bearing on the design, operation and maintenance of All India Radio Broadcasting stations. A list of the investigations conducted by the Research Department is placed on the table.

List of Investigations conducted by the Research Department of All-India Radio.

1. *Atmospheric Measurements.*

2. *Field strength measurements of mediumwave and shortwave stations.*—These measurements have a bearing on the choice of operating frequencies for broadcasting stations and for determining the service area within which satisfactory reception can be provided.

3. *Measurements of the angle of incidence at the ground of down-coming angles from the ionosphere.*—These measurements have been utilised in designing the receiving aerials at the All India Radio broadcasting stations—particularly to receive the news transmissions radiated from Delhi.

4. *Design and acoustic treatment of studios.*—The results of the research have been made use of in designing the broadcasting studios of All India Radio.

5. *Whistling Meteors—Doppler Effect produced by Meteors entering the ionosphere.*—The passage of meteors through the upper rarified atmosphere causes abnormal propagations of wireless transmissions. The method evolved to detect the passage of meteors is useful in understanding this problem.

6. *Critical Frequency Measurements at Delhi, Bombay and Madras for forecasting operating frequencies of the internal and external shortwave services.*

7. *Study of the Morphology of the Ionosphere.*—This research work is being undertaken for the purpose of understanding the behaviour of the ionosphere and the changing conditions brought about from day time to night time, from summer to winter and from year to year throughout the sunspot cycle (a period of 11 years). It is expected that such a study will enable us to reduce fading, etc., and thus provide a better broadcasting service.

8. *Study and design of aerials for regional transmissions.*—The use of suitable aerials for regional transmissions is necessary to provide satisfactory reception within a region where shortwave reception is to be given. The study and design of aerials it is expected may result in the development of suitable aerials for improving our regional shortwave services.

COMPLAINTS *re* EXTERNAL BROADCASTS

712. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there are complaints regarding the external broadcasts which are not clearly audible in those places to which they are directed?

(b) What steps are being taken to ascertain whether a particular broadcast directed to a certain place is well-timed and clearly audible?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of setting up necessary machinery to ascertain and report on these matters?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government have received no such complaint.

(b) Listener reports and reports from Indian Representatives abroad are received and afford necessary information.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Does the Prime Minister know that external broadcasting is not audible on the medium wave length in the morning?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Prime Minister does not know.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether there is any co-ordination between the external broadcasts conducted by the All India Radio and our foreign embassies or legations?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not quite understand what kind of coordination is meant unless it is that the embassies might be asked to report on those external broadcasts.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: That is what I meant.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: To my knowledge no such attempt has been made but I think it is a desirable suggestion to be followed up.

POPULARISATION OF RADIO IN INDIA

713. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of radio licences issued during the year 1946-47 and 1947-48 in urban and rural areas; and

(b) the steps taken to popularise the radio in India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is placed on the table.

Statement

(a)

Year		No. of Licenses issued
1946-47	Urban	1,93,444
	Rural	15,210
1947-48 (up to Jan. 1948)	Urban	1,96,688
	Rural	14,765

(b) In order to popularise and widen the listening habit the Government of India formulated an '8-Year Plan for Development' which has been taken up for immediate implementation after approval by the Development Board and by the Standing Finance Committee of the Ligislature. It covers the—

(i) Establishment of new broadcasting centres at Cuttack, Nagpur, Shillong-Gauhati, Ahmedabad, Bezwada, Calicut and Dharwar.

(ii) Installation of high-power mediumwave transmitters at Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Allahabad.

(iii) Construction of studio buildings at Madras and Calcutta.

(iv) Provision of additional studio facilities at the existing broadcasting centres.

In their choice of new centres, the Government of India have been guided by the following factors:—

(i) Demands of the linguistic areas hitherto unprovided with a service and the importance of the language from the literary point of view and from the size of population speaking the language.

(ii) Demands of the various provinces.

(iii) Density of urban population within the service area of the broadcasting centre and its potentialities to bring in increased revenue.

(iv) Importance as an educational and cultural centre, and availability of programme talent at the centre or within easy reach thereof.

(v) Density of rural population and distribution of villages and hamlets within the service area, which will determine the centre's usefulness as a rural centre.

All the services now to be provided will be on the mediumwave.

The total estimated capital cost of the entire scheme will be Rs. 3,64,70,000. Works costing Rs. 3,01,70,000 would be completed within the first 5 years. This 'Five Year Plan' part of the Development Plan would include the installation of 18 transmitters, 10 of which would be high power with new broadcasting Stations at Shillong (Gauhati), Cuttack, Nagpur, Bezwada, Ahmedabad, Allahabad and would also provide for the strengthening of the transmitting facilities at Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi, which would naturally provide listeners to these large Stations a greater variety of programmes.

Such an undertaking would naturally involve a certain amount of delay; occasioned by the acquisition of sites, construction of new buildings and their treatment, etc. But in order to provide an urgent interim service until the complete plan is implemented, the Government of India have undertaken the construction of 'pilot' Stations which are to form the nucleus of the future services and, in addition to meeting the immediate needs of the areas concerned, they would help to cultivate the potential talent at the centre and also make the people more radio-minded. Such a pilot station has already been opened at Cuttack and two more are under construction at Shillong (Gauhati) and Nagpur.

The eight years between 1938 and 1946 saw an increase in the licence figures from 64,480 to 2,32,368 in December 1946. (Figures thereafter are not readily available). The rate of increase might have even been higher, but for the limited supplies during the war and after it manufacturing conditions and import restrictions. Apart from the import of radio sets from abroad, the Government of India have in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting been very much interested in the promotion of the manufacture of radio sets in India. In this regard the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have financed several schemes of Research for the purpose and a good measure of success has already been achieved. Schemes relating to the manufacture of condensers, Resistances and loud-speakers have been completed and much research work on the design of cheap receivers has been made. The question of commercial utilisation of the results obtained from all these researches has also been taken up by the Council. Another scheme on the manufacture of radio valve is being financed by the Council at the University College of Science at Calcutta.

The Government of India are fully aware of the importance which should be attached to rural broadcasting and to this end All India Radio Stations broadcast a service to villages in areas where the Provincial Governments have been able to instal community receivers. There are at present approximately 2,057 such receivers. It is estimated that the daily average rural listening audience is 2 lakhs. Provincial Governments are assisted where necessary in the formulation and implementation of rural broadcasting schemes: the programme expenditure involved is met by the Central Government and that on the purchase and maintenance of receivers by the Provincial Governments.

Another sphere in which there has been evidence of an increase in the listening habit is in respect of Schools for which special school broadcasts are radiated by All India Radio in different languages. There are approximately 373 registered listening in schools; the special programmes are planned in consultation with the local educational authorities. Technical advice is always offered in respect of the installation of receivers in Schools and local educational authorities encouraged to instal receivers in educational institutions.

It is considered that concurrently with the increase in the number of broadcasting stations and transmitters at existing Stations and the availability of cheap receivers both for domestic and community listening, the habit in India will grow at a higher rate than hitherto.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the small number of listeners in this country in spite of its vast population is due to the very high price of radio sets and is Government thinking of establishing a factory in this country to prepare radio sets, so that they may be available at cheap rates?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Government is thinking on those lines and are investigating the possibilities.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: With reference to part (b) of the question, I should like to know whether the Honourable the Prime Minister is aware that the language at present used by the All India Radio is not conducive in making the radio popular in India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am aware that complaints have come from a certain number of people and they continue to come. This is a highly intricate and difficult matter and involves the question as to how to balance the language. I have no doubt that gradually through experience and through the help of listeners and others a balanced language structure will arise.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Minister aware that in spite of the Muslim population being only 15 per cent. in this country too many Persian and Arabic words are used in the A.I.R. broadcasts?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as I am concerned I am not aware of the fact that language has anything to do with religion.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With reference to part (a) of the question have Government any information to show that many unlicensed radio sets are operating in this country?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Undoubtedly there are unlicensed sets. I do not know whether any attempt has been made to have a census of them. Of course any such attempt ought to lead to prosecutions and not merely to a census.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: Is Government aware that the language at present used by the All India Radio is not understood even by the 85 per cent. of the population?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That, it is impossible for the Government or for me to say.

RESTRICTIONS ON CARRYING MONEY BY INDIAN TOURISTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

714. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether there is any restriction in carrying money by Indian tourists or visitors to England, European Countries, the U. S. A., Japan and Russia?

(b) If so, what are the restrictions and what is the maximum sum a single person is allowed to take with him during his tour?

(c) Is there any restriction of a similar nature in the near and far East countries?

(d) If so, what are the details of such restrictions?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (c). Yes, Sir,

(b) and (d). I place a statement on the table of the House.

Statement

Maximum Travel Allowances for persons travelling on Pleasure or Business

I. PLEASURE:	
1. (i) *Continent of Europe, including the United Kingdom and Russia but excluding the hard currency countries specified in (ii) below*	£ 600 once every 3 years.
(ii) Hard currency countries of Europe, *i.e.*, Switzerland, Sweden, Portugal and Belgium	The equivalent of £75 out of the sum authorised in (i) above.
2. *U. S. A.*	Nil.
3. *Japan*	Nil
4. *Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Ceylon, Burma, Malaya and the Dutch East Indies*	Rs. 2,000 per adult and Rs. 1,000 per minor per annum.
5. *For the remaining countries in the Near and Far East.*	£ 600 once esevery 3 years.
II. BUSINESS:	
1. United Kingdom	A maximum of £. 15 a day for periods depending upon actual need, but not exceeding four months as a general rule.
2. (i) *Continent of Europe, including Russia but excluding the hard currency countries specified in II(ii) above*	£ 10 a day, the period being restricted as in II. 1 above
(ii) *Hard currency countries of Europe*	£8 a day the period being restricted as in II. 1 above
	A maximum of £10 a day the period being restricted as in II. 1 above
	A maximum of £7 a day for periods not exceeding 21 days, plus U.S. 40 to cove immediate expenses on arrival in Japan.
5. *For other countries in the Near and Far East*	£8 a day for periods restricted as in II. 1 above.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the minimum sum, a tourist or visitor is allowed to carry?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: It is contained in the statement.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I want to have some idea.

Mr. Speaker: The statement may be seen.

Mr R. K. Sidhva: I want to know only the amount so that I may be able to put supplementary questions. What is the minimum amount?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That statement can be passed on, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I think the contents of the statement can rather be perused later by the Honourable Member himself. The Honourable Minister need not answer the question.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Can money be sent from one Dominion to another Dominion—for instance from India to Australia, New Zealand, Canada and so on?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The maximum allowances that can be given to persons going to various contries is given in the statement.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: I have not read the statement.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, questions on this may be put later on.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are any restrictions, reciprocal or retaliatory, placed on tourists and visitors from these countries to India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I want notice of that question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is care taken to see that only in exceptional circumstances and where it is absolutely necessary this tourist programme is allowed in view of the shortage of foreign currency?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Yes, Sir. We are exercising a very strict control in that respect.

INCOME TAX ASSESSEES AND AMOUNT ASSESSED UNDER VARIOUS CATEGORIES.

715. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to lay on the table of the House a Statement showing:

(a) the number of income-tax assessees and the amount assessed for the year ended 31st March 1947 (Financial year 1946-47) in the following categories—

(i) From Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000;
(ii) From Rs. 5,001 to Rs. 10,000;
(iii) From Rs. 10,001 to Rs. 15,000;

(iv) From Rs. 15,001 to Rs. 25,000;

(v) From Rs. 25,001 to Rs. 1,00,000; and

(vi) Above Rupees One lac;

(b) the number of companies assessed to income-tax and the amount assessed for the same year;

(c) the total amount of super-tax, income-tax, surcharge and corporation tax demanded during the year; and

(d) the number of Excess Profits Tax assessments made during the above year and the net amount of demand?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: With your permission, Sir, I would reply to questions Nos. 715 and 716 together.

I lay on the table a statement showing the required information.

Question No. 715 — *Statement*

(a)

Grades of Total income	No. of assessees	Rs. 000. Total income assessed
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
2,000 to 5,000	2,39,647	74,22,80
5,001 to 10,000	1,00,990	71,25,05
10,001 to 15,000	33,749	41,10,47
15,001 to 25,000	23,730	45,14,36
25,001 to 1,00,000	17,900	74,79,24
above # 1,00,000	2,985	1,73,21,62

(b)

No. of companies and other concerns assessed at company rate	Total income assessed in Rs. 000
6,561	1,48,38,13

(c)

Total amount of tax demanded.	in Rs. 000
Super tax	12,75,36
Income tax	69,10,94
Surcharge	14,93,87
Corporation tax	12,66,05

(d)

No. of Excess Profits Tax assessments made.	Excess Profits Tax demanded in Rs. 000
4,563	85,28,91

Question No. 716.

(a) No. of appeals decided by Apellate Assistant Commissioners	43,724
Total amount of relief granted	Rs. 14,396 thousands.
No. of appeals in which relief was granted	19,790
No. of appeals in which enhancement was made	132
(b) No. of appeals decided by Tribunal	3,446
No. of appeals successful and partly successful	2,122
Amount of relief granted	Rs. 96,30 thousands.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Minister taking care to see that the latest publication of the Administrative Manual of the Income-tax Department showing these figures is brought up-to-date? Last year it was not issued.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I will make enquiries and see that it is kept up-to-date.

APPEALS DECIDED BY APPELLATE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS AND TRIBUNALS.

†716. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to lay on the table of the House a Statement showing:

(a) the number of appeals decided by the Appellate Assistant Commissioners, the total amount of relief granted by them, the number of appeals in which relief was granted, and the number of appeals in which enhancement was made; and

(b) the number of appeals decided by the Tribunals, and the number of appeals in which relief was granted by them and the amount of such relief?

NOTICES ISSUED UNDER SECTION 34 ETC. RESULTED IN ASSESSMENTS.

717. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the number of notices issued under Section 34 and how many such notices resulted in assessments and how many were dropped; and

(b) the number of notices issued under Section 28; the number of cases decided under Sections 28 and 52 and the amount collected?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

REPORT OF ECONOMIC ADVISER TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON STOCK EXCHANGE.

718 ***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that present Economic Adviser to the Government of India was asked to make a report on Stock Exchange?

(b) If so, has he made the report?

(c) What are his recommendations and have Government considered the same?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The recommendations which are under consideration cover a wide field and can hardly be explained in reply to a question.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: When was this Report made?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The Report was presented at the end of May 1947 and it is now being printed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How is it that all this time the Government has not taken any action at all on the Report except simply keeping it under consideration?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Honourable Members know that since May 1947 a great many things have happened in the country which engaged the attention of the Government. As a matter of fact, this is one of the matters which I took up myself personally as soon as I came to office. We have had some consultations with the Provincial Governments.

†For answer to this question, *see* answer to starred question No. 715.

The matter is really this that any Stock Exchange legislation really requires the concurrence of all the Provinces concerned. I may assure the Honourable Member that I am very anxious that after such consultation this House must really enact a proper Stock Exchange legislation. Steps are being taken in this direction.

Seth Govinddas: Does the Report deal only with Stock Exchange or does it also include other kinds of speculation which are going on in different markets?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: It is in relation to all transactions regarding Stock Exchange and similar transactions.

Seth Govinddas: May I ask whether it also deals with the Bullion market, the grain market and other markets where speculation is going on?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not know to what extent exactly all these have been covered in the Report.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Sir, I would like to point out that the last three questions required only statements to be laid on the table of the House and they should not have been given as starred questions at all.

Mr. Speaker: I have explained the position more than once in the House, that it will be better if Honourable Members can exercise their own discretion and not put such questions as starred questions. I have also stated that I was requested to exercise that discretion myself but I refused to undertake that duty.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I also say that it is not always easy for the Honourable Member concerned who puts the question to know whether it is going to be answered by a long statement which is placed on the table or it is going to be read out in the House?

Mr. Speaker: That is a plausible defence.

Seth Govinddas: On the last occasion the Honourable the Finance Minister assured us that he was thinking of bringing in some legislation about speculation which is going on in the Bullion market. May I know whether anything has been done in that respect or whether it would be considered only after this Report is published?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The question is being tackled as a whole—speculation in stock exchange, shares, commodities, bullion etc.

INCOME TO GOVERNMENT FROM VARIOUS PROVINCES FROM TAXES OTHER THAN CORPORATION TAX ETC.

719. ***Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected in each province separately during the financial years 1939-40, 1945-46 and 1946-47, under the head 'Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax, excluding central surcharge'; and

(b) the share of each province in each of these three years given on the basis of the Niemeyer award?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table.

Statement

I. Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax and Excluding Central Surcharge

(In thousands of rupees)

Province	1939-40	1945-46	1946-47
Madras	1,56,05	6,54,45	9,38,62
Bombay, Sind & Baluchistan	5,31,82	23,60,49	35,04,31
Bengal	5,40,51	13,26,23	19,12,70
U. P.	1,10,26	4,08,30	4,14,38
Punjab, N. W. F. P. and Delhi	1,24,86	4,67,96	4,68,39
Bihar and Orissa	68,95	1,77,88	2,37,12
Central Provinces	22,63	1,35,70	1,33,30
Assam	28,50	51,22	76,18
India	1,16,25	2,74,83	2,64,76
Total	16,98,93	58,57,06	79,49,76

II. Share of each of the provinces on the basis of the Niemeyer Award

(In thousands of rupees)

Madras	42,49	3,26,06	4,89,49
Bombay	56,65	4,34,74	6,52,65
Bengal	56,65	4,34,74	6,52,65
U. P.	42,49	3,26 06	4,89,49
Punjab	22,67	1,73,90	2,61,06
Bihar	28,32	2,17,37	3,26,32
C. P.	14,16	1,08,69	1,63,18
Assam	5,65	43,47	65,26
N. W. F. P.	2,83	21,74	32,63
Orissa	5.65	43,47	65,26
Sind	5,65	43,47	65,26
Total	2,83,24	21,73,71	32,63,25

NOTES.—(a) 1946-47. Figures are only approximate.
(b) Separate figures for Orissa, N. W. F. P., Delhi, Sind and Baluchistan are not available, as the Finance and Revenue Accounts show Collections only by circles of accounts.
(c) The share shown in each year represents the amount due in respect of the collections of that year and does not include any carry-over of arrears or over-payments.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know the basis on which the allotment of grants to Provinces out of the income-tax is given this year, that is during 1948-49?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The basis of allotment is the Niemeyer Award. But since there was a partition of the Provinces of Bengal and the Punjab, the Government had to reallocate the total proceeds of the income-tax approximately on the basis of the Niemeyer Award.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether it was done on the basis of population or on the basis of realisation, or both taken together?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: All these factors are taken into consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that there were repeated protests from several Provincial Governments against this Niemeyer Award and the basis on which the allotment was made?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Yes, Sir, I believe that almost every Province was dissatisfied with the Award.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Minister then taking any steps to call a conference of the Provincial Ministers with a view to finding out how best to readjust and improve upon this Niemeyer Award so as to give them satisfaction as far as possible?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: When I applied my mind to this question I thought that since the new Constitution will be enacted and will come into operation soon it was not worth while undertaking an enquiry into a controversial matter like this for the interim period. But I find in the Draft Constitution that has been placed in our hands a provision which means that the existing arrangement should continue for five years more. I do not know whether the Constituent Assembly is going to accept that or not. But after knowing the verdict of the Constituent Assembly, if I find that the Assembly ratifies that provision we will have to consider the advisability of going into that question and re-examining the whole thing.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether they have made any change in the law affecting the allocation of these monies to Provinces?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know whether Government has received any representation from the Government of West Bengal regarding the injustice done in the matter of this allotment?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: As I said, to my knowledge almost every Province has protested against that Award.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know whether Government is prepared to reconsider the matter?

Mr. Speaker: He has explained that position just now.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: The Honourable Minister said that almost every Province is satisfied with the basis of allotment. Is he aware that Bihar is not at all satisfied with it?

Mr. Speaker: He said that every Province is dissatisfied.

Shri Biswanath Das: If he has already realised the fact that the basis of his allocation is being disputed by every Province, may I know what steps the Honourable Minister is taking now to arrive at an equitable settlement between the Centre and the Provinces in regard to this matter?

Mr. Speaker: He has already explained the position.

Shri Biswanath Das: He has explained the position with reference to allocation in the coming years. But I am asking in respect of the present year, that is 1948-49.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: From the fact that *every* Province is dissatisfied I at least draw the inference that the basis of the Award is fairly just.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know whether the Province of Bombay has complained of any injustice?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: It has very loudly complained.

EXPENDITURE ON INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

720. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) when the department of Information was started;

(b) the present monthly expenditure incurred on this account;

(c) the total expenditure incurred so far; and

(d) whether there is any proposal of retrenchment in this Department?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) 24th October, 1941.

(b) Rs. 38,225.

(c) Rs. 46,60,803 upto the current financial year.

(d) No.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it a fact that this department was started for the special benefit of our erstwhile rulers?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, like most other things in India.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In view of this will the Government undertake drastic retrenchment since the independent Government of India would probably have no need for such information?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That is a very curious inference to draw for the Honourable Member, which does not follow at all. In every country there is a very great need for information not in the sense of propaganda, but just from the educational point of view and from many other points of view. Now that engine of publicity may be misused or may be directed to wrong aims Then it should be redirected to right aims. It will not be right to say it should be put an end to because it is used for wrong ends. It is for the House to determine If there is any wastage in it, it should be stopped. That is a different matter entirely. But the fact is that in most modern countries more and more attention is paid to using such departments as Radio and Broadcasting for educational purposes.

Seth Govinddas: With respect to clause (d) of the question, will the Honourable the Prime Minister please see that the expenditure is increased in this department so that there may be more and more propaganda for the rural masses of the country?

Mr. Speaker: These are suggestions for action.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In which foreign countries has our Information Department bureaus or branches or agencies?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We have Public Relations Officers and the like in a number of countries. I cannot straightaway give the names, but in quite a good few countries, for example in London, Washington, I think in Moscow, and a number of other places, we have our agencies.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: Are there any publications issued by them?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There are quite a number of publications issued.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: How many?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot give the precise number.

HYDERABAD'S CLAIMS FOR ALLEGED DAMAGES IN HYDERABAD RESIDENCY.

721. *Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news published in the *Free Press Journal* dated the 25th February, 1948, that the Nizam of Hyderabad has claimed from the Government of India Rs. 20 lakhs as compensation for alleged damages done to, and the value of articles stated to have been removed from the Hyderabad residency which was handed over to him recently?

(b) Is it a fact that the protest is embodied in a telegram to Lord Mountbatten?

(c) What steps have the Government of India taken in this matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) In a press statement our Agent-General has already denied the allegations made.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether it is a fact that on the request of the Nizam's Government our Agent-General has left some costly fittings and furniture which belong to us? If so, are they to be written off as bad debt or treated as a gift or are they being paid for?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the Honourable Member is getting into very many minute details. I do not think that could be permitted.

DEMAND FOR MERGER OF JIND STATE WITH EAST PUNJAB PROVINCE

†722. *Ch. Ranbir Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the State Congress of Jind State has demanded merger of the State with the Province of East Punjab?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). Yes. This question is under examination as a part of the general scheme relating to the future set-up for the East Punjab States.

IMPROPER REPORTING OF SPEECHES ON KASHMIR OF INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN U.N.O.

723. *Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the speeches of the Indian representatives in the United Nations Organisation in the debate over the Kashmir question have not been properly reported in the United States of America and in other foreign countries and even in India; and

(b) if so, what action the Government of India propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have sent their own Public Relations Officer with the Delegation and it is hoped that this would result in improved publicity arrangements.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: What was the news agency that was expected to report the proceedings?

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

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The normal news agencies that function, and so far as foreign countries and India are concerned, the biggest agency is the Reuters Agency.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Do Government propose to protest against this to the United Nations Organisation that the proceedings of the Indian delegates are not properly reported?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: What has the United Nations Organization got to do with the reporting of the proceedings?

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: In view of the fact that Reuters has failed to report the proceedings properly, has the attention of Reuters been drawn to it?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know if the matter has been referred to their representatives here.

Mr. Speaker: The question is 'In view of the fact that Reuters have failed to report the proceedings properly, has the attention of Reuters been drawn to it?'.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is a difficult matter. It is a semi-private agency. They report what they consider proper. If you do not consider their report good enough, you can of course tell them, and they are told about the matter. The other method is you should have your own method of publicizing.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has any arrangement been made by Government to distribute the White Paper on Kashmir among the members of the Security Council?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We have sent a number of copies to our delegation and I presume they have distributed them.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know whether the Honourable Minister has given definite instructions to the Public Relations Officer who has been sent there to see that the White Paper is distributed to member-nations to dispel all misunderstandings and misconceptions about the situation in Kashmir?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have made it clear that the Leader of our Delegation has taken a number of copies with him. Obviously he will see that the best use is made of these copies.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: This is all presumption.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Is it a fact that Reuters are paid exclusively a sum of Rs. 50,000 per annum by the Government of India to supply foreign news?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I think there is another question dealing with this matter. They are not paid money as such, but their news services are bought by the Government, that is we are subscribers to them. In that sense subsidy is paid to them, not direct money grant.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: In view of the unsatisfactory nature of the reports of Reuters, will the Honourable the Prime Minister consider the engagement of an Indian news agency to supply us foreign news?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Government is only a subscriber to Reuters service and we subscribe to other services too. We shall gladly welcome fully independent Indian news agencies being established in foreign countries to supply news.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if, apart from news coming in through Reuters, Government were not getting news from their own delegation from time to time in this regard, and if so, why they did not place it at the disposal of newspapers in India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes. As a matter of fact they were placed at their disposal. What happened normally was that a fuller report came rather late. It did appear, but it was rather out of date some times

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the sad experience, will Government consider the desirability of having its own news agency or encouraging some independent news agency?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not quite sure if it is desirable for a news agency to be wholly officially controlled, but certainly as I have said, we would welcome any Indian news agencies to function and Government would support any such proposal.

FACILITIES TO REUTER NEWS AGENCY BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

724. *Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) what facilities Reuter gets from the Government of India as a news agency;

(b) whether the Government of India make any pecuniary contribution to Reuter in any form—either as subscription or as subsidy;

(c) if so, what is the amount and on what account and on what terms is the payment made;

(d) whether any other news agency controlled by or subsidiary to Reuter gets any pecuniary contribution—subscription or subsidy from the Government of India; and

(e) if so, what is the amount and on what account and on what terms is such payment made?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (c) and (e). A statement is placed on the table of the House.

(b) Yes, as subscription.

(d) Yes, as subscription for the news service of the Associated Press of India

Statement

Part (a) The following facilities are available to all news Agencies including Reuters:—

1. Teleprinters circuits on rental subject to their availability.
2. Accredited correspondents can:
   (i) book press telegrams at reduced rates.
   (ii) book foreing press telegrams without censorship.
   (iii) book special class of inland press telegrams known as "FLASH" at double that ordinary rate for inland private telegrams, if addressed to a newspaper or newsagency. This category of telegrams is given priority in transmission over express telegrams from the public.

Parts (c) and (e).

The following payments were made to Reuters and Associated Press of India during 1946—47.

Serial No.	Name of Agency	Reasons for Payment	Terms of contract	Amount of payment.
1.	Reuters	For the supply of Reuters ordinary, special and summary services to Govt. officers in India.	The minimum contracted wordage is as follows:—	Rs.
			Ordinary services—219,500 per annum.	
			Special and Summary services —144,000 per annum	49,200
2.	Reuters	For use of Reuters (including its subsidiary news agency—A.P.I.) service in Internal broadcasts of All India Radio.	Payment to Reuters on this account is calculated according to the following scales on the basis of the number of radio licences and subject to a minimum of Rs.25,000 annually.	
			As. 6 per licence on the first 60,000 licenses.	
			As. 4 per licence on all licences from 60,000 upto 1,00,000	
			As. 3 per licence on all licences from 1,00,000 up to 1,50,000	
			As. 2½ per licence on all licences from 1,50,000 up to 2,00,000	
			As. 2 per licence on all licences from 2,00,000 up to 3,00,000	
			As. 1 per licence on all licences from 3,00,000 up to 4,00,000	
			As.1 per licence on all licences from 4,00,000 up to 5,00,000	
			As 1 per licences on all licences thereafter.	56,000-approximately.
3.	Reuters	For use of Reuters (including its subsidiary news agency— A.P.I.) service in external broadcasts of All India Radio	£. 2,000 - per annum at present	33,333 - approximately.
4.	Associated Press of India	For supply of A.P.I. news service to Government Officers.	At the rate of Rs. 30- per month per copy	7,035 -

NOTES 1. The contract at Sr. No. 3 above expired on 15th August, 1947 and a revised contract is under negotiation.

2. It has been decided to terminate the Contracts at Serial Nos. 1 and 4.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the amount involved?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Reuters news service is supplied to high officials of Government. For this an annual payment of Rs. 49,200 is made. It has been decided to discontinue this service after giving Reuters notice admissible under the contract. The Associated Press of India service is also subscribed for high officials at the rate of Rs. 30 a copy. The expenditure during 1946-47 came to Rs. 7,035. It has been decided to discontinue this service as well after giving the agency notice admissible under the contract.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is there any Indian news agency to cater internal news to the Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, we get reports from some Indian news agencies too.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that sometimes news that appear in Reuters are somewhat coloured and not quite favourable to India, is the Government making arrangements for any other foreign news agency to supply news as well?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I think I have answered that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government enquired on what lines the Tass Agency has been encouraged by Soviet Russia, so that they may be able to know how they can possibly encourage Indian enterprise to develop their own news agencies here?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know if the Minister for Information and Broadcasting has specially inquired into that matter. But the House will realise that the Tass Agency probably functions in a different set-up from any Agency elsewhere and unless you have that particular set-up, no news agency can function on those lines.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable the Prime Minister aware of the fact that Reuters have been circulating from Kashmir two different versions of the happenings—one sent to Papers in Pakistan and the other sent to papers in the Indian Dominion?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We are aware of that.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: In view of the fact that the Honourable the Prime Minister the other day during the Kashmir debate told us that certain news agencies have gone beyond limits of toleration in making false propaganda, will Government consider the desirability of not subsidising such agencies any longer?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I said nothing about any news-agency; I said about an individual newspaper correspondent.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: In view of all these facts, Sir, may I know whether Government will be prepared to set apart independent lines or wires for the use of an Indian company, if one were to be formed, for replacing Reuters, as in the absence of such an assurance, no company can be formed.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid Dr. Pattabhi is too technical for me. As I have already said Government is prepared to encourage the formation of independent news-agencies. In fact, one of the difficulties before Government is not only the foreign agencies which are functioning here, but also the tendency to the formation of large trusts and combines here which is a dangerous development which this Government does not want to encourage. They do wish to encourage the development of private news agencies which do not form into trusts or combines, but will work independently.

DEDICATION OF 'METCALF HALL' AGRA FOR CHARITABLE AND PHILANTHROPIC PURPOSES

725. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Metcalf Hall' in Agra Cantonment was dedicated by the donor for charitable and philanthropic purposes;

(b) whether the said building has been leased out to a cinema exhibitor;

(c) when this lease is going to expire;

(d) whether, after the expiry of the present lease, Government propose to allow the use of the said building for some public utility purpose, preferably for an educational institution for which there is great need in Agra Cantonment; and

(e) whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House copies of (i) the original deed of gift and (ii) the terms of the present lease?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (e). No original deed of gift or document of dedication has been traced and it cannot be said for what object the Hall was originally meant. A copy of the lease which expired recently is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This lease expired on 10th February, 1948.

(d) No Sir. The building is required for Army use.

Statement.

(Original on Stamp Paper worth Rs. 75.)

This indenture of lease made this 13th day of March 1944 between the Governor General in Council (hereinafter called the Lessor, which expression shall include his successors in office, legal representatives and assignees) of the one part, and Messrs. (1) Lakhmi Chand son of Seth Kishan Lall, caste Vaish Aggarwal, resident of Daulat Nivas, Agra, by profession, Banker, (2) Jawala Pershad, son of L. Bhagwan Dass, caste Vaish, resident of Lohar Galli, Agra by profession, shopkeeper (hereinafter called the lessees which term shall, unless repugnant to the context include their respective heirs, successors, assignees and personal and legal representatives) of the other part.

Whereas the Lessor has agreed with the lessees for the lease to the latter of the buildings with the compound and outhouses, No. 180 Metcalfe Road, Agra Cantonment (hereinafter called Metcalfe Hall) butted and bounded as detailed at foot of this Indenture, for the period from 1st April, 1940 to 10th February, 1948 on the rent and emoluments and subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter mentioned.

THIS INDENTURE HEREBY WITNESSETH AS FOLLOWS:—

That the Lessees shall hold the demised premises for the period from 1st April 1940 to 10th February 1948 (unless the lease is terminated earlier under the provisions hereinafter mentioned), paying therefor to the Lessor, through the Military Estates Officer for the time being of Agra Circle (hereinafter called the Military Estates Officer) a monthly rent of rupees one hundred and fifty (Rs. 150 payable at the office of the Military Estates Officer (during business hours) on or before the fifth day of each month, in advance.

2. That the lessees have deposited in the Imperial Bank of India, Agra Branch, and pledged to the Military Estates Officer a sum of rupees two thousand, as security for the due performance and observance of the terms and conditions of this Indenture, which security deposit shall be liable to forfeiture in whole or in part, as the Commander, Meerut Area for the time being (hereinafter called the Commander) shall decide, for non-compliance with or violation of any provisions of this lease on the part of the Lessees (or either of them) without prejudice to any other remedy open to the Lessor, subject, to this the Security or part thereof as the case may be shall be refunded to the lessees on the expiry of the lease after deductions being made for all claims, of dues and damages against them.

3. The lessees convenant with Lessor :—

(i) To pay the rent on the dates and the manner aforesaid.

(ii) From time to time and at all times, to pay and discharge all rates, taxes, charges, assessments and outgoings of every description, which are now, or may at any time hereafter, be imposed, charged or assessed, on the demised premises (including any additional buildings authorised) to be erected thereon, the landlord or tenant in respect thereof.

(iii) Not to carry out any additions or alterations to the buildings on the demised premises without the previous permission in writing of the Military Estates Officer, and otherwise than under the latter's supervision and in the manner prescribed by the said officer.

(iv) Not to cut down or remove any of the trees growing on the land hereby demised without the consent in writing of the Military Estates Officer.

(v) At all times to keep the demised premises (that is the buildings compounds, out-houses, etc.) in a clean and tidy condition and in good and substantial repairs, to the satisfaction of the Military Estates Officer.

(Stamp Paper worth Rs. 2/8/-.)

(vi) On the expiry or termination of this tenancy to hand over the demised premises in a good condition (fair wear and tear alone expected) to the satisfaction of the Military Estates Officer failing which the Military Estates Officer will carry out the repairs necessary and recover the cost thereof from the lessees, in the same manner as if it were arrears of rent and further that on the expiry or sooner determination of the lease (due to any breach of its terms by the lessees) the lessees will not be entitled to remove the alterations etc. carried out by them or any other improvement nor to receive any compensation therefor.

(vii) To insure all buildings on the demised premises against fire in the name and for the benefit of the Lessor, for rupees twenty-five thousand with an Insurance Co., to be approved by the Military Estates Officer, to pay the premia amounting to Rs. 150 per annum on the above Insurance policy, on due dates regularly and without fail and to deliver the premium receipts to the Military Estate Officer within one week of the actual receipt thereof by the Lessees, provided always that if the Lessees fail to pay the premia, the Lessor shall have a right to pay the same to the Company and recover the amount so paid, from the Lessees in the same manner as if it were arrears of rent, and also to that such other proceedings against the Lessees as he may be entitled to, under other provisions of this Indenture for breach of any of the covenants herein contained.

(viii) To provide their own furniture, fittings and electric equipment, that may be required by them for all purposes, and be solely responsible to the Agra Electric Supply Co., Ltd., in respect of supply of electric current.

(ix) Not to use the demised premises for any purpose other than Cinema shows and dances, or with the previous consent in writing of the Military Estates Officer, for other public entertainments, performances or functions of a lawful nature.

(x) To run the demised premises upon the standard of a first class Cinema theatre and dance hall and in a way conforming in all respects, to the provisions of the Indian Cinematograph Act and all other legal enactments and rules having the force of law, which are or may at any time hereafter be brought into force and which may effect the premises, to the satisfaction of the Military Estates Officer.

(xi) Not to exhibit films or slides which are prohibited for exhibition in British India.

(xii) To notify all films and slides intended to be shown to the Military Estates Officer, at least one fortnight before the date of exhibition thereof.

(xiii) Not to institute a Liquor Bar, Tea Shop and Cafe without the approval in writing of the Military Estates Officer and to abide by the rules laid down by him for the conduct of such bar, tea shop or cafe.

(xiv) To exhibit in Metcalfe Hall, and by the Lessees' apparatus, any film which the Officer Commanding the troops Agra, through the Military Estates Officer, may desire to be shown to the troops, at a nominal working rates that is only the cost of the electric current actually consumed and no other charges whatsoever.

(xv) To allow the Military Estates Officer, the use of the Hall for any purpose considered public by him (such as, meetings, lectures, etc.) for a period not exceeding one day in a month on payment of such rent as the Military Estates Officer may deem reasonable and subject to 15 days notice in advance.

(xvi) Not to sublet the demise premises or any part thereof, and not to allow the user of the same to any third party, without the written approval of the Military Estates Officer.

(xvii) To maintain the garden in the demised premises in a proper state and condition, and engage and retain, and pay for the entire period of duration of this Indenture, a Mali for garden purposes. In case of their (Lessees') failure to keep a Mali, the Military Estates Officer, will be entitled to keep a Mali for the aforesaid purposes, and the emoluments paid to the Mali and other expenditure incurred on the garden shall be recoverable from the Lessees as if they were arrears of rent.

(xviii) To employ at their own expense a Chowkidar to look after Metcalfe Hall at all hours of day and night, whose selection and appointment shall be subject to the approval of the Military Estates Officer.

(xix) To employ or engage only such persons as Manager and Booking Clerks for the Cinema whose employment, as such is approved by the Military Estates Officer and to remove and disengage all or any of them whose retention the said officer considers undesirable.

(xx) To charge from the visitors in respect of Cinema shows, the admission fees for various classes not in excess of the rates prevailing in the local Cantonment and Municipal limits; and in accordance with the Schedule of rates to be submitted by the Lessees within a week of the date of execution hereof, and approved by the Military Estates Officer, the said schedule being liable to revision by the said officer from time to time. In case of other performances, entertainments and functions only such fees shall be charged as shall have been sanctioned by the Military Estates Officer. This is without prejudice to sub-clause xiv hereof.

4. The LESSOR convenants with the Lessees :—

That so long as the rents and emoluments herein reserved are duly paid, and the terms and conditions of this Indenture duly observed by the Lessees, the latter shall enjoy the premises demised without any let or hindrance by the Lessor or any person or persons purporting to act on his behalf, for the entire period of duration of this lease, etc.

5. It is further agreed and declared by the parties as follows :—

(i) That the Officer Commanding the Station, the Military Estates Officer, or their representatives shall, at all times during the said demise and even during exhibition of cinema shows, performances, etc., have a right to admittance to every part of the demised buildings and property for the purposes of inspection and satisfaction that the conditions of the lease are not violated and there is nothing objectionable otherwise.

(ii) That on breach by the Lessees (or either of them) of any of the terms and conditions herein contained the Lessor acting through the Commander shall have the option of forfeiting or appropriating, as the case may be, the security deposit, in whole or in part, (which security deposit shall have to be made good by the Lessees within thirty days of such forfeiture or appropriation) and or of terminating this lease and re-entering the demised premises after giving fourteen days notice to the Lessees.

(iii) Provided always that notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained, the Military Estates Officer shall, in case the demised premises be required for Government purposes, have the right to terminate the lease on giving the Lessees one calendar month's notice; provided that in case the demised premises be required for Military purposes, seven days notice to quit only will be given. No compensation shall be payable to the lessees if the lease is terminated as aforesaid.

(iv) That without prejudice to any other remedy for default the lessees shall be liable to pay interest at the rate of 7½ per month on all arrears of rent and other dues, from the date of default to the date of actual payment.

(v) That in no case shall any orders or dispositions of the Military Authorities affect the rights and liabilities of any of the parties to the lease, under this Indenture.

(vi) That for the purpose of this Indenture, every notice by the Military Estates Officer shall be considered to have been effectively and validly served upon the lessees if posted to either one or both the Lessees at his or their above men-

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tioned address, per registered post, or otherwise pasted on any conspicuous place or part of the Metcalfe Hall. Such service of notice on any one of the Lessees shall be treated as valid and effective service on both of them.

(vii) That wherever in this Indenture references are made to time or any period of time, such time or period of time shall be deemed to be the essence of the contract.

(viii) That all acts done, orders issued and proceedings taken by the Military Estates Officer shall be deemed to have been so done, issued and taken on behalf of and as representative of the Lessor; and all acts and appearances, etc., by the Lessor in connection with all matters concerning this Indenture shall be done on his behalf by the Military Estates Officer.

(ix) That the Lessees shall be jointly and severally liable for all the liabilities and obligations, in connection with this Indenture of lease; and any act, omission or default by either of them shall be deemed to be an act, omission or default by both of them.

(x) That on the expiry or sooner determination of this lease the lessees shall forthwith vacate and deliver possession of the property demised to the Military Estates Officer, in good and perfect condition, subject only to fair wear and tear.

In witness whereof, we the said parties do hereby set out hands to this deed, the date, month and year first above written.

The schedule of property above referred to :—

All that property situate at Metcalfe Road, Bungalow No. 180 known as the Metcalfe Hall, containing by admeasurement 2·386 acres or there about and bounded on the :—

North by Bungalow No. 63 (Agra Division Commissioner's residence).

South by the Military Dairy Farm Agra.

East by the Military Dairy Farm Agra.

West by Metcalfe Road,

and delineated and coloured red in the map or plan hereto annexed TOGETHER with all buildings fences, hedges, ditches, way waters, water courses, liberties, privileges, easements and appurtenances whatsoever to the said property belonging or anywise appertaining or usually held or enjoyed therewith reputed to belong or be appurtenant thereto :—

(Name and Description of Officer Signing)—

Signed by Captain Rachpal Singh, Mily. Estates Officer, Agra Circle, Agra by the order and direction of Governor-General of India in Council acting in the premises for and on behalf of the Governor General in Council in the presence of.

Signature of Officer, Signing.
(Sd.) RACHPAL SINGH, Captain,
Military Estate Officer, Agra Circle, Agra.

(Witness—Signature, Address, Description)—

(Sd.) ALTAF HUSSAIN,
Head Clerk,
Military Estates Office, Agra Cantt.

(Name of Lessees)—

(Sd.) LAKHMICHAND,
(Sd.) JWALA PERSHAD.
Signature of the Lessees.

In the presence of :—

First Witness—

Signature, address, description.—

(Sd.) RAMCHANDRA S. SHARMA,
House No. 6032, Raoli, Agra.

Second Witness—

Signature, address, description.—

(Sd.) DWARKAPERSHAD.

SPECIAL PROTECTION TO REFUGEES SERVING UNDER GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

726. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what special protection do Government intend to give to the refugees who have taken up jobs under the Government of India after the 15th August, 1947?

(b) Do Government propose to reserve, in future, posts for the refugees who have to start life afresh?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Proposals to confirm refugee Government employees in substantive appointments are under consideration.

(b) No, Sir.

DESIGNS OF NEW COINS TO BE MINTED IN INDIAN MINTS

727. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government have called for designs for new coins to be minted in our mints?

(b) If so, what is the design like?

(c) From what date will the new coins be available in the Treasury for the use of the public?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukam Chetty: (a), (b) and (c). The question of the future designs of our coins is under consideration.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: When is it likely to materialise?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: It will materialise as early as practicable.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When do Government propose to issue the new design coins? Have they fixed any particular date, as the Government of Pakistan have done?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No date has been fixed. Actually, the question of the design for the new coins has just been taken into consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government considered the advisability of placing the effigy of Mahatma Gandhi on these new coins?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That is being considered.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government propose to set up a Committee of numismatic experts to go into this question?

Mr. Speaker: There cannot be any answer unless the Honourable Member resumes his seat.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: There is no proposal to set up any committee of numismatic experts. There are a sufficient number of artistically minded Members of the Cabinet who can be trusted with this job.

INDIAN STATES MERGED INTO VARIOUS PROVINCES

†728. *Shri Ram Sahai: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state which Indian States have merged into various provinces?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: A statement containing this information is placed on the table of the House.

Statement

59 States have so far been merged with the Provinces as follows:—

(i) 25 States merged with Orissa: Atgarh, Athmalik, Bamra, Baramba, Baudh, Bonai, Daspalla, Dhenkanal, Gangpur, Hindol, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Khandpara, Kharsawan, Narsinghpur, Nayagarh, Nilgiri, Pallahara, Patna, Rairakhol, Ranpur, Seraikella, Sonepur, Talcher, Tigiria.

(ii) 15 States merged with the Central Provinces and Berar: Bastar, Changbhakar, Chhuidhadan, Jashpur, Kanker, Kawardha, Khairagarh, Korea, Nandgaon, Raigarh, Sakti, Sarangarh, Surguja, Udaipur, Makarai.

(iii) 1—Loharu merged with East Punjab.

(iv) 2—Banganapalle and Pudukkottai merged with Madras.

(v) 16 States merged with Bombay: Akalkot, Aundh, Bhor, Jamkhandi, Jath, Kurundwad (Senior), Miraj (Senior), Kurundwad (Junior), Miraj (Junior), Mudhol, Phaltan, Ramdurg, Sangli, Savanur, Sawantwadi, Wadi, Jaghir.

INDIAN DOMINION SUBJECTS KILLED IN WAR WITH RAIDERS IN KASHMIR

†729. *Shri Ram Sahai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of Indian Dominion subjects who have been killed in the war with the raiders that is going on in Kashmir?

(b) What is the number of men killed who belong to the forces of Jammu and Kashmir?

(c) What is the number of civilians who have been killed?

(d) What is the number of houses burnt by the raiders?

(e) What is the approximate loss inflicted by the raiders on the civilian population?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) to (e). I regret, Sir, that information in the detail required by the Honourable Member is not readily available.

730. *[Withdrawn.]

REALISATION OF VARIOUS PAYMENTS FROM PAKISTAN LYING DUE PRIOR TO 15TH AUGUST, 1947

731. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Government of Pakistan have passed orders; according to which no payment relating to the period prior to 15th August, 1947, can be made to any national of India, even against cheques already issued to them?

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

(b) If so, what steps have Government taken to see that payments due from All India Radio stations now in Pakistan and the University of Punjab are made?

(c) Are Government aware that during the recent disturbances, almost all banks refused to extend facilities for cashing cheques on their Pakistan branches, with the result that a large number of cheques have become out of date?

(d) Do Government propose to contact the Government of Pakistan regarding the renewal of cheques issued by the All India Radio and the University of Punjab which are out of date?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes Sir. Government have received a number of complaints that the Pakistan Government have declined to pay claims relating to the pre-partition period.

(b) The matter is under examination.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes, so far as the Central Government cheques are concerned. The renewal of the Punjab University cheques is, however, a matter for settlement between the East and West Punjab Governments.

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS BY INDIAN NATIONAL CADET CORPS COMMITTEE

732. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what action, if any, Government have taken or have decided to take on the recommendations of the Indian National Cadet Corps Committee?

(b) When will the Report be published?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). I hope to be able to make an announcement on this subject to-morrow.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Honourable Minister for Defence the other day promised that the report would be published by the 12th instant?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I said by the 13th.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Does the Honourable Minister wish that the members of this House should have absolutely no opportunity of knowing the contents of the report till after the debate?

Mr. Speaker: We shall proceed to the next question.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY COLLEGE NEAR POONA

733. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what progress has so far been made in the scheme for establishing a Military College near Poona?

(b) What are the reasons for the delay in starting the college?

(c) When is the college likely to be opened?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The Honourable Member is probably referring to the project for establishing a National War Academy at Kharakvasala, near Poona, for the training of officer cadets for the three Defence Services. The project was reviewed in the light of the changed conditions consequent on partition and Government have now decided to proceed with it. It will be some time, however, before the new Academy can function as the buildings required have to be planned and constructed, and it has accordingly been decided in the meantime to work the scheme for an Inter-Services Academy at Dehra Dun in the present Indian Military Academy. The work connected with the construction and equipment of the Academy at Kharakvasala will proceed concurrently.

(b) The delay was due to partition and the consequent uncertainty about the future strength and composition of the Armed Forces on which will depend the size of the Academy.

(c) It is hoped to start the Inter-Services Academy at Dehra Dun by the 1st January 1949; and at Kharakvasala, not for a considerable time thereafter.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know, Sir, why were the two extremes, Dehra Dun on the one side and Poona on the other, chosen for the location of the War Academy, and not a central place?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The Military Academy at Dehra Dun was established some years ago; when the new Academy at Kharakvasala begins to function it is proposed to close the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun.

Shri Biswanath Das: Will there be only two institutions, or is it proposed to start similar institutions in other parts of India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The proposal is that when the Kharakvasala institution is completed, the Dehra Dun Academy will be abolished.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Are there not any barracks either at Kharakvasala or Deolali where a beginning could be made to start the Academy earlier so that there may be no need for waiting until buildings are ready?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, Sir.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know the reason why Dehra Dun is sought to be abolished?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: If my Honourable friend will go through the Report on the National War Academy, he will know the reasons. I will be able to give him a copy of the Report.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: What will be the number of the officers that will be trained at Poona?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As I have stated, it has not yet been finally decided; the number will depend on the future strength of the Army.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Will the Defence Minister supply every member of the House with a copy of this Report?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: If copies are available I will certainly supply to every member—anyway to those members who want it I will certainly supply a copy.

Some Honourable Members: We all want it.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Has the Report been published?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am not quite sure, Sir, but a decision has been taken on the Report; if it has not been published it will be published.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: When will it be published?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have announced that the decision of the Government has been taken and the Report will be released to the Press tomorrow or day after.

EXPANSION OF U.O.T.C. AND MILITARY TRAINING FOR STUDENTS, GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ETC.

734. ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been or are proposed to be taken by Government to—

(a) develop and expand the U. O. T. C.;

(b) impart military training to senior boys of high schools;

(c) impart military training to Government employees of suitable ages in the civil departments; and

(d) to enlist and train Indian Public servants in the Auxiliary Force on lines on which the British and Anglo-Indian civil employees were enlisted and trained?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). The U.O.T.C. will be merged in the National Cadet Corps which will also provide for the imparting of military training to senior boys of High Schools. I hope to be able to make an announcement on the subject tomorrow.

(c) and (d). Government are examining plans for the formation of a territorial army which would provide an opportunity for military training, amongst others, to public servants.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the proposed military training scheme also contemplate training—optional or voluntary not compulsory—for girls or women?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, the training will be voluntary.

PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION FILMS IN INDIA

735. ***Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got any scheme for the preparation and distribution of Information Films in India;

(b) if so, the amount that is proposed to be spent on the scheme;

(c) the number of units proposed to be established and the places where they are going to be established;

(d) in how many Indian languages they are going to be prepared;

(e) whether Kannada is included in the scheme; and

(f) if not, why not?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) Rupees 9,25,000 non-recurring and an annual recurring cost of about Rupees 30 lakhs.

(c) Six documentary film units with headquarters at Bombay, ten Newsreel Cameramen, one each in the capitals of Governor's Provinces and Delhi and five Branch Offices for distribution located at Bombay, Lucknow, Nagpur, Madras and Calcutta.

(d) Four.

(e) No.

(f) The cost involved will not be commensurate with the advantage gained in publicity.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Will arrangements be made to distribute these films in each linguistic area so that it may reach the masses?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Arrangements are made to distribute them as widely as possible.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Was the scheme for the preparation and distribution of the information films placed before the Standing Advisory Committee of the Ministry concerned at any time?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am sorry I do not know.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: May I know, Sir, in what language these information films will be printed?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Various languages; not in all the languages of India, but we will try to extend it as far as possible. In the case of some languages it has been thought that the cost is too much, relative to the areas served by that language.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Is it not necessary, Sir, that in the new set up these information films should reach the masses in every corner of the land?

Mr. Speaker: That will be a matter of opinion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the order in which these films are produced?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am sorry I have not got that information with me.

ATTACKS BY PEOPLE FROM HYDERABAD STATE INSIDE INDIAN TERRITORY

736. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of raids or attacks made since 15th August, 1947, inside the territory of the neighbouring Indian Provinces by people from Hyderabad State;

(b) the total number of casualties, dead or wounded, inflicted on the people of the said Provinces;

(c) the total estimated loss of or damage caused to property as a result of these attacks;

(d) whether Government have demanded or whether they propose to demand from Hyderabad State reparation or compensation for the casualties and losses;

(e) what steps Government propose to take to prevent such attacks in future;

(f) whether Government propose to equip the people on the India-Hyderabad border with arms, to enable them to protect themselves against such attacks; and

(g) whether any casualties were inflicted on the raiders or attackers, and whether any of them were taken into custody?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) to (c). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my answer to the Honourable Prof. N. G. Ranga's question No. 195 on the 9th February 1948 and add that while the Government are aware that several raids have been made they have no exact information about the number, the loss of life on account of the raids, the nubmer of persons killed, the damage to property etc. Provincial Governments have been asked to furnish this information.

(d) Yes.

(e) and (f). The whole question of border protection is under negotiation with the Hyderabad Government.

(g) A few casualties among the raiders have been reported by the Provincial Governments. There is no information that any one has been taken into custody.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that these raids are still going on even after the last answer was given in this House, and reports are pouring in to the States Ministry as well as the Prime Minister's room about all these various raids that are being made into the Union territory and the loot of the properties taken away?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, occasionally reports do come in to that effect.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the redress that the people of our Dominion can possibly have when their properties are taken away, their person is injured and their women are being insulted, and their houses and even villages as a whole are set on fire?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I can assure the Honourable Member and the House that the closest attention is paid to this. It is always very difficult to stop sporadic things of this type; even crime when it becomes too prevalent is difficult to deal with. In the City of Delhi we have had a kind of crime wave; we deal with it and ultimately put an end to it, as we will to these border raids. But an occasional raid here or there is a little bit difficult.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that they are not sporadic raids but organised raids and that day after day they have happened with increasing crescendo and have increased in number as well as in intensity after the Standstill Agreement has been concluded?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: All I can say is that the closest attention is being paid to deal with this matter. The whole situation, not only in regard to the border raids but the larger question behind it, is an intricate and difficult one which we are trying to tackle.

Seth Govinddas: Has the Government written to the Hyderabad Government about the compensation of the people who have suffered on the borders and have the Government received any reply from them as far as the compensation is concerned?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I do not know exactly what steps have been taken in that direction, but I have an idea that this subject has been broached.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: In view of the fact that Hyderabad was never an independent State and was once a Province of the Indian Empire, and in view of the fact that these raids are going on by them, where lies the difficulty for Government to take possession of the Hyderabad State? I want an answer to this.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I suppose the Honourable Member suggests a forcible possession of Hyderabad State. Well, the Government of India.....

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: In view of the fact that it was once a Province of the Moghul Empire which was an Indian empire, and of which we are now the successors.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India is in a sense a successor State but in essence it is a Government which derives its authority from the people—not from its predecessors, either the British or the Moghul Empire. Anyhow the House will realise that the question of Hyderabad is one which has given us the greatest difficulty. We are proceeding on the general lines laid down in regard to all States, that is that we want, as far as it is humanly possible, for the people of the State to decide. We want also to proceed as peacefully as possible, and sometimes following a very logical line of argument does not yield peaceful results—we want to avoid that. But some times it is difficult to avoid conflicts. It is not a such simple matter as saying that because we want a certain thing to happen, we issue a decree and it happens; it may happen in the end, we may bring it about, but the point is that we want to adopt methods which do not lead to undesirable results in the end. May I just say one thing, that I find from my notes that compensation has been demanded in several cases from the Nizam's Government.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: May I put just one more question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: It has been sufficiently answered.

Seth Govinddas: The Honourable the Prime Minister said that it depends upon the will of the people of Hyderabad to settle this question. May I know if there is any proposal to hold any sort of plebescite in Hyderabad, as was the case with Junagadh in this respect?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: What I said was that our policy is that the people should decide every debatable point. That is our policy, which we are following everywhere in regard to the States including Hyderabad. There is no specific proposal at the present moment for a plebescite, if that is what the Honourable Member wants to know. The reason is that various other things are happening including for instance these border raids referred to by Prof. Ranga which have to be dealt with immediately.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that Provincial Governments have complained several times to the Central Government that their requests for the supply of sufficient arms and ammunition to arm their border protection forces have not been acceeded to by the Union Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Probably that is true, because Provincial Governments have a habit of complaining.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No, no.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable the Prime Minister aware of the fact that the Ittehad-ul-Musselmein is carrying on highly provocative propaganda? Is it not a fact that they are the people responsible for these raids, and that the leader of the Ittehad-ul-Musselmein, Razvi, delivered a highly inflammatory speech on 6th March inciting people to violence, saying that there can not be a responsible Government in Hyderabad nor any accession to Indian Union?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, we are aware of that.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has anything been done in that connection?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have no doubt that the action which has been taken, and the speeches that are being delivered and the other activities of the Ittehad-ul-Musselmein will lead to dangerous consequences in Hyderabad, and Government are fully alive to the situation in regard to that.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Does the Honourable the Prime Minister think that Hyderabad will ever accede to the Indian Union by means of negotiations?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of opinion. Next question.

HURS FROM SIND FIGHTING AGAINST INDIAN TROOPS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

737. ***Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Hurs from Sind have been found fighting against the Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) what their estimated strength is;

(c) whether they are equipped with modern weapons; and

(d) when they were first observed participating in the raid?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (d). A report to this effect was made on the 21st February 1948, which Government are trying to verify.

(b) About 300.

(c) Yes.

MOULVIS IN INDIAN ARMY FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTIONS TO MUSLIM PERSONNEL

738. ***Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Moulvis are still employed in the Indian Army to give religious instructions to Muslim personnel?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the question of extending the same facilities to Sikhs and Hindus?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) Religious teachers are authorised for each religious class.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: In view of the fact that the Indian Union is a secular State, what is the idea of imparting religious training to anybody?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: We have not done away with religious teaching as yet.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: May I know, Sir, if the Government of India intend to do away with this imparting of religious teaching, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have already replied to this question, that as long as we believe in religion, I think it is our duty to impart religious teaching.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What do you mean?

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Religious teaching should be imparted at home not in the Army.

Mr. Speaker: It is now getting into an argument over the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are similar efforts being made to give religious instruction to Hindus, Christians and everybody in the Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have already stated, Sir, that it is so.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know, Sir, whether in the Armies of other countries a similar practice is being followed?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I believe so.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it in the contemplation of the Government to go on giving religious instruction to all manner of public servants under them?

Mr. Speaker: That is perhaps beyond the Defence Ministry's jurisdiction to answer.

Shri K. Santhanam: What is the cost of all these priests of religion so far as the Army is concerned?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I require notice of this question.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is this religious instruction in the Army compulsory?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is the practice, and we propose to follow it.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I wanted to know whether it is compulsory or not.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is not compulsory. But this practice has been in vogue for quite a number of years from the beginning of the Army.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that this is a relic of the previous regime, will the Honourable Minister review the position again and consider the desirability of doing away with religious instruction in the Indian Army, so that the various components of the Army may weld themselves into a united India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I will bear that suggestion in mind.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether the Forces are permitted to go out on Fridays and other religious holidays?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, Sir.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Who appoints these religious instructors?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The Army Authorities.

EXEMPTION FROM INCOME-TAX OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN INDIA WITH HEAD OFFICES IN U.K.

739. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Co-operative Societies in India having their Head Offices in the United Kingdom are exempt from paying Income-tax to the Government of India?

(b) What are the names of the British firms in this category and what is the loss to the Indian Exchequer on this account?

(c) Do Government propose to amend the Income-tax Act in this respect?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The exemption granted under the Indian Income-tax Act does not extend to the income of any co-operative society registered in the United Kingdom.

(b) As the exemption does not apply to Co-operative Societies registered in the United Kingdom the names of such Societies are not readily available. In the case of one Society however, *viz.*, the English and Scottish Joint Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited the Madras High Court held in 1929 that its Indian income was not assessable to tax on the ground that the Society was trading with itself. In 1945 however the Calcutta High Court held in the case of the *same* Society, that it was *not* trading with itself. Steps have accordingly since been taken to assess the Society to Indian income-tax. The loss of revenue caused by the Madras High Court's ruling cannot be ascertained.

(c) The law does not require any amendment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the Army and Navy Co-operative Stores of England any Branches in India?

The Honourable Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I must have notice of that question.

TERMS OF SERVICE OF OFFICIALS OF VARIOUS MERGED STATES

740. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state the terms of service offered to officials of the various States which have merged with the Provinces?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when complete.

FIRE-ARMS WITHOUT LICENCE FOR MEMBERS OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES

741. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether members of the Constituent Assembly and Provincial Assemblies are allowed to buy fire-arms without licence?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the categories of fire-arms which they are allowed to possess?

(c) Has this decision been communicated to the dealers in fire-arms and the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) I would invite attention to my reply to Shri Lakshmi Kanta Maitra's short notice question on the 12th December, 1947. Members of the Constituent Assembly of India are allowed to possess certain fire-arms without licence during the tenure of their office and for six months thereafter. This concession does not, however, extend to the members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies:

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to Column 2 against entry 1 of Schedule I to the Indian Arms Rules, 1924, a copy of which is in the Library.

(c) The Provincial Governments have been asked to communicate this position to all concerned.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What arrangements are being made, Sir, to enable the members of this House to go to the firms and take the fire-arms by satisfying them that they happen to be members of this House?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Does the Honourable Member want a certificate of identity to be produced to the firms?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Quite so.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Well, I am quite sure that if any member desires it, the Assembly Department will issue a certificate of identity for him.

Mr. Speaker: I am told that that is also the practice. If the member asks the Department, an identity card is issued.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

BROADCASTS OF NEWS BY A.I.R. DELHI IN KANNADA AND ORIYA LANGUAGES

742. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the dates on which broadcasts of news in Kannada and Oriya Languages were introduced in A. I. R. Delhi Station?

(b) How many times, at what hours and for how many minutes is news broadcast in each of the two languages?

(c) In view of the fact that Karnatak has no seperate broadcasting station, do Government propose to give more time to Kannada in Delhi A.I.R., or in Bombay A.I.R., or in Madras A.I.R.?

(d) Are Government aware that Kannada news is broadcast only once a day from Delhi A.I.R. at 5-45 p.m.?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The news services in Kannada and Oriya were started on 1st October 1947 and 28th January 1948 respectively.

(b) and (d). There is one Kannada news bulletin of 15 minutes duration from 5-45 to 6 p.m.

There are three Oriya News bulletins—the first of 10 minutes duration from 7-20 to 7-30 a.m. the second of 5 minutes duration from 1-20 to 1-25 a.m. and the third of 15 minutes duration from 7-45 to 8 p.m.

(c) The question of increasing the frequency of Kannada news bulletins from Delhi is under consideration.

IMPORT AND PRODUCTION OF ALLOPATHIC MEDICINES IN INDIA

743. *Dr. V. Subramaniam: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the total value of allopathic medicines imported into our country from foreign countires?

(b) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a list of institu-

tions or factories which manufacture allopathic medicines including vaccines in India, for use in India?

(c) Is our country self-sufficient in such medicines, and are all hospitals in India, getting Indian-made medicines?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the arrangements made to make our country self-sufficient in such allopathic medicines?

(e) In view of the fact that a large variety of patent medicines is imported into India, do Government propose to consider the advisability of restricting the import of patent medicines from foreign countries?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The Honourable Member has not specified the period for which information is desired. However, I invite his attention to the Annual Seaborne Trade Accounts which contain the required statistics and copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

(b) A list is laid on the table.

(c) The country is self-sufficient in regard to the common vaccines used for public health purposes, such as Cholera vaccine, T.A.B. Vaccine, Plague Vaccine and Vaccine Lymph. The indigenous production of other drugs is inadequate to meet the country's requirements and the hospitals obtain Indian made medicines to the extent they are available.

(d) The question of increasing the production of certain essential drugs is under the consideration of the Government of India in the Ministry of Industry and Supply in consultation with the Ministry of Health.

(e) In view of the shortage of foreign currency the Government are already following a restrictive policy in respect of import of medicines and drugs including patent medicines. Drugs are allowed to be imported only if they are essential.

I. *List of Government Institutions which manufacture vaccines in India.*

1. Central Research Institute, Kasauli.
2. Haffkine Institute, Bombay.
3. King Institute, Guindy, Madras.
4. Pasteur Institute, Shillong, Assam.
5. Public Health Laboratory, Bengal.
6. Provincial Health Laboratory, U. P., Lucknow.
7. Vaccine Institute, Belgaum, Bombay.
8. Vaccine Institute, Namkum, Bihar.
9. Vaccine Depot, Shillong, Assam.
10. Vaccine Institute, C. P., Nagpur.

II. *List of firms producing drugs and chemicals in India*

WEST BENGAL

S. No.	Name of the firm.
1.	M/S Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceutical Works, Ltd., 94, Chittaranjan Avenue, Calcutta.
2.	,, Bengal Immunity Co., Ltd., 153 Dharmatola St., Calcutta.
3.	,, Standard Pharmaceutical Works Ltd., 67 South Rd., Entally, Calcutta.
4.	,, Smith Stanistreet & Co. Ltd., 18, Convent Road, Calcutta.
5.	,, Lister Antiseptics & Dressing Co. (1925) Ltd., 12, Umakanta Sen Lane, Calcutta.
6.	,, Calcutta Chemical Co. Ltd., 35, Panditia Road, Calcutta.
7.	,, Birla Laboratories, 64, Pathuria Ghatta St., Calcutta.
8.	,, East India Pharmaceutical Works Ltd., 71, Russa Road, Tollygung, Calcutta.
9.	,, Butto Kristo Paul & Co. Ltd., No. 1 Bonfield Lane, Calcutta.
10.	,, Premier Stores Supplying Co. Ltd., 8, Royal Exhcange Place, Calcutta.

11.	M/S	Bharat Laboratory & Chemical Works Ltd., 10, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Tollygung, Calcutta.
12.	,,	Union Drug Co. Ltd., 285, Bowbazar St., Calcutta.
13.	,,	H. Mumtaz & Co., 1 Colutola St., Calcutta.
14.	,,	Indian Chemical & Therapeutic Works Ltd., 9, Barrackpore Trunk Road, Calcutta.
15.	,,	Dabur (Dr. S. K. Burman) Ltd., 142, Rash Behari Avenue, Calcutta.
16.	,,	Indian Health Institute & Laboratory Ltd., 5-2, Bellaghatta Main Road, Calcutta.
17.	,,	Indian Mineral Industries Ltd., 22/1, Dum Dum Road, Calcutta.
18.	,,	Calcutta Drug House, Gooptu Mansion, 84-4, Clive St., Calcutta.
19.	,,	New Research Laboratory Ltd., 31A, Nandan Road, Bhowanipore, Calcutta.
20.	,,	Pharmaceutical Laboratories of India Ltd., 133, Upper Circular Road, Calcutta.
21.	,,	Asia Drug Co., Ltd., Dassnagar, Howrah.
22.	,,	Pearl Chemical & Pharmaceutical Works, 29, Strand Rd., Calcutta.
23.	,,	All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health, 110, Chittaranjan Avenue, Calcutta.
24.	,,	Associated Industries Co., 63, Dharamtala St., Calcutta.
25.	,,	Albert David Co., P. B. No. 586, Calcutta.
26.	,,	Bararee Coke Co. Ltd., P. O. Kushunda (Office at Calcutta).
27.	,,	Calcutta Clinical Research Association, 6, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta.
28.	,,	Bengal Pharmaceutical Association, Rashbehari Avenue, Calcutta.
29.	,,	Bengal Drugs & Chemical Works, 33, Canning St., Calcutta.
30.	,,	Bengal Drug & Pharmaceutical Works, 11, Raja Raj Narayan St., Calcutta.
31.	,,	Ballygung Chemical Works, 13/C, Deodhar St., Ballygung, Calcutta.
32.	,,	Calcutta School & Tropical Medicines, Central Avenue, Calcutta.
33.	,,	General Distributors & Agency, 9, Clive St., Calcutta.

BOMBAY

1.	M/S	Chemical Industrial & Pharmaceutical Laboratories, Ltd., 289, Ballasis Road, Byculla, Bombay.
2.	,,	Teddington Chemical Factory, P. B. No. 229, Bombay.
3.	,,	Zandu Pharmaceutical Works Ltd., P. B. 5513, Bombay.
4.	,,	Tata Oil Mills Co. Ltd., Bombay House, 24, Bruce St., Bombay.
5.	,,	Cheme Pharma Laboratories, 23, Club Buck Rd., Bombay.
6.	,,	Standard Pharmaceutical & Chemical Wks., Atlas Mills Rear Rd., Bombay.
7.	,,	Oriental Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., 45/47, Apollo St., Bombay.
8.	,,	Sarabhai Chemicals Ltd., P. O. Box 31, Bombay.
9.	,,	Sanitax Chemical Industries Ltd., Pandra Road, Baroda.
10.	,,	Arcies Laboratories Ltd., Western India House, Sir Pherozshah Mehta Road, Bombay.
11.	,,	Indentors Syndicate, Advani Chambers, Sir P. Mehta Rd., Bombay.
12.	,,	Indo Overseas Ltd., Chikhal House, Kalva Devi Road, Bombay.
13.	,,	Geoffrey Mauners & Co. Ltd., Cadells Road, Mahim, Bombay.
14.	,,	Eastern Co. (India) Ltd., Lloyd's Bank Bldg., Ballard Estate, Bombay.
15.	,,	Chemical Industries, 4.1 Bldg., Sir Pheroz Shah Mehta Road, Bombay.
16.	,,	Garutman's Laboratory, P. B. 4512, Bombay.
17.	,,	Crown Chemical & Surgical Wks., 248 Rippon Road, Byculla, Bombay.
18.	,,	E. Eyens & Co., Bellaris Road, Bombay.
20.	,,	G. Y. Kamat & Co., Lamington Road, Bombay.

BARODA

1. M/S Alembic Chemical Works, Baroda.

MYSORE

1. M/S Government Industrial and Testing Laboartory, P. O. Malleswaran, Bangalore.

KASHMIR

1. M/S Kashmir Pharmaceutical Works, Pratap Villa, Srinagar, Kashmir.

EAST PUNJAB

1. M/S Shambu Nath & Sons Ltd., G. T. Road, Amritsar.
2. ,, S. P. Chemical Works, Cheharta.
3. ,, Mehta Bros., Amritsar.
4. ,, Malone & Co., Kasauli.
5. ,, Amritsar Distillery Co., Amritsar.
6. ,, Amar Chemical Industries, Canal Road, Amritsar.

MADRAS

1. M/S Chemicals Ltd., Nidadavol, M. S. Rly.
2. ,, Techno Chemical Industries Ltd., Calicut.
3. ,, Andhra Pharmaceutical Works, Ltd., Bezwada.
4. ,, Parry & Co. Ltd., P. B. 12, Madras.

UNITED PROVINCES

1. M/S. Lesco Chemical Works Ltd., Cawnpore.
2. ,, Cawnpore Chemical Works, Ltd., Anwarganj, Cawnpore.
3. ,, Hind Chemicals, Ltd., Raibazar, Cawnpore.
4. ,, Mining & Chemical Industries, Ltd., Jamuna Bridge, Agra, U. P.

DELHI

1. M/S Shambhu Nath & Chemical Works Ltd., Delhi—Shahdara.

RAMPUR

1. M/S Rampur Distillery & Chemical Co. Ltd., Rampur State.

USURPTION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION CONSIGNMENT FOR COOCH BEHAR STATE BY PAKISTAN AUTHORITIES.

744. *Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that towards the end of January, 1948, a consignment of arms and ammunition meant for the State of Cooch Behar was intercepted on the way and diverted to Pakistan;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Cooch Behar soldiers accompanying the consignment were arrested by the Pakistan authorities at Parbatipur and Lalmanirhat; and

(c) if so, what quantity of arms and ammunition is involved and what actions Government have taken or intend to take in the matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (a) to (c). A report was received from the Cooch Behar State towards the end of January 1948 that five armed personnel of the State Forces escorting ordnance stores were arrested and disarmed at Lalmanirhat border station in Eastern Pakistan. The matter was investigated and as a result the personnel have since been released and the stores restored to the State.

NON-OCCUPATION OF ROOMS IN WESTERN HOUSE ALLOTTED TO A.I.R. EMPLOYEES

745. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting 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 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No rooms have been allotted to the employees of the All India Radio in the Western House.

REPORTS OF COMMODITIES PRICES BOARD

746. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state how many reports were submitted to Government by the Commodities Prices Board?

(b) How many of these reports have been published?

(c) Do Government propose to lay copies of the remaining reports on the table of the House?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The Board submitted in all ten Reports.

(b) Two Reports have been published. Another report is under print and will shortly be published.

(c) Of the remaining seven reports, three, namely, those on (i) raw cotton and export duty on cotton (ii) the *ad interim* report on pulses and (iii) that on Kerosene and petrol are purely of an informal nature. The remaining four reports, *i.e.* those on (i) Coal from Bihar and Bengal, (ii) Cloth and Yarn, (iii) Iron and Steel and (iv) Indigenous paper are being placed in the Library of the House.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RESTRICTIONS ON THE EXPORT OF CERTAIN ESSENTIAL GOODS

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the Notification No. 8(27)-IETC/48 dated the 21st February 1948, of the Government of Pakistan, modifying some provisions of their notification of the 1st November, 1947, restricting the export of certain essential goods, such as, machinery, building and engineering materials, etc. ?

(b) If so, what action has been taken by the Government of India to see that goods, of the same type are not freely exported from this country to Pakistan?

(c) Has there been any reciprocal arrangement between the Government of India and Pakistan as regards restrictions on exports from the two Dominions to each other after Pakistan's action in restricting certain exports to India?

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

(b) and (c). From the 1st March, 1948, exports to Pakistan have been brought under the purview of the export control regulations framed under the Imports and Exports Control Act, 1947. All exports to Pakistan of controlled commodities are, therefore, now subject to licence. I would add for the Honourable Member's information that it is expected that discussions will shortly be initiated between the two Dominions regarding the conclusion of a general trade agreement between them.

POLICY *RE.* PROHIBITION AGAINST EXPORT OF JUTE PRESSING MACHINERY TO PAKISTAN

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain jute plants in West Bengal have been dismantled and taken over to Eastern Pakistan?

(b) Have any steps been taken by Government to prohibit the export of Indian plant and machinery used for pressing jute to Pakistan

(c) Do Government propose to announce their considered policy in this connection at an early date, particularly in view of the fact that the Government of Pakistan have already placed restrictions on the export of machinery and some other goods from that Dominion to India?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: (a) Government have heard rumours to this effect, but no such case has actually been brought to their notice.

(b) Yes. The Government of West Bengal propose to pass a measure prohibiting the dismantling of plant and machinery used for pressing or manufacturing jute for export to Pakistan. Jute mills and jute Presses have also been warned in addition that they should not remove machinery and spare parts to places outside West Bengal.

(c) Exports to Pakistan are now subject to strict licensing under the Import

and Export Control Act of 1947 and the policy to be followed with regard to the restrictions to be placed on the export of machinery and other goods from India to Pakistan is now engaging the attention of Government. I would invite the Honourable Member's attention in this connection to the reply which I have just given to the previous question asked by him and would add that it is hoped to take up these matters for discussion with the representatives of the Dominion of Pakistan at a very early date.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I ask if the Honourable Minister on receipt of this question enquired of the West Bengal Government if there was actually any case of removal of machinery and spare parts?

The Honouable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Enquiries were made and no such cases were known to the West Bengal Government.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS

SECOND STAGE

DEMAND NO. 39—MINISTRY OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the consideration of the demands for grants and cut motions. There are two demands for discussion to-day Nos. 30 and 24 and I am placing them before the House.

Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13.00.000 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 'Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation'."

DEMAND NO. 24—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5.29.000 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 'Ministry of Communications'."

I find that there are three cut motions. That again raises the difficulty of time, as I pointed out yesterday. The agreed time for the discussion of this particular demand is an hour and quarter, which means the time expires at 1 O'clock, and the time left is less by five minutes I do not know whether this procedure of having all the cut motions moved and allotting time to each of the movers is really conducive to a proper debate of all the three cut motions. If the arrangement is an agreed one, I would not like to interfere, but if the House is agreeable, it will be better to take any one of these, in view of the short time and discuss more fully, so that each section of the House will have an opportunity of placing their views.

Several Honourable Members: No, Sir.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): I think that the motions need not be moved. The points are there and the members may now be called upon to speak.

Mr. Speaker: That means the demand could be discussed generally. If that is so, even then that is a good proposal. It will give one hour and 10 minutes. The Honourable Minister will require some time. What time will he require?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy (Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation): That depends upon the points that are made. I do realize their difficulty and I also realize that there is a general desire to discuss this demand at some length. I should, in any case, like to have a quarter of an hour.

Mr. Speaker: Very well; that means I shall call upon him at about 12-45 or 5 minutes earlier.

Honourable Members will now restrict their speeches to as short a time-limit as possible.

پنڈت تھاکر داس بھارگو : مانیہ سپیکر صاحب ! آپ کے حکم کے مطابق اب کسی موشن کو کٹ کرنے کی ضرورت نہیں اس واسطے میں عام طور سے اس منسٹری کے تعلق کے متعلق کچھ عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں -

جناب والا! میں ایک عجیب کشمکش میں پڑا ہوں - جب میں منسٹر نہرو صاحب کی طرف دیکھتا ہوں تو میری سمجھ میں نہیں آتا کہ اس بجٹ کی کیا نکتہ چینی کروں - جب میں دیکھتا ہوں کہ وہ رات دن جانفشانی کے ساتھ شرنارتھیوں کی سیوا میں لگے ہیں - ہر طرح سے مصیبت اُٹھا رہے ہیں جب کبھی دورے میں جاتے ہیں تو وہاں جاکر افسروں کو تاکید کرتے ہیں کہ جتنی سیوا ممکن ہو سکے شرنارتھیوں کی کیجئے - جب میں دیگر ممبران کیبنٹ کی طرف دیکھتا ہوں کہ وہ کس طرح نہایت ہمدردی کے ساتھ اپنا وقت لگاتے ہیں اور دورے بھاری استقلال کے ساتھ مشکلوں کو سامجھاتے ہیں تو میں یہ کہے بغیر نہیں رہ سکتا کہ ان صاحبان کی جتنی تعریف کی جائے وہ کم ہے - جب میں دیکھتا ہوں کہ ڈھائی کروڑ روپیہ پنجاب کی گورنمنٹ مکانوں کے واسطے تجویز کرتی ہے اور دس کروڑ کا انڈسٹریل فائنانسیل کارپوریشن فار دی ہیبیلیٹیشن Industrial financial corporation for Rehabilitation اس ہاؤس نے بنا دیا ہے اور اس پر ساڑھے تین کروڑ روپیہ کپڑے پر گورنمنٹ نے خرچ کیا ہے- پندرہ لاکھ روپیہ روزانہ کھانے پینے کیلئے خرچ کیا جاتا ہے جب میں دیکھتا ہوں کہ چالیس لاکھ آدمی ویسٹ پنجاب سے اتنے تھوڑے عرصے کے اندر پہنچادئے ہیں اور گورنمنٹ کے پاس جو کچھ آسائش ہو سکتی ہے وہ ان کو پہنچا رہی ہے تو ان سب باتوں کے لئے میں ان کا شکریہ ادا کئے بغیر نہیں رہ سکتا مجھے معلوم ہے اور میں نے بھی بہت سی مصیبتیں آگے دیکھی ہیں - قحط کے زمانے میں پچھلی گورنمنٹ نے کیا کیا ؟ اس کے اوپر بحث مباحثہ کرنا اچھا نہیں ہے اور اس گورنمنٹ کا اس گورنمنٹ سے مقابلہ کرنیکا کوئی سوال ہی نہیں پیدا ہوتا-

لیکن جہاں میں اتنی ہمدردی دیکھتا ہوں جہاں میں یہ دیکھتا ہوں کہ اس قدر روپیہ پانی کی طرح گورنمنٹ شرنارتھیوں کے لئے خرچ کر رہی ہے تو دوسری طرف جب میں دیکھتا ہوں کہ شرنارتھیوں کی آج کیا حالت ہے اور کس طرح ان کے ساتھ سلوک ہوتا ہے تو میری سمجھ میں نہیں آتا کہ گورنمنٹ کی ساری کوششیں ساری ہمدردی کیا ہوا میں ختم ہو جائیں گی - کیا کوئی نتیجہ اسکا نکلتا ہی نہیں یا گورنمنٹ ہی ٹھیک طرح سے کام نہیں کر رہی ہے عجیب حالت ہے - جناب والا ! جو شرنارتھیوں کے نام سے کہے جاتے ہیں یہ وہ لوگ ہیں جو دراصل سوراجیہ کی تیست ہیں سارے دیش نے سوراجیہ حاصل کیا لیکن پنجابیوں نے یہاں یہ پھل پایا یہ پنجابی بھلی مقبل

[پنڈت ٹھاکرداس بھارگو]

صوبے میں سب سے زیادہ پراسپرس (prosperous) یعنی محصول تھے — بہت سے لوگ محلوں میں رہتے تھے اور ایسی زمین میں کاشت کرتے تھے جو سونا اگلتی تھی آج ان کی حالت خراب ہے آج وہ در بدر پھرتے ہیں اس کے ذمہ وار وہ نہیں ہیں یہ ایک ایسی چیز ہوئی ہے کہ جسکے واسطے میں کسی کو دوش نہیں دینا چاہتا ہوں — اس میں شک نہیں کہ ان لوگوں کے اوپر کافی مصیبتیں بڑی ہیں اور وہ ہرگز اس کے ذمہ وار نہیں ہیں دہلی میں حکم نکلتا ہے کہ شرنارتھیوں کے لئے جگہ نہیں ہے — ڈھیروں سے حکم نکلتا ہے کہ شرنارتھیوں کے لئے جگہ نہیں ہے — اس طرح ریاستوں میں بھی شرنارتھیوں کے آنے میں روک لگی ہے اس طرح سے ان مصیبت زدہ لوگوں کو کوئی بھی اپنے یہاں آنے نہیں دیتا یہ لوگ اس گورنمنٹ سے اس طرح کا حق رکھتے ہیں جس طرح ہم اپنی نیشنل گورنمنٹ (National Government) سے حق رکھتے ہیں یہ لوگ جو کچھ روپیہ اپنی ساری کمائی کا ساری عمر کا لسکے ہیں وہ تو کچھ کھانے پینے میں ان پانچ چھ مہینوں میں ختم ہوگیا ہے اور اب ان کی حالت نہایت خراب ہے — میں جانتا ہوں کہ دہلی میں بہت سے جو شرنارتھی ہیں ٹی چھوٹی دوکانیں کرتے ہیں ان میں سے کتنے ہی پنجاب کے گریجویٹ ہیں کئی تانگہ چلاتے ہیں خونچہ لگاتے ہیں اور وہ اس طرح سے اپنا چھوٹا سا کاروبار کرکے اپنی گزر بسر کر رہے ہیں — ابھی تک ان شرنارتھیوں نے کسی کے سامنے ہاتھ نہیں پھیلایا اور نہ ہی کسی سے بھیک مانگی — وہ اپنے ہاتھ سے کام کرنا چاہتے ہیں — اس سے بہت سے ڈاکٹر وکیل انڈسٹریل ٹیکنیشین (Industrial Technicians) یہ سب کے سب پنجاب سے آئے ہیں اور دہلی اور اس کے آس پاس آئے ہیں یہی موقع تھا کہ ان سے فائدہ اٹھایا جاتا اور انہیں دیش کے اندر بسایا جاتا اور دیش کو فائدہ پہنچایا جاتا لیکن ہماری بد قسمتی ہے کہ جس طرف ہم دیکھتے ہیں اس طرف کچھ بھی دکھائی نہیں دیتا — مہینہ بھر جب تک اپوائنٹ میلٹ (appointment) مسٹر نیوگی صاحب کا نہیں ہوا تھا ہم پنجابی ایک کمیٹی میں ملتے رہے جسکے چیر مین بخشی سر ٹیک چند تھے اور ہم لوگ اپنے دیش کی روز مرہ کی تدبیریں سوچتے رہے کہ کس طرح سے پنجابیوں کو ری ہیبیلیٹیشن کیا جائے گا اس کے بعد آفیشل (official) کمیٹی بھی بنی اور اس کے اندر مہینوں تک یہاں پر روز میٹنگ ہوتی رہی اور اس کے ریزولیوشن (resolutions) پاس ہوتے رہے لیکن نتیجہ کیا ہوا اس ساری ایڈوائزری کمیٹی (Advisory Committee) کا جو چھ مہینے تک ہوتی رہی کیا میں ادب سے پوچھ سکتا ہوں کہ ایک بھی پنجابی یا کسی شرنارتھی کو پرمانینٹ ری ہیبیلیٹیشن (permanent rehabilitation) کا موقع ملا ہے۔ میں ادب سے عرض کرونگا کہ آئندہ جو ڈیویلپمنٹ پلاننگ (Development Planning) اسکیم ہیں اور جن کے اوپر بہت سارا خرچہ کر رہے ہیں۔ کیا ان سے کوئی میٹیریل فائدہ پہنچا

یا کوئی نتیجہ ان کاموں کا ہمارے سامنے آیا اس کے علاوہ ہمیں جو کچھ کہا گیا ہے دہلی میں زمینیں جا کر دیکھی گئی - چاروں طرف چکر لگایا گیا لیکن کیا ہوا اس جگہ کا پتہ نہیں اس مسئلے کا پتہ نہیں - سب کی سب اسکیمیں ہوا کے اندر رہی ہیں- یہ ٹھیک ہے کہ ایسٹ پنجاب کی گورنمنٹ کی طرف سے ڈھائی کروڑ روپیہ کا اعلان مکان بنانے کے لئے ہوا ہے لیکن وہ روپیہ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کا ہے معلوم نہیں کب مکان بنیں گے اور یہ کب وجود میں آئیں گے - لوگ آسمان کی طرف دیکھتے ہیں لیکن بادل ہیں لیکن برستے نہیں - میں ادب سے عرض کرونگا یہ جو حالت ہوئی ہے نہایت خراب ہے ہماری گورنمنٹ نے منقولہ پراپرٹی (property) اور لوکرس (lockers) کے بارے میں دوسری گورنمنٹ سے فیصلہ تو کر لیا ہے لیکن کیا نتیجہ ہوا۔ جناب والا آپ بینکوں کی طرف دیکھیں پہلے سرکار ہی کی طرف سے کہا گیا ہے کہ بینکوں کو مدد دی جائے گی لیکن آج کیا ہو رہا ہے آج وہ بینک والے ادھر ادھر پھرتے ہیں میٹنگ کرتے ہیں انکو دو تین کروڑ روپیہ سے اگر مدد دیجائے تو سات ہزار فیملیوں کے لئے سہارا مل جاتا - وہ بچی جاتا رہا لیکن جو بینکوں کے ساتھ ساوک ہوا وہ سب جانتے ہیں اور معارم نہیں کہ پنجابیوں کے ساتھ کیا ہونے والا ہے اس کے علاوہ آپ لوکرس (lockers) کی پالیسی کو دیکھیں ادھر ہماری سرکار نے پاکستان سے فیصلہ تو کر لیا ہے مہینوں کے بعد جو فیصلہ کیا گیا وہ ایک روز میں ہونا چاہیئے تھا مہینوں کے بعد وہ فیصلہ کیا گیا اور طے کیا گیا کہ لوگ واپس جائیں اور جا کر اپنے بینکوں میں سے جو سیف پڑے ہیں واپس لے آئیں - لیکن اس میں بھی اب مشکل آ پڑی ہے ادھر سے کہا گیا ہے کہ سکھ یہاں نہ آئیں سکھوں کے ساتھ فوج اور پولیس نہ آئے کیونکہ سکھوں کو دیکھ کر ہمارا خون اُبلتا ہے - میں ادب سے عرض کرونگا کہ اگر سکھوں کو دیکھ کر ان کا خون اُبلتا ہے تو ہم ہر ایک ہندوستانی کا فرض ہے کہ سب سکھوں کو ہی وہاں بھیجیں اور کسی کو نہ بھیجیں چاہے فیصلہ ہو یا نہ ہو - جناب والا اسکے بعد دوسری شرط لگائی گئی ہے کہ جو لوکرس (lockers) ہیں وہ آٹھ ہزار کے قریب ہیں اس کے اندر مسلمانوں کے زیور گروی ہیں اور مسلمانوں کے زیور گروی ہونیکی وجہ ہیں یہ لوکرس (lockers) اگر کھولے جائیں گے تو مسلمانوں کے زیور چلے جائیں گے اور اس کے اوپر فیصلہ یہ ہوا ہے کہ مسلمانوں کے کلیمز (claims) منگائے جائیں ہم جانتے ہیں یہ ان کی جانب سے بہانہ بازی ہے اور کچھ نہیں ہے- آٹھ ہزار لوکرس (lockers) میں صرف آٹھ کلیمس (claims) بھی نہ آئی اور آٹھ کلیمز (claims) کرنے والے جو ہیں ان کے بارے میں پتہ نہیں کہ وہ درست بھی ہیں یا نہیں اس کے بعد یہ طے ہوا کہ تیس لوکرس (lockers) روز کھولے جائیں کیسی مزاق کی بات ہے کہ آٹھ ہزار لوکرس (lockers) موجود ہیں لیکن روز تیس لوکرس کھولے جائیں - وہاں یہ بھی کہا گیا ہے کہ سونے کے اوپر چالیس روپیہ فی تولہ ڈکات کے کسٹم

[پنڈت تھاکر داس بھارگو]

(custom) لیا جائے میں ادب سے عرض کرونگا کہ اس در مصیبت لوگوں پر ڈالی ہیں میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ ان کے صبر کا پیالہ لبریز ہو چکا ہے اب وقت ہے کہ کوئی نہ کوئی عملی قدم اس سلسلہ میں اُٹھایا جائے اس کے علاوہ بہت دنوں سے سنتے آئے ہیں پنجابیوں کوطرح طرح کی نوکریاں ایمپلائمنٹ ایکسچینج (Employment Exchange) میں ملیں گی اور اس کی قاعی بھی آج ہندوستان ٹائمز میں کھل چکی ہے۔ آج کے اخبار میں درج ہے کہ دہلی اور اجمیر کے ایمپلائمنٹ ایکسچینج (Employment Exchange) میں ۲۷ ہزار درخواستیں آئی ہیں جسمیں ایک ہزار ایک سو چودہ کو صرف نوکریاں دلائی گئی ہیں اسواسطے میں ادب سے عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ وقت کی کمی کے کارن میں اور چیزوں کو چھوڑتا ہوں - فیکٹریز (factories) کے بارے میں مجھے عرض کرنے کی ضرورت نہیں ہے - مکانوں کا سوال بڑی ہماری سامنے ہے - یہ بڑی نہیں ہے کہ کم سے کم ایک زمین ہی دیدیں - اور ان کو پرمانینٹ ری ہیبیلیٹیشن (permanent rehabilitation) دیا جائے - یہ دونوں گورنمنٹ نے اب تک فیصلہ نہیں کیا کہ ان زمینوں اور مکانوں کا کیا ہوگا کیسے پرمانینٹ ری ہیبیلیٹیشن (permanent rehabilitation) ہو سکتا ہے اس ملک کے اندر زمین ہے پانی ہے گھاس ہے پھوس ہے اور کچھ بانس ہے کیوں نہیں مٹی کے مکان بنائے جاتے - حصار ضلع میں ایک سو برس پرانے تک کے مٹی کے مکانات آج کے دن بھی موجود ہیں کوئی وجہ نہیں ہے کہ مٹی کے مکان کیوں نہ بنائے جائیں - لیکن سیدھی بات یہ ہے کہ یہاں پلاننگ اور ایمیجینیشن (imagination) قطعی نہیں ہے -

جناب والا! مجھے معاف فرمایئے گا میں جناب کی اجازت سے ایک بات اور بتلانا چاہتا ہوں - جتنی پالیسی ہماری اس گورنمنٹ کی ہے یا تو اس کو ڈیوائن (Divine) پالیسی کہا جائے اور یا ان ہیومن (Inhuman) پالیسی کہا جائے - ہیومن (Human) پالیسی تو ہے نہیں - یہاں پر فیصلہ ہو گیا ہے کہ ایسٹرن پنجاب کے لوگ پاکستان چلے جائیں گے لیکن ہم کیا دیکھتے ہیں کہ گاندھی جی پانی پت کے اسٹیشن پر تین ہزار مسلمانوں سے پرارتھنا کرتے ہیں اور خوشامد کرتے ہیں کہ وہ یہیں پڑے رہیں اور پاکستان نہ جائیں-لیکن وہ پاکستان چلے گئے -ہندوستان مسلمانوں کو ریل کم کرنے کو تیار ہے - میں مانتا ہوں کہ ہماری سرکار شریف ہے اور ہائی آئیڈیاس (ideals) پر قائم ہے اور اس کا ثبوت یہ ہے کہ دو ہزار مکانات دس ہزار سے خالی رکھے ہوئے ہیں کہ وہ لوگ جب واپس آئیں گے تو اُن کو بسایا جائے گا اس واسطے وہ مکان شرنارتھیوں کو نہیں دئے جاتے - تمام مکانوں میں دس ہزار شرنارتھیوں کو بسایا جا سکتا ہے - میری سمجھ میں نہیں آتا کہ یہ سلسلہ کبتک جاری رہے گا - پہلے آپ ریپدوجی بانٹے ہیں کیوں دیکھ ہیں -پہلے ریپدوجی بنائیں اور پھر ان کو دی ہیبیلیٹیٹ کریں -آج بنگال کے

اندر جو سلو پراسیس آف ایکسوڈس (Slow (process of Exodus کا ہے اس کو ہمیں روکنا چاہیئے - گورنمنٹ کا کام ہے کہ اس کو روکے ایک وقت تھا کہ جب گورنمنٹ کہتی تھی کہ ہمیں تجربہ نہیں تھا ہمیں عقل نہیں تھی ہمیں Imaginaton نہیں تھا آج سارا تجربہ موجود ہے ایک طرف مسلمانوں کو جو جو سے جانا چاہتے ہیں ان کو روکا جاتا ہے اور دوسری طرف سارے ہندو سکھ بھائی جو لاکھوں کی تعداد میں وہاں سے بھاگ کر شرن میں آئے ہیں ان کو بسایا نہیں جاتا گورنمنٹ کو اس کے بارے میں فیصلہ کرنا چاہیئے میری ادب سے گزارش یہ ہے کہ جب تک بنگال کا ایکسوڈس (exodus) جاری ہے میں اس گورنمنٹ کی بڑی بھاری ان ایفی شینسی (inefficiency) سمجھتا ہوں- میرا تو یہ کہنا ہے کہ جو لوگ یہاں سے جانا چاہتے ہیں ہم انہیں جانے دیں اور انہیں نہ روکیں اور قریب ایک کروڑ آدمی جو یہاں بسنا چاہتے ہیں ان کے رہائش کا انتظام کیا جائے اگر ایسا نہ کیا جائے گا اور گورنمنٹ اپنی پالیسی ٹھیک نہیں کریگی تو پھر پاپولیشن (population) کا تس پلیس منٹ(Displacement) ہوگا اور کمیونل رائٹس (Communal Riots) ہوں گے - میں چاہتا ہوں کہ کم سے کم اب وہ سب باتیں نہ ہوں - لوگ پاکستان سے آکر کشمیر میں ریڈ Raid کرتے ہیں لیکن ان کو جواب دینے کی ضرورت نہیں ہے اس بارے میں ایک بڑے بھاری آریہ سماجی نے کہا ہے کہ ہماری گورنمنٹ کی پالیسی تو ایسی ہے جیسے بھینس کے آگے بین بجانا - میری شکایت تو یہی ہے کہ ہماری گورنمنٹ اور ہماری منسٹری زیادہ سے زیادہ شریف ہے اور میں چاہتا ہوں کہ اب یہ پالیسی چھوڑ دی جائے اور یہ پالیسی جس کو ہم روز اتنے غصے سے دیکھتے آئے ہیں اور اس سے نہ کوئی ابھی تک نتیجہ نکلا ہے اور نہ نکل سکتا ہے - اب وقت آگیا ہے کہ خوشامد کرنے کی پالیسی چھوڑ دی جائے اور گورنمنٹ کی اس پالیسی کا ریورسل (reversal) کیا جائے تاکہ لوگوں کو تسلی ہو - گورنمنٹ کی موجودہ پالیسی تسلی بخش نہیں ہے اس پالیسی کا ایک ہی اثر ہے کہ یہاں پر فرسٹریشن (frustration)ہے اور وہاں پر وہ من مانی کرتے ہیں- میں ضرور مانتا ہوں کہ یہ پالیسی شریف اور ہائی ایڈیلس (ideals)پر مبنی ہے لیکن ان ہیومین (inhuman) ہے اس لئے کہ انسان تو اس کو سمجھ نہیں سکتے دیرتا ہی بھلے سمجھ سکتے ہوں اس منسٹری کو اب تھوڑا سا امیجی نیشن (Imagination) پر کام کرنا چاہیئے اور نئے مکانات بنانا چاہیئے اور اس کے لئے پلاننگ (Planning) کرنی چاہئے - اس وقت کتنے ہی آدمی دہلی میں ایسے ہیں جنہیں ابتک مکانات اور زمینیں نہیں مل سکی ہیں - کرنال اور دوسرے ضلعوں میں بھی لوگ پھنس جاتے ہیں اور وہ ری ہیبلیٹیٹ (Rehabilitate) نہیں ہو سکتے - میں ریہیبلیٹیشن (Rehabilitation) کا ایک ہی حل سمجھتا ہوں کہ سب کو زمین دی جائے - آج تک اس سے قبل فیصلہ نہیں ہوا کہ انہیں

[پنڈت ٹھاکرداس بھارگوا]

مکان بنانے کے لئے زمین دی جائے - اتنے ٹکڑے پڑے ہیں ان کے بیچ میں زمینیں کی جائیں اور اور وہ آپ خود فیصلہ کرلیں گے یہ پنجابی جانے ہیں ان ہی کے اوپر بار ڈالئے اور کسی طرح زمین مکان بنانے کے لئے انہیں دیجئے تو آپ تین برس کے اندر یہ حالت دیکھینگے کہ سب طرف مکان ہی مکان نظر آئینگے -

ایک چیز کی شکایت یہ ہے کہ شرنارتھی ابھی جانتے ہیں کہ گورنمنٹ ہمارے لئے کہیں سے سورگ بنا دیگی یہ سمجھتے ہوئے وہ گورنمنٹ کی حکومت کی کم پرواہ کرتے ہیں- یہاں بھی گورنمنٹ کی غلطی ہے گورنمنٹ حکم دیگی ایک شخص جسے آپ حکم دیتے ہیں کہ دہلی کا مکان چھوڑ دو اگر وہ دہلی میں بیٹھے ہوئے ہیں تو آرڈر دیں - کہ وہ یا تو حکم مانیں ورنہ مدد کی توقع نہ کریں-

(English translation of the above speech)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, since your ruling that it is not necessary to move a cut motion I shall speak only generally on the demands of this Ministry.

Sir, my mind is puzzled. When I see Mr. Neogy I cannot decide whether I should criticise this Budget for I find him busy day and night in the service of refugees, facing every difficulty. When he goes out on tours he instructs officers to serve the refugees to the best of their capacities. Again when I look to other Honourable Ministers of the Cabinet and find them sympathising with refugees—devoting all their time and energy to bring good to them—solving intricate matters calmly and patiently, I cannot help remarking that they are worthy of all praise. The Punjab Government have proposed a sum of rupees two and a half crores to be spent on building houses and this House has allotted to the Industrial and Financial Corporation for Rehabilitation a sum of rupees ten crores, and the Government have spent about three crores on their clothing and a further fifteen lakhs are being spent on their food and further about 40 lakhs of people have been brought from West Punjab in a comparatively short time and the Government are providing them with all possible facilities. I cannot help thanking them for all that they are doing. I know and I have also suffered from difficulties at one time. What the former Government did when there was famine here; it is needless to discuss as the question of comparison of the two Governments simply does not arise.

However, when I find so much sympathy being shown to refugees and so much money being spent on them I am really surprised to see the present condition of refugees and the treatment meted out to them; I seriously begin to doubt whether all the sympathy of the Government and their efforts will be in vain. Is it that no result comes out of the efforts of the Governments or that there is something wrong with the working of the Government. This is all very strange. Sir, these people who are now called refugees are in fact the price of freedom. The whole country has found freedom but the Punjabis have suffered badly. These people were the most prosperous in their province. Several of them were living in palaces and were cultivating lands that yielded gold. They are helpless today and have to wander about from door to door, it is no fault of their own and you cannot hold them responsible for their present condition. I for my part would not blame any body for this. These people have passed through many difficulties and they are not responsible for them. It is a pity, therefore, when orders are issued that there is no room for refugees in Delhi or when it is declared from Dehra Dun that it cannot have refugees or when some of the States also put restrictions on the entry of refugees. That means that nobody is willing to have these distressed people.

They have the same claim on this Government as we have. Then Sir, the refugees have, during the last five or six months of their stay spent every penny they had and their condition is now extremely bad. I understand that there are many graduates of the Punjab University among the refugees who have set up stalls in Delhi. Some of them are plying tongas; others have taken to hawking. Thus by doing business on a small scale only they are earning their daily bread. The refugees have not so far begged for anything, they know how to work. I would point out that many doctors, lawyers and industrial technicians have in large number come from the Punjab to Delhi and other neighbouring places. It was time to settle them here and take an advantage of their presence for the good of the country. We are facing disappointment on every side. Just a month before Mr. Neogy's appointment, we the Punjabis, used to meet here regularly in a committee; of which Bakshi Sir Tek Chand was the Chairman. We used to consider measures for our rehabilitation in this Committee. Later the official committee was set up and it held its meetings for months together, practically every day, and passed resolutions. Though the Advisory Committee sat for about six months it brought forth nothing for us.

I would most respectfully ask if a single refugee or a Punjabi has been given the opportunity of permanent rehabilitation here? I, therefore, beg to say that though we are spending a lot on our future development plans and schemes yet we are not having any material benefit from them. The inspection of sites etc., was carried out in the month of september last but nothing was done. What has happened to those sites? Where is that problem now? All these schemes have now totally disappeared. It is true that the East Punjab Government has proposed two and a half crores for building houses but the money belongs to the Government of India and we do not know when these houses will be built. People look towards the sky, the clouds are there, but they do not rain. I beg to say that this is a very bad state of affairs. Our Government have reached an agreement with the other Government on the matter of lockers and immovable property but what has been the result of it? Government had promised to help the banks but what is happening today? The bank people are knocking about and holding meetings. If they could have been helped to the extent of two to three crores it would have been a help to seven thousand families. Leaving aside this the treatment meted out to banks is well known. It is not known what more is there in store for the Punjabis.

Now turning to the policy about lockers, we find that though the Government have reached an agreement with the Pakistan Government, the agreement which took months instead of a day, the agreement was that people should go to Pakistan and bring back their property from the lockers. This matter has been made more complicated when it is said from the other side that the Sikhs must not go there, not even under police or military guard, because the people there get excited at the sight of Sikhs. Most respectfully I would say that if the very sight of a Sikh makes their blood boil then it is the duty of every Hindustani to send there only Sikhs and none else, whether we are able to agree to anything or not. Not only this, they further stipulated that there were about eight thousand lockers in all which also contained ornaments of the Muslim mortgagers, it was not fair therefore to open them now for the Muslims would lose their ornaments. Thereupon it was decided that the Muslims should be asked to submit their claims. We know that all this is trickery and nothing else, for against this number of eight thousand lockers not even eight claims have been received; even the genuineness of these eight claims is seriously in doubt. At this it was decided that only thirty lockers should be opened every day. Is it not ridiculous that only thirty lockers should be opened in a day when there are about eight thousand of them. It was also stated that Rs. 40 per tola would be charged as custom duty on gold. I may point out respectfully that the people have been subjected to so much hardship that they have

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

lost patience now and it is the time when some action should be taken in this matter. We were also told that Punjabis would be provided with jobs through the Employment Exchange, but the hollowness of these statements has been made known in an article in the *Hindustan Times* of today's date, which says, that against 27 thousand applications received by the Delhi and Ajmer Employment Exchanges, jobs were provided for only 1,114 applicants. For want of time I am not discussing other matters. I am also not taking up the matter of factories; the housing problem is still facing us. It is not even that some land should have been given to them for permanent rehabilitation. The two Governments have not so far even made up their minds as to what should be done about the land and houses for refugees and how they can give them a chance of permanent rehabilitation. There is plenty of land, water, straw, grass and bamboo in this country. I cannot understand why *kacha* houses made of mud cannot be built for these people. In Hissar District *kacha* houses made of mud built over a hundred years ago are still existing. There is, therefore, no reason why *kacha* houses should not be built here. The fact remains there is no imagination or planning here.

Sir, I may be excused if I may say something more with your permission. I do not know if the entire policy of the Government should be called a divine policy or an inhuman policy. It is not human policy in any case. They have decided that the people from the Eastern Punjab shall go to Pakistan, but we find Mahatma Gandhi pursuading and begging three thousand Muslims on Panipat Railway Station that they should stay here and should not go to Pakistan. In spite of this they all left for Pakistan. The Indian Union is in no doubt willing to welcome the Muslims and I agree that our Government is very gentle and is based on very high ideals. As a proof of this we find that about two thousand houses have been lying vacant since the 10th September for those who might come back from Pakistan and for this reason these houses have not been given to refugees. I am sure at least ten thousand refugees could be housed in these vacant houses. I do not understand how long this state of affairs will continue. It is no good to have refugees first and then to face the question of their rehabilitation. We should stop that process of exodus that is going on today in Bengal, it is the duty of the Government to stop it. At one time the Government pleaded that they had no experience they had no foresight and that they had no imagination but today they have all this. But what happens: on the one hand they are pursuading those Mohammadens to stay here who want to leave this country, on the other they have not made any arrangement for accommodating those Lakhs of Hindus and Sikhs brethren who left their country and have come to take their shelter here. The Government should decide about their policy in this matter. I beg to say that so long as exodus from Bengal continues it is due to the inefficiency of the Government. I suggest that those who want to leave this country should be permitted to do so, while those numbering about one crore who are willing to settle down here, should be provided with accommodation. If this is not done and the Government do not change their policy displacement of population is bound to take place and there will be communal riots. I wish that such things do not happen again. People from Pakistan are raiding the Kashmir ferritory, do you think they should not be dealt with in a like manner? A prominent Arya Samaji remarked in this connection that the policy of our Government could be compared to the playing of flute before a buffaloe. I, therefore, beg to say that my only complaint is that our Government and our Ministry are too gentle and I want that this policy should be changed now. It is time that this policy of appeasement is discarded and the policy is reversed so that people may feel satisfied. This policy of the Government is not satisfactory. It has only one effect *viz.* that there is frustration here, while in Pakistan they do what they like. I quite agree that this policy of Government is based on high ideals but is is inhuman in the sense that it is beyond the

comprehension of human beings and can be understood by gods alone. The Ministry should have some imagination; it should build houses for refugees and chalk out their programme in this connection. There are still many people here who have not so far been able to secure a house nor a land in Delhi. Even those who entered the Karnal and Hissar Districts have not been rehabilitated there. What I understand from rehabilitation is that land should be given to every one; but nothing has been decided upto this time. There are so many plots of land; some of these should be given over to the refugees and leave it to be decided among themselves. You may also leave the matter of building the houses to them. You will then find that in the course of ony three years there will be houses on every side.

I would also complain that refugees are under the impression that the Government will create paradise for them, so they do not listen to Government orders. This is also a mistake on the part of the Government. Government should order them. If a man has been ordered to vacate a house and he continues to stay in Delhi he should be told to respect the orders otherwise he should not expect any help from the Government.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, I shall speak specifically on the problem of rescue and restoration of women on which I have tabled a cut motion.

No one in this House or in the world outside will dispute the fact that the worst horror that has come as an outcome of the communal frenzy and bestiality in this country is the treatment that has been meted out to women. This dreadful aspect of it which first arose in Noakhali, has since spread far and wide and has assumed a magnitude and a proportion that is unparalleled in human history. Sir, the rescue and the restoration to the social fold of women who have been the victims of this outrage is the most difficult and yet the most essential part of rehabilitation work. The little experience that I have had in the rescue of such women makes it impossible for me to discount or minimize in any manner the very great difficulty of this type of work. I hope that the Honourable Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation will realize that any suggestions that I have to offer are not in the nature of destructive criticism.

Apart from the question of rescue itself, on which I will say a few words later, the mental rehabilitation, the restoration of such women who have been the victims of outrage, is a problem which requires very intricate and delicate handling.

I will not have the time to go into any great detail or any descriptive analysis, nor do I think it is necessary. I should like to confine my remarke as far as possible to some concrete suggestions.

In the first place, I feel strongly that women who have been so grievously hurt and wounded should be kept apart from other refugees until such time as they are in a position to take up the threads of normal life. They should be kept under the individual care and supervision of women who are skilled and competent to help them and nurse them back to take up their positions in the social fold. Even if the families of such women are anxious to take them back, I think it is undesirable that they should go back until such time as they are mentally as well as physically restored. There is a great likelihood of their being crippled and maimed for life unless some action is taken to see that they are not required to readjust themselves to ordinary life until they have had time to get back to normalcy. I think some competent authority such as the women's section of the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry with the help of womens' organisation should be in charge of this work and it is they who should decide when such women are fit to return to their homes. A much more important matter is the question of unmarried young

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[Shrimati Renuka Ray]

girls. In regard to the return of these girls to those who claim to be their relatives, unless they are their own parents, I think the authenticity as well as the desirability of such relatives should be gone into before they are handed over; unless this is done there is the likelihood and danger of further exploitation of these girls. If there is any dispute over this there should be some such machinery as a Court of Wards which should be set up to decide the matter. I do think that the Government or the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation should immediately empower itself legally in both these types of cases so as to be in a position and have the right to decide what is best for the women concerned.

I will now turn to the question of rehabilitation. The last speaker has made a very eloquent speech on this subject and I only want to point out some specific points with regard to the rehabilitation of women. I do not think that the establishment of homes where some little occupation is given which has not been properly planned is enough. In this country there is a very great dearth of women who come forward to be trained in the different fields of nation building services that are so necessary for the development of the nation. This great tragedy has left thousands and thousands of women homeless and alone. Why should we not utilise even their circumstances to whatever extent possible to our advantage. The opportunity should be taken to train these women to become useful and purposeful citizens: Tinkering with the problem by doing a little here and there will not be sufficient. What is required is a properly planned scheme of vocational training on a long term basis. The women can be trained in a varfety of occupations according to their aptitude and inclination—such as nurses, teachers, social workers, training them in useful occupations such as running laundery services, co-operative Restaurants, Community Kitchens and various other things. I would request, in fact I would earnestly appeal to the Rehabilitation Minister to take up this question immediately. It is quite unnecessary to draw up a scheme with large overhead expenses which may mean delay. Simple schemes which can be implemented immediately should be taken up. But I think a good deal of time has already been wasted, and I hope that there will be no more delay.

I will now turn to another aspect and that is the question of rescue. I think that this House is aware of the fact that there is an apparent reluctance on the part of a certain number of women to return to their homes. There are two main causes for this. One is (and I have seen cases like this myself) where women act as hostages for the protection and the safe conduct of their families. Until and unless those families are returned from the danger zone these women would rather sacrifice themselves than jeopardise the future of their dear and near ones. The second point is that a great deal of propaganda has been done in regard to the bigotry and prejudices of Hindu society. If these women come to know that the compelling force of circumstances have broken down these prejudices to a large extent, and if they also know whether they have homes to come back to or not, the Government of India with the help of the women's organisations of this country are willing to take up the responsibility and see to it that they are not victimised, they would come back. I think that every avenue should be explored to see that this news reaches them through the Indian newspapers which have circulation in Pakistan, or through transit camps or High Commissioner's offices. Systematic propaganda to make the truth of the matter known should be taken up immediately.

Sir, there is one other point which I would like to make if you would give me the time and that is that the customs barriers that have been imposed since March have raised a new problem. We have heard from reliable witnesses about women being searched across the border in Eastern Pakistan and of the

outrages that have been committed on them. There is likelihood of retaliation but I hope this will not be. But I do think that the Government should approach the Pakistan authorities and both Governments should appoint women investigators or women police to search women on both sides. It is true that the Government of India can only show its own good faith, its own effectiveness and can only request and not compel Pakistan. But I think that if we on our side show that we are sincere and earnest about this problem, then whatever is or is not done on the other side this itself will be the most compelling force on our side. This is the way that Mahatma Gandhi wanted us to act. We cannot pay him tribute only by changing the name of towns, townships and roads nor by engraving his name or picture on stamps. If we wish to honour and pay tribute to him, which we failed to do during the last many months, let us put our minds to this problem, about which he was so deeply agitated. Let us each and every one of us help the Government of India to see to it that women are not victimised further. We can show our own good faith, as I said, and I am sure that in the end this will have its effect on the other side. Neither retaliation nor lukewarm behaviour, because of lack of response on the other side, will achieve what we desire.

گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر : سبھاپتی جی ! معاملہ بہت اہم ہے - پر وقت تھوڑا ہے اس لئے میں کوئی رسمی مبارکباد یا کوئی اور تمہیدی بات کہنے کے بغیر اصلی مطلب پر آتا ہوں جہاں تک مبارکباد کا تعلق ہے ہمارے پنڈت جی نے جو بہت پرانے تجربہ‌کار ہیں - بزرگ ہیں انہوں نے اپنا فرض پورا کردیا - پرماننٹ رھیبلیٹیشن عارضی رھائش اور Rescue کرانا جیسا کہ شریمتی ریلوکارے جی نے کہ‌موشن پیش کی ہے یہ چند باتیں ہیں جو اس وقت زیر بحث ہیں - صاحب صدر ! یہ ایک صاف بات ہے کہ پرماننٹ رھیبلیٹیشن دو ہی طریقوں سے ہو سکتی ہے اور وہ یوں کہ یا تو ان لوگوں کے لئے جو ہمارے بھائی یہاں آئے ہیں نئے مکان تعمیر کئے جائیں نیا انتظام کیا جائے یا جو مسلمان بھائی یہاں سے چلے گئے ہیں ان کی جگہ جو خالی ہوئی ہے ان پر ان کو بسایا جائے - تیسری بات اگرچہ اہم ہے مگر اس کے متعلق کچھ کہا نہیں جا سکتا وہ احساس کی بات ہے کہ ہمارے دل میں دوبارہ بسانے کا احساس ہو میں یہ تو نہیں کہتا کہ بسانیکا احساس نہیں ہے ، مگر بسانے کے خیال پر پوری توجہ ہوتی تو بہت کچھ کام اس وقت تک ہو سکتا تھا - میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ یہاں بنیادی طور پر ایک فرق سا نظر آ رہا ہے - ہماری گورنمنٹ کی پالیسی یہ ہے کہ جہاں سے جو آیا ہے وہ وہیں چلا جائے اور یہاں سے جو گیا ہے وہ واپس آ جائے - ہماری آل انڈیا کانگریس کمیٹی نے جس کے فیصلوں کا ہماری گورنمنٹ پر بھی بہت اثر ہے ایک ریزولیوشن اس بات کا پاس کیا تھا میں بھی اس سے متفق ہوں - یہ ٹھیک ہے کہ کوئی بھی خوشی سے اپنے گھر کے باہر رہنا پسند نہیں کرتا کوئی بھی اپنے وطن کو نہیں چھوڑ سکتا اب جن بہت سی بوڑھی عورتوں کو پاکستان سے لایا جا رہا ہے وہ دراصل وطن کے پریم ہی میں وہاں بیٹھی ہوئی ہیں - پاکستان والے کہتے ہیں کہ ہمارے پاس بھی اغوا شدہ عورتیں ہیں - بوڑھی عورتوں کے اغوا کا کوئی سوال پیدا نہیں ہوتا - نوجوان لڑکیاں تو بہت

[گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر]

کم واپس لائی جاتی ہیں - بوڑھی عورتیں تو اپنا گھر چھوڑنا پسند نہیں کرتی تھیں ۔ بنیادی طور پر تو یہ بات ٹھیک ہے کہ جو جس جگہ کا ہے وہ وہیں آرام سے رہے - مگر دیکھنا یہ ہے کہ موجودہ حالات میں اس پر عمل ہو سکتا ہے یا نہیں - دو مثالیں ہمارے سامنے ہیں - ۲۰ نومبر کو پاکستان سرکار کی منظوری سے کچھ غیر مسلم لاہور اپنے لاکرز لینے گئے - مسلم مجمعہ نے اُن پر حملہ کر دیا اور کہا گیا کہ سکھ سپاہیوں کو دیکھکر مسلمانوں کو جوش آ گیا جس وجہ سے یہ واقع ہوا - یعنی وہ سکھوں کو دیکھنا نہیں چاہتے - دوسرا واقع ہے کراچی (سندھ) میں گوردوارے پر حملہ کرنیکا یہ واقع کیسے ہوا جسمیں سکھوں کے ساتھ ہمارے ہندو بھائی بھی مارے گئے یعنی آٹے کے ساتھ گھن بھی پس گیا اور اسکی وجہ یہ بتلائی گئی کہ بہت سے پناہ گزیں سکھ ایک کھلے چھکڑے میں لائے گئے جس سے لوگوں میں اشتعال پیدا ہو گیا اور اُنہوں نے گوردوارے پر حملہ کر دیا ان واقعات سے یہ سمجھنا چاہئیے کہ کسی سکھ کا جنکی تعداد تھوڑی نہیں ہے ۱۳ یا ۱۴ لاکھ کے قریب ہوگی پاکستان میں رہنا بڑا ہی مشکل ہے اور پاکستان کے اخبارات بھی انکے جو روز کے مضمون ہیں اسمیں لکھتے ہیں کہ

کوئی سکھ رہنے نہ پائے مغربی پنجاب میں

اسطرح سکھوں کا وہاں جانا بہت مشکل ہے - پنڈت تھاکر داس جی نے کہا کہ ۵۰ لاکھ سکھ وہاں جانا ہے تو سب جائینگے ۔ سکھ کیوں نہ اپنے گھروں میں جائیں ہم پہلے سکھوں کو بھیجیں گے ۵۵ - میں پنڈت جی کی اور اُنکی ہمدردی کو سمجھتا ہوں - انکا سکھوں سے دلی پریم ہے اور اس پریم کی وجہ سے ہی اُنہوں نے یہ کہا ہے - لیکن سکھوں کو اگر وہاں بھیجا گیا تو پہلے بھی سکھ مرے تھے اور جو باقی رہ گئے ہیں وہ اب مار ڈالے جائینگے تو انکے Rehabilitation کا سوال ہی ختم ہوجائیگا - یہ صاف طور پر نظر آ رہا ہے کہ وہاں جانا بہت مشکل ہے اور وہاں کوئی آج جا سکتا ہی نہیں جبتک کہ انتظام نہ ہو گورنمنٹ نے اسکا تو خیال کر لیا لیکن اس کے متعلق تین یا چار مہینوں میں گورنمنٹ نے کیا کیا یہ دوطرفہ بات ہے - وہاں کوئی غیر مسلم نہیں رہ سکتا جبتک پولیس مشترکہ نہ ہو - آرمی مشترکہ نہ ہو - منسٹری مشترکہ نہ ہو Services مشترکہ نہ ہوں - موجودہ صورت میں کسی کا وہاں رہنا بڑا مشکل ہو جاتا ہے - اب سوال آ جاتا ہے ہمارے مسلمان بھائیوں کا - اس سلسلے میں پہلی بات تو یہ ہے کہ پاکستان کا نیشنلسٹ کون ہے اور ہندوستان کا کون ہے جبتک یہ بنیادی بات طے نہیں ہوگی یہ مسئلہ طے نہیں ہو سکتا - ہم نے اپنے مسلمان بھائیوں کو یہاں واپس لانے کی بہت کوشش کی اور اس کوشش میں ہم نے اپنی نیک نیتی کا ثبوت دیا - ہم نے کمیونلزم کے خلاف پروپیگنڈا کیا - ہم [illegible] کرا دیں عرس کی

کمیٹی میں شریک ہو کر بڑی کوشش کی عرس لگوانیکی - یہاں تک کہ اس مشن کی تکمیل کیلئے ہم نے اپنا قیمتی سرمایہ لٹوا دیا ۔ میری مراد مہاتما جی سے ہے - اتنی کوششوں کے بعد اب ہمیں دیکھنا ہے کہ ہمنے اپنا کتنا اعتبار قائم کیا اور ہماری گورنمنٹ اس تجربہ کے بعد کس نتیجہ پر پہنچی ہے چند ایک دھاری کے واقعات ہیں جو میں آپکے سامنے رکھتا ہوں جبکہ دھاری میں ہم اپنے مسلمان بھائیوں کو بسانے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں اور باوجود ہماری اس کوشش کے کچھ مسلمان بھائی اُلٹا ہی سوچ رہے ہیں - جیسا کہ ان مثالوں سے ظاہر ہے :- کیفات پلیس میں ایک نیو انڈیا پریس ہے جو ایک مسلمان کا تھا اور وہ Evacuee Property تسلیم کیا گیا تھا اسکے مالک مسٹر مظفر خاں صاحب واپس آئے اُنہوں نے درخواست دی کہ یہ پریس واپس کیا جائے وہ پریس واپس دیا گیا جسے وہ ۳۵ ہزار میں فروخت کرکے پاکستان چلے گئے ایک اور فرنٹیر اکسیلسیئر پریس کیفات پلیس میں ہے اسکے مالک بھی واپس آئے اور اُنہوں نے کہا کہ یہاں رہیں گے لیکن بعد میں اس پریس کو ایک لاکھ دس ہزار روپیہ میں فروخت کرکے اور ان روپوں کو جیب میں ڈالکر واپس چلے گئے یہاں ایک اور آرمی پریس ہے جو بکنے والا ہے مجھے ابھی تک معلوم ہوا ہے کہ اسکی ۱۵ لاکھ قیمت لگ چکی ہے وہ بھی Evacuee پراپرٹی تھی اسکے مالک یہاں نہیں آئے کیونکہ کراچی میں اسکا Business ہے وہاں اُسکا ایک سول ملٹری پریس ہے اور ایک دد حیات ۵۵ نام کا روزنامہ بھی وہ کراچی سے چلا رہا ہے مجھے پتہ لگا ہے کہ وہ پاکستان میں رہنا چاہتا ہے اُس نے اپنے لڑکے کو یہاں بھیجا - جہاں تک پتہ لگا ہے لڑکے کا حق ملکیت نہیں ہے مگر درخواست دے کر اس نے پریس کا قبضہ لے لیا اور وہ آجکل میں بکنے والا ہے اسیطرح یہاں ایک اور جگہ ہے جہاں موٹر اسپیر پارٹس بکتے ہیں جسے عام طور سے موتیا خان کے کباڑ خانے کہتے ہیں وہ جائداد بھی Evacuee Property تھی۔ اسکے متعلق بھی میں نے سنا ہے کہ custodian کو جو دفعہ ۱۲ کے ماتحت درخواست دیجاتی ہے وہ بھی نہیں دی گئی اور پندرہ دن کا نوٹس جو دیا جاتا ہے وہ بھی نہیں دیا گیا - تب بھی اُسکو custodian نے واپس دے دیا وہ بھی تین لاکھ میں قریب قریب بیچ کر یہاں سے چلتے بنے- یہاں ایک مشہور ہمدرد دواخانہ ہے وہ بھی اپنی جائداد کو تین کروڑ ۸۴۰ لاکھ میں ڈالمیا سیمنٹ کمپنی کے پاس میں نے سنا ہے کہ بیچ چکے ہیں اور باقی ماندہ جائداد بھی بیچ کر جانیوالے ہیں - یہ مثالیں میرے دینے کا مطلب یہ ہے کہ ہم لوگوں پر ان کا اعتبار نہیں جم سکا تو ایسی حالت میں کچھ مسلمان جب اسطرح کر رہے ہیں تو ہمیں بھی اُن پر کیا اعتبار ہو سکتا ہے - کہ وہ یہاں آئینگے اور ہندوستان کا وفادار citizen رہینگے - مجھے پتا لگا ہے کہ نیشنلسٹ مسلمان بھی اسطرح کی کمزوریاں کرنے مسلمانوں پر دکھی ہو رہے ہیں - میں کہنا چاہتا

[گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر]

موں کہ اگر مسلمان یہاں رہنا چاہیں تو رہیں کیونکہ یہ ایک Secular سٹیٹ ہے میں نے خود کوشش کی ہے کہ ہمارے مسلمان بھائی یہاں رہیں - مجھکو تو جب تک مل جلکر نہ رہیں توکچھ پھیکی پھیکی بات معلوم ہوتی ہے مگر کیا کریں کتنا ہی آپ کوشش کریں جبتک اعتبار نہیں جمتا اسوقت تک کام ہونے کا نہیں یہ تو رہا ایک طرف دوسری طرف ہم دیکھتے ہیں کہ وہاں پاکستان میں جو بھی ہماری فیکٹریز ہیں انکا فوراً الاٹ منٹ کیاجا رہا ہے اور اُن میں کام جاری ہے یہاں پچھلے چھ مہینے میں صرف ۱۵۰ انڈسٹیریل پریمز الاٹ کئے گئے ہیں اسکے بارے میں یہ کہا جاتا ہے کہ الاٹ منٹ کے متعلق منسٹری آف انڈسٹری اور منسٹری آف ری ہیبلیٹیشن میں جھگڑا چلتا رہا میں یہ دیکھتا ہوں کہ کوئی اور منسٹر صاحب ہاؤس میں نہیں تشریف رکھتے ہیں یہ ری ہیبلیٹیشن اور Refugees کا جو معاملہ ہے وہ ایک کا معاملہ نہیں ہے اسمیں سب مددگار ہیں - شری گڈگل مکان دے سکتے ہیں اور ہمارے ہوم منسٹر صاحب اچھی اچھی نوکریاں Refugees کو دے سکتے ہیں ہمارے فوڈ منسٹر صاحب خوراک دے سکتے ہیں - اور ہمارے پرائم منسٹر صاحب پاکستان سرکار سے انکی جائدادوں کے متعلق اچھے فیصلے کروا سکتے ہیں - میرا مطلب یہ ہے کہ ہر ایک محکمہ انکی بھلائی کے لئے کچھ نہ کچھ کر سکتا ہے - اور کر بھی رہے ہیں - مگر مزید توجہ کی اشد ضرورت ہے - محکمہ ری ہیبلیٹیشن کی بھرتی اور پھیلاؤ وسیع نظر آتا ہے - اس محکمہ پر سرکار خرچ بھی کافی برداشت کر رہی ہے - مگر نتیجہ کے لحاظ خواہ مخواہ یہ شعر میری زبان پر آتا ہے -

بہت شور سنتے تھے پہلو میں دل کا
جو چیرا تواک قطرۂ خون نہ نکلا -

جب ہم Custodian آفس میں جاتے ہیں تو وہاں سے ہمکو معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ کام بہت ہے مگر ۶ مہینے سے زیادہ وقت گزر چکا ہے ابھی تک کوئی Business Premises الاٹ نہیں کئے گئے ہیں اسکی وجہ یہ بتلاتے ہیں کہ ہم کیا کریں درخواستیں زیادہ ہیں اور جگہ تھوڑی ہے ہمارا سارا وقت درخواستوں کو چھانٹنے میں نکل جاتا ہے - بڑے دکھ کی بات ہے کہ یہاں دہلی میں جو Refugees آئے ہیں انکے لئے اس طرح سے سست کام ہو رہا ہے -

یہاں جو Refugees آئے ہوئے ہیں انکے تین classes ہیں ایک تو بڑے Landlord سرمایہ دار اور دوسرا مڈل کلاس والے اور تیسرے چھوٹے طبقہ والے - سرمایہ دار یا Land Lord جو ہیں وہ تو کچھ اپنے ساتھ کچھ نہ کچھ جو وہ لا سکتے تھے لے آئے ہیں اور وہ اپنی گزر بسر کر رہے ہیں دوسرا طبقہ جو مڈل کلاس والا ہے وہ اپنے ساتھ چھ یا سات ہزار روپیہ اگر لایا بھی تھا وہ ان چھ مہینوں میں کھانے پینے میں خرچ

کرچکا ہے - تیسرا طبقہ ان چھوٹے لوگوں کا ہے جو وہ دہلی میں چھوٹی چھوٹی پونجی سے کچھ سامان رکھکر اور اسکو بیچکر اپنی گزر کر رہا ہے - اور جو دوکانیں یہاں خالی ہوئی ہیں وہ اب تک انکو نہیں ملی ہیں - باقی رہی مکانوں کی بات جو مسلمان بھائی یہاں سے دو ہزار مکان چھوڑ کر چلے گئے ہیں میری سمجھ میں نہیں آتا کہ انکو کب تک الاٹ کیا جائیگا اِسکے علاوہ جو افسر اور منسٹر صاحبان ہیں اُنمیں سے بعض کی کوٹھیوں میں بیس بیس پچیس پچیس کمرے ہیں اور اُس میں کل پانچ پانچ آدمی رہتے ہیں اسکے متعلق اگر ایک افسر ٹھیک طرح سے اسکا Survey کرے تو بہت سے آدمی بسائے جا سکتے ہیں اسطرح کی بہت سی مثالیں میں آپکو دے سکتا ہوں - یہ جو چھوٹے کلاس کے ہمارے گورنمنٹ سرونٹس ہیں انکو گورنمنٹ کوارٹرس ملے ہیں انکے وہاں بہت سے رشتے دار Refugees ہوکر آئے ہوئے ہیں اور انکے پاس ٹھہرے ہیں مجھکو پتہ چلا ہے کہ انکو اسبات کا نوٹس ملا ہے کہ وہ ان Premises کو خالی کردیں دوسری طرف پاکستان میں ہم دیکھتے ہیں کہ کیا کچھ نہیں ہو رہا ہے Refugees کے بسانے کیلئے نئے مکان تیار کئے جارہے ہیں - ابھی مجھکو کل پتہ چلا ہے کہ لائل پور میں ایک لاکھ رفیوجیز کو بسانے کیلئے بہت جلد مکان تیار کئے گئے ہیں لیکن یہاں اس سلسلہ میں بہت کم کام ہوا ہے - یہ تو ہوئی ایک بات -

دوسری بات میں صاحب صدر ! آپکی اجازت سے کہونگا جسکا میرے جذبات سے خاص تعلق ہے اس بارے میں ہماری گورنمنٹ کوشش بھی کر رہی ہے ابھی جیسا شری متی رینوکارے نے کہا ہے مجھے علم ہے کہ بہت سی لڑکیاں Tribal Area میں چلی گئیں ہیں جو طریقہ ہماری اغواء شدہ لڑکیوں کو نکالنے کا استعمال کیا جا رہا ہے اگر اسی طریقہ سے چلا گیا تو برسوں لگ جائیں گے اور اسکے ساتھ ساتھ جو لڑکیاں اور عورتیں ہیں وہ اور بھی دور کہیں پوشیدہ ہوجائیں گی - مارچ کے مہینے میں جب راولپنڈی میں جھگڑے ہوئے تھے اسوقت میرے اپنے سگے بھائی اور اسکی بیوی دونوں کو مسلمان بنا دیا گیا اور وہ چھپا دئے گئے صاحب صدر! میں نے ایک مرتبہ انکو نکال لانے کی کوشش کی اور آدمی بھیجے وہ خالی واپس آئے اور اُنکو کہہ دیا گیا کہ وہ اس گاؤں میں نہیں ہیں دوسری مرتبہ پھر اپنا خاص آدمی بھیجا - ترک بھیجا - ملٹری کا پہرہ بھیجا اور اسکے ساتھ ایک مسلمان دوست کو بھی بھیجا - لیکن اسلئے آکر کہا کہ تمہارا بھائی کہتا ہے کہ میں تو اب مسلمان ہو گیا ہوں اور میرا نام گیانی سنگھ سے بدلکر علم دین ہو گیا ہے - گیانی سنگھ اور علم دین میں فرق ہی کیا ہے - تیسری مرتبہ بڑے بھائی کے لڑکے کو کچھ آدمیوں کے ساتھ بھیجا وہ گیا تو اسوقت بھی میرے بھائی کو تو چھپا دیا گیا مگر وہ اُسکی نوجوان بیوی کو بٹھا کر ترک میں لے آئے - راستے میں جو ملٹری کا سٹیشن تھا - ملٹری کے انچارج مسلمان کیپٹن نے پوچھا کہ یہ کون لڑکی ہے ساتھ والوں نے کہا ہمارے بھائی کی بیوی ہے بھائی نہیں ملا - یہ مل گئی اسکو لئے جا رہے ہیں -

[گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر]

انہوں نے کہا تم جھوٹ بول رہے ہو یہ مسلمان لڑکی ہے یہ رو رہی ہے اور اسکو زبردستی پکڑ کر گاؤں میں واپس بھجوا دیا چوتھی دفعہ جناب صدر ! میں خود گیا اور میرے ساتھ میرے ایک دوست جو آجکل پنجاب میں منسٹر ہیں وہ بھی گئے تو دور ہی سے میرے بھائی نے مجھکو پہچان لیا اور وہ دوڑ کر مجھ سے آ کر ملا یہ اسوقت کا واقعہ ہے جبکہ ابھی پاکستان نہیں بنا تھا - میں نے جناب صدر ! اسلئے اس واقعہ کو یہاں کہا کہ یہ میرے اوپر گزرا ہوا واقعہ تھا اور یہ علاقہ جس میں میرا بھائی تھا اس علاقہ کے ہم رہنے والے تھے اور میرا ایک نیشنلسٹ ہونیکی وجہ سے مسلمانوں میں کافی رسوخ بھی تھا - اسکے باوجود اتنی دقت ہوئی - تو جس طریقہ سے گورنمنٹ لڑکیوں کو نکالنے کی اور ڈھونڈھنے کی کوشش کر رہی ہے اس طریقہ سے کچھ پتہ نہیں چل سکیگا - اس طرح کی بہت سی مثالیں میں آپکو دے سکتا ہوں - ایک لکھا سنگھ اور ان کے ایک بھائی سجان سنگھ آجکل دھامی میں رہتے ہیں اُنکی طرف ایک چٹھی آئی ہے جسمیں لکھا ہے کہ لکھا سنگھ کی بہن بے انت کور موہڑا بھٹیاں ضلع راولپنڈی میں محمد امین ٹھیکیدار کے گھر ہے اور سجان سنگھ کی عورت باونت کور بھنبھر کسوال ضلع راولپنڈی میں شیخ محمد حسین کے گھر ہے یعنی آدمی کا پتہ ہے نام کا پتہ ہے جگہ کا پتہ ہے انکے رشتہ دار یہاں موجود ہیں مگر انکو نکال لانا بہت مشکل ہو رہا ہے - ایک آدمی جسکا نام برکت رام زرگر ہے وہ منڈی بہاالدین کے علاقہ سے آیا ہے وہ اپنی چار رشتہ دار لڑکیاں چھڑوا کر ساتھ لایا ہے وہ کہتا ہے کہ وہاں لٹیرے مسلمان یہ چال چل رہے ہیں کہ اپنی داڑھیاں بڑھا کر صافہ باندھکر سکھ بن گئے ہیں اور وہاں جو ہندو سکھ لڑکیاں موجود ہیں اُنکو یہ کہہ کر ورغلاتے ہیں کہ ہم امرتسر سے آئے ہیں - وہاں سکھوں نے یہ فیصلہ کیا ہے کہ تم اگر اپنے وطن جاؤگی تو تمہیں قتل کر دینگے کیونکہ تم پتت ہو گئی ہو اس طرح لڑکیوں کو ڈرایا اور دھمکایا جا رہا ہے - ایک بات اور بتانا چاہتا ہوں کہ لاہور کی بورسٹل جیل میں بہت سے بچے قیدی ہیں قریب قریب نو سو قیدی ہیں جن میں چھوٹے چھوٹے ۵ سے ۸ سال تک کے بچے بھی ہیں سنت ہزارہ سنگھ گوجرانوالہ والے ابھی وہاں سے رہا ہو کر آئے ہیں وہ بتاتے ہیں کہ وہاں بہت سے سکھوں کے کیس کاٹ دئے گئے ہیں اور داڑھی کاٹ دی گئی ہے اور انکو معہ ان چھوٹے چھوٹے بچوں کے مسلمان بنا لیا گیا ہے اس طرح ان لوگوں کی جان بھی خطرے میں ہے اور دھرم بھی خطرے میں ہے مگر اس معاملے میں ہم بالکل بے بس ہیں اور کچھ نہیں کر سکے ویسٹ پنجاب کی جیلوں میں پانچ سات ہزار کے قریب ہمارے بھائی ہیں راولپنڈی جیل سے خطرناک خبریں آرہی ہیں اس طرح سے ہمارے جو بنوں میں بھائی رہ گئے ہیں ان کی جان ہر وقت قبائلیوں کی وجہ سے خطرے میں ہے اور

ان لوگوں کو بہت دنوں سے راشن نہیں مل رہا ہے - سندھ میں بھی ہمارے بھائی موجود ہیں - سندھ میں ایک خاص کھڑک سنگھ والا گاؤں ہے - اس میں لبانے سکھ رہتے تھے - جن پر حملہ ہوا اور بہت مارے گئے - لبانے سکھوں کی ایک پس ماندہ کلاس ہے - اب کئی گاؤں سندھ میں ایسے ہیں جہاں یہ لبانے سکھ گھرے ہوئے ہیں انکی جان بھی خطرے میں ہے - اس طرح بہت سی باتیں ہیں جن کو وقت کی کمی کی وجہ سے میں نہیں کہہ سکتا جناب صدر ! میرا مطالب صرف یہ ہے کہ اب گورنمنٹ کو ایک خاص پالیسی بنا کر ایک خاص پلین کے مطابق اس کام کو کرنا چاہئے - یہ کام اس طرح نہیں ہوگا جسطرح سے کیا جا رہا ہے - جب تک کہ کوئی پالیسی نہ بنائی جائے کہ ان کو ری ہیبلیٹیشن کرنا ہے اور ان کو انڈین نیشنل بنانا ہے - یہ بات صاف طور پر ہماری سرکار کو طے کرنا چاہئے - تاکہ شرنارتھیوں کو اچھی طرح سے بھروسہ ہو جائے کہ ہماری سرکار انکے لئے کچھ کر رہی ہے -

(*English Translation of the above speech*)

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar (East Punjab: Sikh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subject is very vital and the time is short. Therefore, without offering any sort of formal felicitations or indulging in an introductory prelude, I would straightaway come to the point at issue. Our revered Pandit Ji, who is a very experienced veteran, has done his duty. The cut motion moved by Shrimati Renuka Ray covers only few points *viz.*, permanent rehabilitation, temporary residential accommodation and rescue, and these are under discussion. Mr. Speaker, it is quite obvious that permanent rehabilitation can be achieved in two ways only and these are: either new houses should be built for our brethren who have come over here and some other new arrangements made or they should be settled in the houses rendered vacant by the migration of our Muslim brethren. Nothing can be said in regard to the third point although it is an important one. That is a question of realization. We should have some anxiety for the resettlement of refugees. I cannot daresay that we are not anxious for their rehabilitation, but if we had given full attention towards this work we would have accomplished a good deal by this time. I realize that apparently there is some sort of fundamental difference. The policy of our Government is to send back people to the places from where they have come and to encourage those who have left this place to return. A resolution to this effect was passed by the All India Congress Committee whose decisions have considerable influence on our Government. I also agree with it. It is true that no body would be happy to live outside his home. No one would leave his native place. Those aged women who are now being evacuated from Pakistan were indeed living there on account of their love for their homeland. The Pakistan authorities assert that these are the only abducted women in their country. The question of the abduction of old women does not arise at all. Very few young girls are being recovered. The aged women did not like to leave their homes. Fundamentally it is quite correct that one should live peacefully in the place to which he belongs. But it has to be seen whether in the present day circumstances, this can be acted upon. There are two examples before us. Certain non-Muslims went to Lahore on the 20th November last with the permission of the Pakistan Government to remove their goods from the lockers. The Muslim mob attacked them and it was stated that the Muslims were excited on the sight of Sikh soldiers. The reason which led to this incident is that they cannot tolerate the sight of a Sikh. The other incident relates to an attack on a Sikh Gurdwara in Karachi (Sind). How did

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this incident take place in which our Hindu brethren were also killed along with Sikhs? "When the buffaloes fight crops suffer." It was alleged that most of the Sikh refugees were brought in an open truck which provoked the people and led to the attack on the Gurdwara. It should be understood from these incidents that it is very difficult for any Sikh—the Sikhs are in no less a number than 13 to 14 lakhs—to live in Pakistan. The newspapers in Pakistan are daily writing articles on the subject 'No sikh should be allowed to remain in West Punjab'. So all this has rendered it very difficult for the Sikhs to go there. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has stated "If we are to go there, we will go together. Why should not the Sikhs also return to their homes? First of all we will send the Sikhs." I appreciate Pandit Ji's motives and sincerity. He has got real love for the Sikhs and it is for this reason that he has said this. But if the Sikhs are sent there, it is feared that those who could escape previously will be killed now and thus the question of their rehabilitation will not arise at all. It is quite obvious that it is very difficult to go there and no body can dare go unless some arrangement exists. The Government thought of this but what has it done after all in this connection during the last three or four months? It is a question of reciprocity. No non-Muslim can live there unless the Police, Army, Ministry and services are jointly constituted. Under the present conditions, it becomes very difficult for any body to live there. Now the question arises—what about our Muslim brethren? The primary thing to be considered over in this connection is as to who are the Nationals of Pakistan and India? Unless this fundamental issue is decided, this problem cannot be solved. We tried our best to persuade our Muslim brethren to return to their homes and thus gave an ample proof of our good intentions. We carried on propaganda against communalism. We got the mosques vacated. We did our best to have the "URS" celebrated by participating in the "URS" Committee. So much so that in accomplishing this object, we lost our most precious possession. I refer to Mahatma Ji. After all these endeavours, we have to see how much confidence we have created, and to what conclusion our Government has arrived at as a result of these experiences. I would place before you a few cases which occurred in Delhi. While we are trying to settle our Muslim brethren in Delhi but in spite of our efforts in this direction the Muslims are taking a contrary view as would appear from these instances. There is one New India Press in Connaught Place which belonged to a Muslim and was treated as evacuees' property. Its Proprietor Mr. Muzaffar Khan came back and submitted an application that the Press should be returned to him. That Press was returned to him which he sold for Rs. Thirty Five Thousand and left for Pakistan. There is another Frontier Exchange Press in Connaught Place. Its owner too came back and stated that he would live here. But later on he sold this Press for Rs. 110.000, pocketed this money and went back to Pakistan. There is another Army Press here which is about to be sold. I have come to know that Rs. 15 lacs have already been offered for it. That was also evacuees' property. Its Proprietor did not come over here, because he is running his business at Karachi. There he has got a Civil Military Press and is publishing one daily paper 'Havat' from Karachi. I have been told that he wants to live in Pakistan. He sent his son here. So far as I could ascertain, the son has got no legal rights of ownership. But he took over the possession of the Press by putting in an application and it is likely to be sold in a day or so. Similarly there is another place here which is generally called as 'Motiakhan's Kabar Khana'. That too was evacuee's property. About this too I have heard that the application which is required to be submitted to the Custodian under section 12 was not put in. Further fifteen days' notice prescribed under the rules was also not given. Even then the Custodian returned him this property. He too left this place after disposing it of at a price of about Rs. 3 lacs or so. There is a renowned "Hamdard Dawa-

khana". Its owners too, as I have learnt, sold their property to Dalmia Cement Company at a value of Rs. Three Crores and Fifty Four Lacs, and are about to leave after selling the remaining property. I have quoted these instances to show that these people could not repose confidence in us. Under these circumstances when the Muslims are resorting to this course of action, how can we have faith in them that they will return and remain as loyal citizens of India. I have come to know that the Nationalist Muslims too have felt aggrieved over such action of Muslims. I would like to say that if the Muslims want to live here they may do so because this is a secular state. I have myself tried to persuade our Muslim brethren to continue to stay here. To me all this appears unreal unless we can live harmoniously. But what should we do? Whatever efforts you may make, unless confidence is restored you cannot achieve the object. This is the one side of the picture. On the other side we find that almost all of our factories in Pakistan are immediately being allotted and these are working. Here during the last six months, only 150 industrial premises have been allotted. In this connection I would like to point out that controversy had been going on between the Ministries of Industries and Supply and Relief and Rehabilitation. I notice that no other Minister is present in the House. The problem concerning the refugees and their rehabilitation does not relate to any one particularly, but all of them have to render necessary assistance. The Honourable Shri Gadgil can provide houses, the Honourable Home Minister can fix up refugees in good posts, the Honourable Food Minister can give food, and lastly the Honourable Prime Minister can use his good offices in arriving at favourable decisions with the Government of Pakistan in regard to their (refugees) property. What I mean to say is that every Department can do something for their benefit and are doing so. But further attention is very urgently needed. The expansion of the Rehabilitation Department and the number of staff employed in it appears to be very vast. The Government is spending lot of money over this Department. But so far as the result, achieved by this Department are concerned, I am reminded of the following couplet in Urdu:

"Bahaut Shour Sunte thhe pehlu main dil ka,
Jo chira to ek Katra khun na nikla..,

"(The game has not proved worth the candle)." When we go to the Office of the Custodian, we are told that there is a great rush of work. But a period of more than six months has elapsed and no business premises have up till now been allotted. The reasons explained for this are "What should we do? The number of applications far exceeds the places available. The whole of our time is spent in sorting the applications." It is a matter of deep regret that the work for refugees who have come over to Delhi is being done at such a slow pace.

The refugees who have come over here comprise of three classes; firstly land-lords and big capitalists; secondly middle class people and thirdly people belonging to the lower strata. The capitalists and landlords have been able to bring something along with them—which they could—and they are somehow managing. The middle class people, if at all they could bring something, had about six or seven thousand with them and that too has been practically spent by them during the last six months for the maintenance of their family. The third category consists of those persons with meagre resources who earn their livelihood by investing paltry sums in small goods and selling them here. The shops which have been left here vacant have not been allotted to them. Now there remains the question of houses. I do not understand as to when the two thousand houses left by the Muslim evacuees will be allotted. Besides this, the bungalows occupied by the Ministers and Officers consist of twenty to twenty five rooms and only five persons or so live there. If any officer carries out a proper survey in this connection a lot of people can be accommodated. I

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can give you many such instances. The Government Servants in the lower class in occupation of Government quarters have accommodated many of their relatives who have come as refugees. I have come to know that they have been served with notices to vacate these premises. On the other side, we see what is happening in Pakistan. There new houses are being built to resettle the refugees. Only yesterday I came to know that one lakh of houses have been immediately built in Lyallpur for the resettlement of refugees. But here very little work has been done in this connection. This is one aspect of the matter.

Mr. Speaker, with your permission, Sir, I will mention the second thing which affects my feelings particularly. Our Government is making efforts in this direction also. Just now Shrimati Renuka Ray has pointed out that many of the girls have been taken to the tribal areas. This is within my knowledge. If the present method of recovery of abducted women is persued, I am afraid it will take years and the girls and women who are there will be removed to some far away places and hidden there. During the month of March last when there was an out-break of disturbances in Rawalpindi, my own real brother and his wife were both converted to Islam and they were hidden. Mr. Speaker, I made an attempt to get them rescued and sent men who returned empty handed, and were told that they were not in that village. Then again for the second time I sent some special messengers along with a truck and military escort. One of my Muslim friends also accompanied. But on his return he told me that my brother had said "I have now embraced Islam and my name has been changed from Giani Singh to Ilam Din. What is the difference between Giani Singh and Ilam Din?" For the third time I sent my elder brother's son along with some men. When he went there my brother was hidden in an obscure place at that time but they succeeded in bringing his young wife in the truck. On way back the Muslim Military Captain incharge of the military post enquired about the particulars of the girl. Those accompanying her said "She is our brother's wife. We could not find our brother. She was found and we are taking her along with us." On this he remarked "You are telling lies. She is a Muslim girl. She is weeping." She was snatched away forcibly and sent back to the village. For the fourth time, Sir, I myself went and one of my friends who is now-a-days a Minister in Punjab accompanied me. My brother recognised me from a distance. Then he ran towards me and met me. This incident happened at the time when the Pakistan State had not yet been constituted. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have narrated this episode because it was my own personal experience. We were the residents of the place where my brother lived. I had a sufficient influence amongst the Muslims on account of my being a Nationalist. In spite of this, we had to face so many difficulties. The manner in which the Government is trying to search and recover the girls, will not help in locating them. I can quote many such examples. A person named Lakha Singh and his brother Sujjan Singh are now-a-days living in Delhi. They have received a letter in which it has been stated that Lakha Singh's sister Beant Kaur is at present in the captivity of Mohd. Amin contractor, Village Morathian in the Rawalpindi District and Sujjan Singh's wife named Balwant Kaur was in the custody of Sh. Mohd. Hussain in Village Bhener Keswal in Rawalpindi District. The particulars of the person's and the name of the place is known. Their relatives are present here. But it has become a difficult task to rescue them. A man named Barkat Ram Goldsmith has come from Mandi Bahaud Din. He has rescued four girls related to him and brought them along with him. He says that the Muslim marauders there are playing this game. They have assumed the appearance of Sikhs after growing beards and putting on turbans on their heads. They pretend coming from Amritsar, and tell the Hindu and Sikh girls

living there that the Sikhs in Amritsar have decided that in case you come to your country you will be murdered because you have been degraded." In this way the girls are being terrified and threatened. I would like to mention one thing more. In the Borstal Jail, Lahore, there are many child prisoners whose number is about nine hundred or so. Sant Hazara Singh of Gujranwala who has recently been released from there and has come over here tells me that the hair and beards of many of the Sikhs in the jail have been cut off and they along with their young children have been converted to Islam. It would thus be observed from this that both their lives and religion are in danger. But we are absolutely helpless in this matter and are unable to do anything. About five to seven thousand of our brothers are confined in the West Punjab jails. Alarming news are coming from Rawalpindi jail. Similarly the lives of those of our brothers who have been left behind in Bannu are in danger on account of the tribal people. They are not getting rations for the last many days. In Sind also our brothers are living. There is a village named Kharak Singh Wala in Sind. It is inhabited by a sect of Sikhs called 'Lubanas'. They were attacked and many of them even killed. These 'Lubana' Sikhs are a backward class. There are so many villages in Sind where these 'Lubana' Sikhs have been stranded. Their lives are also in danger. Similarly there are so many things which I cannot mention for lack of time. Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I mean to say is that the Government should chalk out some definite policy and undertake this work in accordance with a particular plan. This task cannot be accomplished in the manner in which it is being done. Our Government should formulate a definite and clear cut policy for the rehabilitation of refugees and conferring upon them the rights of Indian Citizenship, so that this may restore full confidence in their minds that the Government is doing something for them.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Sir, I am afraid that in the few minutes that I have at my disposal it will not be possible for me to reply to all the points that have been made by my Honourable friends, and if I fail to cover all the points that have been raised, I beg of my Honourable friends not to take that as a discourtesy. I very much hope that in so far as there are specific points on which information can be given, they will do me the favour of giving notice of questions covering those points.

Mr. Speaker: May I make a suggestion? In view of the fact that this question has been agitating the minds of many people, if the House is agreeable, the Honourable Minister might take some time from 2-30, and to that extent the time allotted to the other Demand about Communications may be curtailed if the House is agreeable.

Some Honourable Members: Yes.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am much obliged to you.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister may take his own time now.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: In the very first place I should like to convey my cordial thanks and gratitude to my Honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava for the handsome terms in which he referred to me and the humble efforts that I have so far been able to put forth in the service of the refugee population. At the same time, I am afraid he was carried away by his eloquence so much so that he ignored some of the fundamental facts of the situation. My Honourable friend complimented Government on having made adequate financial provision for different schemes and having made provision for the relief of the refugees. But he wants to know what is the actual result. Sir, in all humility I claim that the actual result is to be seen in the fact that lakhs of our brothers and sisters are at the present moment enjoying a modicum of comfort and are in a position to eke out their living in some cases

[Shri K. C. Neogy]

Not very long ago, the Delhi correspondent of a very powerful English newspaper made the prediction that numerous people among the refugees will not survive the winter. Sir, we have survived that wishful thinking. It is my proud claim today that the mortality that has prevailed among the refugee population is not in some cases even as high as the normal mortality in cities and towns and rural areas having comparable populations. Sir, that is the actual result. When after the partition our brothers and sisters living in Western Pakistan had to flee for fear of their lives, the slogan was "Bring them out alive"; and I make the claim that we did succeed in bringing them out alive.

The next problem was how to keep them alive; this was a problem for which there has been no precedent in the history of the world. I cannot claim any experience for myself in handling such a problem, but I dare say very few in the world can claim any experience in handling a problem of this magnitude. I remember the day I took over charge, with what trepidation, with what hesitation I went to Government House to take the oath! And today I have no reason to regret that I undertook this task and availed of the opportunity of serving my fellowmen.

Sir, what is meant by permanent rehabilitation? Permanent rehabilitation means creation of employment—because it ultimately comes to that; creation of employment for millions of people at a time when production is admittedly at a dangerously low ebb, and when the volume of trade and commerce in the country is shrinking. My Honourable friend Thakur Das Bhargava is disappointed at the poor number of people that have secured employment through the Employment Exchange. I am surprised that it has been possible to place so many as we have succeeded in placing in various capacities, through the Employment Exchange and otherwise. Full statistical information as regards people who have secured jobs in various capacities is not yet available and if, in the course of this session I am in a position to give more detailed information on this point, I will certainly do so.

Sir, permanent rehabilitation can be achieved satisfactorily only as a feature of the general development of the country as a whole. This is the point which I have emphasised once or twice before. Particularly when we are concerned with such a vast population, it is simply impossible to think in terms of rehabilitating them without at the same time proceeding with measures which would lead to the development of the resources of the country as a whole.

Sir, as the very first step towards permanent rehabilitation, we have to try and fill the gaps that have been left in the economy of our country by the withdrawal of the Muslims from East Punjab. But when we approach the question from that point of view, what is it that we find? It is not the same population in structure that has come across from the other side as the one that has gone over to Pakistan. Here numerical comparisons would be very misleading. The gaps that have been left by the withdrawal of the Muslims cannot easily be filled by the incoming refugees. The most broad-based method of permanent rehabilitation in a country which is predominantly rural in its economy would be by way of agricultural rehabilitation. Here again, the land that the refugees have left on the other side of the border was certainly superior to the land that was vacated by the Muslims who have gone across. Likewise, the average agricultural holding in Western Pakistan, which has been vacated by the incoming refugees, was larger than the average holding that has been vacated by the Muslim evacuees from India.

Then again, it must not be forgotten that we cannot think in terms of permanent rehabilitation even in regard to agriculture so long as the right, title and interest of the Muslim evacuees continue in regard to the property left behind by them. And that is a fact. Even today all the property, agricultural or otherwise, that has been left behind by the Muslim evacuees from India still continues to be the property of the Muslim evacuees although they may be in Pakistan. Likewise, the right, title and interest of the Hindu-Sikh refugees who have come away from Pakistan, in regard to property left behind by them in Pakistan still continue to be there.

Shri M. Anathasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): On paper!

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not think I should take such a pessimistic view as my Honourable friend opposite does. Sir, efforts are made continuously and we are, I venture to hope, reaching the final stages of the negotiations that would lead to a final settlement of this property question. A committee of officials would soon be meeting in Lahore to discuss this very problem in the very near future and it is my hope that before this Assembly Session terminates I would be able to report progress in that matter.

Sir, as a matter of fact, if we can succeed in having a satisfactory settlement on this property question, not only would it enable us to make permanent settlement of land and other property on both sides of the border in accordance with the terms which may be agreed upon, but the very fact that the refugees who are now in India would be in a position to claim some compensation in whatever shape, in whatever degree it may be, would enable them to stand on their own feet and rehabilitate themselves through their own efforts, at least in a large number of cases.

My Honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das referred to the question of housing accommodation at Delhi. He expressed his impatience at the delay that is taking place. I wish my Honourable friend were in my position because he would have then realised what are the difficulties that stand in the way of accomplishment of even the best-considered schemes which are promoted with the best of intentions by people who have nothing but the spirit of service to inspire them. I have before me a note which indicates the programme which we have in hand with regard to housing accommodation in Delhi, but I do not think I will be justified in reading through the various items that are now under active consideration. May I tell my Honourable friend that there are so many limitations as regards expansion of housing accommodation in Delhi that it will be risky on the part of anybody to embark on an unlimited expansion. Water-supply is the most difficult limiting factor in this regard. We are now engaged upon experimentation in tube-wells, although at one stage it was definitely declared by technical opinion that tube-wells cannot be a success in Delhi. Not daunted by such adverse opinion, we are now again embarking on experimentation in the matter of tube-wells. On the success of this measure would depend the extent to which we succeed in expanding housing accommodation. After all, there is an overall limit beyond which the capacity of Delhi cannot be expanded.

My Honourable friend does not like any restriction being placed upon the movement of the people, the refugees. Now, Sir, if we were to allow free movement of refugees to take place, what would happen to Delhi? My Honourable friend to the right is a distinguished citizen of Delhi, and if I were to claim the advantage of his opinion on the subject, I dare say I would have some support in the view that I am putting forward, that we cannot think in terms of permanently rehabilitating the refugees who are at the present moment in Delhi in their entirety. Let me be quite frank about it to the House. I have been nurtured in the Legislature. I have been a member of the Opposition for a longer period than I can well imagine, in a way. I have no secret from this House. Let me assure my Honourable friends that they would be doing the greatest wrong to refugees if they were to create the impression that the capacity of Delhi to house them has not yet been exceeded. If they are real friends of the refugees, they had better tell them to leave Delhi and be controlled by Government. You cannot in one breath hold Govrenment responsible for their

[Shri K. C. Neogy]
failures, and at the same time, claim full freedom to go about from place to place wherever you like. Either you claim your freedom of action in this matter—then rehabilitation will be your responsibility—or, if you want to hold Government responsible for rehabilitation, you must agree to be controlled in your movement by the Government. (Hear, hear).

Mr. Speaker: If the Honourable Minister is going to some other point, there is hardly a minute. We might adjourn now and he may resume after Lunch.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am much obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The House will re-assemble at 2-30.

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

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

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Sir, part of the criticism advanced by my Honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava could well have been directed against the East Punjab Government and here I should like to point out to the House that although I have no desire to disown my part of the responsibility, even the adoption of the plans, not to speak of detailed execution thereof is primarily the concern of the East Punjab Government in so far as the refugee people of that area are concerned. Sir, the House should not forget that in the East Punjab there is today a popular Government functioning with the support of a popular legislature and that legislature has recently been expanded by the addition of all the Hindu and Sikh M.L As. from West Punjab, so that it can be truly said that the legislature of East Punjab is today fully representative of the interests of the refugees. We, in the Government of India undoubtedly try to influence their policies and their decisions—not always, let me add with cent per cent. success—but that is all that we can do. Undoubtedly we finance their schemes to a large extent and that is the only title, in a sense, that we have to control their activities in any effective manner.

Sir, that leads me to the question of the East Punjab Capital. I would be very much obliged to my Honourable friend if he were to use his eloquence with the East Punjab Ministers for the purpose of influencing them to make an early declaration in this matter.

Shri Bikramlal Sondhi (East Punjab: General): I was told by the Prime Minister of the Punjab the other day in Simla that he had already sent the papers and he was awaiting the orders of the Government of India.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I may tell my Honourable friend that up to yesterday the Cabinet of the Government of India had no information in this particular point.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai (Minister for Communications): The latest letter says that they will intimate their decision in about a week's time. That letter was recived a day ago.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: My Honourable friend made a specific complaint of the restrictions that have been put on the operation of the safe deposit vaults. I want to tell the House that just at the present moment there is a non-official delegation, consisting of 5 members of the Advisory Committee attached to this Ministry carrying on negotiations at Lahore in regard to this matter and that delegation includes my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall. Not merely are they going to help our organization at Lahore in this matter, but I propose to fly to Lahore tomorrow to take a hand, if necessary, in these discussions. I do not know what more is expected of the Government of India.

Sir, I should now like to give a very brief idea about the major features of our rehabilitation policy. Sir, schemes of rehabilitation may broadly be classified into two categories;

(a) those undertaken directly by the Central Government, and

(b) those undertaken at the initiative of Provincial Governments.

In order to co-ordinate rehabilitation schemes as far as possible with schemes of development, the Government of India have set up a high-powered Rehabilitation and Development Board. This Board is expected to work out schemes of rehabilitation as integral parts of schemes for the economic development of the country. The Board will, of course, work in the closest co-operation with the Provincial Governments concerned. Details regarding the allocation of expenditure on schemes undertaken by the Board have not yet been worked out. Some of the schemes may be undertaken as the sole responsibility of the Centre while others might be financed from the block grants for development made by the Centre or by some suitable arrangement with the Provinces.

With regard to schemes of rehabilitation undertaken by Provincial Governments, the responsibility will be mainly that of the provinces concerned. The Government of India, however, recognise that in carrying out such schemes the Provincial Governments should be helped financially to some extent by the Centre.

Unlike refugees from West Punjab who have facilities and the opportunities for rehabilitation in East Punjab and the East Punjab States taken together as a pooled Unit, rehabilitation of refugees from N.-W.F.P., Baluchistan, Bahawalpur and Sind other than those who have their old roots in East Punjab and can be resettled there, is the direct responsibility of the Government of India. For practical purposes this category of refugees comprises those dependent on what may be described as urban occupations.

In terms of the Resolution of the A.I.C.C. all agriculturists from West Punjab and those from N.-W.F.P., Bahawalpur and Sind who have their roots in East Punjab may be settled within the pooled unit of East Punjab and Indian States in that area.

Other agriculturists from N.-W.F.P., Baluchistan, Bahawalpur and Sind may be settled on soil elsewhere in India. Alwar, Bharatpur and Gwalior in particular have possibilities in this direction.

In regard to refugees depending on urban occupations, it is proposed to assist rehabilitation of those from West Punjab in East Punjab, and assist rehabilitation of those from other parts of Western Pakistan elsewhere in India.

It is proposed to pursue schemes of suburban development, establishment of new cities and development of new ports for rehabilitation of urban refugees.

It is proposed to promote establishment of cottage, village and large scale industries in such newly developed areas according to the environment and aptitudes of refugees to be resettled.

Rehabilitation finance facilities will extend to all refugees to promote rehabilitation. There will besides be other financial assistance to various categories of refugees, announcements about which have from time to time been made.

Sir, I now come to the very valuable suggestions which the Honourable lady from Bengal made in regard to certain social and psychological factors of the problem presented by the abducted women who may be rescued as a result of our efforts. These suggestions will be given due weight. I wish it were possible for the Honourable lady to make available to us her services in this behalf by continued presence at Delhi.

[Shri K. C. Neogy]

Sir, I should now like to take up a few points which my Honourable friend Musafirji made. A good deal of his speech would have been quite appropriate if it had been delivered in the Pakistan Constituent Assembly, because most of the charges, as far as I could make out, were not against this Government, but against the Government of Pakistan. I can easily understand my Honourable friend's impatience at the slow pace at which negotiations are going on and at the apparent unsuccess of our efforts so far.

Sir, in dealing with Pakistan we must have an abundant supply of patience. I have not yet despaired of ultimate success in our efforts.

My Honourable friend made a particular complaint about what is happening in the Custodian's organisation in regard to the allotment of business premises. We had a Custodian who was rather hasty in his action, and I have even now to deal with shoals of complaints on account of the somewhat hasty action taken by him. Now we have another Custodian today who is circumspect, who is very careful and who is scrutinising everything with the utmost care and attention with the help of a popular advisory committee. My Honourable friend comes along and makes an equally grave complaint that things are not moving fast enough. Now I should imagine that it would not be in the best interests of the refugees themselves if less care and attention were to be given to this very vexed question of allotment of business premises than what the Custodian is at the present moment in a position to do. There is a good deal of impatience at the pace at which rehabilitation work is proceeding. As I said before, we had no experience in this matter and our method has in many instances been one of trial and error. I also said before that I have no secrets from this House. I must confess that we have learnt by experience, by mistakes that we have made. But at the same time, when I turn to literature that is available to us indicating the experience in such matters of other countries in the world, I find that in the case of Greece and Turkey—which were the first in modern times to have a similar experience of mass movements of population, the time taken for rehabilitation of a fraction of the population with which we are concerned today was five years, and they seem to take a pride that it was accomplished in that period.

Then, Sir, I was looking into what I suppose is the latest issue of the United Nations Bulletin (January) and there I find an article from the pen of the Executive Secretary of the I.R.O. (International Refugee Organisation), which is in a sense the successor of UNRRA. This is what he says with reference to the refugee camps now in Europe and other places:

"Many of the men, women and children for whom we are responsible are spending their third winter since the end of the war in the twilight existence of displaced persons camps in Germany, Austria, Italy and the Middle East."

Sir, as I said before, Greece took five years; we have not had as many months in India. And much as I am personally impatient at the slow pace of progress I should like to say that if we want extra quick results, the House had better look for a magician and not a Minister.

Shri Bikramlal Sondhi: What about the two thousand houses left vacant for months together?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: If my Honourable friend will put a question on that particular subject I shall be very happy to answer it. I have not got the latest information on the point.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,00,000 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 'Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: May I take it that the same procedure will be followed in regard to the next demand and cut motions will not be formally moved?

Several Honourable Members: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Then I will call upon Shri Biswanath Das to speak.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, move from rehabilitation to nationalisation is a necessary step and I move for the nationalisation of commercial air Services in India. It is a well known fact that the Ministry of Communications has all the departments in its charge practically nationalised except Civil Aviation. It is in charge of Posts and Telegraphs, Tele-communications, Telephones, Wireless and the like, and last but not the least is Civil Aviation. In this too the State plays a major part whether nationalised or not. The State has to maintain aerodromes, air lines, give technical assistance and also procure planes, spare parts and accessories, equipment and all other things necessary for overhauling these planes. In a word the State renders the greatest possible assistance with regard to commercial aviation. In a free country like America the State also gives all the necessary assistance to private enterprise. There they have got a Civil Aeronautic Board which controls the companies that are engaged in commercial aviation and gives them not only all possible assistance and negotiates for them international lines, helps them and gives them permits to use air lines within the State, but also gives them subsidies. Sir, we have to realise that in a country like the U.S.A. things are absolutely different. There, all enterprises are not owned by the State and the question of nationalisation does not arise. If today in the world different experiments are going on in different States, the United States of America is one of the few countries that has an experiment in this aspect, namely, free and private enterprise. We ourselves have taken an absolutely different course of action by having taken on us the responsibility of running the railways and running the other commercial services like posts, telegraphs, telephones and the like. Sir, here as early as 1944 a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the then Member in charge of the Department Sir Muhammad Usman. The Committee went into the entire question, examined it in its different aspects and came to the conclusion that it should be left to private enterprise. The Committee constituted as it was could not have come to any other conclusion than the one that they arrived at. This Committee discussed two questions, namely, whether civil aviation should be taken up as a department of Government or as a department of Government with powers autonomous in itself, just as the railways are run at present by the Ministry in charge of Railways.

Sir, while discussing this question, the grounds they have stated are least convincing and I thought, having gone through the pages, that the personnel of the committee could not have done anything better. Even an astute politician like Mr. Churchill has cried at the top of his voice that war is coming and a third world war is fast approaching, and he calls upon the British Parliament to prepare itself to face such a situation. In America, the Government has been preparing itself. That being the position, we have to keep ourselves fully prepared to face any emergency. Civil aviation, though not directly connected with war, is a service which contributes enormously to the war. We have seen how civil aviation was helpful and useful in our Kashmir operations. At the same time I do realise that the companies operating in civil aviation without the least hesitation agreed to place their resources at the disposal of Government. To that extent I am thankful and I believe this House will be thankful for all that has been done. But we have to realize this necessary course of action that with the immediate enlargement of civil aviation and development of the service in all its aspects large investment is necessary. As it is there are seven companies operating in India and from the international

[Shri Biswanath Das]
agreement to which India has been a party, I see that the State has to interfere in everything that is done. Even in matters of securing equipment or accessories or services of technicians, it is the State alone that could be useful and helpful to these operating companies. If it is the desire of Government and the House that we have to expand this service, I do not see any cheerful hope for the future unless it is nationalized and immediately taken in hand, so that it is given full scope for its development.

After the 15th August conditions have changed and these changed conditions have brought upon Government also necessary responsibilities, namely that the Army, owing to the R.A.F. having gone away bag and baggage, have had to convert itself into the R.I.A.F. This course brings upon itself the responsibilities, besides of defence, of civil aviation work in the sense that it has itself to maintain the aviation service to keep itself in touch with the operational headquarters that are scattered all over. It has also to carry on the work of policing the coast and other areas, and added to this, Sir, they have also to carry the Ministers of State, the Governor-General, or the heads of Departments, or army officials from place to place and also our delegates to international conferences. All this implies that a certain number of planes have to be kept up even for civil aviation. These are the reasons why this should be expanded further and all the resources of the State pooled by a process of nationalization. I plead that the time has come when the Ministry should make up its mind to nationalize the whole with a view to develop, and develop immediately before, as in the words of Mr. Churchill, a third world war is on us.

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

It is unfortunate that we in this country have not been able to manufacture aeroplanes: not to think of aeroplanes—not even parts are we able to manufacture. The result is that we have to depend on foreign countries not only for our fighter planes but also for civil aviation planes. That makes us dependent upon foreign countries and we have also to train up our own men as technicians for groundwork and for radio operations and for other operations connected with this work. All this means that private companies, however big, or good, or Nationalistic they may be, will not be able to cope with the work and there is a need for nationalization. Looked from any point of view, nationalization seems to hold the field.

It has been our experience to see that these companies are not able to maintain themselves. Some of them are not able to run their services efficiently. The disasters we have to face from time to time call upon us seriously to say that these private companies, however good they might be, cannot run far nor could they bring the country to its desired goal. We have to keep these poor unfortunate companies spoon-fed from time to time. I feel sure that the Honourable Minister in charge of the Department will agree with me that he has to keep these unfortunate companies spoon-fed in spite of the fact that there are great possibilities for the development of aviation in this country. It is a huge country. Commercial areas are scattered in different places and seasonal conditions are very good for civil aviation and passenger traffic for civil aviation is not small though India has started only recently.

Without these conveniences, these private companies, as they are, are not able to cope with the enormity of the work that they have to face within their limited means. A country like the United States of America is annually contributing about 20 million dollars to such companies. I do not want the same experiment to be carried on in this country. I want the Government to take up a long range programme and carry it through. I assure him that this House will back him to the fullest extent and contribute to his activities without care for a few years without any profits. In state commercial undertakings I have always stood for a commercial accounting basis and some contribution to the coffers of the State. To that I still stand. We may not contribute anything, but let us know what losses we may have to bear for some years. I do not mind the losses and no one does it.

So under these circumstances, I feel that the time has come when civil aviation in this country should be nationalised and should be taken up immediately on hand. Let there be a long-range programme, so that we may be in a position to have a very good service, which in due course will be cheap, efficient and national and thus India may be prepared not only to manufacture her own planes but also the parts and be able to train her own technicians and have technical facilities.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava (Ajmer Merwara): Sir, I heartily support the proposition that has been advanced by my learned friend Mr. Biswanath Das. The question is of vital importance, because we are living in an age of air.

3 P.M. The question of nationalisation has been discussed on the floor of this House several times. On the previous occasion a non-official Resolution was moved by Sardar Mangal Singh and the then Government accepted the principle of that Resolution. Subsequently an All India Civil Aviation Conference was convened at Delhi and was presided over by the then Member in Charge, Mr. Nishtar. At this conference all provinces and states were represented, as also the leading operating companies in India and one of the main subjects for which this conference was convened was the question whether it was more in the national interest to nationalise civil aviation or it was better to leave it in the hands of private enterprise.

The question of nationalisation of civil aviation is to be considered not in respect to internal air services only but also in respect to external air services. India geographically occupies a unique position on the map of the world and in regard to air communication purposes she occupies a pre-eminent position. No international air route either from East to West or *vice versa* can pass except through India. Because of this unique geographical position of India in respect of international air communication she has also a great responsibility. India has to develop reciprocal agreements with countries like the U.K., the U.S.A. and others. We were informed during the last session that a bilateral agreement has already been arrived at with the U.S.A. and negotiations then were going on for an agreement with the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. We have to see how those agreements have been arrived at and what steps if any have been taken by the Government.

In that Civil Aviation Conference there was an overwhelming weight of opinion in favour of nationalisation so far as external services were concerned. In respect to internal services there was a great difference of opinion. But judging the question on its own merits the conclusion is irresistible that civil aviation in the wider national interest of the country must be nationalised as early as possible, because in air services many things are to be provided by the State itself, as for instance, aerodrome, radio and meteorology. Meteorological conditions in India are admirably suited to the development of civil aviation. After the war up to 1945 the air routes were mainly utilised for military purposes. From 1945 there has been a rapid and intensive development of civil aviation. The passenger traffic which in 1945 was about 22,000 passengers rose to 1,04,000 in the year 1946 and the ton mileage which was 2 millions also went up to 13 millions in 1946. We find that about 122 private companies have come before the Government for grant of licenses. That clearly shows that internal civil aviation has been found to be very profitable to all

[Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava]

these private companies and so there is absolutely no reason why the Government should not take this important means of communication into its own hands. Both from strategic and defence, apart from national economic point of view, it is absolutely essential.

Leaving aside the internal communication question we have to concentrate our attention upon external services. Here the record of India so far is a big zero, in spite of the fact that as early as 1944 it was decided that companies should be floated for external communications. It was then proposed that the external communications work should also be carried on through private companies. Because private companies were not coming forward on their own resources to take up external air communication, it was thought that they should receive substantial subsidies from the Government. Later on this scheme did not come into operation. At the last Civil Aviation Conference this question was also discussed threadbare. We do not know what decision the Government has taken on this point. My respectful submission is that it is absolutely essential that the external air services should be taken by the State in its own hand and it is essential that the scheme that has been designed should now be put into operation, of course not through private agency but by the Government. The question whether this is to be done departmentally, as is being done in the case of Posts and Telegraphs, or it should be left in the hands of an autonomous corporation, my submission is that the better course would be to create an autonomous corporation, in which the state alone should have interest and it should be managed by technical experts and in the day to day administration of that autonomous corporation the Government of the country should not interfere. But apart from that it should be absolutely independent and all profits to be earned by that autonomous corporation should go for the wider interests of the masses and should not be monopolised by a few persons.

Another matter that needs immediate attention by the Government is the training of a large personnel to carry on this technical work. In this also unless and until we have Indian nationals sufficient in number to take up internal and external civil aviation, our dependence will never come to an end. Therefore more important than anything else is that Government should not only spend only 1,59,00,000 as has been proposed in the present budget but substantially larger amount for the purpose of training persons. Without that we will always have to depend on other countries. We have also to arrange for the manufacture of our own aeroplanes and every spare part of aeroplanes. The other thing is that we have to devote our attention in a greater degree for exploring all possible evenues to augment the supply of Petrol.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Shri S. M. Ghosh (West Bengal: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the time is very short and I shall not be able to develop my arguments, I shall try to touch the main points to which I like to draw the attention of our Honourable Minister.

The first is the question of civil aviation being nationalised. I am one with my other Honourable friends in thinking that it is high time that we nationalise the entire civil aviation in the country. In this connection may I draw the Honourable Minister's attention to the fact that today we have got no special control over civil aviation except general supervision? I would like to ask our Honourable Minister whether it is not possible to have some control, before we actually nationalise civil aviation, by taking about 51 per cent. of the shares of the present companies. I do not know who was responsible for it, but all of us

know that about eighty planes were rejected as scraps and afterwards they were found to be useful and probably they are in a flying condition today. I would like to know from the Honourable Minister what steps have been taken against the officer responsible for condemning as scrap these eighty planes, which were useful.

The second point is regarding telephone services. All of us know—I believe even the officials of the Department know—how difficult it is to get a telephone connection here at Delhi.

I have been told that there is a cadre of Engineering Supervisors—they are called the Post and Telegraph Engineering Services—most of whom have been recruited on a very low scale of pay although most of them are graduates. I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to this complaint. I understand that they are the real backbone of this telephone service.

Then I come to the condition of Tripura State so far as communications is concerned. Sir, the Tripura State is surrounded on three sides by Pakistan. Although there is a trunk line, I believe, it runs through Pakistan. It can be easily connected with Assam if serious attempt is made in that direction. Regarding the post offices in Tripura State I know the people from the State have to go to Pakistan for posting their letters or purchasing postage because there are no post offices near about the boundary of Tripura State, which, as I have already stated, is surrounded on three sides by Pakistan.

In this connection may I draw the attention of our Honourable Minister to the necessity of rural post offices in order to give general relief to our rural people? The number of rural post offices should be increased and the rural Postmasters should be given full pay instead of giving them only a nominal pay of Rs. 7 or 8.

Then I come to the condition of telephone services in Calcutta. In 1937 the exchange line in Calcutta was near about 12,000 and in 1947 I find it has come up to about 20,000. But the number of calls from 1937, when it was 28 and odd millions, has come up in 1947 to 52 and odd millions. That shows to what extent the telephone system in Calcutta has been overloaded. I know that in Calcutta they can give only about 3 or 4 hundred new telephone connections to the public; but there are 19 thousand applications for telephones in the waiting list, and I believe there are about 20 thousand more expectant applicants waiting outside. We have been told by our Honourable Minister that after some extension work is done they will be able to give about 8,000 more telephone connections in Calcutta. That also, I believe, will take some years and not before that. In the meantime we knew that there was a proposal pending before the Government for introducing automatic telephone service in Calcutta. That was held up because the Government thought that they would start an industry to manufacture telephone equipment in India before they take up the introduction of this automatic system in Calcutta. I am not against the starting of a factory for the manufacture of telephone equipment; but if we are to do that let the Government start it immediately and at once. Otherwise the trade, industry and commerce of Calcutta is going to be injured for want of proper facilities. Sir, in this question, loss of revenue also is involved. I would request the Honourable Minister not to take any short-sighted policy. In this matter we should have the consideration of the development of Calcutta and the revenue which the new telephones will bring, and at the same time we have to consider also the question of the manufacture of telephone equipment. I submit, Sir, that both things can go simultaneously.

Then I want to say a word about officials. We were told by our Honourable Ministers that when we criticize the departments generally, we criticize the officials and say something in praise of our Honourable Ministers. The reason is this. Our officials have inherited a legacy from the bureaucratic regime, their

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bureaucratic masters. It is very difficult for them to realise that with the change of time they are now no longer required to serve foreign masters, but they have got a state of their own, they have got a country of their own, they have got a people whose interests are to be supreme in their minds. So long they have viewed the country's problems on files inspired and initiated by British masters, but today they have to look directly after the interests of our people, and I appeal to them that they should also remain conscious all the 24 hours—day and night—that they are no longer servants of British masters, but they are the servants of their people, they have got a state to serve. They have got a country which requires their attention if they are to make our country great and prosperous. With these few words Sir, I support the cut motion.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the few minutes at my disposal I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister and also of the House to what I believe is the cause of increasing discontent in the Telegraph Department. I had given notice of a cut motion to consider the system of selection in the Telegraph Department. I sincerely hope that I will not be misunderstood, and that the Honourable Minister will not reply, as his colleague the Honourable Minister for Railways did, suggesting that I am wanting the system of selection to be diluted. I am not asking for anything of the sort. I want to state very emphatically that I endorse completely the system of selection, that in principle it is absolutely unexceptionable but as on the railways, so in the Telegraph Department it is my information that the system of selection, which in principle is unexceptionable, in practice is being abused, and is one of the main causes of discontent in the Telegraph Department, and perhaps also of inefficiency in that Department. I feel that this is a matter which ought to be faced quite candidly and quite honestly. There is no doubt that a few years back the Telegraph Department had very proud traditions both of service and of efficiency. What are the causes for the undue inefficiency in the Department today? I believe that one of the main causes is to be found in the misapplication, the abuse of this system of selection. As I have said, I am not asking for one moment that standards should be relaxed or that they should be reduced. On the other hand, it is my contention that standards should be raised, that they should be restored. For instance I believe, I think quite rightly, that Telegraph Masters in the Telegraph Department, occupy a key position in that department, that perhaps they are one of the linchpins if not the linchpin, of that department; yet we find a relaxing of the standard in the Telegraph Master's examination. Formerly the standards for that examination were pitched at a very high level. Every person, after so many years experience, could only qualify as a Telegraph Master if in the examination he secured a minimum of 50 per cent. in each paper, and an aggregate minimum of 70 per cent. During the war, on the pretext of lack of personnel, these standards were relaxed. The minimum in the different papers was reduced to 40 per cent., and the aggregate minimum of 70 per cent. was done away with altogether. And although the standards were relaxed on the pretext of the war, even those men who could not qualify according to the lower standards were given grace marks and made Telegraph Masters. I do not want those reduced standards to continue any longer. I feel the time has come when old standards, standards which worked well and produced efficiency, should be restored.

Sir, my main complaint is directly against what is known as the Telegraph Traffic Service, Class II and Grade B of that Traffic Service. Telegraph Masters are key men in your Traffic Department, by relaxing the standard of their examination, you have brought in inefficient men. You have also changed the system of promotion to the next higher cadre, Class II, Grade B. In the old days only after your Telegraph Masters had qualified and they were found suitable, were

they promoted to this Grade B, Class II cadre. Today the Department has introduced the so-called system of selection. It is against this so-called system of selection that I am making my complaint. It is my information that the Selection Board is not working at all well; that favouritism and nepotism have come in and are coming in increasingly. I am not asking you to promote unsuitable, unqualified men. But under the old system, only after a man was found suitable and qualified as a Telegraph Master was he promoted to Class II in Grade B. That worked extremely well. Now we have replaced it by the so called system of selection. What has happened? I am open to correction. If the Honourable Minister has reliable information at his disposal then he can correct me. Recently 53 Telegraph Masters were considered for selection for 15 vacancies in the Telegraph Traffic Service. It is my information that these 15 vacancies were filled, and that the cases of the 53 men were disposed of in about half an hour. Not one of these men was called for an interview. I want to make this point very clear. My Honourable friend will say that the Selection Board did interview these 53 candidates. My information is categorical that not a single candidate was interviewed, and that the cases of these 53 men were disposed of for these 15 vacancies in about half an hour.

Shri Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): Where was this done?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Very recently in Delhi by the so called Selection Board. In about half an hour you dispose of 53 cases. These men were interviewed by what are known as Circle Officers. The circle officers on the basis of personal interviews and on the basis of official records of the interviewees sent up their list of recommendations and the Selection Board, without seeing the men, without having an opportunity of even looking at them or speaking to them, has ignored the recommendations of the Circle Officers. Men who were put at the top by the Circle Officers have been put at the bottom by the Selection Board, and men who were put at the bottom have, for quite inexplicable reasons, been brought right at the top by the Selection Board. And what is even more inexplicable, Sir, is that men who had been put at the top by the Circle Officers after a careful scrutiny of their officials records were not even selected by the Selection Board, which disposed of the cases of 53 persons in about half an hour's time. That is why there is so much resentment, justifiable resentment, in the Telegraph Department. Can the Telegraph Department justifiably ask these men to give of their very best in the way of efficient service? They are not giving of their best, because the men feel that so long as the Department has a system of encouraging favourites and relatives, near and distant that the Department has no right to ask them to give of their very best.

Another grievance against this so-called Selection Board is this: that it observes no uniform principle. When it suits the Selection Board they will be guided by the principle of seniority *cum* selection; when it does not suit them, they resort to the principle of selection *cum* seniority. My request is this that the Department should revert to the old system, that is, have a really difficult examination for the selection of Telegraph Masters and then promote the men to the next higher cadre on the basis of seniority *cum* selection. If this is done, one of the main causes of dissatisfaction in the Telegraph Department will have been eradicated.

Sir, I have also been informed that, with a view apparently to achieving greater efficiency, it is under the consideration of this Department to make direct recruitment to the Class II cadre. I sincerely hope, Sir, that this will not be done. As one who had to do a great deal with departmental labour, I feel, that this will be grossly unfair to the qualified subordinates. I know that there is a great deal of vested interest in this matter. Policy is laid down by senior officers who are themselves direct recruits and labour under an obsession that only direct

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recruits can produce results. I feel, Sir, that if under the pretext of improving, efficiency if direct recruits are brought in, it will not produce greater efficiency. Bringing into Class II bespectacled youths with first class degrees will not necessarily lead to greater efficiency. People who have not been put to the test of experience may not have practical knowledge and may not be able to control labour.

And finally, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to this particular point. I do not know to what extent there is substance in this complaint—but it is a complaint nevertheless—that this Directorate is the monopoly of the engineering staff. I am not pointing my finger at all at the ability of these people. But these engineering officers are naturally obsessed with the importance of engineering side. With the best intentions, with the best will in the world, they have not the necessary experience which they can bring to bear on traffic problems.

These, Sir, are the two main items to which I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister and I do feel that if he will go into them impartially, particularly into the question of the misapplication of the system of selection, I feel that he will find the answer very largely to the question of inefficiency in the Telegraph Department.

Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): Mr. Chairman, as one of those unfortunate men who have to travel much by the Indian Airways, I would like to say a few words on this particular subject. In the last ninety days from the end of last session to this day, I have travelled more than 10 thousand miles on the Airways and I find that there is extreme inco-ordination in the services. There are certain lines on which aeroplanes go almost empty; there are lines on which you cannot have a seat for love or for money, unless you wait for a number of days. I had the first chance yesterday afternoon in Bombay. Although it was booked on the 9th, yet the first chance did not materialise till yesterday and I had to come today because I had provisionally booked for today as well. I think, Sir, that so long as the private enterprise is there and you have this system of one company working against the other, you will have these anomalies of having too many services on one line and too little on the other. For instance I will give one instance, which was also the subject matter of some question in this House: there was no seat available for Karachi by the I. N. A. service unless you booked a month ahead. Even with priority it was difficult to get a seat five or six days ahead. Whereas in one particular airway by which I have to travel most, I mean the Bharat Airways belonging to Mr. G. D. Birla, I have always had accommodation available except once when I had to take the help of the Communications Department. The definite conclusion of the Conference which was held in February last was that the foreign services should be nationalised; and internal services should remain in the hands of private companies, was the opinion of the Industrialists. The opinion of many, and I was one of those who participated in that Conference, was that these also should be nationalised. If it cannot be done today it should be done on a near future date; this must be considered as the ultimate goal of civil aviation. Another view which was urged was that internal competition of a bad kind, or what is called cut-throat competition, should not be allowed. I should like one thing to be considered very seriously. That is the new lines that you are opening really means bringing in new personnel from outside India. With the exception of the two lines, the Air India and the I. N. A., we do not find many Indian nationals in any other lines.

I would invite the attention of the House to the fact that during the war, R. I. A. F. and other service men were trained in much smaller time than is done today. If war can prepare personnel for this technical job I think peacetime can also do it. The only trouble is that the flying clubs are really meant for rich people who do not go in for service. I would like the Honourable

Minister to find out how many members who qualified from the flying clubs have joined any of these Indian services. You will find that less than 5 or 10 per cent people take to service. We spend money not for the enjoyment of the rich. We want them to be utilised for the service of the nation. This can be done only if you have schools which can impart training on condition that the trainees after completion of their course will take to service. That is the way in which you can do the job.

Another thing in which we are very deficient is the ground engineering staff; we are miserably poor in that. Even the few people who are available are not of that high standard which we expect in this service. I regret, Sir, that India's very fair record of no accidents in civil aviation was destroyed by the best private aviation company that we have got—the Tata Air India—and by one of the best planes that they had—a Viking. It is one of the tragedies and it is inexplicable that such a thing should have happened. These are the things which just go to prove how careful we have to be, they only prove that too much care cannot be taken.

I would also invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to the fact that it is necessary that the multiplication of companies that is going on should not be allowed. It will only mean further difficulties when you want to nationalise. There should be rationalization in the services. Pool them together; let these established companies form themselves into a merger just like the Associated Cement Company in which you had the merger of all the cement-manufacturing companies. I would advise that there should be a merger of the civil aviation companies so that you may have the services running where they are required by the public and not on different lines. I accept the formula that has been accepted by the Government of having full control on the fares, on the examination of the air-worthiness of the planes; all these things should continue. Even if it is decided not to nationalize civil aviation at once, at least these things should be done.

Referring to the point which was made by Mr. Anthony, I would invite the attention of the Ministries as a whole to the evidence which was tendered before the Central Pay Commission. Every one of the employees' organisations which came up before us was vehemently against the present system of selection; without exception I say every one of the associations urged that an improvement should be made. Two suggestions were made: either examination, or seniority. There was difference of opinion as to what should be the basis. But on the present system of selection there was complete unanimity and it has given so much dissatisfaction. If the records are examined, it will be found that the present system of selection stands self-condemned. I have no particular grouse and I have no knowledge of the particular selection board. I simply wish to draw attention of Government to a fact which can be verified from the records of the Government itself.

Sir, I do not like to mention—because the matter is too well-known—the vagaries of the telephone. If India could manufacture ten thousand and one part which were required for the war, I do not understand why she cannot manufacture things required for the telephone. If we could manufacture things ourselves—at least the bigger components—it would be possible to improve it. Continuing to complain against the technical personnel would do no good. It is not the fault of the personnel only; the personnel are at fault no doubt, but the fault is more due to the want of goods. Unless you have got all the goods necessary you cannot have good facilities. I would therefore invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to embark upon this manufacturing activity. They are already manufacturing telephone instruments; other essential things should also be manufactured either by ourselves or by the Indian concerns with the help of experts. At present the need for more facilities is too great. As the Honourable Member from Bengal said the business life is suffering greatly and

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the loss which they are incurring is greater than the loss which we would incur if we manufacture the things at a higher cost.

شری دیش بندھو گپتا : جناب صدر یہ جو کنسوشن میں Move کرنا چاہتا تھا اس کے دو حصے ہیں - ایک حصہ ٹیلیفون وبھاگ سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور دوسرا حصہ ڈاک وبھاگ سے - جہانتک ڈاک کا تعلق ہے جناب صدر! مجھ سے پہلے بہت کچھ کہا جا چکا ہے اور میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ خود آنریبل منسٹر صاحب کو یہ تجربہ ہوگا کہ ابھی تک یہ محکمہ اسی پرانی چھکڑے کی چال سے چل رہا ہے- یعقول شاعر وہی رفتار بے ڈھنگی جو پہلے تھی سو اب بھی ہے یعنی خطوط بہت زیادہ دیر میں پہنچتے ہیں خصوصیت کے ساتھ جن چٹھیوں پر ہندی میں پتہ لکھا ہوتا ہے ان چٹھیوں کے چند میل کے فاصلہ پر پہنچنے میں بھی بہت کافی دیر لگ جاتی ہے- جناب صدر! آج حالت یہ ہے کہ اس میں ذرا مبالغہ نہیں کہ نیویارک لندن اور اسی طرح غیر ملکوں اور دوسرے بڑے بڑے شہروں سے دو دن میں ہوائی ڈاک کے ذریعہ یہاں چٹھیاں پہنچ جاتی ہیں- لیکن ہمارے یہاں دیہاتی مقامات سے اگر کوئی چٹھی پندرہ میل کے فاصلہ پر بھی دوسرے دیہات میں بھیجی جائے تو اس میں اس سے زیادہ وقت لگ جاتا ہے لہذا میں آنریبل منسٹر صاحب سے عرض کرونگا کہ وہ اس طرف توجہ کریں اور اس حالت کو بدلنے کی کوشش کریں اور اس غریب کسان کے جو تین پیسے خرچ کرکے ایک چٹھی اپنے کسی عزیز کو بھیجتا ہے خیال کریں کہ اگر وہ چٹھی وقت پر نہیں پہنچتی تو اس کے دل پر کیا گزرتی ہوگی - اس غریب کو ساری عمر میں بہت کم چٹھیاں لکھنے اور پانے کا موقعہ ہوتا ہے اس کے علاوہ چٹھی پروانے میں بھی اس کا کچھ وقت لگ جاتا ہے اس طرح اسکا مطلب فوت ہو جاتا ہے -میرے خیال میں اس شکایت کو دور کرنے ایک طریقہ یہ ہو سکتا ہے کہ ہندی knowing staff ڈاک کے چھانٹنے اور تقسیم کرنے کے لئے اور زیادہ رکھا جائے - جس وقت تک آپ ایسا نہ کریں گے اس وقت تک یہ مشکل دور نہ ہو سکے گی-

اب جناب! تار کا سوال لیجئے اگرچہ میرے کنسوشن میں اس کا ذکر نہیں ہے پھر بھی میں آپ کی اجازت سے اس کے متعلق چند الفاظ کہونگا اور وہ یہ ہے کہ جہانتک تار کے محکمہ کا تعلق ہے اس کی efficiency کا اندازہ اس بات سے کیا جاسکتا ہے کہ اگر آرڈنری ٹیلیگرام اور اکسپرس ٹیلیگرام کے اعداد و شمار جمع کئے جائیں اور ان کی ایک دوسرے سے کیا نسبت ہے یہ نکالیں اور اس کا مقابلہ pre-war days کے اعداد وشمار نسبت سے کریں تو آپ کو پتہ چلے گا کہ آج کل لوگوں نے آرڈنری ٹیلیگرام بھیجنے بہت کم کردئیے ہیں چونکہ بسا اوقات یہ تار خط سے بھی دیر میں پہنچتے ہیں اور آرڈنری ٹیلیگرام بھیجنے سے کوئی فائدہ نہیں ہوتا - اب رہا اکسپرس ٹیلیگرام کا سوال - عام شکایت ہے کہ وہ بھی وقت پر نہیں پہنچتے اس لئے آنریبل منسٹر صاحب کو اس طرف توجہ دینی چاہئے -

جناب صدر ! ٹیلیفون وبھاگ کا جہانتک تعلق ہے اسکا حال اس سے بھی زیادہ خراب ہے - اس سلسلے میں میرے لائق دوست نے مجھ پر بھی کرم فرمایا اور کہ حال میں انہوں نے جو ٹیلیفون ایڈوائزری کمیٹی بنائی ہے اسکا مجھ کو بھی ایک ممبر نامزد کر دیا پچھلے تین مہینوں میں اس کمیٹی پر کام کرنے کے بعد میں نے یہ محسوس کیا کہ حقیقت میں میرے لائق دوست نے کمیٹی ہذا کو مقرر کرکے اس کہاوت کو درست ثابت کر دیا ہے کہ بندر کی بلا طویلے کے سر- جناب والا ! اس کمیٹی کے سامنے ٹیلیفون کنکشن کیلئے ڈھائی ہزار applications پینڈنگ تھیں اور ان تین مہینوں میں ہم نے صرف ۴۵ کنکشن دئے ہیں اور وہ بھی زیادہ تر اسلئے کہ بہت سے لوگوں کے پاکستان چلے جانیکی وجہ سے جو ٹیلیفون خالی ہو گئے ہوئے تھے وہ دوسروں کو دے دئے گئے اس سے آپ اندازہ کر سکتے ہیں کہ دہلی میں ٹیلیفون کی کیا حالت ہے - جناب صدر ! ہمارا دعوی تو یہ ہے کہ ہمارا ملک بہت بڑا اونچا اور ترکی پسند ہے لیکن اگر غور سے دیکھا جائے تو یہ ماننا پڑیگا کہ ہمارا ملک اس معاملہ میں بہت پیچھے ہے - اکیلے نیویارک شہر میں تین million سے زیادہ ٹیلیفون ہیں اور ہمارے سارے ملک میں صرف ایک لاکھ بیس ہزار ٹیلیفون ہیں اس سے آپ سمجھ سکتے ہیں کہ ہمنے اس معاملہ میں کتنی کم ترقی ہے یہ تو ہے ٹیلیفونوں کی تعداد کی حالت جہانتک Efficiency کا تعلق ہے مجھے افسوس کے ساتھ کہنا پڑتا ہے کہ نیشنل گورنمنٹ کے آنے سے پہلے efficiency کا میعار اس معاملے میں بہت اونچا تھا مجھکو اسکا خود تجربہ ہے - چنانچہ جب سردار بھگت سنگھ کو پنجاب ہائی کورٹ سے سنہ ۳۱ء میں پھانسی کا حکم سنایا گیا تھا تو میں نے یہ سوچا کہ ملک میں ہڑتال ہونی چاہئے اسوقت میں ایک Rebel سمجھا جاتا تھا اسپر بھی اسوقت ٹرنک کالز کرنے میں اتنی آسانی تھی کہ میں نے پہلے پنڈت موتی لال جی نہرو سے جو اسوقت مسوری میں قیام پزیر تھے ٹیلیفون پر اجازت لی اور اسکے دو گھنٹے کے اندر اندر تمام پراونسز کے Capitals کو ٹیلیفون سے خبر کر دئے کہ وہ ہڑتال منائیں میں نے دیکھا کہ دو گھنٹے کے بعد اخبارات کے دفتروں میں اطلاعیں آنے لگیں کہ فلاں جگہ جاوس بند کر دیا گیا فلاں جگہ ہڑتال کا اعلان ہو گیا - اس سے جناب والا اسوقت کی efficiency کا اندازہ ہو سکتا ہے مجھے یقین ہے کہ اگر آج منسٹر صاحب خود بھی ٹیلیفون کرنا چاہیں تو دو گھنٹے میں تمام پراونسز کے Capitals میں وہ ٹیلیفون نہیں کر سکیں گے - جناب صدر دہلی کی مقامی حالت کا جہانتک تعلق ہے یہاں صرف ساڑھے نو ہزار ٹیلیفون ہیں جن میں سے ساڑھے چار ہزار بہت سے دفتروں میں اور سرکاری افسران کے گھروں پر لگے ہوئے ہیں دو ہزار کے قریب نئی دہلی میں لگے ہوئے ہیں اور باقی

[شری دیش بندھو گپتا]

مانده . پرانی دھلی اور چھاونی میں لگے ہوے ہیں معلوم ہوا ہے کہ نئی دھلی کےلئے ایک نیا exchange بنایا جا رہا ہے جسمیں چار ہزار نئی Lines ہونگی لیکن پرانی دھلی کے ساتھ پھر بھی سوتیلی ماں کا سلوک کیا جا رہا ہے اور باوجود اسکے کہ اسٹانڈنگ فائننس کمیٹی نے تیرہ سال ہوا یہ فیصلہ کیا تھا کہ پرانی دھلی میں ایک نیا اکسچینج کھولا جائے ابھی تک اسکے لئے کوئی Order تک نہیں دیا گیا جسکے معنی یہ ہیں کہ کئی سال تک پرانی دھلی میں نیا اکسچینج لگنے کا نمبر نہیں آ سکتا اسلئے میری یہ گزارش ہے کہ آنریبل منسٹر صاحب کو اسطرف جلد توجہ دینی چاہئے اور نئے اکسچینج قائم کرنیکی رفتار تیز کرنی چاہئے اسکے علاوہ ایسے بھی efficiency بڑھانے کی بہت بڑی ضرورت ہے میں دیکھتا ہوں کہ اسطرف مناسب دھیان نہیں دیا جا رہا - آج ہم یہ دیکھتے ہیں موجودہ inefficiency کی ایک وجہ یہ ہے کہ اگر کوئی ٹیلیفون آپریٹر ایک گھنٹے میں دس ٹیلیفون ٹرنک کالز کراتا ہے اور دوسرا دو کراتا ہے تو ہم دس والے کو کوئی encouragement نہیں دیتے حالانکہ جو دس کالز کراتا ہے اس سے محکمہ کی آمدنی میں کافی فرق پڑتا ہے اور دھلی سے مدراس کو دو کالز بھی زیادہ ہو جائیں تو ڈپارٹمنٹ کو ۸۰ یا ۹۰ روپیہ زائد مل جاتے ہیں اسلئے ضرورت ہے کہ ہم efficiency کیطرف زیادہ توجہ کریں اور جو آپریٹرس بہتر کام کرتے ہیں انہیں rewards وغیرہ دئے جائیں تاکہ efficiency بڑھے اسکے علاوہ ٹیلیفون آپریٹرس کا جہانتک تعلق ہے اسمیں مردوں کی تعداد برابر کی ہے میں سمجھتا ہوں اگر اس محکمہ میں Girls کو زیادہ employ کیا جائے اور آپریٹرس کی ساری کی ساری posts پر جو ابھی fifty fifty پرسنٹ ہیں انہیں کو تعینات کر دیا جائے تو نہ صرف efficiency بڑھ سکتی ہے بلکہ corruption بھی کم ہو سکتی ہے اسکی وجہ یہ ہے کہ جہانتک مردوں کا تعلق ہے business کی ٹرنک کال میں انکے corrupt ہونیکے زیادہ chances ہیں کیونکہ وہ business کرنیوالوں سے راہ رسم بنا لیتے ہیں لیکن ہماری بہنیں جب وہاں کام کریں گی تو انکے corrupt ہونیکے chances وہاں کم ہونگے - اسلئے اسکی طرف بھی میں آپکی توجہ دلانا چاہتا ہوں -

ایک چیز اور ہے جسکی طرف میں چاہتا ہوں کہ میرے لائق دوست توجہ دیں اور وہ یہ ہے کہ اسٹاف کا جہاں تک تعلق ہے اسکو satisfied رکھنے کی ضرورت ہے کیا وجہ ہے کہ کلکتہ اور بمبئی میں جسوقت انڈیپنڈنٹ ٹیلیفون کمپنیاں کام کرتی ہیں تو انکی efficiency زیادہ تھی؟ مجھکو معلوم ہوا ہے کہ سنہ ۴۳ ع میں یہ کمپنیاں گورنمنٹ نے لے لی تھیں لیکن اُن کے سٹاف کو آج تک departmental نہیں کیا گیا وہ اسٹاف اِسطرح چلا آ رہا ہے ، ان کی Efficiency پر اثر پڑتا ہے -

ایک اور چیز کی طرف میں اپنے لائق دوست کی توجہ کھینچنا چاہتا ہوں دلی میں اُنہوں نے ٹیلیفون ایڈوایزری کمیٹی تو بنا دی ہے اور اس سے کچھ فائدہ بھی ضرور ہوا ہے لیکن اس کے ساتھ ساتھ وہ ایک قدم اور بڑھائیں اور بجائے ایڈوایزری کمیٹی کے دلی کے لئے ایک علحدہ انڈیپنڈنٹ بورڈ سارے انتظامات کی دیکھ بھال کیلئے بنا دیں اور کم سے کم دلی میں اس کا تجربہ کر کے دیکھیں کہ اسکا کیا اثر ہوتا ہے - محکمہ ٹیلیفون کے جن بڑے افسروں سے میرا واسطہ پڑا ہے اُنمیں سے کئی کے متعلق میں کہہ سکتا ہوں کہ وہ کافی دلچسپی کیساتھ کام کر رہے ہیں لیکن اُنکے ہاتھ پاؤں بندھے ہوئے ہیں اگر آپ ایک چھوٹا سا بورڈ بنائیں اور اُسے کافی اختیار دیں نیز اُنکی واجب مانگوں کو پورا کر دیں تو میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ efficiency ضرور بڑھ سکتی ہے ، جناب صدر! میری اس تجویز کو عملی جامہ پہنا کر ہم دھلی میں اسکا تجربہ کر سکتے ہیں اور اگر تجربہ کامیاب ہو تو پھر دوسری جگہ بھی اسے شروع کیا جا سکتا ہے اسکا ایک بڑا فائدہ یہ ہوگا کہ موجودہ Red tapism کیوجہ سے جو تجویزیں مدتوں لٹکتی رہتی ہیں اور چھوٹی چھوٹی چیزوں کیلئے آل انڈیا basis پر فیصلہ کرنیکی وجہ سے جو دیر لگتی ہے ہم اُس سے بچ جائینگے -

ایک خاص چیز جسکی طرف میں اور دھیان کھینچنا چاہتا ہوں وہ یہ ہے کہ آج ہمارا ملک آزاد ہو چکا ہے ہم دنیا میں اپنی individuality قائم کرنا چاہتے ہیں لیکن ہماری حالت یہ ہے کہ تار صرف انگریزی زبان میں دئے جا سکتے ہیں اور اب تک ڈیپارٹمنٹ نے ایسا کوئی قدم نہیں اُٹھایا ہے کہ محض ہندی پڑھے ہوئے لوگ ہندی زبان میں ٹیلیگرام دے سکیں - ہمارے ایجوکیشن منسٹر ایسا کہتے ہیں کہ پانچ سال کے بعد ہندوستان کے تمام یونیورسٹیوں میں تعلیم صرف اپنی مادری زبان میں ہوا کریگی لیکن پوسٹل ڈپارٹمنٹ نے ایسا کوئی پروگرام نہیں بنایا کہ کب تک تاریں وغیرہ صرف ہندوستانی زبان میں دی جانے لگینگی -

میں اُمید کرتا ہوں کہ جو suggestions میں نے کئے ہیں انکی طرف دھیان دیا جائیگا اور یہ محض رسمی بات نہ ہوگی کہ ایک کٹ موشن پیش ہوا اور اُسکا جواب دیدیا گیا بلکہ efficiency کو improve کرنیکے لئے عملی ذرائع اختیار کئے جائینگے -

(*English translation of the above speech*)

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): Mr. Chairman, the cut motion which I wanted to move consists of two parts, one relates to the telephone Department and the other to the Postal Department. Much has already been said, Sir, in regard to the latter. I think the Honourable Minister also must have realised himself that his department has been moving along like an old and rickety cart. In the poet's words:

"Wohi raftar bedhangi jo pahle thee voh ale bhi hai','

(Things remain as bad as before).

[Shri Deshbandhu Gupta]

In other words letters reach their destination very late; especially letters bearing addresses in Hindi take long to cover even very short distances. Sir without exaggeration the state of affairs today is that air mail letters from New York, London and other foreign important places reach here within a couple of days. But here in India, if a letter is posted from one rural place to another, even fifteen miles distant, it takes longer to reach its destination. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister to give his attention to this so that this state of affairs may be improved. I wish he could imagine the feelings of a poor peasant, who, after spending three pice to post a letter to his dear one, finds that the letter has not reached the addressee in time. The poor man has very few opportunities of writing and posting letters in his life time. Moreover, some of his time is also spent in getting his letters read out to him. In this way the letter loses its utility. I think the one way of removing this grievance is to increase the Hindi knowing staff for sorting and distribution of post. So long as this is not done, this difficulty will persist.

Take the case of telegrams now. Although my cut motion makes no mention of this, yet with your permission I will say a few words about it. So far as the Telegraph Department is concerned, its efficiency can be estimated if you total up the number of ordinary and express telegrams received now and before the war, and see their proportion to each other you will find that people are sending fewer ordinary telegrams now than they used to do before because often these telegrams take even longer to reach than letters. No useful purpose is therefore served by sending ordinary telegrams. Now take the case of Express telegrams. People generally complain that even these are not delivered in time. The Honourable Minister must, therefore, look into it. Sir, so far as the Telephone Department is concerned it is still worse. My learned friend was kind enough to nominate me as a member to the recently formed Telephone Advisory Committee. My experience of the last three months as a member of this committee has made me feel that by appointing this committee my Honourable friend has proved the truth of an old proverb:

"Bandar ki Bala tawele ke sir."

Sir, the committee have 2,500 applications pending before it and only 45 new connections have been given during the past three months; and that too was possible on account of the migration to Pakistan. The telephones released thus were allotted to some of these applicants. This will give you an idea of the state of affairs of telephones in Delhi. Sir, we claim that India is a very large, and progressive country with high ideals. But if we observe carefully we will have to admit that in this direction our country is very backward. In the city of New York alone there are over three millions of telephones whereas in the whole of India we have only 1,20,000. You can therefore judge how little progress we have made in this matter. So much for the number of telephones. As regards efficiency, I regret to say that before the advent of National Government the standard was much higher. I have a personal experience of this. When Sardar Bhagat Singh was sentenced to death in 1931 by the Punjab High Court, it struck me that there should be a 'Hartal' in the country. I was looked upon then as a 'rebel'. Even then, it was so easy to make trunk calls at that time that, first of all, I rang up Pt. Moti Lal Nehru who was at that time staying at Mussorie. I obtained his approval and within two hours of that I was able to phone up and advise all the provincial capitals to observe 'Hartal'. I found that after two hours the offices of the various newspapers began to receive news of banning of processions and of 'Hartals' at different places. This will give you an idea of the efficiency of work at that time. I am sure even if the Honourable Minister himself tries today, he will not be able to have telephonic talks with all the provincial capitals in just two hours.

Sir, so far as the local condition in Delhi is concerned, there are only 9,500 telephones here. Of these 4,500 are installed in the Government offices or at the residences of Government officials. About 2,000 are installed in New Delhi and the remaining in old Delhi and in Delhi Cantt. It is heard that a new telephone exchange is being put up in New Delhi which will have 4,000 new lines. Old Delhi is still receiving a step motherly treatment. In spite of the fact that the Standing Finance Committee decided a year and a half ago to set up a new Exchange in old Delhi, no orders have so far been issued to this effect. It means that for many years to come there are no chances of a new Exchange in old Delhi. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister to attend to this at once, and to expedite the work of the installation of new Exchanges.

Apart from that, there is also a great need for increasing efficiency. I find due attention is not being paid to it. One of the causes of present inefficiency is that the operator who puts through 10 trunk calls does not receive any encouragement and is treated in the same way as the operator who puts through only two calls although the former increases the income of the Department. If only two more Trunk Calls are made from Delhi to Madras, the Department gets an additional income of eighty to ninety rupees. It is, therefore, necesary to lend our greater attention to efficiency; and we should give rewards etc., to those operators who work better so that efficiency may be encouraged. Apart from that, so far as telephone operators are concerned, the number of male and female operators at present is equal. I think if larger number of girls are employed in this Department and if all the posts of operators, are fil'ed by them, not only then efficiency will increase but also corruption will decrease. It is because, men are more likely to become corrupt while dealing with business trunk calls because they are more in contact with businessmen. The employment of our sisters there will minimise chances of corruption. I, therefore, desire to draw your attention to this also. To one thing more I want to invite the attention of my Honourable friend. So far as the staff is concerned it should be kept satisfied. How is it that when independent telephone companies operated in Calcutta and Bombay, their efficiency was greater? I have come to know that in 1943 these companies were taken over by the Government but their staff have not so far been absorbed in the Department. It is continuing as non-departmental staff. This effects their efficiency.

My Honourable friend has of course appointed a Telephone Advisory Committee in Delhi and it has no doubt resulted in some improvement. But side by side with that he should take another step. Instead of an Advisory Committee he should constitute an Independent Board for Delhi to look after the entire administration. It should at least be given a trial in Delhi. I can say from my personal experience with some of the high officers of the Telephone Department with whom I have had to deal, that a good number of them take a lot of interest in their work; but their hands are tied. If you establish a small Board, vest it with enough powers, and meet its due demands, I feel efficiency is bound to improve. Sir, this scheme of mine may be enforced in Delhi as an experimental measure. If the experiment succeeds here, the system can be introduced at other places also. One great advantage that will accrue as a result of this is that we will be avoiding delays in the enforcement of schemes, which have been lingering on for years due to the existing system of 'red tapism', and hesitations to take decisions on small schemes on an all India basis.

One particular matter to which I like to draw attention is this. Today our country is free and we want to establish our individuality in the world. But our condition is such that telegraphic messages can be transmitted only in English, and upto this time the Department has taken no such step as may enable Hindi knowing people to get their telegraphic messages transmitted in Hindi. Our Education Minister tells us that after five years all Indian Universities will be imparting education in our national language, but the postal Department has

[Shri Deshbandhu Gupta]

made no such programme as may indicate how long it will take to introduce the practice of transmitting telegraphic messages only in Hindustani language.

I hope the suggestions I have made will receive due consideration; merely the formality of answering a cut motion will not do; but practical steps will be taken to improve the efficiency.

Shri Khurshed Lal (U.P.: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the cut motion of which I had given notice of, I had intended to raise the question of 'Communication Industries'. Now, Sir, how important that question is is apparent from the fact that for the last few years all progress in the matter of extension of telephones has been held up for want of equipment and instruments. Even as it is, so far as the telephone map of the world is concerned, India is nowhere. Whereas, Sir, in the U.S.A. there are 21 telephones for every 100 of the population, in India the percentage is .03. We have claimed in various conferences that we are the potential leaders of Asia, but in this matter of telephones, we do not lead even Asia. Well, the average for Asia is 0.1 and the Indian average is .03 per cent. That shows, Sir, that we need communication industries not only to consolidate our present position and to put our house in order, but we also need them, if we are to expand the telephones and telegraphs in this country. It won't do, Sir, to depend entirely on imports from outside. If we have to make any progress, we have to set up our own factories; we have to set up our own plants in order to manufacture all our requirements in the matter of telegraphs and telephones. I have before me a report of the Conference on Industrial Development in India. The report says that there are three factories working in India at the present moment. The Super Services India Limited, Bombay, Messrs. India Electric Works Limited, Calcutta and Telephone Manufacturers Limited, Dehra Dun. Sir, I have not been able to find out much about the Bombay and Calcutta firms but I happen to know something about the firm at Dehra Dun and if the other firms are of the same pattern, I should say: God help us. The House will probably be interested to know that the Dehra Dun Telephone Manufacturers Limited has not a single Indian shareholder it is a subsidiary company of four British companies; it was set up in Dehra Dun during the war to manufacture some parts of telephone instruments, and if my information is true, Sir, they are closing down very shortly. Out of the three firms one firm is closing down: I do not know what is the condition of the other two firms, whether they are Indian firms, whether they are like the Telephone Manufacturers Limited an absolutely European firm and what they propose to do. The Department of the Honourable Minister, Sir, has got two factories working, one at Jubbulpore and one at Alipore.

3.P.M

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: And one at Bombay.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Thank you very much. Most of the essential parts of telephone instruments are not manufactured in any of these factories either owned by the Government or by the private companies and we have to depend on imports from outside. I would, therefore seriously urge upon the Honourable Minister to take note of this state of affairs and to take steps to set up factories and plants where the most important parts of telephone instruments and telegraph instruments could be manufactured—I know, Sir, it is not possible in a year or two—but we must set up some time-limit by which time we must be self-sufficient in the matter of manufacture of all these instruments. Today we complain of lack of foreign exchange; we complain of so many things and if we have in the process of our development to depend on all these things being imported from outside, then, Sir, our progress is bound to be held up indefinitely.

There is one thing more to which I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister. Even in a highly industrialised country like England 90 per cent. of the telegraph and telephone poles are of treated timber. Today,

Sir, we have got an immense shortage of steel and steel is required for so many things. We have got quite a large number of forests in our country. If I remember correctly, Sir, some important experiments were made some years ago in the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun for treating timber and I would strongly urge upon the Honourable Minister to consider the possibility of replacing these steel posts by treated timber and use treated timber as far as possible. As I said in an industrialized country like England they are using 90 per cent. treated timber which they have to get all the way from Scandinavia, here we have timber in this country which can be treated and if it is treated properly can be utilised in place of a large amount of steel which is required for other purposes. So, I would urge upon the Honourable Minister to take these factors into consideration. I know, Sir, that the task before the Honourable Minister is very difficult. He has inherited a Department, which during the war years had reached the lowest point of efficiency. But we in the United Provinces have known the Honourable Minister for his energy, for his drive and I am sure, if he applies his undoubted powers to the reform of this Department, there is no reason why the complaints which we have heard so much in recent days should not disappear. Even as it is the position remains pretty bad. But it must be said that the working of the telephones has during the past few days shown some signs of improvement and if this improvement continues, I am sure things will soon come to normal. Nowadays there is no point in sending ordinary telegrams and unless the intention is that people must be forced to send express telegrams, so that there may be more revenue for the Government, I am sure ordinary telegrams would soon come to take its proper place.

श्री गोकुलभाई दौलतराम भट्ट : माननीय सभापति जी, डाक और तार के मसले में जो बातें माननीय गुप्ता जी ने कही हैं उसे मैं दोहराना नहीं चाहता हूं। लेकिन यहां दिल्ली की हालत एक अजीब सी है। दिल्ली में, नई दिल्ली में खास करके, मौसम भी दिन बदिन बदलता रहता है। दिल्ली के लिये टेलीफोन और तार की सबको कुछ न कुछ दिक्कत रहती है, और अव्यवस्था इस प्रकार की है कि कुछ कहना ही नहीं। दिल्ली के ऐडवाइजरी बोर्ड (Advisory Board) की भी बात कही गई है और दूसरे बोर्डों की भी। लेकिन और जगहों के लिये हम खास तौर से कोई ध्यान नहीं देते हैं। मैं यह जरूर कहना चाहता हूं कि तार या टेलीग्राम (Telegram) के बारे में सुधार की बड़ी जरूरत है। यहां दिल्ली में जहां कि राजधानी है वहां तो बहुत ज्यादा सुधार होने चाहियें और जल्दी से होने चाहिये क्योंकि यहां जो बैठे हैं, वह सारे देश की बागडोर हाथ में लेकर बैठे हैं, और यहां दूसरे जो सभासद भी बैठे हैं वह हिन्दुस्तान के कोने कोने से आये हुये हैं और उनको काम भी कोने कोने में करना पड़ता है। इस तरह यह स्वाभाविक है कि दिल्ली में अगर अव्यवस्था होती है तो सारे हिन्दुस्तान में अंधेरा है ऐसा मालूम होता है। मैं एक मिसाल दूं। यह टेलीफोन वगैरह की गड़बड़ी चाहे जितनी दिल्ली में हो लेकिन बम्बई में जब देखता हूं तो इस तरह की गड़बड़ी नहीं मालूम होती। जैसे वहां पहले चीजें थीं उसी तरह आज भी चल रही हैं। लेकिन जब दिल्ली में आता हूं तो एक अंधेरा सा मालूम होता है। यह क्यों है, इसकी जांच और पड़ताल करने का काम हमारे

[श्री गोकुल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट]

माननीय मंत्री जी का है जब कि हम लोग इतना बोलते हैं तब उन्हें यह मालूम हो जायगा कि यह लोग बोलते हैं तो कुछ न कुछ तो करें । उनके अफ़सर जो यहां बैठे हैं उनके दिल में भी यह होता होगा कि हमारे ऊपर लथाड़ पड़ रही है । एक तरफ़ से कुछ शाबाशी मिल रही है, तो कुछ फटकार पड़ रही है । कुछ सुधार जरूर हो रहा है, पर जितनी जल्दी होना चाहिये और जितने ज्यादा होने चाहिये उतने वह नहीं हो रहे हैं । और वह न होना बुरी बात है । वह मेरे लिये नहीं, देश के लिये, मुल्क के लिये बुरी बात है । इस एयरोप्लेन (Aeroplane) के जमाने में हम छकड़े पर बैठ कर नहीं जाते हैं, मोटर पर नहीं जाते हैं, तो यह सुधार, कुछ-कुछ सुधार होने से हमें उनसे सन्तोष नहीं होगा । हमारे सुधारों में बहुत कुछ बढ़ोतरी होनी चाहिये । इसकी ओर मैं उनका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं ।

ऐअर मेल (Air Mail) से डाक जाने से हम यह समझते हैं कि जल्दी पहुंच जायेगी और पैसा भी कम खर्च होगा पर मैंने कई मर्तबे यह देखा है कि ऐअर मेल (Air Mail) से चिट्ठियां डालते हैं, लेट फी (Late Fee) लगा कर और एक्सप्रेस डिलिवरी (Express Delivery) में भी भेजते हैं तो वह चिट्ठी पांच-पांच, छः-छः दिन तक, जहां एक दिन में पहुंचनी चाहिये, नहीं पहुंचती है । यह सुस्ती की बात है । ऐसी एअर मेल (Air Mail) को देखते हुये तो उसकी जगह पार्सल ट्रेन (Parcel Train) में, या गुड्स में भी यह चिट्ठी भेजी जाय तो शायद वह जल्दी पहुंच जाय । लेकिन एअर मेल की जब चिट्ठी इस तरह से पहुंचती है तो बड़े आश्चर्य की बात है । और इसमें सुधार होने की आवश्यकता है ।

एक दूसरी बात की तरफ़ मैं ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं । मालूम नहीं कहां तक यह सच है, मैंने इसकी जांच नहीं की । लेकिन चिट्ठियां बांटने वाले जो सार्टरस (Sorters) होते हैं रेलवे मेल वैन में, उनके दिमागों में कुछ बू है । मुझे यह कहा गया है कि कभी-कभी किन्हीं अखबारों के पार्सल जिसको सार्टर (Sorters) अलग करते हैं, उनके दिमाग अलग होते हैं, उनकी बू अलग होती है शायद वह कोई हिन्दू महा-सभा के साथ ताल्लुक रखने वाले होते हैं, या आर० एस० एस० (R. S. S.) से हमदर्दी रखने वाले हों या नेशनलगार्ड (National Guard) की तरफ़ उनका कुछ ध्यान हो, तो ऐसे आदमी क्या करते हैं कि जो राष्ट्रीय अखबार होते है उनको उठा लेते हैं और अलग रख देते हैं । दूसरे अखबारों के बन्डलों को आगे कर देते हैं जिससे वह नियमित रूप से पहुंच जायें और राष्ट्रीय अखबार पीछे पड़ जायें । यह शिकायत मैंने अभी-अभी सुनी है और मैं इसकी जांच भी करना चाहता हूं । उसके बाद मैं इसे माननीय मंत्री जी के पास यह सारी बात पेश करूंगा । लेकिन अभी मैं इस ओर

उनकी तवज्जह जरूर दिलाना चाहता हूं जो कि मैंने सुना है । मैं इसकी ओर उनका ध्यान दिलाऊंगा कि अखबार देर में पहुंचते हैं क्योंकि जो उन्हें सोर्ट (sort) करने वाले आदमी होते हैं वह ऐसी गड़बड़ी करते है ।

एक दूसरी बात यह है जिसकी तरफ़ मैं पोस्टल डिपार्टमेंट (Postal Department) का ध्यान अकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि कई स्थानों के जो नाम पहले रक्खे गए थे उनमें भी तब्दीली होनी चाहिये । मिसाल के तौर पर एरिनपुरा (Erinpura) और एरिनपुरा रोड़ (Erinpura Road) के नाम दिये गए थे, इसमें बड़ी गड़बड़ी होती है । तो इसके स्थान पर इसका नाम शिवगंज रख दिया जाय जो कि इसका पुराना नाम है । पता नहीं क्यों पोस्टलडिपार्टमेंट (Postal Department) के लोगों के दिमागों में यह नहीं आता कि इसे कैसे बदला जाये । लेकिन इसी तरह से कई जगहों के नाम बदलना चाहिये जिससे तार और डाक पहुंचाने में ज्यादा सहूलियत हो ।

दूसरी बात मैं कहना चाहता हूं वह यह है कि गांवों में पोस्ट आफ़िस कई जगह ऐसे हैं कि बहुत से गांव होते हुए भी १५-१५ मील तक एक ही पोस्ट-आफ़िस रहता है । इस लिये मेरा सुझाव यह है कि कम से कम यह ध्यान रक्खा जाये कि पांच-सात मील के अंतर में एक पोस्ट-आफ़िस जरूर हो जिससे आस-पास के गांवों में बहुत नहीं तो तीन-चार रोज में डाक मिलती रहे और मनीआर्डर भी शीघ्र ही उन्हें मिलें ।

इतना कहते हुए मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि जो कुछ सुधार हुए इससे हमें सन्तोष नहीं है, इस लिये जो सुस्ती है वह निकालनी चाहिये । लापरवाही है वह हटानी चाहिये और अनियमितता दूर करनी चाहिये ।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt (Eastern Rajputana States Group): Honourable Chairman, I do not want to repeat what has been said by Shri Gupta about Posts and Telegraphs. But the situation in Delhi is queer. The weather is always changing in Delhi particularly in New Delhi. Every body complains about telephones and telegrams here and mismanagement is such as defies description. References have been made of the Advisory Boards of Delhi and other places. But we are not at all paying any special attention to outside places. I must emphasise that telephones and telegrams badly require improvement. Delhi, the Capital of India, needs the best and speedy improvements because it is inhabited by people who control the destiny of our country and also by representatives in the Assembly who have come from far and wide and who have interests in all corners of India. Naturally if there is disorder in Delhi it has repercussion outside. *Let me give an illustration:* The telephone disorder that we find in Delhi is not found in Bombay. Life is normal at the latter place. But things in Delhi on the otherway. Our Honourable Minister must find out the reasons for it. He must see that our speeches and complaints do not go in vain. The officers of this Department must also be feeling that they are being censured. On the one hand they are being patted while on the other they are being scolded. This has of course improved affairs but the improvement is slow; this delay is bad not only for me but for the whole of the

[Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt]

country. In the age of aeroplanes we cannot afford to travel by carts nor even by motor cars. Slowness of reforms in this direction will not satisfy. Reforms must be undertaken on a large scale. To this I solicit the attention of the Honourable Minister.

Air Mail means quick and cheap postal service. But many a time I have experienced that despite payment of late fees and express delivery fees on Air Mail letters, it takes five to six days for a letter to reach its destination, whereas normally it should not take more than a day. This shows s ackness on the part of the department. A parcel train or a goods train might probably be qu cker than this Air Mail service. It is surprising to find this kind of Air Mail service. This needs reforms.

To one more thing I would like to invite the attention of the Honourable Minister. How far this is true, I can not say because I have not investigated it. The behaviour of the sorters of the R.M.S. is objectionable. I have been told that the sorting staff who think and act in a strange way, and who might be connected with either the Hindu Mahasabha, the R.S.S. or the National Guards, sort out certain news-papers in such a way as ensures punctual delivery of the anti-national papers, whereas intentional mis-sorting of national newspaper leads to their delayed de ivery. This complaint reached my ears only recently and I want to enquire into it. After proper investigations, however, I will place the whole thing before the Honourable Minister. But at this stage I must acquaint him with all that I have heard; and I must point out to him that delivery of newspapers is delayed because the 'sorters' play this mischief.

Another thing to wh ch I would like to draw the attention of the postal department is that old names of certain places should be changed. For example there is a p ace known as 'Erinpura' and 'Erinpura Road'. This leads to confusion. It should be renamed by its old name of Shiv Ganj. I am at a loss to understand why the postal department is unable to find out a way of changing this name. Similarly to facilitate the delivery of post and telegrams, names of many other places should be changed.

Yet another thing that I have to say is that rural post offices at some places are so located that despite the presence of many villages round about, people have got to go even fifteen miles to find a post office. I would, therefore, recommend that care should be taken to see that a post office is situated within a radius of five miles from a village so that postal deliveries can be made, if not earlier, at least every third or fourth day, and so that the villagers receive quick payments of money orders.

With these words I would say that the reforms that have been made do not satisfy us. The department must shake off its laziness and carelessness that is sticking to it; and unpunctuality must go.

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U.P. : Muslim): Sir, at the very outset I may say that I was the loudest in my complaints regarding the inefficiency of the telephone and telegraph department five months ago. But I must say to the credit of the Honourable Minister that since he took charge of this department there has been a remarkab e improvement in the telephone system of the country. My personal experience has been that whereas in Delhi one could not previously get telephone connections for a long time it is now possible to get calls after a few minutes. And I can say the same about Lucknow. I used to feel extremely annoyed over the inefficiency of the staff in Lucknow before August 15—but since then I found a marked improvement and I must say that it is being maintained. But as regards letters I must say that there is not much improvement; they still take a long time to be delivered at the destination. As a mother I am very anxious to hear from my children at Lucknow every day, but it takes three or four days for an ordinary letter to come from

that place to Delhi. Even air mail letters take at least three days to reach here, and ordinarily they take four days. Telegrams sometimes reach even later than letters. These things must certainly be improved; and I am at one with those Honourable Members who make a complaint about delay in the delivery of letters.

There is one other point and that is that the Lucknow Telephone Directory has not been changed for sixteen months and many of the names and addresses have become out of date. I will request the Honourable Minister to make a note of that.

I have nothing more to say except this that we expected a great deal of improvement in the department with the Honourable Minister in charge. He has done a great deal but there is still a lot more to be done. I hope the department will take note of all this and see that the requirements of the public are kept in view and that in these days of speed and efficiency this department does not lag behind.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Sir, I am thankful to Honourable Members for the criticisms that they have made as regards the working of the department under my charge. I should like to take the speakers one by one, but there are points which have been touched upon by more than one speaker. Therefore I will first deal with the nationalisation of air services and then with the criticism as regards the working of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

One of the Honourable Members mentioned that in February last year the then Assembly accepted the principle of nationalisation of air services. That, Sir, is not correct. As a matter of fact in November 1946 this question was discussed in the House and the House dispersed without reaching any conclusion; and all that the then Minister said was that he would take into consideration all the points of view expressed in the House. It is true that a conference on Civil Aviation was held in February but there too no decision was taken. When I took over charge of this Department, matters stood there. The question of nationalization of air services was under consideration but no decision was taken. It is true most of the air services were in favour of nationalization of air services outside India. But so far as internal services were concerned, they were opposed to it because they thought that the internal services would pay their way from the beginning, while they will have to incur much loss if they take to external service. I think the House knows that the Government have already reached their decision about external services. We have entered into an agreement with Air India and in May next our first external service will start touching Egypt, Switzerland and England. In the beginning this will be twice a week. It is a partly owned Government company and partly a private company. Government holds 49 per cent., of the shares and Government has also a lien on another 2 per cent., which they can acquire in any way from Tata's. So Government has a controlling share there and on the directorate too, Government has a controlling position.

So far as internal services are concerned, the motions put forward by my friends on the other side, have my sympathy. But today Government has no organisation which can immediately take over the air services and therefore at the last meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee, it was decided to set up a departmental committee and that committee has been appointed, and I will read out to you the terms of reference of that Committee which will make it clear that Government is taking over one route, and after that when an organization is set up it will be possible for them to take over other routes. The Committee has been appointed to:

(a) select a route on which an air service may be operated by Government with an organization under, and directed by, the Government of India:

(b) advise Government on the details of the organization for the purpose:

[Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai]

(c) give a broad indication of the economic possibilities of the operation of this service.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Will the service operate as a monopoly service or in competition with the existing services?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I have not been able to follow the Honourable Member's question because most of the services today are monopoly services in the sense that each company runs a route and there will be hardly any route which is served by two competing companies.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Bombay-Calcutta: Delhi-Calcutta?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: There is one non-stop service on the Bombay-Calcutta route run under one company and there is another one that stops in between and is run by another.

I think our policy about the nationalization of air services has been clarified by the appointment of this committee.

Now I will take up the criticism that has been levelled against the P. & T. Department.

Shri Biswanath Das: I know what is the Government policy with regard to manufacture of parts and training of technicians?

Mr. Chairman: I suggest that the Honourable Minister should be allowed to finish his speech, and then if necessary, questions may be asked. If members go on interrupting now, he will not be able to finish his speech. So I hope no member will interrupt the Honourable Minister.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am thankful to my friend Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta for his very cautious speech but I am a little disappointed. I had always thought he keeps himself up to date. He referred to a state of affairs that existed two or three months back but not today. I will quote some figures which will give the state of affairs today. About the telegrams that were booked here from month to month, this was the state of affairs:

	thousands.
In August, from 15th to 31st August the total number of telegrams that were sent from Delhi was	1,38,269
Number transmitted by wire	1,32,343
Number sent by post	5,956
In September 1947.	
Telegrams registered	2,74,692
Telegrams sent by wire	2,31,846
Telegrams sent by post	42,846

That was the cause of the delay.

In October:	
Telegrams registered	2,74,560
Telegrams sent by wire	2,25,746
Telegrams sent by post	14,000
In December	
Telegrams registered	3,06,690
Telegrams sent by wire	2,08,490
Telegrams sent by post	8,125

In January 1948:	
Telegrams registered	2,91,780
Telegrams sent by wire	2,86,015
Telegrams sent by post	5,765
In February 1948:	
Telegrams registered	2,76,850
Telegrams sent by wire	2,73,620
Telegrams sent by post	3,195
In the first ten days of March	
Telegrams registered	1,81,027
Telegrams sent by wire	1,80,600
Telegrams sent by post	427

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What is the proportion of Express telegrams to Ordinary telegrams?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: There is an improvement in the despatch of telegrams by wire. Although there is a big increase in the number of telegrams being received in Delhi, the number being received by post is decreasing. This month, so far only 400 and a few have been sent by post, while as much as over 42,000 were sent by post in September 1947. That shows an improvement.

I now come to telephones and the following information may interest members:

In August only about 12,200 effective calls were booked.
In September 10,200 effective calls were booked.
In October 12,400 effective calls were booked.
In November 14,000 effective calls were booked.
In December 14,900 effective calls were booked.
In January 17,800 effective calls were booked.

In February the number has gone even higher and today an ordinary call you can get from Delhi to other places in less than 4 hours' time, while in September or October last you could not have got an urgent or express call to any place outside of Delhi in less than eight hours. That was the position two or three months ago and we have to compare it with what it is today.

I think the Delhi Telephone situation is improving and we are trying an experiment which will start on the 15th of this month by which you can get calls to some stations on demand. If you want Lucknow and if it is on the list, as soon as your demand is received you will be put in contact with it without being asked to wait. Improvement is all the time going on.

We all know in what circumstances we had to work in September and October last year. Anywhere the working would have broken down and it broke down here.

I need not say much about telegrams. I have just given the figures for Delhi. The same is the state of affairs all over the country. There has been all round improvement and I hope soon the department will be restored to their former efficiency

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): There is one point about telephones which requires clarification, Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta has suggested.....

Mr. Chairman: I have already requested Honourable Members that questions may be put at the end, when you can ask questions on all the subjects.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: A plea has been put forward for extending postal services to our villages. Such extension can take only three directions—increase in the number of post offices, increase in the number of deliveries per week and extension of postal facilities to villages, where they do not exist today. That work is on hand. Up to date the following extensions have been made. 2,156 new post offices in villages have been opened. 542 postmen have been added to the existing post offices: postal facilities have been extended to 1,603 villages, where up till now no facilities existed. This work will continue.....

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it one year's record?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: It is two years' record. The work was held up during the disturbances. For the current year a large amount has been provided to extend facilities. As a matter of fact directions have been issued to Circle Officers that they should try to have a post office in every village with a population of 2,000 or more, even if the post office in the beginning had to run at a loss up to Rs. 500 a year. Therefore let us hope that as soon as facilities are available the postal service will be extended to all the villages, where they do not exist today.

It is also proposed to provide cycles to village postmen, so that they can cover a larger area.

Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta has expressed his fear that perhaps in the next few years we will not be able to provide new telephone connections in Delhi itself. So far as my information goes I hope by September 1,000 new connections can be given in New Delhi and by early next year another 1,500 new connections will be available.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What about old Delhi?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Both will be covered by this.

Much has been said about the inefficiency of the Department. I share the feelings of the House in that criticism and I think I have been as great a critic of the departmental inefficiency as any other member in this House. But I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the good work that the Department had to do during the last six months. As members are aware on account of the Partition many parts of our country were almost isolated. We had to face the difficulty of communicating with Assam. We had to do something almost immediately. The first thing we did was to instal a wireless transmitter at Gauhati, Shillong and at Tripura and this put us in communication with that part of the country. Then the department took up the construction of telegraph and telephone lines and a work that would normally have taken more than a year was completed within five months. A similar situation arose when Kashmir acceded to India and we had to connect it with our communication lines. As a first resort we set up a transmitter in Srinagar and in Jammu and in a month we were in direct contact with Srinagar and Jammu both by telephone and by telegraph. That is a remarkable achievement, for in ordinary times it would have taken six months.

Similarly our officers had to contact many other posts in the frontier of Western Pakistan, the Rajputana state frontiers and in Central Provinces also, where on account of developments in Hyderabad we had to have telephonic connections with the border towns. These connections were provided as quickly as could be expected. I hope the House will also appreciate this.

I have to say a few words about the measures that we are taking to improve the departmental services. When the trouble arose in East Punjab and there was complete breakdown of communications the department installed wireless sets in all the important centres and communication was restored. Similarly, we had to do with other places. Now we have to improve our daily communications both telegraphic and telephonic. It takes long to construct new lines and therefore we have decided to instal wireless transmitters and receivers at important centres. I think before the close of this month wireless communication will be available between Delhi and Calcutta. Similarly all important places like Madras, Bombay and other political centres will be connected by wireless.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: What about Lucknow?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Not immediately.....

An Honourable Member: Lucknow can afford to wait.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: If we have wireless transmission there will not be so much delay in telegrams and we will not have to send them by post because the wireless transmission will be supplementing the existing line system. We are also considering to have in this country wireless telephony and I hope that in the next few months we will be able to formulate a scheme which will connect all the existing centres with wireless telephony. That will improve our communications very much.

I think, Sir, I have touched almost all the points that were raised by Honourable Members except that of Mr. Anthony. When Mr. Anthony was praising the present system of promotion I thought he was in favour of promotion by merit and not promotion by seniority. In most of the departmental services we propose to introduce the system of promotion by merit. I know that the present reporting system is not fool-proof; I know there is opportunity for favouritism and jobbery. I have in the course of the last five or six months received several representations in some of which I saw that injustice was done. Therefore we are thinking of introducing such a system wherein full care shall be taken that the reporting authority is an impartial authority. If we are sure of the impartiality of the authority, then, in promoting an officer all that we have to see is his past record. Then favouritism will not come in. But I admit that till we are able to devise a fool-proof reporting system there is some occasion or scope for favouritism or discrimination. I assure the Honourable Member, Mr. Anthony, that I will look into the cases that he has referred to and if I find that any injustice has been done, then the injustice will be removed. Similarly, in future also, if there is any such case I will look into the complaint if it reaches me.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, the Honourable Member, Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta made a suggestion, and I would ask the Honourable Minister whether it is feasible, for the improvement of the telephonic system that telephone girls should be manned.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Much has been said about establishing a telephone factory here. I am sorry I forgot to touch this point in the course of my reply. We were negotiating with three or four countries for establishing a factory here in India. Sometime back we had deputed a special officer to negotiate with them and to bring the terms so that we might decide on our course of action. I am glad to inform the House that we have almost reached our conclusions and in the course of the next few days a delegation will go to complete the negotiations with them and if these negotiations are completed and finalised, of which we have every hope, then in the course of the next few months we will start establishing a factory here and start manufacturing some instruments. Let us hope that by the time the next Budget is placed before this House that factory will be manufacturing some parts of our requirements. A part of the agreement is that so long as full

[Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai.]

manufacturing is not started, that company will supply us from its own factory in Europe the parts or the equipment that we require for improving our services here.

Mr. Chairman: Now that there is time Honourable Members may put questions.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I was surprised to hear the Honourable Minister saying that telegrams were taken and they were despatched by post and that no intimation was sent to the persons who sent the telegrams. I want to know whether any intimation was sent to them and whether their money was refunded to them.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: No intimation is necessary because it has been notified that if a telegram is not received in time a refund can be claimed and it will be given. Is not that sufficient intimation?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I do not want to put any inconvenient question to my Honourable friend the Communications Minister.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: There is no question which is inconvenient.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Inconvenient from the point of view of answering offhand. May I ask him whether or not it is a fact that during the days of the old regime members of this House used to be supplied with a distinct publication called "Posts and Telegraphs" which showed all the income and expenditure of the Postal Department? It was a self-contained document. This year we have not got it. Does the Honourable the Communications Minister know that this was the practice, and if so why did he discontinue it? That is number one.

Number two is that apart from this publication which used to be supplied to the members, along with the papers connected with the budget, there used to be a departmental publication relating to the administration of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. That has also been discontinued. At the moment we have absolutely no information about the working of the Posts and Telegraphs Department except two pages in the Explanatory Memorandum and one paragraph in one place. And the House knows that we are going to vote a sum of more than Rs. 26 crores. I would like to know from the Honourable Minister what led to the discontinuance of the practice of supplying that document and the discontinuance of the departmental publication on the administration of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am not aware when this was supplied and when it was discontinued, but I think the Honourable Member is right because I also happened to be a member of the Assembly sometime back and I remember to have received such pamphlets. But I will see that all the information that Members require, that is necessary for the Members' knowledge, is circulated to them.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Here there are only two pages of information in the Explanatory Memorandum.

Mr. Chairman: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether no Report has been issued by the Department?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: It takes three or four years to bring a Report. I do not know if the Report for 1946 has been published.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): No. The library has not got it.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Because no press is available.

Shri Biswanath Das: The Honourable Minister has replied to a few of the points that I raised, namely, the nationalisation of international airways so far as India is concerned. May I know the Government's policy with regard to the training of technicians as also with regard to the manufacturing of parts? That is a bigger and long range problem.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Only three or four days ago there was a question about a flying training school. In reply to that question I had stated that we are opening a training school for flying and for ground engineering and that we have already got a training school for communications. So far as the manufacture of parts is concerned, that is to be done by the Industries Department and the question may be directed to that Department.

Shri Khurshed Lal: The Honourable Minister referred to telegrams being sent by wireless from Delhi to Bombay, Calcutta and other places.

Is the Honourable Minister aware that in the United Provinces there is a wireless station at every district headquarters and the provincial government has assigned it for official use? It has not been fully used. Will he make it available to the public?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I know that most of the provinces have police wireless sets and we in the department are thinking of taking over the stations so that we may put them to the use of the public.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the Standing Finance Committee did pass a resolution authorising 4,000 new lines to be ordered for Old Delhi? What action has been taken on same?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I confess my ignorance.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): The Honourable Minister just said that he is prepared to open and run new village post offices at a loss of Rs. 500 a year. May I know whether this will be applicable to old village post offices, and if so whether the remuneration of the old employees of the old village post offices will be enhanced?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Well, Sir, I have not been able to follow the Honourable Member. He is making some enquiries about the existing village post offices. They have not to be reopened.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: I would like to repeat my question. The Honourable Minister said that he is going to open new village post offices even at a loss of Rs. 500 a year.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes, at the initial stage.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: But I want to know whether this will be applicable even to the old village post offices?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Does the Honourable Member want to reopen post offices in places where they already exist?

Mr. Chairman: I think the Honourable Member's question is whether the Honourable Minister is prepared to incur a loss of Rs. 500 for every old post office?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: The old post offices are not being run at a loss. The loss is only at the initial stage. Up to now the limit was Rs. 240, now it has been raised to Rs. 500.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Will the Honourable Minister please say whether the strike period pay of the postmen will be given to them because it was promised when they were on strike by leaders that it will be paid and that is a question which is still agitating the postmen?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: No, there is no intention of paying anybody for the strike period. They have enjoyed their holidays.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): I want to ask two questions arising out of the motions which I have tabled. Question No. 1 is: Government adopted some time ago the policy of appointing people of the province of Assam in the Postal and Telegraph Department there. Now that policy has been practically negatived by the fact of a large number of surplus people being placed there and by giving extension to existing officers who should have been superannuated.

The other question is, what is the attitude of the Honourable Minister towards the telephone girls? I am using the word 'girl' as a matter of courtesy. There are also old women among them. The position is that throughout Calcutta, there is complaint about the rude behaviour of these telephone girls. On the other hand my friend Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta wants to convert them into men. I want to know what is the exact attitude of the Honourable Minister.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: My sympathies are with Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta. A representation was received a few days ago from Assam making a complaint like the one repeated just now by the honourable Member. The matter is under investigation.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister if, before finalizing an agreement with a foreign company for the establishment of a telephone factory in this country, he will place that agreement on the Table of the House and give an opportunity to the House to discuss the terms?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: It will not be possible to place the Draft Agreement before the House firstly because, as I said we have been negotiating with different companies, and also because each different company has taken an assurance from us that the terms will not be revealed till they have been finalized.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): I would like to ask the Honourable Minister about the Government's agreement to participate in the starting of the Air India International Air Service whether he has satisfied himself that Government can participate in the capital structure of this new corporation while having it incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, or in view of the very big capital commitment on the part of the Government, whether he would recommend Government to have a law enacted for the purpose of starting this particular concern.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Well, I was advised that the company can be registered under the ordinary Companies Act and so it has already been registered.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like the Minister to have this point examined. The capital commitment of the Government is Rs. one crore at the moment. It is likely to become greater in future. It does seem it would be much better to have a statutory corporation than an ordinary corporation incorporated under the Companies Act where the Government as a shareholder is in no better position than any other private shareholder.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I will consider the suggestion and will consult the Law Department about it.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): May I ask the Honourable Minister how the financial position of the telephone companies in Bombay and Calcutta which have been taken over by Government stands and also about the present efficiency?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I will get a comparative statement prepared and circulate it to Members.

Mr. Hussain Imam: May I know the Directorate of the company which has been formed?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Three Government nominees, two representing Tatas, and one representing other shareholders. One of the Government Directors will be Special Director with special powers to veto any expenditure which he thinks unnecessary unless Government's approval has been obtained.

Mr. Chairman: I shall now put the Demand before the House.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,29,000 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 'Ministry of Communications'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The House stands adjourned till 10.45 a.m. tomorrow. I may inform Honourable Members that there will be no question tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Saturday the 13th March 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Saturday, 13th 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.

INDIAN TEA CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. Speaker: Four different Demands are coming up before the House today. Before I place them before the House, there is a Bill to be introduced by the Honourable the Commerce Minister.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha (Minister for Commerce): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker: As stated by the Honourable the Defence Minister yesterday, a copy of the Report of the National Cadet Corps Committee is placed in the Library of the House today, and, I understand, copies are also placed on the table of members. In case a copy is not available to any Honourable Member, he can have it from the Secretary.

Now I shall place the demands before the House.

DEMAND No. 28—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,65,000 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 'Ministry of Defence'."

DEMAND No. 74—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE—ARMY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 66,42,30,000 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 'Defence Services, Effective—Army'."

DEMAND No. 77—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE—SUPPLIES AND STORES.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,75,77,000 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 'Defence Services, Effective Supplies and Stores'."

DEMAND No. 25—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,06,000 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 'Ministry of Transport'."

DEMAND NO. 74—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE — ARMY.

Mr. Speaker: According to the agreed time-table, 2½ hours are allotted to this Demand and 1¼ hours for the next Demand on Transport. But we have got more time today by one hour.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Half an hour more for each Demand.

Mr. Speaker: The question is whether there should be half an hour for each or whether we should give that one hour for Defence.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): I think we may have one more hour for Defence because this is the first time we are discussing Defence in the changed circumstances.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): That is necessary, Sir; it is a very important question.

Mr. Speaker: Does the House agree?

Several Honourable Members: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: What I propose to do is that, on the assumption that the Honourable Minister will require 3/4 hour for reply, I will call upon him for reply at 3 O'clock. That means we shall be able to take up the other Demand at 3-45 p.m. The discussion on the present Demand will continue up to 3 O'clock.

Then I understand that the same procedure as yesterday's will be followed except that there is an economy cut by Mr. Santhanam which might be moved formally.

Economy.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Defence Services, Effective—Army' be reduced by Rs. 5,00,00,000."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Defence Services, Effective—Army' be reduced by Rs. 5,00,00,000."

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): Could I move a cut under Demand No. 77, that is a cut to deal with Ordnance Factories?

Mr. Speaker: Which particular cut he is referring to?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: That is on page 13 of the consolidated list, cut No. 119.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member knows that the understanding for the last two days has been that, members will be speaking on all the agreed cuts without formally moving them, because the difficulty that was felt was that when each cut was moved each member had necessarily to be given a chance of speaking for 15 minutes on that cut, which left practically no time to the other sections of the House. The whole Demand is under discussion, even matters outside the cuts can be referred to and members will restrict themselves, to the cut motions because the Honourable Minister is obviously more prepared with those matters. So that is how we propose to proceed.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): Yesterday of course we agreed to that proposal and at least I took it that it was only for yesterday. My point was that yesterday one Honourable Member, Mr. Chattopadhyaya, had a cut motion and it so happened that he did not get an opportunity even to move his cut motion. It is unfair; just as the Honourable Minister is prepared to

reply, the Honourable Member also is prepared for his cut motion to be moved and I would therefore suggest that the cut motions should be allowed to be moved by the Honourable Members. If you do not allow even that, the movers of cut motions should have the preference of speaking, otherwise those members who have studied the subject are deprived of the opportunity of speaking.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: With regard to the particular cut I was referring to, Sir, you will perhaps see that it is more in the nature of a technical cut. If you would permit I would formally move it and you may give me a chance later on.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a question of my permitting or not permitting, the arrangement as referred to by the Honourable Member, Mr. Sidhva was not only for yesterday; we started with that arrangement the day before yesterday.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: But I took it was only for yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: That was a misapprehension on the part of the Honourable Member, if he took it as only for yesterday. As I pointed out, the difficulty was about time for other members. There is also some kind of dissatisfaction on the part of members who do not belong to the Congress Party, that they get no opportunity of saying anything, because, I find, all the agreed cuts are those of the Congress Party. In fairness, therefore, to other members outside the Congress Party, it is necessary that all members should have an occasion of expressing their views and not only the members of a particular Party who come prepared. That ground of preparedness of a member does not appeal to me so much, though I would like to respect it as much as possible. I am not against the moving of the cuts; they may be formally moved, I have no objection to all of them being moved. But then, the moving of a cut does not necessarily imply the right of speaking in respect of that cut. On that understanding, I am prepared to have them moved, because the other members also must have a chance—we found that in the first three or four days, members outside the Congress Party had had very little time to discuss or express their views in respect of a Demand.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I suggest, Sir, that as among members of the Congress Party those who have tabled agreed cut motions may get precedence over others?

Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): May I suggest one thing, Sir? We can have a sort of self-denying ordinance. If the Honourable Members will confine themselves to ten minutes, I think it will be possible for the Chair to accommodate all the members. In cases where he feels that a member is making a useful contribution he may extend the time to say fifteen minutes. We shall leave it to the Chair.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: That I agree.

پنڈت تھاکرداس بھارگو : مانیہ اسپیکر صاحب ! میں اسپر صرف اسقدر عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ جن ممبر صاحبان کو آپ اجازت تقریر کرنے کی دیں تو انکو زیادہ عرصہ عنایت فرمائیں کہ وہ اپنے خیالات کا اظہار کر سکیں میں اس میں یقین نہیں رکھتا ہوں کہ . دس منٹ کا وقت محدود کر دیا جائے کیونکہ اسطرح بولنے کا کوئی لطف نہیں کہ گھنٹی بجی اور دم خشک ہوا - لہزا میری ادب سے گزارش ہے کہ آپ جس کو موقع دیں کافی موقعہ دیں -

(English translation of the above)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this connection I would like to request you to kindly allot more time to the members whom you permit to speak to enable them to express their views. I do not believe in this that the ten minutes time-limit should be fixed. Because there is no pleasure to speak in this manner. As soon as the bell rings, we lose our nerves. Therefore, I respectfully submit that you may kindly allot sufficient time when you permit anyone to speak.

Shri K. Santhanam: I want to point out that there is no question of all the cuts being moved. Even in the other cases only the cuts selected by the Party Secretary were to be moved. If all the cuts were to be moved, there are about 100 cuts.

Mr. Speaker: What I meant by saying 'all the cuts' was 'all the agreed cuts'. That is what I meant.

As far as the suggestion of the Honourable Member, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava is concerned, my personal opinion has always been that, instead of having a larger number of speeches, it is better to have a fewer number of precise and effective speeches, criticising the Department after a thorough study of the subject. That has been my own reaction in the matter. But if Honourable Members want to have a larger number of speeches and merely to touch upon or mention points, it is a matter for them to consider. I am entirely in the hands of the House. I should not like to take the responsibility of judging whether a particular member is making an effective contribution or not, as I do not claim to have studied all the subjects that are coming before the House. It will be for the Honourable Members themselves.

As regards the time-limit, I was feeling a real difficulty. Generally, Honourable Members know that I give two minutes warning. Sometimes I have noticed, and it is very natural, that the bell is not heard by the member speaking, as he is so much engrossed with his own speech and ideas. Then, when I ring the bell second time they think that that is the warning bell and some Honourable Members ask for a minute or two and their minute or two consists of more than sixty seconds. These are all difficulties and I am trying to accommodate as best as I can, but it is essentially a matter for the Honourable Members. Yesterday, there were three speeches, and I believe in these three, two Honourable Members exceeded the time—one got twenty minutes and another twenty three minutes, and one Honourable Member, who spoke in between, got a shorter time than ten minutes. However, this is a matter for the Honourable Members. We will now proceed with the business, as we have already taken fifteen minutes.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Before you call upon the Honourable Members to speak, may I submit, Sir, that I understand that the Government have taken a decision on the recommendations of the National Cadet Corps Committee. Therefore, I suggest that the Honourable Minister may be requested to make a statement, so that while speaking members may bear that in mind.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): Sir, I support that view.

STATEMENT *RE* REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CADET CORPS COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh (Minister for Defence): Sir, I think it will serve a useful purpose for the Debate if I announce the Government's decision on the Report of the National Cadet Corps Committee.

For sometime the public has demanded that military training should be given to the youth of the country both in national interests and for moulding the character of our youngmen on right lines. This demand very naturally became more insistent since we attained our freedom. The popular mind was reflected in this House and Honourable Members have made pressing enquiries from time to time.

In the last Session of this House, I stated that the Government were aware of public sentiment and were taking steps to meet this demand. The Government have now been able to arrive at a decision. One of the steps by which we propose to impart military training to our youth is to implement immediately the Report of the National Cadet Corps Committee. Honourable Members of the House have been provided with a copy of the Report and it has also been released to the Press along with the decisions which Government have taken on it. I think it is in the fitness of things that I should give to the House a brief outline of the Scheme and what we propose to do.

A Committee was appointed in July 1946 to consider and make recommendations for the establishment, on a nation-wise basis, of a National Cadet Corps Organisation for our Educational institutions, both Schools and Universities. The Honourable Pandit Mirday Nath Kunzru was its Chairman and among its members were some of our highest Armed Forces Officers and prominent publicmen. This Committee took evidence, toured various Universities in India and some of its members went abroad to examine particularly in Great Britain, how the Corps had been organised elsewhere. Its Report was submitted to Government in July 1947. I should like here to pay my tribute to the Chairman and the members of the Committee for the labour they put in and the valuable report they submitted. Their recommendations are based on sound lines, which, when implemented, should enable us to have a really good National Cadet Corps in India.

Due to various problems that faced the Country and in particular the very serious strain we all went through soon after the Report was submitted, it was not possible to consider the Report as early as the Government would have done in normal times. We just did not have sufficient opportunity to study the Report. The Provincial Governments and the Standing Advisory Committee for the Defence Ministry, had also to be consulted. This has now been done. The Government have carefully considered the opinions of the Provincial Governments and of the Standing Committee. They have on the whole accepted the recommendations of the Committee.

The Committee recommended the formation of a National Cadet Corps consisting of three Divisions:

A Senior Division, intended for the Universities and Colleges in which the University Training Corps will be merged;

A Junior Division for Schools and boys of School going age;

A Girls' Division.

The Committee suggested a strength of 32,500 for the Senior Division and 1,35,000 for the Junior Division. The Government have decided to accept these recommendations and the basis of strength, as a first step. This is a beginning. It does not amount to a scheme whereby military training could be imparted to the youth of the Country as a whole. But there are very serious practical limitations, both financial and technical, which make it impossible for Government to undertake a wider and bigger scheme in present circumstances. The House will appreciate this, I am sure. But there is no limit to the future development of the Corps. All I wish to ensure is that we must not allow our enthusiasm to over-run our present capacity and resources. The Cadet Corps will, I hope, provide a fruitful source of recruitment

[Sardar Baldev Singh]

for our future Officers in the Armed Forces. We have one of the finest fighting equipment in the world. We are all proud of it. It is natural therefore that the Cadet Corps also should be a first class Organisation. It should come up to the standard of our first class Armed Forces. The House will, I am sure, agree with me that whatever we do, we should do it well.

An important objective in raising the National Cadet Corps is to develop character, comradeship, ideal of service, and power of leadership in our Youth. It also aims at stimulating interest in the defence of our Motherland. These objectives are as broad-based as they can be. Very naturally therefore it will be the endeavour of the Government to take advantage of every avenue of development, within the limitations in which we find ourselves.

The Government have decided that enrolment in the National Cadet Corps should be entirely voluntary and without any liability for service in the Armed Forces. They are of the opinion that the enthusiasm of the Youth in general for serving the Country is sufficient guarantee that the response in Colleges and Schools will be satisfactory. Much depends on public opinion and the outlook of parents. As long as we all feel that the Corps will benefit not only the Cadets but also the country, I feel that youngmen will join in sufficient numbers and make the Scheme a great success. If unfortunately the response is indifferent, the Government will, after due consideration, consider the desirability of introducing compulsion.

The Government have come to the conclusion that there should be no direct financial inducement to those who join the Corps. Cadets will however be provided with uniforms. They will be paid railway fare to and from the Camps when they attend these. They will also be given free rations in camps or when free rations are not allowed, a suitable allowance to cover cost of rations.

The Senior Division will be officered by at least some regular Military Officers in addition to the Selected Members of the Staff of Colleges. The Junior Division as well as the Girls' Division will be officered by members of the Staff alone. All non-Military Officers of the Senior Division will be granted Military Ranks and the pay of the Rank for the period they are in camp. Officers of the Junior Division and Girls' Division will be paid an honorarium.

The National Cadet Corps Committee's recommendations regarding the courses of training etc. have been generally accepted by Government subject of course to any change that may be found necessary as a result of experience.

The National Cadet Corps will be under the general control of the Ministry of Defence. This is necessary not only so that the Corps may be truly national but also in order that the standards of training, discipline etc. may be uniform throughout the country. The Provincial Governments, I am assured, will give every help and co-operation and will take an active interest in the Organisation within their respective jurisdictions. The Provincial Government have generally agreed to bear the financial liabilities of the Scheme within their areas, except the cost of the Central Organisation which will be borne by the Government of India.

It is proposed to extend the Scheme to those of the Indian States who have acceded to India and who wish to join the Scheme on the same terms as the Provinces.

It has been decided to set up immediately a Central Advisory Committee. The Defence Minister will be the Chairman. Its members will be the Defence Secretary the Education Secretary, the Financial Adviser (Defence Ministry), the Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, the Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy, The Air Marshal Commanding, Royal Indian Air Force, and seven non-Official Members. The Provincial and other Committees recommended by the Committee will also be set up.

I am advised that legislation may be necessary in order to give effect to the proposals as sanctioned by the Government of India. I propose to introduce a short Bill during this Session for this purpose, if on expert legal examination, it is found that formal legislation is necessary. Meanwhile steps are being taken to implement the decisions taken and instructions are being issued to all Provinces to go ahead with the scheme.

As I have said, Sir, this is a very small beginning, but in the circumstances I have explained, it is a move in the right direction with immense possibilities for the future. The anxiety expressed in this House and by the public at large for the military training of our Youth is justified. None of us has any designs of aggression behind this demand. Our entire tradition, historic and cultural, is peace-loving. But we cannot fail to recall the misery and horror inflicted on so many of our innocent fellow countrymen, women and children when hordes of well armed tribesmen and others trained in the use of arms were let loose on our civil population from the neighbouring dominion. These tribesmen have perpetrated shameful crimes without any check. Therefore we have to proceed to train our nationals in the use of arms so that our citizens shall never again be exposed to such risks and dangers. That, Sir, is the intention of Government and if I may say so, the mind of the House. We cannot and shall not tolerate violence against our citizens and designs on the security of our Motherland by anyone and from any quarter. I cherish the hope that the Youth of the Country whom we shall train in military arts will receive this training in this spirit.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): What will be the provisional strength of the Girls' Division?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Details are given in the report that is with the Honourable Member.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

DEMAND NO. 77—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE—SUPPLIES AND STORES.

Reorganisation of Ordnance Factories.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra wish to formally move his cut then?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: If you would only permit me to move, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I am leaving it to him.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: All right, Sir.

Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Defence Services, Effective—Supplies and Stores' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Defence Services, Effective—Supplies and Stores' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (C.P. and Berar: General): May I move my cut motion?

Mr. Speaker: I do not mind any cut motions being moved, as I said, with this reservation, that it will not necessarily mean the right to speak in support of it.

DEMAND NO. 28.—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Recruitment of Officers to the Armed Forces.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Unsatisfactory Policy of Government re *creation of National Militia.*

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Reorganisation of the Army

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Cantonment Boards.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri K. Santhanam: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have moved that the Defence demand be cut down by 5 crores. It may appear to be a large sum, but, as I shall show, it is a very very moderate cut. Before I proceed to make my point, Sir, I should like to suggest . . . . .

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): May I know, Sir, whether you will allow any other motion?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, if it is desired to be moved.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Since that is the procedure that has been followed, may I claim the privilege or the right, whatever one may choose to call it, of moving a motion standing against my name.

Mr. Speaker: What particular motion is the Honourable Member referring to?

Matters re *Policy and Reorganisation in order to increase Efficiency.*

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Military Situation in Kashmir

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I think it is not quite right that the Defence Budget should be treated as one demand among so many other demands. I feel that the Defence Budget should be presented as a separate budget, like the Railway Budget, and separate time should be allotted both for general discussion as well as for cut motions, because defence expenditure is more than 50 per cent. of the expenditure of the Central Government, and three or four hours allotted to it in eight days does not do justice to the problems involved.

Sir, before I proceed to point out how the Defence Budget has swollen, I wish to make it clear that I do not want my cut motion to be understood as an attempt to reduce the defence forces. I would like to point out to the House the difference between the budget estimates for 1938-39 and those in the booklet given to us now. The present booklet does not contain even the minimum information essential; for instance it does not give the number of officers, the number of men and other particulars which are necessary to give us even an approximate estimate of the defence forces of this country today. Sir, every country's defence forces should be fixed in accordance with its needs and I suggest that our forces should be at least three times the forces of Pakistan, because today we have to apportion our defence forces solely in relation to our immediate needs. I do not suggest that we should have any plan of aggression. I do not want a single Indian soldier to step into the boundaries of Pakistan. At the same time, I want to make the Indian people assured that if there are any elements there who are thinking of a *jehad* our army should be strong enough to ensure them a safe and quick passage to Heaven which they deserve.

Sir, the Pakistan defence budget is Rs. 37 crores; while our budget is 136 crores. That means our budget excluding capital expenditure is 3 and 1/3 times the Pakistan's budget. We are paying 3 and 1/3 times the Pakistan's budget for twice the Pakistan's army.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh (Minister for Defence): May I inform the Honourable Member that our Army is not twice the Pakistan's Army. It has gone up—I am sorry I cannot disclose the exact figures. But our Army is not what it was immediately after the partition.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Let us not discuss the numbers.

Shri K. Santhanam: What I am driving at is that three times the Pakistan's budget should give us more than three times Pakistan's Army—it must be four or five times—because as the size of the army increases, the overhead charges and other fixed charges must proportionately decline. I am going to give you figures which will show that in many respects we are paying much more than we should for the Army.

Sir, let me take some of the items of the Defence Budget, as given in pages 6 and 7 of the memorandum given to us and compare them with the figures for 1938-39. The pay, etc., of the fighting services was Rs. 15.6 crores in 1938-39; it is now Rs. 16.6 crores. That is nearly the same. The administrative expenses were Rs. 7 crores in 1938-39; they are Rs. 23 crores in 1948-49. The headquarter staff cost Rs. 2 crores in 1938-39; it now costs Rs. 4 crores. The head under 'Transport, etc.' has increased from Rs. 2.7 crores to Rs 8.8 crores: Military Engineering Services from Rs. 3.9 crores to Rs. 11.8 crores; Military Stores from Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 25 crores; and Air Force which cost Rs. 2 crores is now estimated to cost Rs. 13 crores and the Royal Indian Navy which cost Rs. 82 lakhs is now estimated to cost Rs. 5.8 crores.

Sir, let me take first of all the last item, the Royal Indian Navy. In extravagance, it is more royal than the King himself. It hopes to be Indian some day and as a Navy, at present it has made only a small beginning in that direction. Sir, I do not find the increase in expenditure from Rs. 82

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lakhs to Rs. 5.8 crores, provided there is a proportionate increase in strength. If you look up the actual details of this Navy (page 58—59) you will find that it consists of one cruiser, 3 destroyers (which are to be brought, they are still far away from our shores), four sloops and some minor items. If you look up the Defence statement of 1938-39, you will find that all these items except the cruiser and destroyers were there and yet the cost was only Rs. 82 lakhs. They now cost Rs. 5.8 crores. In 1938-39 (page 60) the Naval Headquarters consisted of only 9 officers and 30 ratings; now there are 101 officers and 101 ratings—the number of officers is equal to the number of ratings in the Naval Headquarters. I think there is no justification for this expansion. Again, if you look up page 60 you find there are 595 officers, 4,529 ratings and 1,614 other ranks for educational establishments for the Navy which consists of 138 Commissioned and warrant officers and 1,780 ratings. Sir, I would like to know where and what training is given by these 595 officers to the 1,780 ratings, for there is hardly any officers' training institution in this country. I think here also the war-time establishment has been continued without any justification.

Let me now take up the huge item of "Stores" expenses which has increased from a small amount of Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 25 crores. Sir, some figures are to be found in page 70 of this memorandum. Here the major criminal is sub-head (C).—R.I.A.S.C. Stores. It was 2.5 crores in 1938-39; it has now swollen to 18.4 crores. I should like to know how much of these 18.4 crores is temporary or permanent. If we are going to put in an annual recurring bill of these 18.4 crores I think it is a matter that requires serious inquiry. I suggest to the Finance Minister that he should immediately appoint a small committee to go into this question of stores, and find out whether so much is required. I do not think more than half or even more than one-third will be annually necessary as recurring charges. If not, I should like to know why it has been brought in as recurring expenditure; it should be brought in as capital expenditure or suspense expenditure. But to show it as permanent recurring expenditure suggests that our supply of stores will be of this order year by year. I should like to know if that is the intention and if that is the estimate of the military authorities.

Then let me take the administrative services, which are to be found on page 14. Here again it is the I.A.O.C.—sub-head (F)—which has suddenly multiplied itself nearly 5½ times between 1938-39 and 1948-49. I should like to know why suddenly this particular head, on which a cut motion has been given notice of by my Honourable friend Pandit Maitra, has become so much swollen. Then military accounts offices cost only 97 lakhs in 1938-39 and now it is 3 crores and 34 lakhs. I can understand a doubling or even a trebling of this expenditure, but the present figure is wholly indefensible from any point of view. There must be a lot of idle people in these military accounts offices to require such a heavily swollen expenditure.

Then the story of the military engineering services is equally scandalous; it is to be found on page 48. This item has gone up from 3½ crores to 15 crores. The figures of engineers, etc. are not given and so I have not been able to compare them. I should like the Defence Minister to tell us why these military engineering services should today cost us five times the pre-war figure.—if these engineers have suddenly become great experts and acquired great proficiency, and why their number should increase three or four times the pre-war number, and whether they have work to do. I can understand the military engineering services being swollen during war-time; at that time we cannot have too many engineers. It may be that then we have four engineers and only one may be available at a particular point. But

that cannot be the case in peace-time. I do not think the present army can possibly require all these engineers; and really in order to judge the adequacy of this figure you have to consider that another 3½ crores are there for mechanical and electrical engineers under the head of Administrative Services. If you take them all together, we find that we are paying more for the engineering section of the army than for all the entire effective forces put together, the fighting services both in the army, navy and air force.

Taken on the whole, I am quite convinced that at least one-fourth to one-third of the present expenditure consists of our war-time legacies which could be pruned down without reducing the strength or the efficiency of the army. It is only if we reduce the expenditure and effect economy that there is a possibility of expansion of the army. At the present swollen figure if the army consumes 136 crores there will be no scope for making the force more effective. Therefore even for the future expansion of the army and future increase of strength and efficiency it is absolutely essential that a drastic pruning should be undertaken; and I suggest that it cannot be done by a single economy committee. Every item should have its economy committee. There should be one economy committee for these administrative charges, one for the stores, another for the navy and another for the air force. It is only if we have four or five small committees working at the same time and working intensively and giving their reports in three or four months that we can have real economy in these Defence services. I hope the Finance Minister and the Defence Minister will put their heads together and convince us either that these swollen items are justified and absolutely essential in the interests of the country or that they are taking steps to cut them down to their proper proportions

Sir, I hope these points will be considered by the Honourable Ministers and the House.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Sir, I propose first to refer briefly to my cut motion relating to Kashmir. During the budget debate I referred to what I regarded as the shortcomings of Government in regard to the operations which are being carried on in Kashmir. I do not want to cover that ground again. But as I received no reply from the Defence Minister during the budget discussion it is necessary that I should draw his attention briefly to the points that I raised then.

Sir, our troops which were sent to Srinagar at very short notice did such good work during the first two or three weeks of their arrival as to drive the enemy back from Srinagar to Uri. Both our army and our air force have played a part in this connection which will be remembered for years to come by the grateful people of this country. We expected, therefore, that the momentum gathered by the troops would enable them to drive the raiders completely out of the Kashmir valley. Unfortunately, however, the troops were unable to advance beyond Uri and the deadlock still continues. It may be that Government were at that time unable owing to the commencement of operations in the Jammu province to send more troops to Kashmir. Another difficulty in their way might have been created by the change of weather. But if during the great war the weather did not prevent the army of any country from carrying on such operations as the military authorities considered necessary, I submit that the comparatively minor obstacles with which Government were faced in Kashmir offered no valid reason for their inability to send sufficient help to Kashmir to enable our troops to advance from Uri to Kohala. Again, Sir, take the province of Jammu. We hoped when operations were commenced there that the well-equipped Indian troops would be able to protect a large part of the districts where the raiders were carrying on their nefarious activities. But the general impression is, and I believe that this impression prevails in at least some military circles also, that the Government in the beginning under-rated the

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru]

magnitude of the task which confronted them. And when at last they woke up and found what the reality was, it took them some time to send more troops there. During the last few months no more progress has been made in the Jammu area than in the Kashmir Valley.

Sir I will again refer to the weather which has undoubtedly created difficulties. But it seems to me that the weather does not rully explain the failure of the Government to take more decisive action. We read communiques daily about the activities of our troops in Jammu, but I wonder whether anybody takes the slightest interest in them. They mean nothing whatsoever from the larger point of view. They may place before us examples of the gallantry and devotion of our army, but they do not show that any progress whatsoever is being made. If, however, our troops have advanced, and if they now find themselves in new positions which are either more defensible or which increase the striking power of our army, then Government have to blame themselves if they have not made this clear in their communiques.

Lastly, I should like to refer once more to the Madhopur-Jammu Road. This is the only road by which troops and supplies can be sent to Jammu and Srinagar. Its importance will be obvious to every member of this House. It was expected that the construction of this road, which is in a very bad condition at present, would be taken in hand very soon: but so far to the best of my knowledge very little has been done to metal it; and I shall not be surprised if the rain that we had a few days ago has made the road almost impassable for vehicles. This road should have been constructed under military management. Military engineers should have been set to work on the construction of the road. But its construction has been entrusted to the civil authorities, and I understand that this has neither promoted efficiency nor speeded up the construction of the road. Perhaps the same thing might be said with regard to the airfield at Srinagar. We should have thought that Government would take some steps to improve the aerodrome there in order to establish better air communications between India and Srinagar. But here again I understand that for some reason, which is not clear to the public, the Government have taken hardly any action in this direction. The result of all this, Sir is that our people, who are looking up to us for protection, have received no help from us, though it should have been our foremost duty to keep up the morale of the people of the Jammu and Kashmir States. We have been so slow in helping our troops and in taking such action as would have enabled them to finish their job quickly as almost to have destroyed the morale of the people in the districts of Mirpur and Jammu. What has happened is that this has produced repercussions in other parts of the Kashmir State which we all regret.

I hope, Sir, that my Honourable friend, the Defence Minister, realizing the responsibility which the Defence Ministry owes to the country, will take us into his confidence today and tell us why, at least apparently, there has been a lack of proper organization and a failure to grasp the nature of the problem which the country is faced with.

And now I shall say a few words about my second motion.

I was glad to learn yesterday from my Honourable friend, the Defence Minister, that Government proposed to establish as soon as practicable a combined institution for the training of the cadets of all the three Defence Services, and that in the meanwhile, the cadets of all these services would receive their basic training at the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun. This is a step in the right direction, for if the last war has made anything clear to us, it is that though there may be three defence services, the object

of all of them is the same. It is obvious therefore that the officers must develop feelings of camaraderie among themselves and a common point of view. Nothing can initially promote this better than training at the same institution. But I hope that Government are taking steps to follow up this principle in other spheres also.

Military experts have been laying stress for sometime on the development of an integrated higher staff and an integrated higher command. The Government of India may not have had much time, because of the crisis which unfortunately they have been faced with during the last 18 months, to give close attention to this problem but I hope it is receiving their consideration. We cannot afford to have three separate services and to give them such instruction as might be necessary to make them co-operate among themselves after a war breaks out. It is not merely necessary but, in my opinion, urgent that steps should be taken to bring into existence a unified higher command and a unified higher staff.

We discussed here the other day the question of giving military training to the youth of the country. I agree with my Honourable friend the Defence Minister that it is not possible for us at the present time to take in hand the military training of the entire youth of the nation. But I think the Government ought to make a move in this direction at least in certain provinces, namely the East Punjab and the U. P. The position in the East Punjab, at least in the border districts, is not a very easy one. If we want to instil confidence into the people and at the same time to have an organisation auxilliary to the army, then in my opinion it is necessary that we should make arrangements which will enable the military authorities to give military training to a sufficient number of young men there. The question may be considered later in other provinces but I think the needs of East Punjab should receive immediate attention. I personally think that the system that I am advocating should be extended to the Delhi province and the U. P. also. But if a step in the direction suggested by me is taken in the course of the next year in the East Punjab I shall think that a good beginning has been made by the authorities.

There is just one more point that I should like to deal with before I sit down. Before I deal with it I shall put a question to my Honourable friend, the Defence Minister. He has laid before us the report of the National Cadet Corps Enquiry Committee. It is pleasing to note that the Government have in the main accepted the recommendations of the Committee. As the carrying out of these recommendations will involve some expenditure, may I know whether provision has been made for it in the next year's budget? If it has not been will a supplementary demand be brought forward in order to enable the Government to take action without further loss of time on the Committee's suggestions?

Lastly I should like to draw the attention of the House to the importance of developing a proper research organisation in the army. There is there a Directorate known as the Technical Development Directorate but this directorate carried out hardly any research in the past. All real research was carried out in England and practically the sole task of this directorate has been to apply the results of the researches made in England to India. Our past dependence on England in this respect must not continue any more. It is realised everywhere in the world that in defence as in other matters we cannot do without the fullest application of science to our needs. I should like to know what steps Government are taking to build up an adequate research organisation. I suggest that we should invite the help of a few well known scientists to help the authorities in framing a scheme for carrying out such research as is connected with defence. It is not enough that military officers who have received training in scientific work should be employed in this organisation. It is necessary that Government should invite the help of scientists particularly those who are connected with researches in

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru]

fundamental problems, because the experience of other countries shows that it is only in this way that adequate arrangements can be made for the investigation of defence problems.

We have just become responsible for the Government of our country. We are faced with many and difficult problems. We have to think of those economic problems on which the prosperity of the people depends and it is ultimately on the solution of our economic problems that our capacity to defend our country will depend. But it is nevertheless necessary that the military authorities should begin to devote their attention to those basic problems on which the future strength of the army will depend. No expenditure on this account should be grudged and I am sure the Government as a whole, whatever their needs may be, will regard the defence of the country as one of the most vital problems which must engage their attention, even before the economic problems of the country have been solved.

پنڈت تھاکرداس بھارگو : جناب سپیکر صاحب ! آج جو سپیچ آنریبل منسٹر آف ڈیفینس نے ہاؤس کے سامنے انڈین کیڈٹ کوٹ کے بارے میں ذکر کرتے ہوئے دی ہے - اسکو سنکر مجھے بڑی تکلیف ہوئی - جناب والا ! بہت عرصہ سے اس ہاؤس میں بجٹ کے وقت ڈیفنس اکسپینڈیچر آئیٹم (Expenditure items) آتے تھے تو وہ سب کے سب یا اُنکے بیشتر حصے نان ووٹ ڈ (Non-Voted) ہوا کرتے تھے - اور ہندوستانیوں کو ان اخراجات کے بارے میں vote دینے کا کوئی حق نہ تھا - اب جبکہ ہم سب کو پورا اختیار اپنے Defence Budget پر ہے تو ہمارا فرض ہے کہ ہم سارے items کو دیکھیں اور جانچیں کہ خرچہ ٹھیک اور مناسب طور پر کیا جاوے - میں سنتھانم صاحب کی تائید کرتا ہوں کہ آئندہ ایسا کنوینشن ہو جس سے ڈیفینس کا بجٹ الگ ہو اور سارے Item ہاؤس کے سامنے آئیں - جب سنہ ۳۸ ع اور سنہ۳۹ع کے فیگرس مسٹر سنتھانم نے ہمارے سامنے موجودہ فیگرس کے ساتھ ملائے تو اسمیں شک نہیں کہ کئی معاملے ایسے ہیں جنکے اندر پانچ پانچ چھ چھ گنا زیادہ ہو گیا ہے جو ہماری سمجھ کے باہر ہے - میں یہ مانتا ہوں اور جیسا ابھی کنزرو صاحب نے فرمایا کہ اس گورنمنٹ کا فرض ہے کہ اس دیش کا ٹھیک بچاؤ کرے - اسلئے اگر ڈیفنس کا بجٹ اس موجودہ بجٹ سے اگر بڑھ گیا ہے تو یہ ہاؤس سنکوچ نہیں کریگا اور اُس بجٹ کو منظور کریگا - لیکن تا ہم جبتک اس بجٹ کو ٹھیک طور پر نہ سمجھیں ہم اپنی ایسی رائے نہیں دے سکتے جو کونشینشس (conscientious) رائے ہو کیونکہ موجودہ صورت میں یہ بجٹ سمجھ میں نہیں آیا اور وجوہات خرچہ بڑھنے کے صاف طور پر ظاہر نہیں کئے گئے ہیں - کہ کیوں تین کروڑ روپیہ سے پندرہ کروڑ روپیہ انجنیرنگ میں بڑھ گیا اور کیوں اور مدوں میں بڑھ گیا - اسلئے آئندہ بجٹ علحدہ اور پوری وجوہات کے ساتھ پیش ہونا چاہئے - اب میں اپنے معمول کی طرف آتا ہوں انگریزوں نے اصول (Divide and Rule) کی بنیاد پر ایک ملٹری کاسٹ قائم کی اور اس ideal کے ماتحت انہوں نے مارشل اور نان مارشل کی تمیز قائم کردی اور

اسطرح سے انگریزوں نے تیرہ سو سال تک یہاں حکومت کی ہمارے دماغوں میں انگریزوں نے یہ بات ڈال دی کہ ہم کسی اور مٹی کے بنے ہوئے ہیں اور دوسرے ہمارے بھائی کسی اور مٹی کے بنے ہوئے ہیں اب یہ چیز تبدیل ہو چکی ہے اور ایسی تبدیلی ہو چکی ہے کہ اسمیں ہمکو شبہہ نہیں ہے - آج جب یہ خیال بالکل ہم میں سے ختم ہو گیا ہے تو ہندوستان کے ایک ایک آدمی کا فرض ہے کہ ماتری بھومی کے لئے اپنا فوض ادا کرے اور ملٹری ڈیوٹی قبول کرے اور اس پر قربان ہونے کے لئے تیار ہو جائے - یہ کمیٹی جسکا ذکر کیا گیا ہے اُن Ideals کے لئے ۱۵ جولائی سنہ ۴۶ع کو وجود میں نہیں آئی تھی - جناب والا ! یہ صرف اس غرض کے لئے بنائی گئی تھی کہ افسران جن میں لیڈر شپ اور دیگر صفات کی کمی ہے اسے کیونکر پورا کیاجائے اور پہلے بھی بڑی خرابی کے بعد سنہ ۲۱ میں ایسی کمیٹیاں بنائی گئیں - اور Auxiliary اور Territorial force بھی بنائی گئیں اور سوچا گیا کہ افسران میں جو تعلیمی کمی ہے اُسکو کس طرح سے پورا کیا جاوے - میں ادب سے عرض کرونگا کہ کسی ملک کی فوج اسوقت تک اچھی نہیں ہو سکتی جب تک کہ کرہ ہوائی کو دوست نہ کیا جاوے - اور ہر ایک شخص کو اپنے فوجی حقوق اور ذمہ داریاں کا احساس نہ ہو - عام level کیسے بڑھ سکتا ہے جبتک کنٹری کا ہر شخص اپنے فرض کو نہ سمجھے محض افسران کے اچھا کرنے سے بھی کام نہیں چل سکے گا - اگر آپ اچھے افسران نہیں چاہتے ہیں تو سب سے پہلا فرض یہ ہے کہ کنٹری کے اندر ایسی ملٹری spirit پیدا کیجئے کہ افسران کی ذہنی اور دماغی حالت ٹھیک ہو تاکہ وہ اچھی طرح سے دوسروں کو ٹریننگ دے سکیں اسکے بغیر جو آپکا مقصد ہے وہ پورا نہیں ہوگا - جناب والا ! ڈیفینس منسٹر صاحب کی مہربانی سے مجھکو یہ رپورٹ پہلے ہی مل گئی تھی کیونکہ میں Standing Defence Committee کا ممبر ہوں میں نے اسکو اچھی طرح سے پڑھا ہے میں اسکو صاف طریقہ سے عرض کرنے کے لئے تیار ہوں اسکے صفحہ تین اور سات کو پڑھیئے تو معلوم ہوگا کہ اسکا ہر جگہ پر ایک ہی مطلب ہے یعنی ایجوکیشنل تعلیم کو پورا کرنے کا مطلب ہے - افسروں کے اندر جو کمیاں ہیں اُن کو دور کرنے کی ضرورت ہے - ایسی اور دوسری problems جسکے لئے میں چاہتا ہوں کہ نیشنل ملیشیا قائم ہو اس رپورٹ میں اس کو ہاتھ نہیں لگایا گیا ہے میں ان وجوہات کو جنکی بنا پر ڈاکٹر پٹابھی صاحب نے بحث کی تھی national militia کے بارے میں اسکو دوہرانا نہیں چاہتا ہاؤس کو وہ وجوہات اچھی طرح سے معلوم ہیں ممبر صاحبان اگر انکی سپیچ پر غور کرینگے تو اُس پر کافی روشنی پڑیگی جو Statement ڈیفنس منسٹر صاحب نے آج پڑھا - میں ہرگز ہرگز یہ ماننے کیلئے تیار نہیں ہوں میں یہ نہیں مانتا کہ نیشنل ملیشیا قائم کرنے کیلئے روپیہ نہیں ہے یا اسکے لئے آج موقعہ نہیں ہے - اسوقت نیشنل ملیشیا اور ٹیریٹوریل فورس قائم کرنے کی سخت ضرورت ہے آج وہ دن ہے کہ فوراً نیشنل

[پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو]

ملیشیا شروع کر دیا جائے اگر آپ آج نیشنل ملیشیا قائم نہیں کرینگے تو مجھے کوئی وقت نہیں نظر آتا کہ پھر آئندہ نیشنل ملیشیا قائم کیا جائیگا میں منسٹر صاحب سے ادب سے عرض کرونگا کہ سارے قومی ideal پر اور جو قومی گیت بندے ماترم ہے آپ اس پر دھیان رکھیں جو بتلایا ہے

त्रिंशकोटि कंठ कलकल निनाद कराले,
द्वि त्रिंशकोटि भुजैर्धृति खर करवाले ।
कथयन्ति जनास्त्वाम् कथ मातः अबला
बहुबल धारिणी नमामि तारिणि रिपुदल वारिणीय मातरम् ॥

ہر ایک آدمی کو جب تک ملٹری ٹریننگ نہیں ہوگی یہ معاملہ حل نہیں ہوگا۔ اگر آپ نے ایسا نہ کیا تو دنیا یہ کہنے پر مجبور ہوگی کہ جو مارشل اور نان مارشل کی تمیز انگریزوں نے کی تھی جس سے وہ ڈیڑھ سو برس تک ہندوستان پر حکومت کرتے رہے وہی رول آج آپ رکھنا چاہتے ہیں اور اس میں کوئی تبدیلی نہیں کرنا چاہتے۔

آنریبل سردار بلدیو سنگھ : مارشل اور نان مارشل کی اب تمیز نہیں ہے اور اب اٹھا لی گئی ہے ۔

پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو : جناب والا ! آرمی میں ختم ہوچکی ہے یا اس دیش میں ختم ہو چکی ہے میں کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اگر آج بھی آپ دیکھیں کہ آج آپ کا ریکروٹمنٹ کسطرح ہورہا ہے تو آج بھی وہ اسی Basis پر ہو رہا ہے مارشل ذات کے علاوہ آج کون بھرتی کے لئے آتے ہیں اسی ذات والے آتے ہیں میں آپ سے ادب سے عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ یہ صرف کاغذ پر تھی ختم ہوا ہے میں پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ یہ مہاجن لوگ یا دفتر میں قلم چلانے والے بابو آپکی فوج میں بھرتی ہونگے کیسے بھرتی ہونگے بھلے ہی آپ کاغذ پر سے ہٹا دیں پر اس سے کیا ہوگا اسکی ترکیب یہ ہے کہ آپ بابو اور مہاجن کے دل سے ڈر نکال دیں اور انہیں ایسے Level پر لائیں ۔ انہیں Military level پر لائیں صرف ایک ہی ترکیب ہے جس سے یہ خوف دور ہوگا۔ میں عرض کر رہا تھا کہ ڈیفنس آف دی کنٹری ہی سب سے بڑا مدرسہ ہے جسکے اندر ہم سبکو یہ سکھا سکتے ہیں ابھی ہمارے ڈیفینس منسٹر صاحب نے یہ ذکر کیا تھا کہ ہمیں ڈر ہے کہ Tribesmen کا حملہ ہو جائیگا میں نہایت ادب سے پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ Tribesmen جو آئے ہیں کشمیر میں کتنی تباہی انہوں نے مچا دی تھی آج ٹرائبسمین ایسٹ پنجاب پر حملہ کردیں ویسٹ بنگال پر حملہ کر دیں وہ تو اس تاک میں بیٹھے ہی ہوئے ہیں تو مجھے بتائیے کہ آپ اپنی تھوڑی سی فوجوں کو کتنی جگہ لیجائیں گے اسوقت تباہی ہو جائیگی یا نہیں آج آپ خود ذکر کرتے ہیں ان ٹرائبسمین کا میری سب سے پہلی عرض ہے کہ اگر آپ کو Internal اور External ڈینجر دونوں کا سامنا کرنا ہے تو اسکے لئے سب سے اچھی ترکیب نیشنل ملیشیا ہی ہے خرچ بھی آپکا زیادہ نہیں ہوگا میں آپکی اپنی سپیچ کیطرف توجہ دلانا چاہتا ہوں جسمیں آپ نے خود بتایا تھا کہ بیس سے پچیس برس تک کے نوجوانوں کو لیا جائیگا جسمیں دس لاکھ آدمی ہونگے اور خرچ صرف پچیس کروڑ کا ہوگا ابھی میرے دوست کلزرو صاحب

نے توجہ دلائی ہے کہ شروعات تو کی جائے۔ ایسٹ پنجاب سے شروع یا ویسٹ بنگال سے شروع کریں مجھے کوئی اعتراض نہیں ہے ۔ ۱۸ سے ۲۵ سال کے نوجوانوں سے شروع ہو اگر انہی کو آپ لیں تو آپکا بہت خرچہ نہیں ہوگا اور سب کو ٹریننگ مل جائے گی آپکو آج خطرہ ہے آپ R.S.S. اکالی دل، نیشنل گارڈ سب کو بند کر دیں لیکن ان کے پاس فوجی اسپرٹ ہے انکا سارا enthusiasm آپکے پاس موجود ہے ۔ اگر آپ اسے ضائع کرتے ہیں تو آپکی مرضی ہے ۔ میں چاہتا ہوں اسکو Canalise کیجیئے سبکی فوج بنائیے ۔ یہ جب ایک فوج میں آئینگے تو جیسا کلزرو صاحب نے فرمایا ہے کہ جہاں سب ایک طرح سے Comrades کے طور پر بن جاویں گے اور ایک جگہ بیٹھینگے اور ایک جگہ کھاوینگے تو انمیں قومی سپرٹ صحیح طرح کا پیدا ہوگا نیتا جی سبھاش چندر بوس کی آرمی کا فلم جو ہمیں دکھایا گیا اس سے ظاہر ہوا کہ سکھوں کو، مسلمانوں کو، ہندوؤں کو ایک Kitchen میں کھانا دیا جاتا تھا ایک تھالی میں کھاتے تھے ۔ میں چاہتا ہوں کہ اسی طرح سے سارا آرمی بنے اور ساری تمیزیں جو ایک دوسرے سے کی جاتی ہیں دور کر دی جاویں تو سب کے سب بڑی Fine آرمی ہمارے دیش کی بنے۔ یہ ہندوستان کا سب سے پہلا مسئلہ ہے ۔ آج صوبوں سے جگہ جگہ سے یہ شکایتیں آرہی ہیں کہ ہندو یہ کر رہے ہیں ، سکھ یہ کر رہے ہیں، فلاں یہ کر رہے ہیں، فلاں وہ کر رہے ہیں یہ سب شکایتیں بند ہو جائیں گی سب سے بڑی چیز جو نیشنل بلڈنگ کی ہے وہ یہ ہے کہ ہم نیشنل ملیشیا بنائیں اس اصول کو تسلیم کریں اگر آپ اس طرح سے ہر ایک نوجوان کو لیکر ایک Kitchen میں کھانا دیں گے اور کچھ عرصے تک وہ ساتھ رہینگے تو انکے سارے اختلافات دور ہو جائیں گے اور ہندوستان کے اندر ایک اچھی آرمی بن جائیگی اور ہندوستان Invincible بن جائیگا اس لئے میں ادب سے عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ آپ کم سے کم اس اصولی کو مان لیجیئے میں اس بارے میں یہ بتلانا چاہتا ہوں کہ ولایت میں کیا ہو رہا ہے میں کیا آپکی توجہ اس رپورٹ National Cadet Corps Committee کی طرف دلا سکتا ہوں جس میں open units کا ذکر ہے ۔ سوائے ان لڑکوں کے جو کالج اسکول میں پڑھتے ہیں اور جنکا Closed units ہوتا ہے جو یونیورسٹی اور مدرسے میں نہیں پڑھتے ہیں اُنکا Open unit ہوتا ہے اور ان نوجوانوں میں بھی نیشنل ملیشیا کے طور پر تعلیم دینے کی کوشش کی گئی ہے۔ ولائیت کے انڈر اور دوسرے ملکوں میں ہر ایک نوجوان شخص کو قومی تعلیم کا موقعہ دیا جاتا ہے اور اسپر ذمہ واری عائد ہوتی ہے۔ صرف تعلیمی اداروں میں ہی یہ ذمہ واری نہیں ہے آپ اسکو صرف سکول اور کالج تک محدود رکھنا چاہتے ہیں یہ باتیں ایسے وقت کی ہیں جب ہم آزاد نہ تھے۔ Bureaucratic Creed اور Want of imagination تو آپ نے inherit کیا ہے اسکو بھول جائیے ۔ میں دیکھتا ہوں کہ ڈیفینس کی جو چیز ضروری ہے وہ یہ ہے کہ آپ Army کی اصل Foundation مضبوط کریں آرمی اس

[پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو]

وقت تک مضبوط نہیں ہو سکتی جب تک اسکی فاؤنڈیشن solid اور مضبوط نہیں ہو اسلئے ہر آرمی کی Foundation مضبوط ہونا چاہیئے - نیشنل ملیشیا کا اگر خیال آپ چھوڑ دیں گے تو ڈیفینس کی فاؤنڈیشن ٹھیک نہیں ہوگی اور ہماری فوجیں کمزور ہوجائیں گی- ڈاکٹر پٹابھی صاحب نے جو ریزولیشن پیش کیا تھا اس پر آپ نے فرمایا تھا کہ ہم اُس پر غور کرینگے - ڈاکٹر پٹابھی صاحب بد قسمتی سے اس وقت یہاں نہیں ہیں ہم لوگوں کو اختیار ہے کہ ہم اِسکے اوپر کچھ کہیں- میں نہایت ادب سے عرض کرونگا کہ دو ماہ کا عرصہ گزر گیا کہ ابھی تک کوئی ایسی چیز نہیں رکھی گئی - منسٹر صاحب نے فرمایا ہے کہ ہمارے راستے میں دقتیں ہیں ازچلیں ہیں لیکن ہم پھر بھی ٹیریٹوریل فورس اور آرمی کے لئے دھیان دینگے لیکن انہوں نے ابھی تک کوئی دھیان نہیں دیا مجھے اس سے بحث نہیں کہ آپ جو آرمی بنائیں اُسکا نام بھی ٹیرٹیوریل آرمی رکھیں یا نیشنل ملیشیا رکھیں - مگر ہر آدمی کو جو دو بازو رکھتا ہے اسکو اپنے دیش کو بچانے کیلئے موقع دیں ٹریننگ دیں کہ وہ اپنے دیش کا بچاؤ کرے اور جو آزادی ہمیں کیا معلوم کتنی مصیبتوں کے بعد ملی ہے اسے ہم خون سے سینچیں ہم یہ نہیں چاہتے کہ وہ محض غور ہی فرماتے رہیں بلکہ کچھ کریں بھی - اگر وہ کہیں کہ تمہارے لیڈرس اچھے ہیں اسلئے کوئی خطرہ نہیں ہے تو میں کہوں گا کہ یہ سوال ڈیموکریسی کا ہے ہماری گورنمنٹ جو ہے وہ سب دیش واسیوں کی ہے سب اُن لوگوں کی ہے جو یہاں رہتے ہیں اسلئے ان سب کی ذمہ داری ہے کہ اپنے دیش کو بچائیں لیکن میں عرض کرونگا کہ جب تک ساری نیشن اسی لیول پر نہ پہونچے کہ سب آدمیوں کو فوجی تعلیم حاصل ہو تب تک کام نہیں چل سکتا اگر آپ چاہتے ہیں کہ اس دیش کی آرمی اچھی ہو تو اسکا ایک ہی طریقہ ہے کہ اسکی فاونڈیشن درست ہو اور اسلئے میں عرض کرونگا ڈیفینس منسٹر صاحب سے کہ آپ نیشنل ملیشیا منظور کریں میں ساری گورنمنٹ کی خدمت میں عرض کرونگا کہ اس نیشنل ملیشیا کے اصول کو آپ کم سے کم مانیں اور اسکو جتنا جلد ممکن ہو، شروع کریں - میں جانتا ہوں کہ آپ ایسٹ پنجاب میں نیشنل ملیشیا قائم کردینگے تو ایسے بہت سے لوگ ہوں گے جو اسمیں شامل ہونگے اور اگر ویسٹ بنگال میں اِسے قائم کرینگے تو بھی بہت سے شامل ہو جاوینگے - آہستہ آہستہ اسکو سارے ملک میں جاری کردیں - یہ سب کافی ہے - لیکن میں عرض کرونگا کہ اِسکو قائم کرنیکا اس سے اچھا وقت نہیں ملیگا جبکہ پاکستان میں ہر وقت دلی چلو کی آواز گونج رہی ہے عورتیں کہتی ہیں کہ ہمیں ڈاوری مین پستل اور روالور دو ہم اور کچھ نہیں مانگتے لاہور کے آس پاس اور ویسٹ پنجاب کے ضلعوں میں ہتھیار بانٹے گئے ہیں - میں ولر ملکر نہیں ہوں لیکن میں ڈرتا بھی نہیں ہوں

لیکن جب تک ہمکو خود پر کانفڈنس نہیں ہم تحفظ نہیں کرسکتے اگر ہم میں طاقت ہوتی تو یہ چوالیس فیصدی ہندو اور سکھ گھر بار چھوڑ کر سارے ہندوستان نہیں آجاتے- لہذا میرا کہنا ہے کہ اسوقت ملیشیا کا احوال ہی internal danger کودور کرنے کےلئے اور Proper atmosphere قائم کرنے کے لئے کام میں لایا جاسکتا ہے اسلئے National-Militia قائم کرنیکی کوشش کیجائےاور خرچ کو mind نہ کیا جائے آپ جب روپیہ خرچ کر ہی رہے ہیں تو نیشنل ملیشیا جو بنیادی چیز ہے اسکے اوپر ۲۰ کروڑ روپیہ خرچ کرنا بہت ضروری ہے - میں عرض کرونگا کہ آپ کھلے دل سے غور فرمائیں اور ہمکو مایوس نہ کریں کہ آپ نیشنل ملیشیا کے لئے کوئی بھی خرچ کرنیکیلئے تیار نہیں ہیں -

(English translation of the above speech.)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was pained to hear the speech delivered before the House by the Honourable the Defence Minister about the Indian Cadet Corps. Sir, for a long time it has been the practice that all or most of the items of Defence Expenditure presented to the House at the time of Budget used to be 'non-voted'. We had no right to vote this expenditure. Now when we have full control over our Defence Budget, it becomes our duty to examine and scrutinise all items and to see that the money is spent properly. I agree with Shri Santhanam that there should be a convention for a separate Defence Budget and all items of this Defence Budget should be placed before the House. The comparison of the figures of 1938-39 with those of this year made by Shri Santhanam has clearly revealed that expenses on certain items have increased five to six times. We cannot understand it. I agree with Shri Kunzru that it is the duty of our Government to make proper arrangements for the defence of the country, and I am sure the House will not mind voting the Budget even when the estimates of Defence expenditure are in excess our last years expenditure. We cannot however, give our conscientious opinion on this Budget so long as we do not fully understand it. We have not been able to make out the Budget as it stands at present, because reasons for the increase in expenditure have not been made clear. What has led to the increase from three crores of rupees to fifteen crores under the Engineering; and why have expenses increased under other heads? In future, therefore, the Budget should be presented separately and with full details and explanations.

I would now come to the main subject. The British had created a military caste based on the policy of Divide and Rule. On the basis of this policy they made a distinction between the martial and the non-martial classes. That is how the British ruled over this country for 150 years. Thus they created a feeling in our minds that we were made of a different stuff from our brethren. Now it has changed, and changed to such an extent that there is no room for doubt that this feeling of discrimination has disappeared. Every Indian is now duty bound to serve his mother land as a soldier and to sacrifice his life for her sake. Sir, the committee of which mention has been made and which was constituted on the 15th July 1946, was constituted only to find how to inculcate leadership and other qualities in officers who lacked them. Earlier, after the end of the first Great War, such committees were constituted in 1926 and Auxiliary and Territorial Forces were brought in existence. Ways and means were devised how to make up the educational deficiency of the officers. I would submit respectfully that no armies of any country can be improved so long as the whole atmosphere is not changed and

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so long as every individual is not made to realise his rights and responsibilities. How can we raise the general standard of people as long as every citizen does not understand his duty towards his country. Merely increasing the efficiency of officers will not do. If you want to have good officers, then the first requisite is to inculcate a military spirit in our people and to improve the mental outlook of officers so that they can train others properly. Without this your aim will remain unrealised. Sir, through the kindness of the Honourable Minister for Defence and as a member of the Standing Committee for Defence, I had received a copy of this report. I have carefully read it and I am prepared to state clearly that if you read pages 3 and 7, you will find that its object is one and the same throughout, *i.e.* to improve the standard of education. The shortcomings and drawbacks of the officers have to be removed. This and such other problems for which I want the establishment of a National Militia, have not even been touched in this report.

I do not want to repeat the reasons which formed the basis of Dr. Pattabhi's arguments in connection with the formation of a National Militia. The House is familiar with them. Enough light will be thrown on the subject if Honourable Members go through his speech carefully. I am not at all prepared to accept the statement made by the Honourable Minister for Defence today. I do not believe that funds are not available for raising a National Militia or that time is not ripe for it. Today National Militia and territorial force are urgently required. It is high time to start organising a National Militia and I think of no other better occasion for organising a National Militia if it cannot be done now. I would invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to our national ideal and to our national anthem of *vande-mataram*.

त्रिंशकोटि कंठ कलकल निनाद कराले द्वि त्रिंशकोटि भुजैधृति खट कखाले ।
कयधन्नि जनास्तवाम कथ मान अवलाश बहुबल धारिणी नमामि तरीणि रिपुदल
वारिणीय मातरम् ॥

So long as every Indian is not trained as a soldier, this problem will remain unsolved. Failure to do this on your part will force people to say that you are out only to continue the same old rule by continuing the distinction between martial and non-martial classes which was introduced by the British and which enabled them to govern India for 150 years and do not want to make any change.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There is no distinction between martial and non-martial classes now. It has been removed.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, where does it not exist? In the army or in the country? I may say that even today if you see how recruitment to military is going on, you will find that it is being done on the same old basis. Who else except martial classes are coming forward for recruitment? Only the martial classes are offering to serve in the military. With respect I would say that it has not been removed in practice. You may well remove this distinction on paper but may I know how will business men and clerks offer themselves for service in the military? The way to do this is to dispel the fear from the minds of business men and clerks and to bring them to the level of military men. There is only one remedy for putting an end to this fear.

Sir, I was saying that Defence of the country is the biggest school wherein we can teach this to all. Just now our Honourable Minister for Defence had referred to the fear of an attack by tribesmen. With great respect I want to ask how much destruction and devastation has been wrought by the incursors in Kashmir? If these tribesmen raid East Punjab or West Bengal—they are on the outlook of an opportunity—may I know how will you be able to distribute your meagre forces on so many fronts? Will it not lead to destruction then? Today you are yourself referring to these tribesmen. If you want to face the internal and external dangers, my first suggestion and the best remedy is to raise a National Militia. It will not cost much. I would like to invite your attention to your own speech wherein you had yourself stated that youngmen between the ages of 20 and 25 will be recruited, and the force would comprise of 10,00,000 men and cost only Rs. 25,00,00,000.

My friend Shri Kunzru has just now asked us to make a beginning. Whether you begin it in the East Punjab or in the West Bengal, I have no objections to it. But it should be commenced with the recruitment of youngmen between the ages of 21 and 25 years. If you confine yourself to these men you will not incur heavy expenses and you will be imparting training to all. You are in danger today. You may dissolve the R.S.S., the Akali Dal, the National Guards and others, which have a military spirit. Their entire enthusiasm is at your disposal. It is upto you to use it or to waste it. I wish you could canalise it by organising an army. When they join the army, these youngmen will be, as Pandit Kunzru has stated, commrades in arms. When they will sit and dine together, they will develop the true spirit of nationalism. The film of the army under Neta Ji Subhas Chandra Bose that was shown to us made it clear that Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs dined together. I wish we could organise the whole army in this manner, and end all present class distinctions in the great Indian army. This is the first and the foremost problem of India. This will put an end to all complaints that are pouring in from provinces today regarding the behaviour of Hindus and Sikhs, etc.

The first requisite of nation building is to accept the principle of organising a National Militia. If in this manner you make all youngmen dine in the same kitchen and live together for some time, it will remove all their differences and India will have an efficient army and our country will become invincible. I would, therefore, request you at least to accept this principle.

In this connection I want to tell you what is happening in Great Britain. May I invite your attention to this report of the National Cadet Corps Committee which mentions of 'open units'? With the exception of those youths who are receiving their education in the Army Cadet Corps and who belong to Colleges and Schools and are known as 'closed units', attempts have been made to impart education to these youngmen, who are not attending any universities schools or colleges and make open units on the lines of National Militia. In Britain and other countries every young man is given the opportunity of receiving military training and this responsibility is not limited to educational institutions only. You want to confine the scheme to schools and colleges only.

This smacks of the days of our slavery. You have only inherited the bureaucratic creed and want of imagination. Forget it. I find the essential for defence is to strengthen the foundations of the army. Without solid and strong foundations you can not have a strong army and therefore the foundation of our army should be strong. A neglect of National Militia will mean weak foundations of defence and will weaken our forces. In connection with the resolution of Dr. Pattabhi it was stated that Government would consider it. Unfortunately, Dr. Pattabhi is absent. We have the right of speaking on it. With great respect I would say that two months have elapsed

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

but no such thing has so far been brought before the House. The Honourable Minister had stated that notwithstanding the obstructions and difficulties in his way, he would attend to the Territorial Force and army, but he has not given any thought to it so far. I do not want to insist that you should name this army as Territorial Force or as National Militia, but every man, who has two arms, should be afforded an opportunity of service for the defence of his country. Youngmen should be trained to defend their country. Let us spare no sacrifice to maintain our hard won freedom. We do not want mere promises for consideration of the matter. Government must take practical steps. If it is said that we have good leaders and so we need not have any fears, I would submit that it is a question of democracy. Our Government is peoples' Government. It is the Government of all Indians. It is therefore the duty of every one to defend his country. But I would say that as long as the entire nation does not receive military training, it is not possible for us to do real work. If you want India to have a good army there is only one way for it and this is to build it on proper foundations. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister and the whole of this Government to accept at least the principle of National Militia and to start it as soon as possible.

I know if you raise a National Militia in the East Punjab, many people will volunteer themselves for service. If it is organised in the West Bengal even then many men will enlist themselves. By and by it can be introduced all over the country. I may say that a better opportunity than the present will hardly be found again. Pakistan is reverberating with the cries of 'Delhi Chalo'; women want nothing but pistols and revolvers in their dowries and arms have been distributed round about Lahore and in the districts of West Punjab. I am not a war monger and I am not afraid either. But I must say that as long as we do not have self confidence, we cannot defend ourselves. Had we been strong, the 44 per cent. of Hindus and Sikhs would not have deserted their hearths and homes and fled to India. I would therefore emphasise that it is only the principle of National Militia which can be utilised for meeting the internal danger and for creating a proper atmosphere. Efforts should therefore be made for organising a National Militia unmindful of expenditure. When we are already spending so laviously, it is imperative to spend Rs. 20 crores on National Militia which is a basic necessity. I would request you to consider it with an open heart and not disappoint us with the feeling that Government are not prepared to spend anything on the establishment of National Militia.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no intention of intervening in the debate until I heard the speech of Mr. Santhanam. That gave me the opportunity to speak on this occasion. I regret that he compared the figures of 1938-39 with this year's figures. The more comparable figure would have been the figure of last year's budget which was presented by the Honourable the Defence Minister himself, when he would have found whether things have changed for the better or for the worse, or have remained stationary. I find that in the last budget year the total net amount demanded by the Defence Department was Rs. 204 crores, and on the ratio of 2:1 in which the defence forces have been divided up, the quota for India comes to Rs. 136 crores, which corresponds to the figure which he has demanded this year. But there is this difference, that whereas the last year's budget included provision for the B.O.Rs. also, this year they have been replaced by I.O.Rs. The result is that without increasing the Budget he has been able to increase the strength of the Army because the I.O.Rs. are less expensive than the B.O.Rs.

I find another thing which is rather regrettable. While the Defence Budget of the last year, when India had not acquired full sovereignty, contained information much more elaborate than what we have been accustomed

to receive during the war years, this year's Budget is more like the British Government's Budget of 1940-41 when very little information was available to us. I think this is a strange fruit of freedom that we are getting. For instance, in the last year's Budget he gave a full enumeration of the number of personnel serving in each branch of the Army. This year we find no mention made, under any head, of the number of officers, other ranks or followers. This, Sir, I regard as a bad change.

Another feature which I cannot understand is the change in the Major and Minor Heads. The last year's Budget had a different orientation as will be apparent by comparing the General Estimates given on page 6 of this year's Budget and page 8 of the last year's. This change of Heads has made it difficult for us to compare the like with the like and we do not know exactly where the expenses have increased.

In this connection I would draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the fact that we on this side do not know exactly, and have never been told either by the Finance Minister or by any of the other Ministers, how our expenses for the 5½ months when India remained united compared with the revised figures or accounts for those 5½ months which are charged to the joint revenue and for which there is no other forum than this to discuss. This information has not been given to us. We do not know how some of the items which were severely criticised last year have fared. For instance, I would refer to the expenditure of Rs. 10 crores which the Honourable Minister had asked, on page 40 of his last year's Estimates, for new works. It was vehemently criticised in both the Houses of the Legislature, and we would have liked to know whether that criticism had any value, whether any provision has been made somewhere this year, too, for a lump sum grant as he asked for last year.

Sir, I think the House should be taken into confidence and the Defence Standing Committee should be associated more and more with this part of the work too. Although it is really the power of the Standing Finance Committee to sanction the estimates, Defence being such a big subject it is necessary that the Legislature should be associated in some form or other in the formative stages as well.

I would also like to endorse the suggestion of Mr. Santhanam about having an Economy Committee to deal with the different parts of Defence expenditure. It is very necessary, Sir, that we should get sixteen annas value for every rupee that we expend. There is no question of grudging expenditure, but there is every question of stopping squandering and expenditure on inflated Headquarters staff which has become a kind of a vested interest and which it would be very difficult to uproot. I may mention, Sir, that there are about four or five members of the old guard left in this House who were members of the Retrenchment Committee of 1931; two are on the Treasury Benches—Mr. Shanmukham Chetty and Mr. Neogy were on the old Retrenchment Committee; two or three are on this side of the House. I think we might benefit by the experience of those years and if we would form a Retrenchment Committee it would not mean in any way a vote of no-confidence on the Defence Department or the Defence Minister but it would only mean that we are anxious to see that every care is taken to safeguard the tax-payer's money.

Sir, I rather fear to tread on a difficult ground. I refer to the feeling of insecurity felt both by India and Pakistan. The feeling is there, no one can deny it. How to end it is the question which is paramount before us. I think, Sir, war-mongering by either side would be ruinous to both. It is not so much by expending more and more on defence that you safeguard the interests of the country as by cultivating better relationships and removing the points of friction. The formation of the Organisation of the United

[Mr. Hussain Imam]

Nations of the world is really meant for this purpose: that these quibblings and quarrels may not assume harsher proportions. I would therefore earnestly solicit the Governments of both the countries to try and meet each other half-way and to remove as far as humanly is possible, the possibilities of friction. As a measure of security, I would suggest that it will be better if we on our side had introduced an element of conscription. I am against increasing the standing Army—I think it is wasteful expenditure—but to prepare the country for defence, it is much better to have a short compulsory training period of one year for all able-bodied youngmen of India, and reduce the Army to that extent—reduce the number of years which they have to serve in the Army so that they may really form an element of veterans who could, immediately on the outbreak of war, be promoted to the higher ranks—other ranks might be promoted to V.C.Os., V.C.Os. into officers and so on, so that you will have a kind of an arrangement ready to put on a war-footing not 500,000 or 600,000 men but two or three million at once within a period of five years. It would be much better if we did this.

I would also draw attention to such rumours as are current outside in the market. For instance, it is said that the Ordnance Factories are today busier than they were during the war years. We are told in the bazar that arms are being imported in Pakistan because they have got no armaments factory of their own. We are told that our Defence Secretary, Mr. H. M. Patel, went over to England for such purposes. Well, these are the rumours which are current in the market. I do not attach much importance to them but I just draw attention of the House and the Ministry to the fact that things are getting from bad to worse and it is time we did something constructive towards introducing a more amicable relationship between the two countries, at the same time preparing for every eventuality in a manner which would make it impossible for any country to attack India with impunity.

I therefore suggest, Sir, that India's defence is the primary concern not only of the Ministry but of all the people, and we all like to be associated with this defence and in a manner in which no money will be wasted and every care will be taken to have the credit for our defence.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, this is the first occasion on which this House is discussing the organisation of free India's Army. It is well that we should do so, for not only has the partition of a slave united India into a free divided India somewhat upset the mechanism of the Army and given rise to new problems, but also the Western world is turning itself more and more into armed camps day by day and the menace of war is increasing. Here, Sir, is the latest report by Reuter from Brussels:

"It is reported that the draft of the Defence Pact of the five countries, namely, the Benelux countries of Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg, and Britain and France provides for the re-organisation of armies and the standardisation of re-armaments."

Let us therefore also, Sir, proceed to set our own house—the Army—in order and be prepared to meet all eventualities. We cannot afford to do otherwise, for, though we are eager for universal disarmament and the reign of Ahimsa on earth, taking into consideration the world as it is constituted today,—a world which is armed to the teeth,—if we are unprepared and inadequately armed, we are sure to go to the wall. We shall not, we do not and we have not pursued, as the Honourable Minister rightly said, the path of aggression at any time of our history, but, Sir, surely we must strain every nerve to defend our newly won freedom which we have wrested from powerful alien masters after decades of struggle.

Sir, the task of military organisation is a two-fold one. We have to build the body and mould the soul, for to every Army there is a body and a soul as General Ian Hamilton has so aptly pointed out. The body may in other words be styled the structure of the Army and the soul, its morale or spirit.

Moral force to physical force is as three is to one, as Napoleon, one of the greatest military geniuses, said. So, when we consider the reorganisation of the Army we have to apply our minds to its psychic re-orientation no less than to its physical reconstruction. The Indian Army, during the long nightmare of British rule in our country, was a mercenary instrument, suited to the purposes of British imperialism. It was an army of conquest in the first instance and later it became an army of occupation, an army for the suppression of our people at home and for fighting other people abroad, all for the promotion of British interests, for the consolidation and preservation of the British Empire. It was, however, impossible that in the course of our freedom struggle the entire Army could remain impervious to the pervacive influence of patriotism and national ideals. As a result, there was considerable ferment in the Army, during the last thirty years in particular. There were also sporadic revolts inside the Army, but they were mostly abortive and nothing came of them. But gradually, as our freedom movement gathered momentum and reached its climax, and as during the last world war the Indian National Army under the inspired leadership of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose fought valiantly against Anglo-American imperialism, this had tremendous repurcussions on the British Indian Army here. When the British Government realised that the Army in India was no longer a reliable instrument,—and of course they had already known that the people were against them—, when they realised that it was not a reliable instrument for the furtherance of imperialist greed and domination, they beat a hasty retreat from this country, not however in good grace, but after dividing the people, dividing the country and dividing the Army.

The present organisation of the Army is like the proverbial curate's egg "good in parts".

The first essential in reorganisation of the Army is that it has to become a People's Army or a truly National Army in the best sense of the word. Referring to the I.N.A., the Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel said some two years ago that it could very well become the nucleus of a free India's Army. Our Army should function not aloof from the people, not hostile to the people, as it has very often done in the past, but actively fraternising with the people. The Army must be imbued and indoctrinated with new ideals—the ideals of national service and lofty patriotism—so much so that our people must feel that the Army is of them, for them, and will stand by them in times of war as well as in times of peace in the same way as the I.N.A. became dear to and one with the Indian people at home and abroad. There is only one supreme *mantra* for a free people's Army. That is the *mantra* which was taught by Shri Krishna to Arjuna. It has been acclaimed as the greatest *mantra* even by eminent masters of scientific warfare in the West. Here is a book by Karl Von Clausewitz, a German military writer of genius who became the teacher of many Prussian militarists during the last one century. The introduction to the book ends on the superb note which is contained in the teaching of Shri Krishna to Arjuna. This is what Clausewitz, that German author of "on War" says:

"I know of no more inspiring advice than that given by Krishna to Arjuna ages ago when the latter trembled before the awful responsibility of launching his Army:

'Dying thou shalt attain to Heaven;
Conquering thou shalt rule the Earth;
Therefore, arise, thou son of Kunti,
Brace thine arm for battle.
Nerve thy heart to meet,
As things alike to thee; Pleasure or pain;
Profit or ruin, victory or defeat,
So minded, gird thee to the fight, for so
Thou shalt not sin'."

[Shri H. V. Kamath]

In Sanskrit, Sir, it is:

हतो वा प्राप्स्यसि स्वर्गं जित्वा वा भोक्ष्येसे महीम्
तस्मादुत्तिष्ठ कौंतेय युद्धाय कृतनिश्चयः ।।
सुख दुःखे समे कृत्वा लाभालाभौ जयाजयौ ।
ततो युद्धाय युज्यस्व नैवं पापं अवाप्स्यसि ।।

Here, Sir, is the supreme *mantra* for the People's Army to fight really for the people, work for the people and for the freedom and in the interest of the people. Shivaji some three centuries ago and Netaji in modern times in the East, and Washington and Garibaldi in the West, modelled their Armies on this firm foundation and that is why their armies, inspite of poor equipment in material, became formidable fighting forces. The Armed Forces must be rooted in the nation; they should form a constituent part of the nation. In modern totalitarian war, the strength of these Forces will be increasingly in proportion to the physical, moral and psychic strength of the people. It is above everything else the psychic strength which creates the unity of the Armed Forces and the people, and it is psychic strength again that is required in the vital struggle for the preservation of a nation in a protracted war. This psychic strength and psychic unity cannot be had by mechanical means. The means employed should be of a spiritual character. A man of the eminence of Ludendorff the German General who was prominent in the First World War said that the means employed in this connexion should be of a spiritual character. But, Sir, I do not mean by 'spiritual training' any 'religious training', but a training that is intended to keep up the morale and spirit of the Army.

Here, Sir, in the Budget Estimates, turning to pages 17 and 19 of the Explanatory Memorandum which deal with military training and educational training, I find there is no reference to the type of training I have mentioned. I would request the Honourable Minister therefore to give earnest attention to this matter about the spiritual training and the maintenance and heightening of the morale of the Army on the right lines. Here, Sir, the officers of the I.N.A. who have had such training will come in very useful. I am sure, Sir, if our present Indian Army is remodelled on this foundation and with such a soul—transformation, then our Army will welcome the officers of the I.N.A. back into their ranks.

As regards the structure of the Army, the first essential is the nationalization of the Army. Nationalization in its wider sense is not merely the replacement of British by Indians; but throwing open the Army to all classes and communities of the nation, and not merely confining it to certain aristocratic classes or to certain so-called martial classes.

Next comes the task of fortification of the frontiers, the defence of the country against air-craft and full preparation for the mobilization of the entire nation: these are the basic guarantees which a people desirous of developing in peaceful security should start acquiring. But, Sir, however solid the defence barriers may be, unless they are supported by a sufficient number of fully trained military forces, the safety of the country will always be in danger. Therefore, Sir, the plea put forward by my Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava for a National Militia is very timely. For our national economy, Sir, a small standing army, as was pointed out by Mr. Hussain Imam along with a nation-wide militia based on the territorial system will be most suitable from the point of view of our country's economic resources and this will not only reduce the enormous expenditure on the Army, but also give opportunities for all our citizens, men and women alike, to offer their best for the defence of the country.

Then, Sir, modern armies are moving in the direction of mechanization and motorization. I shall not deal in detail with these matters, because time is a stern master and I will have to conclude my observations very soon. But, Sir, the main direction in which all armies are moving today all over the world are mechanization and motorization, for speed and power on the battle-field. Then, Sir, there is the industrialization of the country which is intimately linked with this mechanization and then finally there is the integration of the entire armed forces, so that they can function as one unit in warfare, on the battle-field. Before the last war began, it was Hitler who said that within 15 years the old-time warfare had become obsolete. In the first World War, as you know, it was only trench warfare and in 15 years' time it became obsolete and Hitler said: "The next war will be fought with tanks and planes". Because he developed his new instruments and a new technique, he sprang a surprise on other nations and won his initial victories.

Here in this context the plea put forward by Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru has great force. We must have a research Department, a very efficient research Department very ably manned by the best scientists. We may even appoint foreign scientists as our advisers to build better and more efficient instruments of warfare which will conduce to our safety, speed and power in combat. It is not merely for building a large quantity of armaments and guns and rifles, but today we are tending towards light ships and cruisers in the Navy, machines of an ever increasing range of action in the Air Force and in the case of the Army the guerillas have acquired considerable importance. Therefore, Sir, the raising of a National Militia and the training of guerillas for modern warfare are very important from our point of view.

In the end, I conclude on the same note with which I began, the same advice, the same supreme message that was given by Shri Krishna to Arjuna thousands of years ago.

" Tasmāttvamuttishtha yashō labhasva
Jitvā shatrūn bhuaksh'va rājyam samraddham
Mayaiva ētē nihatāh purvameva
Nimittamātram bhava savyasāchin. "

This great teaching, this great *Mantra* must be taught to every soldier in the Army and to every citizen of India. Let us all move, live and have our being in the spirit of this great *Mantra*. That should be the inspiration for every man, woman and child, every citizen of Free India. Let us all be mere humble instruments in the hands of Divine Destiny, which is shaping the future of India for the peace and well-being of man-kind. Let us build an invincible Army, with one arm raised to strike and the other to succour. Let us in this spirit go forward, so that our Army when it has vanquished the forces of evil, when it has vanquished our enemies, shall establish Ram Raj, the Kingdom of God on earth. Thus, Sir, shall we erect the worthiest monument to the memory of Mahatmaji, Netaji and our other countless martyrs who have suffered and died that India may live.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Mr. Speaker, Sir, within the few minutes at my disposal, I propose to deal with a particular branch of the Defence organization, which has hitherto been neglected; this matter was never seriously investigated or considered by the House and this time, I hope we are going to seriously address ourselves to this aspect of the defence problem. Sir, I have particularly in mind the Ordnance factories with which are allied the defence industries of this country. The working of Ordnance factories, Sir, had been a sealed book to us so long and the whole branch was a close preserve of Britishers in this country. That was natural because the defence of India was not the exclusive concern of the Government of India, but it was a part and parcel of the plan and policy of defence of the British Empire of which India formed the most vital link. It is no surprise, therefore that all the defence arrangements in this country, all the defence organizations, including the industries and factories under the Defence Department were fashioned after the policies formulated from Britain. Now, Sir, with the sudden withdrawal of the British there has been created a vacuum in the defence organization, which has to be filled immediately and effectively, unless there is to be a disaster to the country.

When I say 'vacuum' I want my Honourable friend the Defence Minister to understand that hitherto the whole defence policy had been the work of trained British strategists and militarists who formulated their policies 6,000 miles away from this place and the defence organization in this country was a mere spoke in the wheel which was gyrated from Britain. Now, with the changed set-up, we should immediately set about to readjust our entire defence system with all its ancillary branches,—ordnance factories and the like—to the needs of the altered circumstances and bring it up to the highest pitch of efficiency. The House is aware that India today has a very low industrial capacity. To build up a sound Defence structure with the requisite defence industries commensurate with the potential that we have in the country and its size, would be a herculean task; but this should not scare away the Defence Minister from tackling the problem with all the seriousness and earnestness at his command. We had a full-dress debate in the last session about raising of a National Militia. Today speaker after speaker has stressed the need of an excellent army and also for expansion of its size. That our Government has accepted the principle of this demand will be seen from the National Cadet Committee's report. Though it does not go far enough it makes a good beginning and seeks to create a very good nucleus around which the future militia of the country could grow. But I want to ask the House, has it ever seriously applied its mind to the question as to where and how it is going to have the sinews,—the arms and weapons with which to equip this army to defend the country against external aggression or to deal with internal commotion or disturbances? I do not want the Defence Minister to disclose any secrets to this House; I would like him to go carefully into the question of production of our armament factories, the ordnance factories. From what I know from information which very often comes to me and which I have no reason to disbelieve—at the moment we are manufacturing guns, small arms up to a certain calibre, up to a certain bore, light machine-guns, rifles, some shells and explosives. These are all that we are manufacturing now. We do not manufacture heavy guns or weapons. But even in what we produce the percentage of rejections is very high notwithstanding the fact that the most up to date machinery were installed in the armament factories during the last war. If the House realises the enormity of the problem of supplying the defence units with the necessary equipment, it would be perfectly justified in asking the Defence Minister to go thoroughly into the question; and for this purpose I suggest to him that there should be a committee to examine this matter in all its aspects.

Sir, I was referring to the output of Ordnance factories. Does the Defence Minister or the House know the particularly wasteful procedure that is adopted in these Ordnance factories? Here is a factory in Ishapore near Calcutta; barrels of guns, rifles and shells are cast there. That process over, the whole thing is to be taken over to another factory—though it is also close to Calcutta—and that is Cossipore Gun and Shell Factory. There they have to be machined and bored. Having done that, these things will have to be transplanted for placing on carriages at Jubbulpore which is 700 miles away. At Jubbulpore Gun and Carriage Factories these things are mounted. That done, they are made to undertake another journey of 600 or 700 miles to Balasore and perhaps to Calcutta Test House for testing and passing them. This over, they are distributed all over the centres. Now, Sir, I seriously ask my Honourable friend the Defence Minister if he would allow his defence industries to go through all this dilatory, roundabout and wasteful process. I do not want our products to be globe-trotters. At a time when we are hard-pressed for shortage of transport this wasteful process must immediately cease. In the old days this might be done because then transport was plentiful and there were also alternative means of transport. But now those facilities are absent and consequently this assumes some importance from that point of view as well.

Sir, one point was touched by my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru which I should like to develop at some length. At present all these Ordnance factories are managed and controlled by a class of persons who are not really first-class men. They are trained foremen and mechanics of British factories; they simply execute here plans and designs which are drawn up by military strategists in England. That has hitherto been the practice and it has not been changed. The result is that there is no scope for initiative but mere mechanical compliance with the blue-prints emanating from England. These people are in charge of these Ordnance factories. I am surprised at the way in which the production figures are shown. If I mention about the tremendous amount of rejections,—rejections of finished products, rejections of stores that had already been there—the House will be staggered. There were very valuable instruments and equipment in the Defence Department which were brought here during the last great European war,—like radar sets and sperrygyroscope. These are highly specialised types of equipment which in a modern war are absolutely indispensible. The House would perhaps be interested to learn that with the help of this radar equipment in those days of *blitzkrieg*, Great Britain managed to defend herself and foil the attempts of Germany to raze Britain to the ground. With radar sets it is possible from a distance to detect the advent of aeroplanes and also make arrangements for checking their progress and getting them trapped. During the last war—when Japan came into it, a large number of radar sets were operated from Calcutta, Poona, Bombay and places near about. I do not want my Honourable friend the Defence Minister to disclose any secrets, but is he aware that these radar sets are nowhere to be found now in the military stores and depots of this country? All these have been sold out as surplus and useless stores. There have been fifth columnists at work in these factories and the stores departments. Sir, I have it on the authority of a very great scientist of international repute, Prof. M. N. Saha, that he recently contacted some important persons in England and in America and was told by them that these radar sets had been much in use during the last war. Coming here he tried to trace them, he traced parts of them in some private godowns and scrap-heaps. These things are going waste. I may tell the Defence Minister that at present even in peace-time the U.S.A. has banned the export of these appliances to any other country; not only radar sets but projectiles and certain essential chemicals and wireless transmitters also have been stopped from being exported. But we are throwing away a vast body of these valuable materials. So also is the case with sperrygyroscopes. These things you will not get from any other country now.

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra]

Then you have a variety of valuable metals and alloys which are essential for defence industries. They are also being sold out as scrap. I do not blame my Honourable friend the Defence Minister for this; it is not humanly possible for him to know all these things. It is a highly technical matter and he is not expected to know all about it. But the time has come when we cannot but take stock of the situation and effectively husband all our available resources if he wants to build a really efficient and powerful defence organisation with its three branches of army, navy and air force.

Another matter I referred to was that we had no designs or a development section. My Honourable friend in reply to a question the other day said that we had one. I emphatically maintain that there is none. Does he know that during the last war the Britishers in their own self-interest utilised to the utmost the resources of Calcutta University Science College for their campaign against Japan or Burma? The entire scientific potential in the country was utilised by them. The facilities which are now available in the Science Institute at Bangalore and other science colleges are not being fully utilised. There is a reservoir of scientific talent in the country which must be tapped to the full. The number of technical personnel in our Ordnance factories is fairly large but they have been kept as temporary hands. These people have no security about their jobs. Ordnance Factory workers well-trained and efficient, have been retrenched by the thousand. Others are coming in for all manner of ill-treatment at the hands of officers as all these organizations are under the control of non-Indians. This is an important matter to be looked into. We have got all the 16 Ordnance factories which previously belonged to undivided India, and near about India, with the exception of Russia, there is not another country which has got that kind of valuable arms production organization. Our National Government in a fit of generosity made over Rs. 6 crores to Pakistan the other day for her Ordnance factories. But when the nation is called upon to foot a bill of Rs. 32 crores, I am entitled to ask the Finance Minister what he is going to do to set his own house in order. Is he prepared to appoint a Committee of scientists and military experts with wide terms of reference? I want that these important organizations are placed under the charge of Indian nationals. I do not say that we shall not keep experts, we must keep them. But I want them to be placed under the Indians. They should be acting there as experts only and nothing more. There should be research and development sections. There should be a thorough co-ordination between the defence and other industries in the country. Besides, there should immediately be brought into being new factories for the manufacture of synthetic petrol, synthetic rubber and other special chemicals and alloys, metals, which are absolutely necessary for armament production. Great Britain and America may not be willing to supply us with these precious materials in future. There is enough scope for their production in this country. But all these questions cannot be fully investigated unless my Honourable friend, the Minister for Defence, appoints a Committee. It will thoroughly explore all these possibilities, bring about a thorough overhaul of the operation of the ordnance factories with a view not only to increase efficiency but step up production of all types of arms and equipment, not only of a light nature, but heavy ones, like tanks, machine-guns, explosives, projectiles, radar sets, wireless sets and military telephone appliances. Without this full complement of military equipment you cannot build an efficient Defence force for you may have an excellent army of veteran soldiers or trained personnel, but it will have little striking power if it is not sufficiently armed with modern weapons.

Sir, the stores expenditure has now gone up to Rs. 32 crores from a small figure in peace time. I do not grudge a single farthing of this amount. All I want is that this department should be thoroughly reorganized and the fifth

columnists shown the door. Competent and honest Indians should be placed in charge of them; utmost secrecy should be maintained about production; the *modus operandi* changed, and the processes which are a handicap to development should be immediately put a stop to so that this organization might function in such a manner that the three arms of defence, the army, the navy and the air force may go about their jobs with full confidence that they will get all the arms and weapons they require to defend their country against external aggression or to put down internal commotions and disturbances.

With these words, I commend my suggestions to the acceptance of this House.

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. Frank R. Anthony: Mr. Speaker, my cut motion referred to the question of the recruitment of officers to the armed forces. It is I feel one of the most urgent and vital matters which confronts the Minister of Defence. I do not propose, as my Honourable friend Mr. Kamath did, to venture into the regions of evangelism and Idealism. I feel . . . .

Shri H. V. Kamath: On a point of information, Sir, I did not talk about evangelism.

Mr. Speaker: That is his interpretation.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: It sounded like military evangelism to me. Sir, I feel that on the maintenance of the best possible system of recruitment, particularly to the officer cadre depends the strength of our armed forces and in this war-torn and troubled world on the strength of our armed forces depends in turn the strength of the country.

Sir, I would like, in this connection, to have some specific information as to what happened to the psychiatric tests in the matter of selection to the officer cadres of the armed forces.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is there.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: My information is that either the test has been done away with in most cases or it has been watered down. I agree that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction with the psychiatric tests and that dissatisfaction in many cases is justified. My information is that on the selection boards, today, as psychiatrists we use fledgling doctors, persons of two or three years experience, who cannot by any stretch of imagination be said to have the knowledge and experience of real psychiatrists. My information also is that we have in India only two or three first class psychiatrists and I would ask the Honourable Defence Minister to enlist the services of these first class psychiatrists. All progressive countries in the world, I am told, are using and using increasingly, the psychiatric method of selection of their army officers and I want it to be used increasingly in India, subject of course to the fact that we have real first class psychiatrists. One of my main reasons is this, that the army or the armed forces have been freer more than in other sections of our life, from communalism and I do not want any form of communalism, I do not want any form of nepotism, however remotely or indirectly to seep into the selection of officers for the armed forces. And by adopting or making the psychiatric test the determining test or the main test, we will cut across all considerations of caste or communal prejudices, all considerations of sectional or any other predilections.

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In connection with this matter I want to know whether selection boards are being appointed specifically or even impliedly on a communal basis. I feel very strongly on this matter. Quite rightly we have never had communal proportions in the matter of selection to the officer cadres of the armed forces but I feel that selection boards are constituted on a communal basis. I think this is a retrograde and dangerous step. If we have no communal proportions in the officer cadres, I see absolutely no reason why selection boards should be constituted on a communal basis. A Hindu representing Hindus, a Sikh representing Sikhs and a Muslim representing Muslims. That is impliedly, if not specifically, the basis on which these selection boards have been constituted and I feel that the Minister of Defence should give an assurance to this House that since we do not recognise communal proportions for the army, we should also not recognise any form of communalism in our selection boards. I say this for this reason (because complaints have been reaching me increasingly) that if the selection boards are constituted either avowedly or impliedly on a communal basis, then the members of the selection board will be actuated by communal motives. If a Hindu is put there to represent Hindus he will inevitably seek to select only Hindus or if a Sikh is put there, he will seek to select only Sikhs. I say that the Defence Minister owes it to the House and the country to give us an assurance that these selection boards will be constituted on one basis and one basis only, the basis of the capacity, the basis of integrity and the impartiality of members and not on the basis of what community they belong to. I say this because I have been told that, increasingly, although there are no quotas on paper, yet in practice, the selection boards today are adhering to shadow communal proportions. The members of small minority communities who go before the selection boards are being told quite openly "On the basis of your numbers you have already got more commissions than you deserve." They are not being rejected because they are not qualified: they are being rejected because although as I say on paper there are no communal proportions, yet in practice the selection boards are implementing communal proportions. This is a retrograde and dangerous manifestation of selection to the armed forces. I want it to be done away with immediately.

Several of my friends in the House have urged that we do away with all these artificial and unwarranted distinctions between martial and non-martial classes. Scientific selection is the greatest guarantee of that. One of my greatest friends who commanded a composite unit in this country told me that all these distinctions are absolute poppycock. There was a feeling at one time that the banias and the Parsis were not martial classes. He told me that his best officers whether in peace or in war were Parsee officers, we have seen it as a result of this scientific selection not only in the case of Parsees but also of members of my own community who enjoyed the highest ratio of selection percentages—perhaps because of the advantages of a certain type of education and the fact that they also had certain advantages of physical and military training. My friends are perhaps not aware that the fighter squadrons of the Indian Air Force have between 50 to 60 per cent. of members of my community. In this respect I want to make a plea. There is a feeling among some sections of the House and the country that loyalty and patriotism are the monopoly of a certain community. That unity means uniformity. That unless a person belongs to a particular sect and dresses in a particular way his loyalty and patriotism are suspect. As I have said the record of the Royal Indian Air Force speaks for itself. I am very proud (and here I do not wish to plough a sectarian furrow) of the part played by the Royal Indian Air Force in Kashmir where between 50 to 60 per cent. are members of my community. Because one community has had its loyalties divided that does not justify witch-hunting in respect of the loyalty of other minority communities. Their loyalty should not be subject to the slightest suspicion.

There is this tendency towards communalism in selection boards and I want the Honourable Minister to give us an assurance that communalism in any form will not be recognised.

Complaints have also come to me from senior army, airforce and navy officers, that individual nepotism showing signs of creeping into selection for the armed forces. Candidates go before selection boards flaunting testimonials or chits from relative, officials or politicians. They say openly "I have got a chit from so and so. He is so and so either in Government or political circles. I am bound to get in." And he does get in. Therefore whatever people in this House may say, the British may not have given this country much except peace but they did give us something in the matter of our armed forces. They may not have given us the idealistic armed forces that Mr. Kamath has asked for. But they did give us armed forces with certain traditions of smartness and of discipline. And I feel that those traditions, where they are good, where they have produced perhaps one of the finest fighting forces in the world, forces which commanded respect and were fear in every battlefield, I feel that those traditions ought to be preserved where they deserve to be preserved.

I will conclude by making a very brief reference to two points made by some of the previous speakers. Pandit Kunzru referred to a feeling that the Government had not faced up to the Kashmir situation with a sufficient sense of urgency and realism. My own experience from talks with senior officers is that they endorse this feeling. They also felt that the Government did not appreciate the magnitude and the urgency of this problem. I have been informed—I do not know how far it is true—that for a long time this operation was tinkered with, it was not put on a war footing, the armed forces received no priority and still they are very badly off in the matter of food and other supplies. My feeling is that this Kashmir operation must be faced up to completely. It must be put on a complete war footing and also filled with sufficiently large forces. It must not be forgotten that we are purporting or trying to defend a border extending over 400 miles. You cannot send a boy on a man's errand or send one division where one or two army corps are needed. I feel in regard to this matter that sufficient perhaps is not being done by the general public and by our ladies in the matter of wounded soldiers. I do not think that the ladies realize their duties to the wounded *jawan*. I know tha the *jawan* is very easily satisfied and he does appreciate visits from ladies, wives of officers, he does appreciate socials and concerts organized on his behalf; it gives him a feeling that the country appreciates what he is doing, appreciates his efforts on behalf of the country generally.

Finally I want to refer to another point. My Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam has indicated, quite rightly, the possibility of waste and of extravagance. While I agree that all waste and all extravagance should be eliminated, I do ask that so far as our armed forces are concerned they should not be approached in a petty commercial spirit. Unnecessary and unwarranted niggardliness will undermine crucially the integrity and the quality of our armed forces. I have not time to elaborate but I would ask the Minister for Defence to go into the widespread complaint that the revised scales of pay as recommended by the Army Pay Committee have given our officers generally a niggardly deal. While those who are known as the King's Commission officers—Sandhurst men—are in receipt of one scale of pay which has not been touched by the Pay Committee's recommendations, our other officers doing exactly the same work have been put on a totally different and a much lower scale. As a Member of the Central Pay Commission which dealt with civilian scales of pay I feel that the scales recommended for the armed forces are niggardly and compare very unfavourably with the scales of pay for civilians holding less responsible positions. We have done away with all manner of allowances—house rent allowance, family allowance etc. A Captain who is married and who may have four or five children will get just Rs. 450. The scales compare

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most unfavourably with civilian scales of pay. It is a vital matter. It must be remembered that the army cannot strike as the railway men or the P. and T. men can do. But we owe them a duty to see that commensurate with the economic resources of this country and commensurate with their responsibilities they are paid scales of pay which will attract absolutely the best men to the officer cadres of the armed forces.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, my motion is quite distinct from the motions that have been moved by my Honourable friends on the armed forces. My motion relates to the Cantonment Boards. The Cantonment Boards are also under the administration of the Defence Department. I would like to tell the House that they should not mix up the Cantonment with the military. Although the area of the Cantonment is partially administered by the military authorities the Cantonment is quite distinct from the military administration. This Cantonment Board has been introduced for the purpose of administering the military and its operations. In many cities where military is stationed, they have occupied a large area of land. One section of that land is allocated to the military and in another section about two to three miles off from the military area the civilian population resides. The Cantonment Board comes in there. There is a special Cantonment Act which is more or less on the lines of the Local Self-Government Act. There are three kinds of Cantonments, first, second and third-class. The first-class is where there are ten thousand of population or over, the second-class is where there are five thousand and over and the third-class is where there are two thousand and above up to five thousand. The constitution of these Boards is all practically nominated except a few seats that have been given to the residents by elective methods. In the military area they get all the amenities, that is to say, they get the benefit of the hospital, dispensary, school, the benefit of the electricity—all this is given to our armed forces. That is quite right. It is certainly desirable that our armed forces should be kept quite content. But when you go to the Cantonment area where the civil population resides, all these amenities are denied to them. They do not get them either from the municipality, Sanitary Committee or Notified Area Committee or from anybody and they are left entirely at the mercy of this Cantonment Board which is governed mostly by the military authorities. The Officer Commanding is the President of the Cantonment Boards. Then there are six officers who are nominated—in those days by the Governor General in Council—and about four or five elected from the areas. All this civil population which should really come under local self-governing bodies is treated in a manner which we really ought to consider at this juncture when the new set-up has come into force. But what I would contend is that this Act which was enacted originally somewhere in 1896, to which a slight amendment was made in 1906 and 1924 ought to be thoroughly scraped.

There is another thing. Under this Act, apart from the civic amenities to which I have referred, there are Cantonment Magistrates who have judicial powers. They are sometimes more than a High Court Judge's powers. Under Section 235 of the Act a Cantonment Magistrate can expel anybody he likes from that area. Today there are so many persons who have been exiled from these cantonment areas like Ambala, Meerut and Ferozepore Cantonments—I am mentioning a few. We do not know where they are. I put questions to the Honourable Minister the other day and I am expecting his replies shortly. They were exiled because they preached sedition. Of course in the past nobody was allowed even to enter the area of the military operations. My point is that these persons who were exiled, if they had been governed under civil administration, would have been freed after the attainment of our freedom. But because they are governed under military administration these people are denied that civic right. From all these points of view it is high time that a Committee should be appointed for this purpose. It is not a small job because it is a big Act which requires to be thoroughly overhauled. I desire, and earnestly desire, that a Committee should be appointed by the Honourable the Defence Minister to go into this matter and the Cantonment areas which are governed by the military authorities should be separated from the military administration and given the same elective rights and the amenities which they ought to enjoy like sanitation, drainage, education etc. which are now denied to them.

Then the second thing which is most deplorable is this. Most valuable land in these cantonment areas in the past were given away to persons who were in the good books of the military authorities. They have got it at very nominal prices—sometimes Re. 1 per square yard, and sometimes as low as 8 annas per square yard,—and in some cases at a nominal rent of Re. 1 a year. Ordinarily in the adjoining civil area the prices are thirty or forty times more, and they have built houses on them. To some of the selected persons, because they were in the good books of the military authorities, the military authorities used to give them these lands absolutely free as patronage.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: In which cantonments?

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: In almost all cantonments in India. Sir, I can say that with authority. In civil areas we know that zamindari is to be abolished. When we are out to abolish zamindari, these people who have done good to the British administration have in return got lands. Government ought now to consider whether it is right that they should possess those lands in perpetuity. In several cases they have held these lands for the last sixty years with the result that some of them have sold them and they have made tons of money over these cantonment lands on which they have spent not one pie so far as the value of the land is concerned. They have built big buildings on these lands. I do not see why that kind of concession should be made now. Until you revise this Act all this will continue. The Honourable Minister replied the other day that leases of these houses have been 25 and 50 years. When I asked about the price, he had no information to give, but I can tell him that the information I have conveyed today as to the price at which these lands were given in the past is absolutely correct. This cannot be done away with unless this Act is revised. Unfortunately today the budget does not show anything separate for cantonments. Everything is mixed up. These Cantonment Boards have no budget. They have no control over the finances. It is the Military Officer Commanding who fixes up the annual budget and he carries on without even consulting the Cantonment Board for this purpose. Could this sort of thing be expected in these days when we are free. It may be argued that now we are a free government, the Defence Minister is our Minister and therefore you must consider these officers as your own? If that kind of argument is correct, then members of all the local bodies could be nominated by the Ministers, the Ministers could nominate all the members of the Legislature and they can say that this is our government, therefore the members also are our members. That kind of argument won't stand to reason. This is not democracy. Let me assure the Honourable Minister for Defence that the military administration stands absolutely on a different footing and you can do anything you like to frame your policy there. I do not dispute it. I quite appreciate that the military people require certain kinds of concessions and certain kinds of amenities. But this civilian population has nothing to do with the military. I would therefore humbly appeal to the Honourable Minister that he should not dismiss this matter by saying it is merely a small matter. It affects lakhs of people, I therefore submit that he must appoint a Committee to go into this Act and report to the Government whether there is justification for overhauling this Cantonment Act. Originally it was framed 90 years ago: then some amendments came in, but these amendments were made for the purpose of

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administration as far as the military authorities were concerned. No kind of concession has been given to the civilian people residing there. These cantonments either should be entrusted to the local bodies or they should be given powers which are vested in local bodies. One of these should be done, and with that object in view I am sure that the rights and privileges which are denied to this class of people, to which they are entitled, would be safeguarded. There is no education, there is no sanitation: and in some cantonments there is no proper drinking water, but at a distance of four or five miles away the military get the best water. I do not dispute that. But for the civilian people there is no drinking water. They have to dig wells, while reservoirs are provided for others, and through reservoirs they get chlorinated drinking water. I therefore hope that the Honourable Minister will help these people who are suffering on account of these extraordinary powers vested in military authorities for no fault of theirs. In the circumstances I commend this motion for the serious consideration of the Honourable Minister with the request that he should appoint a Committee straightaway.

Shri B. N. Munavalli (Deccan and Madras States Group): Mr Speaker, Sir, today I am taking the first opportunity of speaking on the Defence Budget. When I went through the Budget, I found that the explanatory notes were not sufficient to give materials to come to a proper understanding of the whole matter. Sir, I am in a fix to understand as to the number of officers, and the strength of the forces in the Army or in the Navy or in the Air Force. So it would have been better if the Budget were to disclose all the materials in order to form a judgment. The Honourable Member Mr. Santhanam has referred to certain items and by comparing the items in the Budget of 1939 with those in the Budget of this year, he has shown that the expenditure on many items has swollen. Sir, we do not grudge the expenses that have been shown on the various items: but what we want is that the amount should be carefully and properly spent for the defence of our country. We have obtained independence after a struggle of nearly sixty years and we have sacrificed our utmost. Although we have achieved our freedom without any bloodshed, soon after independence we had to wade through a valley of blood. In the difficult circumstances in which we have been placed it is a great responsibility for us to see that the independence which we have achieved after such a long time and after such great struggle is maintained at any cost, and the whole responsibility of maintaining this independence depends solely and wholly upon our defence forces. So, unless and until, we organize, to the best of our ability, the forces of our defence, it is not possible to maintain our independence. So, this House is unanimous in its opinion that we do not grudge in any way the amount that is being spent over Defence.

Now, as regards the material that we have, it is quite sufficient and is the best sort of material. We have got men who have fought on many a battle field and have won laurels; we have got men of the first rate character, of the first rate ability. They have proved their mettle in the European countries while they stood the rigour of the Great War; both in the First World War and in the Second World War, our Army had proved that it can stand the test of any rigour. And now when our troops have been made to fight against the raiders in Kashmir, even in this difficult period when the whether has proved to be the worst of its kind, still they have stood the weather and have been fighting and repelling the raiders by attack after attack. They have proved by their merits that they are the first rate of their kind.

Sir, taking into consideration the fact that all of a sudden after we achieved independence, we have got to nationalize and have to send away the Britishers under whose instructions and guidance and according to whose education our Army was to be organised, it is now up to us to collect all the persons, who

are experts in the various departments and pool our resources, to utilise them, to the best of our capacity. My Honourable friend Mr. Maitra has particularly shown how the Ordnance Factories have been working; in order to get the full advantage, out of them, the defects that he has pointed out, must be attended to and it should be seen that they are removed soon.

Sir, in these days when the clouds of war are hanging about and the Western countries are trying to combine themselves by forging pacts with one another, it is up to us to try and strengthen our hands by having a strong force in our country. For that purpose we ought to have an Auxiliary Force. Every man and woman who has attained a sufficient age should be armed and trained in the use of arms, because without being trained in arms it is not possible for us to protect ourselves. What we see everywhere is that our men and women have been attacked here and there. We find that on the borders of Hyderabad the *Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen* have been armed and are about 60,000 in strength. The depredations that they have been perpetrating every now and then are almost staggering. When we complain to the Provincial Governments, the Provincial Governments have not been so useful; they have not been caring as they ought to do. When the people from those places are complaining that they should be armed, even the Central Government have not cared to do it. Under these circumstances, the people have simply been the victims of the *Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen* leaders and their army. When they have been armed and have been recklessly committing outrages and looting, are our people, our brothers and sisters, simply to be at their mercy and become their victims? It is under these circumstances that I think our Government should come to the aid of the people on the border line; they must be trained in the use of arms and they must be sufficiently strengthened in order to protect themselves. It is not possible for the Government of India under any pretext or other to come and repel the attacks if that be the case, at least let us protect ourselves. Without arms, it is highly impossible for us to protect our honour and to protect our sisters who have been abducted every now and then. It is shame to us if we do not try to save ourselves from the clutches of these raiders who have been attacking every now and then. That is why, Sir, I say that unless and until we organise ourselves sufficiently, and unless and until, as is mentioned in the Report which has come into our hands today, we have a sufficient number of persons—both men and women—who have been trained in the use of arms, it is not possible for us to keep abreast with the other countries. When the other countries have been organising and combining their strength and are looking at one another with suspicious eyes, when we are thinking that at any moment, there is a likelihood of another very big war, it is up to us to be prepared, and I request the Defence Minister that he must have this view in mind and see that there is a strong force in all the branches, namely in the Army, in the Navy and in the Air Force, so that it will guard the interests of our country.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, I want to speak.

Mr. Speaker: But unfortunately there is no time.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I wanted to defend the Defence Minister.

Mr. Speaker: He will take care of himself; he is in charge of Defence.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, I am very grateful to the Honourable Members for the helpful criticisms that they have offered on the Defence Budget. Before I reply to the different points raised by Honourable Members, I wish to say that in the past the Defence Budget used to be on quite a different basis. Things have changed and we have also to change our methods, and I entirely agree with the criticism of the members that in future

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the greatest economy should be made as far as stores and other items are concerned. Without going into the details of this question, I wish to assure the House that it is my intention to make the greatest possible economy and avoid all kind of waste.

Then, Sir, as regards the procedure suggested by my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam that the Defence Budget should be presented in the same way as General Budget—I think it was he who made that suggestion during the General Budget debate—, I wish to say that I am in entire agreement with the suggestion that the Defence Budget should be presented separately. In fact, all my colleagues were of this view, but owing to the shortage of time, it was not possible to adopt this suggestion this year, but I hope that when next year the Defence Budget is presented it will be presented separately as suggested by my Honourable friend.

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

Then, Sir, criticism has been made that expenses have gone up. Unfortunately, my Honourable friends are not fully informed as regards the position in the Defence Forces. For instance, it was pointed out that the Defence expenditure is very high as compared with the strength of the Army. Particularly, criticism was made that the expenditure on Navy and Air Force is very heavy and the expenditure on the Army has gone up tremendously. May I point out, Sir, that in the first instance, it is rather unfair to compare the expenditure in regard to the Armed Forces in 1938 with the expenditure incurred in 1947? I would like to give some details to the House, so that Honourable Members will be able to judge for themselves whether the expenditure is high or not taking into consideration the changed circumstances.

Before the war, in 1938, the total strength of the Army as it used to be was half of the present strength of the Army. At that time, the total expenditure incurred on the Army was to the tune of about Rs. 40 crores. Taking into consideration the rise in the prices of stores, the increase in the total strength of the Army, as also the increase in the strength of the Navy and the Air Force, the total expenditure of Rs. 136 crores does not look to be very high.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I ask one question? Is it the Honourable Minister's contention that the present Forces are double the strength of the United India Forces in 1938-39?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, Sir. What I am pointing out is this, that whatever Forces we had in 1938, the present strength of the Armed Forces is practically double.

Shri K. Santhanam: For India alone?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: For India alone.

Now, Sir, I would like to give the figures as far as the Navy is concerned. My Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam pointed out that at present we have got only a very small number of ships. He gave the number of ships at a certain figure. I have not got that figure with me. But I may tell the House that in 1938 the total number of vessels with the Royal Indian Navy was altogether 8 and the number of officers—ratings and other staff—that was employed by the Royal Indian Navy was 2,213 approximately. The present strength of the Navy is as follows: the total number of ships that we have today with the

Royal Indian Navy, for India alone, is 34 and the total number of ratings, Warrant officers and Officers is 11,850. The expenditure for 1938 was about Rs. 80 lakhs and the present day expenditure is about Rs. 5 crores. I may add for the information of the House that this expenditure of Rs. 5 crores includes some expenditure that we have incurred on the purchase or upkeep of the cruiser and the destroyers that we have got.

Shri K. Santhanam: Is it not taken to the capital account?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Some expenditure, like running expenditure, is included in this. I am not taking into account the cost of the cruiser.

Then, Sir, coming to the Air Force, in 1938 the total number of personnel in the Air Force was about 3,500 as compared with 18,700 today. I need not waste the time of the House in pointing out how important the Air Force is to a country's Armed Forces. We in India as also elsewhere attach, in fact, the greatest importance to it and it is the opinion of the Government of India that we should not hesitate to spend money for the development of the Indian Air Force.

Another item, Sir, on which objection was raised was about the increased expenditure on stores etc. If you compare the present strength of the Army with the figure of 1938 and also the items due to which the increase has taken place, you will see that the present day figure is not very high. For instance, Sir, take the case of increase in the price of stores. In 1938, the price of stores was about four times lower than what it is today. Secondly, take the case of the pay of soldiers. In 1938 the pay of the soldier was small, and now the pay of the soldier is double of what it used to be in 1938 and the strength of the soldiers is also double of what it used to be in 1938. Thirdly, the Army in 1938 used to be on quite a different basis. Ever since 1938, and particularly during the war years, the Army has been mechanised and the House will realise that the cost of this equipment is terribly high and bears absolutely no comparison to the equipment that we used to have in pre-war days. Then, as I have already pointed out, the Navy and Air Force also contribute to the high expenditure. Again, after the partition we had to establish new training institutions. Due to the division of the country quite a number of training institutions have been left in Pakistan and in order to keep up our Armed Forces and the officers fully up to the mark, we have had to establish all these new institutions in India. Government decided as the first thing after partition that we should go ahead with the establishment of the institutions which we have lost due to partition. Another item which has contributed to the increase of expenditure is the establishment of Ordnance Factories. In 1938 we had only six Ordnance Factories but today we have sixteen. All the additional Ordnance Factories were mostly put up during the war and the House can well imagine the expenditure for maintenance due to the high cost of stores etc. The next item, Sir, which is of great importance is feeding the soldier. In 1938 the prices of foodstuffs were very low. During the war the prices jumped up with the result that the cost of feeding the troops today is more than three times what it used to be in the pre-war days. All these factors combined together have added to the increased cost, but I am not taking shelter behind these and as I have said in the very beginning, I am very anxious that the maximum economy should be effected in all the items that have been referred to by Honourable Members.

Another point was made out by my friend Mr. Santhanam and that was about the Military Accounts Department. That Department, Sir, is not under the Defence Ministry, but is being dealt with by the Finance Minister. The

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expenditure on this Department has certainly gone up and the only explanation that I can give is that due to the increased strength of the Army, Navy and Air Force, the expenditure on this account also has gone up.

These are the reasons and the different factors which have contributed to the increase in the expenditure and it is difficult for me to accept the suggestion that a Committee should be appointed, because if I accept the suggestion straightaway, it may put me into some difficulty. But I am quite prepared to take Honourable Members of this House into confidence and I will have all these items looked into again and I will get them re-examined and if after that any other steps are necessary to be taken for securing economy I can assure the House I would not have the least hesitation in restoring to them.

I next come to the criticism which was made by my Honourable friend, Pandit Kunzru. At the very outset, I wish to say that it is not possible for me to offer any explanation for the points which he has raised in connection with Kashmir. He has dealt with certain aspects of the question and if I were in a position to disclose on the floor of the House the reasons or the difficulties that had been in our way, he would have been convinced about the action that the Government of India has taken, but I am sorry, Sir, that it is not possible for me to explain why, when our forces marched inside from Srinagar to Baramula and from Baramula to Uri, they did not go up to Kohalla bridge. Nobody would have been more happy than myself if they had not only gone to Kohalla, but they had pushed out every raider out of Kashmir. Here, Sir, may I point out to the Honourable Members that our troops are fighting under great difficulties. We have been there for the last 5 or 6 months and if Honourable Members were to know the difficult conditions in which our soldiers are fighting they themselves would be convinced that the achievements of our troops up till now are really wonderful. In addition to our forces, Sir, it will be unfair if I do not mention the part which the State forces have played. The State forces to begin with were deserted by some of their comrades and they were entirely surrounded by raiders and with great difficulty some of them have now been rescued and the part which the State forces have played is really praiseworthy. I need hardly say anything about the part that the Air Force has played. The House is well aware of the part that the Air Force has played, and if it had not been for the wonderful work of the Air Force, perhaps our achievements in Kashmir would not have been what they are today.

I may point to the Honourable Members that as far as Kashmir is concerned it may take a few months more. As I said, I have no explanation to offer, but I want to state it very clearly that the fault has not been on the part of the Government of India or the troops; the Government of India has done all it possibly could and the troops have done all that they possibly could. All that I can say at this stage is that as the Honourable the Prime Minister has declared several times, although it may take us two or three months more, we will not rest content until all the raiders have been driven out.

The success of any operation should not be counted from the temporary success, but we have to see what is going to be the ultimate result and I have not the least doubt that we will be ultimately successful and Kashmir will be free from the raiders.

Another question about the Madhopur-Jammu Road was raised by Pandit Kunzru. This road is not under the Defence Department. The Military Engineering Department is not in charge of the Road.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Why not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: This road is not under the charge of the Military Department. My Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru asks: 'Why not?' The only effective reply I can give is that the hands of the Military Engineering Department are full with the roads that they have to look after in Kashmir itself. In this case also, Sir, it is not that we are not helping. We have given the top priority for the construction of this road and instructions have been issued to the Military Engineering Department that every possible help should be given to the Civil authorities so that this road may be constructed at the earliest possible moment.

The next point was raised about the aerodrome in Jammu.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: In Srinagar?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: In Srinagar. If the House will recollect, it was on the 27th of October that we first landed our forces there. Upto the middle of December we were sending our troops by air alone. It was not possible to make use of the road and when we were using that Srinagar aerodrome or Jammu aerodrome for the despatch of our troops, how is it possible for us to make it *pucca* or improve it in any other way? From December onwards, Sir, the Srinagar aerodrome has been under snow and you will appreciate that it is not possible to make any improvement whatsoever in the aerodrome, unless it is clear of snow. It is our intention and steps have already been taken to make these aerodromes at Jammu and Srinagar *pucca* and I hope that in the next month or so, if the weather is favourable, both these aerodromes will be improved.

Now, Sir, this is the position about the Kashmir and the Madhopur and Jammu road and the steps that we have taken about them. There are certain other aerodromes which we have built in Jammu and Kashmir, but I do not want to say anything about them and the difficult conditions under which these aerodromes have been built, particularly one in Poonch and the other one in Naushera. You will see from the description that I have given that we have not been sitting idle, we have been doing whatever is possible and if we were not able to do anything, it has been beyond our control *e.g.*, the weather has been a hindrance.

Then, Sir, another speaker pointed out some kind of organization in the East Punjab. I think it was my Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava who said that we should go ahead with some kind of military organization in the East Punjab. I am at one with the Honourable Member and I will bear that suggestion in mind—what we are doing at present is not much—and if anything is done in this connection, I will be able to inform the House later.

Another point, Sir, was raised by my Honourable friend, Pandit Kunzru or some other Honourable Member and that was about the establishment of scientific research. When I took over as Defence Member in September 1946, this question was brought to my notice. A prominent scientist visited India and went into the question in detail and submitted his report. Government have carefully considered the report of this prominent scientist and we have come to the decision that we must establish a scientific branch in the Defence Ministry. The Defence Secretary during his recent visit to U.K. got in touch with some prominent scientists there and arrangements are well on the way for the establishment of a scientific section in the Defence Ministry.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: You mean the Research and Development Section?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: My Honourable friend, Mr. Maitra, is, I think, referring to the Development Section in the ordnance factories. I am not referring to that now. I will come to that a little later. What I am referring to is the Scientific Adviser in the Defence Ministry. Our idea at

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present is to appoint an Indian and also some prominent scientist from the United Kingdom or from some other country as adviser.

Then, Sir, Mr. Bhargava, criticising the report of the National Cadet Corps Committee, pointed out that distinction still exists between martial and non-martial classes. As I have informed him earlier.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I never said so.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: During the last war it was made absolutely clear that as far as the armed forces are concerned, there is absolutely no distinction between martial and non-martial classes and anybody who wants to serve his country is welcome and there is absolutely no restriction of any kind whatsoever.

Then he raised the question of giving military training to all the boys and girls. He was of the opinion that the report of the National Cadet Corps Committee did not go far enough and that we should take steps to give military training to every boy and girl. Sir, so far as I am personally concerned, I entirely agree with him and I have not the slightest doubt that it is absolutely essential, but we have got several difficulties and it is not possible for us to go full out, though we have taken an initiative in the matter.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: On a point of information, Sir. The report of the Committee on this subject reads:

"The object of this division should be to develop the personality of the girls, to make them more self reliant, to build up their physique and to enable them, in an emergency, to take upon themselves some of the duties which are normally carried out by men."

Is that the object for which military training is proposed to be given to the girls?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As far as I understand, these are the normal duties which the girls are supposed to perform, but I think it would be better if this question had been put to my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru who was Chairman of this Committee.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: If I may intervene for a while, I would like to point out that the object of the junior division is mainly educational. But at the same time some bias is given in favour of a military career by enabling them to know what our armed forces are doing. The junior division is not meant to provide officers.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I would suggest to the Honourable Member that he should go through the report of this Committee and then ask questions either of me or of my Honourable friend, Pandit Kunzru.

You, Sir, pointed out one or two items and also said in your speech that it is rumoured that the ordnance factories are producing at the maximum speed. This statement is likely to create some misunderstanding in the public mind. I would therefore like to clarify the position. As far as the ordnance factories are concerned, they are working on a normal basis and nothing extraordinary is being done. For the information of the House I may point out that during the days of the war when production was at its peak the total number of workers in these factories was about 175,000 or 180,000. For the last few months the number of workmen in these factories has been 40,000 and no increase has been made. The only change that has come about is this; people who were due to be demobilised or retrenched have been kept on for the completion of the work which the civil departments had entrusted to the ordnance factories.

Then, Sir, it was pointed out that this year's budget figures do not disclose the number of the armed forces. Well this has been deliberately done for obvious reasons. The normal practice that is followed by all the countries is

that they do not disclose the total strength of their armed forces. We have also, therefore, decided that unless the Big Powers disclose the strength of their armed forces, we also should not disclose this information to the world.

Shri K. Santhanam: Why then has it been done in the case of the Navy and Air Force?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: My Honourable friend is perhaps referring to the figures that I have given, but I may tell him that I have given only the approximate figures.

I will next come to the ordnance factories. My Honourable friend Mr. Maitra mentioned some difficulties in the working of these factories. As I have already stated, before the war we had six factories. During the war the number of these factories went up. Soon after the termination of the war a committee was appointed which went thoroughly into this matter; as a result of the recommendations of that committee it was decided that we should have in all only 16 ordnance factories.

It was stated by Mr. Maitra that according to his information if the barrel of a rifle is manufactured at Ishapore it is sent to Jubbulpore for assembling purposes. May I inform the House that this information is not correct? What really happens is this. Take for instance the ammunition side. It is not possible to manufacture all the ammunition in one factory. The component parts are manufactured in different factories and then they are assembled in one factory, I am told partly for security reasons and partly for climatic reasons. I am told that certain types of ammunition must be filled under certain climatic conditions. It is for this reason that the parts are at times sent from one factory to another.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What about the Gun Carriage Factory at Jubbulpore?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As far as the Gun Carriage Factory is concerned it is quite a different thing. I am speaking now of the Rifle Factory at Ishapore. Another question he raised was about the design and research section. There is no doubt that all these factories were run by British officers. During the war the total number of British officers was 600. After the war the number of British officers has decreased, with the result that on the 15th August their number in all the Ordnance factories was about 120 and today it stands between 80 and 90. As I stated before in reply to a question put by Honourable Members, it is the decided policy of the Government of India to have Indian officers in place of British officers; but I should like to point out that the manufacture of arms and ammunition is a highly technical job, and it is possible that we will need the help of British officers and American officers and experts from other countries for a long time to come. The main objective before the Government of India is that we must produce articles of the highest quality; and if to achieve that object it is necessary for us to import more experts from other countries we will not hesitate to do so. And I hope the House will agree with me that if in the Ordnance factories in the interest of the quality and quantity of the arms and ammunition that are to be produced we require some foreign experts we should have them.

Some Honourable Members raised the question of compulsory military training. This question has been discussed several times and it was raised through a Resolution by my Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya. I assured the House that Government have several schemes under consideration. I have this morning announced that Government have taken a decision about the recommendations of the National Cadet Corps Committee. I am glad to inform the House that Government have also accepted the principle of the territorial army and a scheme has now been drawn up by the Defence Ministry.

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I think in the next few days it will go before the Cabinet. It is difficult or impossible for me to commit Government at this stage, but as Government have already accepted the principle of territorial army I hope the scheme will be approved by them.

This is all I can say about the territorial army. Once the scheme is approved it will give opportunities to quite a large number of young men who want to join the armed forces of this country.

Then it was pointed out by my Honourable friend Pandit Maitra that there is a lot of other equipment which is being wasted in this country and no arrangements are made for the manufacture of synthetic petrol and other things. I think the Prime Minister announced in this House the other day—that is my information, but if he has not done so he will make an announcement very soon—that Government are going ahead with the scheme of manufacture of synthetic petrol. About the other suggestions which have been made about alloy steel, etc., it is very difficult for me to give any assurance; but I am very anxious that as far as possible we should manufacture all our requirements in this country. There are, as the House knows, great difficulties in this, and it will take some time before we can manufacture all our requirements here. In fact even if we go ahead and make all possible efforts to manufacture all our requirements it will not be possible for us to do so. Honourable Members know what difficulties we are experiencing in getting machinery and equipment from other countries. Unless conditions come to more or less normal, it will be difficult for us to have all our requirements manufactured here. But all I can say in connection with this is that Government are very anxious to go ahead with all the schemes that will make India self-sufficient.

My Honourable friend Mr. Sidhva criticised the formation of cantonment boards, etc., and suggested that a committee should be appointed. I will refer him to the reply I gave to one of his questions in which I made it clear that it is not possible for me to commit myself at this stage. I will have his suggestion examined and then consult him: and if he still thinks that some change is necessary I will put him in touch with my department. The matter can then be discussed and we can decide what action should be taken. I do not know the details about this subject at all and so it is not possible for me to accept the suggestion of my Honourable friend without further examination.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): The sub-committee will consist of Mr. Sidhva alone.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is not a question of that; I said that I want to take his help and find out how far the complaints are justified.

A suggestion was made by some Honourable Members that we should appoint a committee to examine this expenditure. As I have said before, I am very anxious myself to examine all the details of this expenditure, but the appointment of a committee at this stage will not serve any useful purpose. I am quite prepared to take into confidence the members of the Standing Committee or any other members but I must make it quite clear that I personally am also very anxious to reduce this expenditure. At present what I suggest is that the members of the Standing Committee may examine any of these items and I will welcome their suggestions. And if later on it is considered necessary the suggestion can be considered again next year.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I suggested a committee for the reorganisation of the Ordnance factories; that has nothing to do with retrenchment or economy.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am sorry I overlooked that point. It was suggested by Pandit Maitra that a committee should be appointed to go into the working of Ordnance factories. I may point out for his information that a committee was appointed about two or three years ago, and as a result of the recommendations of that committee some suggestions were made which are being given effect to. Two or three months ago when the Industrial Conference was held under the chairmanship of my colleague Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee I took advantage of the presence of eminent industrialists in Delhi and the report of that Committee was placed before them. I myself suggested that it was my intention to appoint another committee to make suggestions as regards improvement in the working of the Ordnance factories. These prominent industrialists gave me as their definite opinion that it will serve no useful purpose to appoint another committee; that we should carefully examine the suggestions made by the previous committee and see how far they are suited to our present conditions; and if after careful examination it is found that another committee is necessary then one could be appointed. I have accepted the advice of these industrialists, and the suggestions of the committee which was appointed are now being examined and given effect to.

My Honourable friend Mr. Anthony raised a point about communal representation in the selection board; his main complaint was that the selection boards are on a communal basis. I wish to assure him and the House that nothing of the kind is happening and merit is the only consideration. Those officers who are found efficient and competent to do their job are put on the selection board irrespective of community or class. I should like to give some figures which will go to show that the formation of the selection board is not confined to any community but that all the communities are represented on this board. I have not laid down any rules that all the communities should be represented on the Selection Board. I will be quite content if the entire membership of the Selection Board consists of officers of one community provided they are suitable for the job.

Mr. Anthony raised this point. So for the information of the House I want to give you the figures which will go to show that there is absolutely no basis whatsoever for the criticism which has been made.

On September 1, 1947, the composition of the Selection Boards was as follows: There were 24 officers: 15 Hindus, one Sikh: two Europeans: one Christian: and three Anglo-Indians.

On February 1, 1948 the total number of officers on the Selection Boards was 24: out of which 12 were Hindus, 2 Sikhs, 2 Europeans, 2 Christians and 2 Anglo-Indians.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): Is not this communal representation?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is. But the officers in the armed forces are officers belonging to every community, so any one of them can come on the Selection Board if he is suitable.

Another complaint was made that certain minority communities are being ignored altogether, or it is said that officers on the Selection Board do not take officers in the proportion of their number. Here again, I am sorry to have to refer to the percentage of the community mentioned, *viz.*, the Anglo Indians. In fact, Mr. Anthony wrote to me and I got this information this morning. So I have not been able to convey it to him but I am giving it here so that he will be satisfied that there is absolutely no justification for the apprehensions which he has mentioned. From the selection for Commissions in the Armed Forces in India, from 15th August to 15th February 1948 in the Army—the percentage of selection of Anglo-Indians particularly (I have not the figures of the other communities) is 26.

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In the Royal Indian Navy the percentage of selection of Anglo-Indians to those appearing for interview for the same period from 15th August to 15th February has gone up to 50 per cent. Then again, coming to the Royal Indian Air Force, for the same period, the percentage of Anglo-Indian officers is 28 per cent.

I have given the figures of the different communities on the Selection Board and the percentage of one minority community, which goes to show that the complaints which have been made by my Honourable friend have absolutely no foundation at all. I wish to assure the House that so far as recruitment to the Armed Forces is concerned, as long as I am here, I will not tolerate any communalism. We have to build up our armed forces on sound lines.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): Does not this amount to encouraging communalism?—over-representation of a particular community.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: This is on the basis of merit alone.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: This is the position as far as the Selection Board and the representation of the minorities is concerned and I have nothing more to say except to thank the house for the very friendly criticism they have offered.

With these words, I hope my Honourable friends will not press their cut motions to the vote of the House.

Shri H. V. Kamath: The Honourable Member has not thrown any light on Government's policy with regard to the relative sizes of the standing army and the militia, which is an important question, and the means to be adopted by Government for strengthening the morale and spirit of the army, and how far spiritual training advocated by instructors from Shree Krishna of India to Clauseritz of Germany is an integral part of our military training.

Mr. Chairman: I think the Honourable Member within the time at his disposal could not reply to all the points but if the Honourable Member wishes to say anything more and encroach on the time of the Transport Member it can be arranged among themselves.

Shri H. V. Kamath: If he says he cannot answer my question, then it is all right. I shall not press my point. (No reply).

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: What are the ways in which the military decisions are conveyed to the people in the villages?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: If the Honourable Member will put that question, I am prepared to reply to it.

Mr. Chairman: Do the Honourable Members wish to withdraw their cut motions?

Shri K. Santhanam: I would like to know if the Honourable Minister is willing to accept part of the cut?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I would request the Honourable Member not to press his motion.

Shri K. Santhanam: This is the last time I will withdraw such a cut motion.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: I am prepared to withdraw my motion relating to policy but not the motion relating to Kashmir. My Honourable friend has said nothing on this question. He has put it off by saying that he is not free to say anything on it.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: 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.

Shri H. V. Kamath: 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.

Shri K. Santhanam: 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.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion relating to policy and reorganization in order to increase efficiency.

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.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: 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.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: 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.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: 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.

Mr. Chairman: I shall now put to the House the cut motion of Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru relating to the Kashmir situation.

The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Defence' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: I shall now put the demands to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,65,000 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 'Ministry of Defence'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 66,42,30,000 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 'Defence Services, Effective-Army'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,75,77,000 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 'Defence Services,—Effective Supplies and Stores'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: I would like to know from Honourable Members whether they wish to move their cut motions to the demand under the head 'Ministry of Transport' formally or they would prefer to follow the system which was adopted yesterday of simply making speeches without moving the cut motions.

Shri K. Santhanam: Let us have a debate only.

Mr. Chairman: The time at our disposal is very short and I would request Honourable Members to be as brief as possible, so that they can accommodate of their fellow members. Otherwise it will not be possible to call more than a few members to speak.

Shri P. Kunhiraman (Madras: General): Sir, my cut is meant to discuss the constitution of port trusts. I shall be very brief in placing the facts before the House.

The port trusts have been constituted years ago and it is now high time that they are reconstituted. The question is whether these trusts should be done away with or reorganised. My first suggestion will be that it would be better that they are done away with. The point is that they are now administered by a quasi-body and the Government is only having a supervisory authority. My submission therefore is that they may be administered as is done in the case of the railways. We are now for nationalising all institutions and it is better that this also should be nationalised and placed under direct government control. My submission is that instead of reconstituting or remodelling them as port trust boards, they should be administered by Government directly as is done in the case of the railways. If this principle is not accepted certainly the present trust boards necessarily should be reconstituted. As it is we shall examine how the present boards are constituted.

Take the case of major ports. I shall just briefly state how they are constituted now. In the case of the Bombay Port Trust, out of 22 members 9 are nominated by the Government including the salaried Chairman. Of the elected 13, 5 are elected by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, 1 is elected by the Millowners Association (Bombay), 5 are elected by the Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay and 2 are elected by the Municipal Corporation. There is nothing to indicate how many among the 22 are nationals and how many are non-nationals. All the same my point is that so far as non-national organisations are concerned I think they should not as far as possible be given any representation, though I would say that their interests should be looked after.

In the case of the Madras Port Trust a similar organisation exists. There are 18 members now constituting this trust, of which 6 are nominated including the salaried Chairman. Of the remaining 12 elected, 4 represent the Madras Chamber of Commerce, 2 represent the Skin and Hides Merchants Association, 1 represents the Andhra Chamber of Commerce, one represents the corporation of Madras, 3 represent the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and one is elected by the Madras Trades Association. Here also so far as non-nationals are concerned while their interests should be looked after I do not think any representation should be given.

Similar is the constitution of the Calcutta Port Trust. Out of 19 members, 7 are nominated including the salaried Chairman and of the 12 elected, 6 are representatives of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, 2 represent the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, 1 represents the Calcutta Trades Association,

one represents the Municipal Corporation, one the Indian Chamber of Commerce and the remaining one is the representative of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce.

The last being a communal organisation, its representative should be eschewed. It is now understood that there are several chambers and associations claiming representations. I have already placed before the House my views so far as non-nationals are concerned as also communal organisations, with regard to their representations. There is no denying the fact that increased representation of Indian interests should be the primary concern. Nomination, if at all should be reduced to the barest minimum. In this connection I would just call the attention of the House to the Amending Bill which was tabled by Mr. Sidhva to amend the Port Trust Boards. He withdrew the Bill on the assurance that the Government would consider amending all these Acts. But he has given certain points for consideration and I would invite the attention of Government to those points when they propose to table the amending Bills.

There is one thing that is most important and that is to replace the salaried Chairman and give the right to the boards to elect their own chairman. There are a large number of nominated members in these trusts: the elected trustees should be increased. I should also consider the necessity of increasing the term of these boards. It is now two years. It is advisable that it should be increased to three years as suggested by Mr. Sidhva.

There is another point that has been mentioned by Mr. Sidhva in his Bill and that is with regard to giving opportunities to the press to be present at the time of the deliberations of these trust board meetings. It is understood that the meetings are held *in camera*. But certain decisions arrived at by the Board are published in the Gazette. If that is being done I do not see any reason why the press should not be allowed to be present at the time of the deliberations. At the committee stage they can be held *in camera*.

I shall take this opportunity also to suggest that the Government should consider the necessity of increasing the ports especially in the eastern coast where there are only two major ports and they are situated miles apart. I think there is need for more major ports. With regard to minor ports also the Government ought to consider the question of increasing their number. In the west coast there are very many ports—even minor ports—which can be improved; but now they are neglected. I shall just mention Calicut, Tellicherry and even Mangalore. They are not properly looked after. I think that provision should be made to improve these ports. Ports which are closed should also be opened and facilities should be given in regard to this matter. I submit that these points may be considered by the Government.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma (U. P. : General): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the important question of transport. The proposition is very simple that in modern life transport is an important need for the community. It is much more so in the case of our country which in the past has suffered a lot due to lack of communications and due to there having been no system of transport whatsoever. India is a big country and it is true that a modern system of transport is not easily to be provided for. It was not for long provided for which resulted in the lack of development or under-development of our social, cultural and economic life.

Taking the figures we have got four big roads which take us only over 5,000 miles out of 8,200 and odd metalled roads. Now, if you compare this with other countries. Europe which has 16,60,000 square miles in area has got more than 2 lakhs of miles of railway. India which contains 18,03,000 square miles of country has only 40,000 miles of railway. India has 8,299 miles of

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,75,77,000 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 'Defence Services,—Effective Supplies and Stores'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: I would like to know from Honourable Members whether they wish to move their cut motions to the demand under the head 'Ministry of Transport' formally or they would prefer to follow the system which was adopted yesterday of simply making speeches without moving the cut motions.

Shri K. Santhanam: Let us have a debate only.

Mr. Chairman: The time at our disposal is very short and I would request Honourable Members to be as brief as possible, so that they can accommodate of their fellow members. Otherwise it will not be possible to call more than a few members to speak.

Shri P. Kunhiraman (Madras: General): Sir, my cut is meant to discuss the constitution of port trusts. I shall be very brief in placing the facts before the House.

The port trusts have been constituted years ago and it is now high time that they are reconstituted. The question is whether these trusts should be done away with or reorganised. My first suggestion will be that it would be better that they are done away with. The point is that they are now administered by a quasi-body and the Government is only having a supervisory authority. My submission therefore is that they may be administered as is done in the case of the railways. We are now for nationalising all institutions and it is better that this also should be nationalised and placed under direct government control. My submission is that instead of reconstituting or remodelling them as port trust boards, they should be administered by Government directly as is done in the case of the railways. If this principle is not accepted certainly the present trust boards necessarily should be reconstituted. As it is we shall examine how the present boards are constituted.

Take the case of major ports. I shall just briefly state how they are constituted now. In the case of the Bombay Port Trust, out of 22 members 9 are nominated by the Government including the salaried Chairman. Of the elected 13, 5 are elected by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, 1 is elected by the Millowners Association (Bombay), 5 are elected by the Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay and 2 are elected by the Municipal Corporation. There is nothing to indicate how many among the 22 are nationals and how many are non-nationals. All the same my point is that so far as non-national organisations are concerned I think they should not as far as possible be given any representation, though I would say that their interests should be looked after.

In the case of the Madras Port Trust a similar organisation exists. There are 18 members now constituting this trust, of which 6 are nominated including the salaried Chairman. Of the remaining 12 elected, 4 represent the Madras Chamber of Commerce, 2 represent the Skin and Hides Merchants Association, 1 represents the Andhra Chamber of Commerce, one represents the corporation of Madras, 3 represent the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and one is elected by the Madras Trades Association. Here also so far as non-nationals are concerned while their interests should be looked after I do not think any representation should be given.

Similar is the constitution of the Calcutta Port Trust. Out of 19 members, 7 are nominated including the salaried Chairman and of the 12 elected, 6 are representatives of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, 2 represent the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, 1 represents the Calcutta Trades Association,

one represents the Municipal Corporation, one the Indian Chamber of Commerce and the remaining one is the representative of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce.

The last being a communal organisation, its representative should be eschewed. It is now understood that there are several chambers and associations claiming representations. I have already placed before the House my views so far as non-nationals are concerned as also communal organisations, with regard to their representations. There is no denying the fact that increased representation of Indian interests should be the primary concern. Nomination, if at all should be reduced to the barest minimum. In this connection I would just call the attention of the House to the Amending Bill which was tabled by Mr. Sidhva to amend the Port Trust Boards. He withdrew the Bill on the assurance that the Government would consider amending all these Acts. But he has given certain points for consideration and I would invite the attention of Government to those points when they propose to table the amending Bills.

There is one thing that is most important and that is to replace the salaried Chairman and give the right to the boards to elect their own chairman. There are a large number of nominated members in these trusts: the elected trustees should be increased. I should also consider the necessity of increasing the term of these boards. It is now two years. It is advisable that it should be increased to three years as suggested by Mr. Sidhva.

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I shall take this opportunity also to suggest that the Government should consider the necessity of increasing the ports especially in the eastern coast where there are only two major ports and they are situated miles apart. I think there is need for more major ports. With regard to minor ports also the Government ought to consider the question of increasing their number. In the west coast there are very many ports—even minor ports—which can be improved; but now they are neglected. I shall just mention Calicut, Tellicherry and even Mangalore. They are not properly looked after. I think that provision should be made to improve these ports. Ports which are closed should also be opened and facilities should be given in regard to this matter. I submit that these points may be considered by the Government.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma (U. P. : General): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the important question of transport. The proposition is very simple that in modern life transport is an important need for the community. It is much more so in the case of our country which in the past has suffered a lot due to lack of communications and due to there having been no system of transport whatsoever. India is a big country and it is true that a modern system of transport is not easily to be provided for. It was not for long provided for which resulted in the lack of development or under-development of our social, cultural and economic life.

Taking the figures we have got four big roads which take us only over 5,000 miles out of 8,200 and odd metalled roads. Now, if you compare this with other countries. Europe which has 16,60,000 square miles in area has got more than 2 lakhs of miles of railway. India which contains 18,03,000 square miles of country has only 40,000 miles of railway. India has 8,299 miles of

[Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma]

metalled roads of which, as I referred to above, four big roads comprise 5,000 miles. The total mileage of road in India is 31,418 of which metalled road is 8,200. If you compare India with other modern countries, our roads are in a very bad condition. Not only that. We have got meagre sources of communication, meagre sources of transport. And even so much is not in good repair. The position put is simply this. If you see a village boy he stumbles down because the narrow village path is not in good repair; if you see the village cart it does not go easily to the city because the way to the city, the village road, is not in good repair; and if you just look to the car it is somewhere crushed because the bridge is not in good repair. So the story goes that nothing is in good repair—neither the narrow village path, nor the village road, nor the metalled road. To give one more example, the military lorry would not pass to Kashmir because the Pathankot road is not in good repair. Everywhere the roads are in bad repair. The first thing is that there are meagre resources of transport and communication and meagre as they are, they are not in good repair. The position is very important for the economy of the country. We cry for more production, but production is impossible without giving proper markets, and for proper markets transport is the prime necessity. Take the case of the western districts of U. P. Lakhs of maunds of gur is there, but it could not be transported to the Punjab or to Rajputana. There the prices have come down to Rs. 7 or Rs. 8. The normal price ought to have been Rs. 20 to 24. From Rs. 20 to 24 of normal price gur has come down to Rs. 7 and 8. If transport had been possible it would have necessarily fetched a useful price of Rs. 20 or 24. That gur, of which the normal price is Rs. 20 or 24, is carried to the city; one man with two bullocks carries some twenty maunds he goes to the city market, remains there all the day long and ultimately the man has to sell it at an unmarketable price. It would have added much more to his ways of production if it would have been possible that outside his village there had been proper road, and the transport would have been by motor truck and the man with his twenty maunds would have got into the motor truck and gone to the city and come back within two or three hours. Take the comparison: the man going with two bullocks, wasting the whole day, his bullocks not getting any fodder or any protection from the sun or rain, is wasting his time and throwing away his commodity.

Compare with it the possibility of provision being made for goods transport, the lorry taking the load with a man sitting on it, and in two hours getting the price of his commodity and getting back. So, Sir, it is of the utmost importance for the production drive that the means of communication and transport must be improved. They are meagre so far as mileage is concerned, and then, Sir, they are in very bad repair. The Agricultural Commission, Sir, in its report points out.

"Transportation is an important part of marketing and modern commercial development tends everywhere to enhance the value and importance of good road communication."

So, Sir, according to the report of the Agricultural Commission it is of the utmost importance that means of transport should be provided for, that the produce may be increased and then a market may be found out for the village production. It will solve another problem: if proper means of transport are provided for, decentralization of industry would be possible. Many problems have cropped up. In Bombay there is the problem of housing for labour. If industry is decentralized, then many problems would be easily solved. People would get better houses, better environment, and they will be able to get a sort of garden factories from which the labour population would benefit a great deal. So, Sir, the two necessary things are that there should be more of motor transport, that is motor

building should be provided for; and if motor cars are made, as was the proposal to set up a Factory at Bombay, which has not unfortunately materialized—what the Bombay magnates are doing is that they are getting parts from outside and assembling them—if motor cars are made, then this motor transport problem would be solved. The only possibility, apart from railway transport which has been discussed for so long, is that of motor transport, for water transport is not possible in this country because the question or irrigation and the question of transport do not reconcile: and then air transport is in its infancy. So the present need would be met by the new enlarged scheme for roads. Increased number of motor lorries would meet the rising need of the people and may help the present production drive which is of utmost necessity if we are to meet the situation as it is arising. So I would request the Honourable Minister to give his thought to the problem of transport and to do his utmost to meet the prime need of the moment. Of course I do not expect magic from him as one Honourable Minister got annoyed yesterday: but I expect that with courage and confidence he would face the situation and do the needful. With these few words I resume my seat.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Mr. Chairman, Sir, The Port Trust Acts were enacted—particularly of the major ports like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Karachi—somewhere in 1862, then they were amended in 1876, and then again in 1878; and other amendments were made in 1884. Up to 1926, port trusts were controlled by the provincial governments, but after the Montford Reforms came in, many of the bodies.....

Mr. Chairman: May I draw the Honourable Member's attention to the circular which was sent to us on the cut motions? I refer to circular No. 1. It was specifically mentioned:

'I am to add that in moving such motions, suggestions for amending existing legislations is not in order.'

I did not like to stop the earlier member because he was making a general suggestion for improvement of port trusts, not for amendment of the Act as such, because the cut motion is not the best method of bringing forward amendments. What the Honourable Member should do is to bring forward an amending Bill and thereby focus attention on the defects of the existing law and bring about a new law. If he makes a general reference, it is all right, but for him to go into detail and suggest this item should be changed and so on, is not proper at the time of cut motions.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I thank you, Sir, but I have only made my speech for two minutes and I have not even developed my ideas.

Mr. Chairman: I did not wish to stop the Honourable Member, but he should not concentrate on the Port Trust Amendment Act. He should speak about general things and on any other subject which he might desire.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I was coming to it, Sir. My point is, as you state, a Bill should be presented. Probably you were not aware or you were not in the House. I have already in this session moved three Bills.

Mr. Chairman: That is what was referred to by the previous speaker. That is why I wanted that you should not take further time.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: No, Sir, because the Honourable the previous speaker mentioned some facts which were not correct, I think a referrence to those Bills must be made. I was developing my point that when the Montford Reforms came, some of the commercial bodies and also local bodies desired that they should have larger representation. When the larger representation through the pressure of those bodies was granted by the Provincial Governments, the British Government enacted an Act by transferring the power from the Provincial Government to the Central Government simply because these port trusts

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva]

were the British people's preserve. I can tell you as a port trustee for six years of the Karachi Port Trust from some knowledge that I have of the working of this Port Trust. All along these commercial bodies of the Europeans which were given representation were so very well administered that the steamship companies were represented; the petrol interests were represented on the port trusts because their interests were the greater as far as the port trusts were concerned, and from that point of view the Indian mercantile community were absolutely ignored; and therefore when the representations were made by the various bodies and larger representation was given to them in 1924 by the Bombay Port Trust and the Calcutta Port Trust, the Bombay Government, when they amended the Act, naturally gave larger representation to the European Chambers also. But apart from giving larger representation, the majority as my friend Mr. Kunhiraman has pointed out, of the nominated members or elected members were Englishmen. You can see from this that these Acts were enacted simply to safeguard the interests of foreign nationals. There is no doubt about that. I do not want to repeat the constitution as my friend has already dealt with it: but I want to impress upon this House and the Honourable Minister that it is very necessary that these Acts require to be changed. I have given notice of my Bill and and I was informed by the Honourable Minister's Office that his Government is bringing forward a Bill in this Session and I was prevailed upon to withdraw. I gave an assurance in this House as the Government were bringing in a Bill during this session that I should be allowed to keep these Bills pending. Therefore, Sir, after saving that his officer has conveyed to me personally the view that the Bills will be presented in this Session, I would like to know whether that would be so? Honourable Minister's said that they are already in correspondence with the Provincial Government and the Bills will be presented in this Session. Under those circumstances, I told the House that I am holding over this Bill in view of this promise that has been made by the Ministry of Transport. It is therefore desireable when Government are bringing forward these Bills—I feel they have held over—for them to know our views, and therefore I would like to convey to them our views to be incorporated in the Bills that the Government are presenting. Apart from widening the scope of the organisation as far as our nationals.....

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member must have conveyed it personally. And the Bill which is introduced is there before the Department and the Department knows full well what the ideas and suggestions are of the Honourable Member. Is it necessary to repeat them or to repeat what is already contained in the Bill?

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I do not know, Sir, whether in the absence of a mention made in this House, the Minister could have given a reply. I do not know whether that would be a correct procedure. If the Honourable Minister felt that without my mentioning it he was going to make a reference to it, certainly I have nothing to say. Unless I mention it, the Honourable Minister would not, as the general practice is, to give his reply. My point is that I wanted to convey our views emphatically on this matter. The Government has made a promise—of course not in this House, but to me—and therefore I expect that the Government will bring the Bills in this Session. From that point of view I want to emphasise the matter.

The second point is about Delhi Transport—the bus service. The Honourable Minister in the last Session told us during question hour that Government are negotiating with the present G.N.I.T. Company to either take over or to provide that a certain percentage of capital will be invested by Government. And he told us that within a very short time he will make an announcement in this House about the bus service.

This transport service in Delhi has become so rotten that the travelling public has been put to considerable hardship and we were expecting that some sort of announcement in the earlier part of the Session was forthcoming. That announcement has not come. The Honourable Minister has told us last Session that negotiations were almost complete and we understood that probably even by January the new arrangement would have come into force. I am sure he must have probably been in negotiation and something must have materialised, but the House should be glad to know at what stage this question has reached.

If the Government cannot purchase the service, what are their views as far as nationalising the bus service here? I may inform him that the various Provincial Governments are running the bus services and they are making huge profits. I will give you the case of the Punjab Government with respect to the Lahore bus service, and the Simla service. Only a part has been taken over by the Punjab Government and in 1947 the net profit made was Rs. 37 lakhs. I am only mentioning this to point out the enormous profit that is derived from these transport services. Nationalisation would not only give a great relief to the passengers from the very miserable services that are being run in Delhi now, but it would also add to the income. Probably the Government of India might think that it is beyond their prestige to run a small transport service in Delhi; if that is so, then they might hand it over to the Delhi Municipality. Something should be done in view of the present miserable condition. I would therefore be glad to know from the Honourable Minister as to how far the negotiations that he had had, have proved fruitful.

With these words, Sir, I expect the Honourable Minister would announce his decision both as regards the Port Trust matter and also about the bus transport service in Delhi.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad, Sir, that you have given me this opportunity of speaking. I may also add a personal note: I am grateful to you because it was only this afternoon that I received a communication from one of the Insurance Companies of Delhi where he has renewed my policy subject to this condition, that I am alive today. I have it here on the table; it is from Delhi. Perhaps he has noticed in the Press that I do not speak very much. He says that subject to this condition that I am alive today, my policy has been renewed. And I think this speech of mine will give a very authentic proof of my being alive today.

I am very glad that I have been spared the necessity of moving a Cut Motion against the particular Honourable Minister who is in charge of this Department. My Honourable friend Mr. Kamath recited a *sloka* from the Gita. I cannot resist the temptation of reciting another one which runs as follows:

'Katham Bheeshmamaham sankhye
Dronancha Madhusoodana;
Ishubhih pratiyotsyami
Poojarhavarisoodana.

It means: 'How can I use my weapons against Bhishma who is the grandfather or against Drona who is the trainer and the spiritual guide?". That is my position. But, Sir, one feels sorry when he cannot move any of the huge number of Cut Motions which he has tabled. The feeling of disappointment which I feel must be shared by other members of this House also. But I comfort myself by remembering a few lines of the great poet:

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

[Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri]

That has been the fate of my Cut Motions and the Cut Motions of many of my Honourable friends in this House.

Referring to the particular Motion which I had desired to move, which is No. 31 on the supplementary printed list, that was to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the wretched condition of the roads in the Province of Assam and other Provinces where there was a huge military traffic. The Army Department made certain roads and kept certain roads in repair when the War was actually going on, but after the War had nearly come to an end they did not do anything with the result that the whole roadway from the Assam access road up to the road in Dibrugarh, up to the road in Imphal, is practically in a state of disrepair—not merely the trunk road but also the roads in the towns. The Provincial Government as well as the Municipal Administration are unable to bear the cost of the maintenance of the new roads as also of repairing the existing roads which have been damaged hopelessly. Sir, if my Honourable Friend the Minister ever happens to go to Assam casting aside all fears as unnecessary rumours which he hears, then he will be able to see for himself the deplorable condition of the roads and the unhappy lot of the pedestrians. If you go by the middle of the road, just you happen to fall into some ditches which have been caused by the military lorries. If you try to escape from there and go to the edge of the road, if a motor car or bus comes you fall into air safety ditches which are still there. If the rains come, you will find that you have to wade through pools of water and frogs jump in front of you. That is really the position. Well, we are going to get rains very soon. They will begin from April. That is the position of the pedestrain. That is the unhappy condition of the roads. The Provincial Government and the Municipal Corporation are unable to bear the cost and I would appeal to the Honourable Minister to make some grant immediately for repairs of these roads and the damage caused by the Military.

As regards the point which was raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhva, nationalisation is all very good. Nationalisation ought to be, in my opinion, confined to huge undertakings and not to these small undertakings. A great deal of agitation has been caused in my Province, because there are many persons who are living on the proceeds of their income derived by running this bus traffic. The distances are not very big. Sometimes it is 20 miles, some times it is 15 miles, some times it is 40 miles. If these small traffic routes are nationalised, their bread will be taken away. There has been no agitation from the public that these small transport lines should be nationalised. When we talk of nationlisation, why not talk of higher things? Talk of the air. I have no objection. Go on nationalising as much of the air traffic from India to U.K., India to China. That is the proper sphere. You have taken up the task of nationalising the Imperial Bank, the Reserve Bank and so on. All very nice. Why do you go into these small undertakings? In our country there is a saying that the vultures do not even think of earth worms. They think of bigger animals. You are thinking of eating small worms. Even if there were thousands of earth worms down below, the vulture will not touch them. Why this Government should undertake these small things and deprive the bread of these small people?

An Honourable Member: They are crows, not vultures!

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, I have done.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Transport): Sir, there are two main problems regarding transport which have been raised in the course of the discussion. The first is the question of Port Trusts. There are three points I think which have been raised with regard to the directions in which the composition or the constitution of the major Port Trusts of the country should be re-organised. First of all, there is this question of nomination of members of the Port Trust by the Government—the Central and Provincial

Governments. Secondly, the question was raised about the existence of representation for communal organisations. The third is the question of providing larger representation for Indian interests. Well, these three matters are matters which have been agitated, I think, in public for quite a number of years. It is perfectly true, as my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhva pointed out, that the Port Trusts in the major ports in the form in which they exist today are much older than he or I, they are therefore rather out of touch with the existing facts in the country's political and economic set-up. What I want to say today is this. In respose to the request made to me by the Mover and by Mr. Sidhva, it is my intention to introduce in the course of the present Session a Bill for the amendment of the Port Trusts Act regarding the composition of the Port Trusts. The two points with which we are most urgently concerned are first of all the question of providing adequate representation for Indian business interests and the second is the question of eliminating the representation of organisations which are professedly communal organisations. These two are matters which in principle have been accepted by Government and the House will see that in the Bill which I shall introduce later in the Session we propose to embody these two principles in the new Bill.

As regards the question of nomination of members by Government, *i.e.* the Central and Provincial Governments, that is a question which in my opinion raises difficulties of a rather peculiar character. The main point is this. Very often comparison is made between a Port Trust and a Municipal Corporation. The Chairman of a Municipal Corporation is an elected functionary and the point is often made, "Why don't we have an elected Chairman for our Port Trust? If necessary, give him the assistance of an Executive Officer." It is a point that I have given some thought to and my own idea—it is not a matter which I have placed before the Government for their consideration—but my own personal reaction to the problem is this. There is a fundamental distinction between a Municipal Corporation and a Port Trust in one of the major ports of the country, because these major ports deal with transport problems which have an intimate bearing on national transport arrangements, and it is therefore very important, particularly in times of emergency, that Government should have sufficient control over these Port Trusts in the matter of its external co-ordination with other forms of transport in urgent situations arising in the country. The Port Trusts and Municipal Corporations stand on a different footing and therefore I propose, for the moment, to introduce no provision in the Bill which I am placing before the House in the course of the Session as regards this particular point about nomination by Government. But as regards the other two points, I hope the provisions in the Bill will satisfy the House.

Then, I think the Honourable Mover asked me why we are not taking steps for raising some of the minor ports in the country to the status of major ports. That question was again gone into in some detail by the Ports Technical Committee which was appointed two or three years ago and a thorough and well conceived Report was issued by them. Arising out of the recommendations of that Committee, as the House is aware, we have set up a Special Committee now to enquire into the question of opening major ports on the West Coast of India—one along the Kathiawar-Cutch coast and the other along the coast from Marmagao to Cochin. That Committee is now sitting and I hope to have their recommendations in the course of a few weeks and Government will proceed to take action on them.

Before I get on to the other subject, namely, the question of roads, incidentally, I think Mr. Sidhva mentioned the question of the G.N.I.T. of Delhi . . . .

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): May I, Sir, before the Honourable Minister proceeds to the other subject, ask if the Government

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

have any policy as regards the expansion of the major ports under the charge of the Government of India? If the Honourable Minister will briefly state if he has got any policy, the House will be very much obliged to him.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Policy with regard to the expansion of the existing major ports? Yes. I think there are various proposals regarding Calcutta, Madras and Bombay and some extension is already under construction. There are important proposals now under consideration for extending the facilities offered by these ports.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I hope the Government will not knuckle under the protest that has been made by certain vested interests in regard to the proposed expansion of Madras port?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, the matter as the Honourable Members knows better than I do, is under discussion between the Madras Port Trust and the Madras Government,—certain details arising in regard to the extension of the Madras port. But I am in agreement with the suggestion which my Honourable friend has made. It is very important in view of the commitments that are likely to be made on transport in coming years in the country, that Government should keep in view the importance of extending the facilities offered by the major ports.

Now with regard to the G.N.I.T. the position is this. Speaking for the Transport Ministry, we have come to the conclusion that Government should acquire the whole of the G.N.I.T., but I cannot today make any final announcement because the proposal is shortly to go up before the Standing Finance Committee, and if we are able to secure their agreement, we shall go forward and have the details finalized. As far as I am concerned, I have come to the conclusion that the best solution of the problem is to acquire the whole of the G.N.I.T. by the Government.

Then with regard to the question of roads, a great deal has been said about the importance of extending road communications in the country, with which I need not say I am in complete agreement. There are two limiting factors; first of all there is the question of the financial assistance that we can provide from the Centre for the development of roads in the provinces and secondly in the immediate future there is the question of finding the necessary materials. The House knows that as far as the Central Government is concerned, they have now assumed complete responsibility for the maintenance of the National Highways of the country. The pre-partition figure for the total mileage that we took over as National Highways is somewhere of the order of 18,000 miles, that is to say, the Central Government is completely responsible for the maintenance of these National Highways and also for their development.

An Honourable Member: What is the present mileage?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am giving the pre-partition figure which is 18,000, but I have not got the exact figures for the Dominion of India, as regards assistance for roads in the Provinces, as the Honourable Members know, there is the Central Road fund from which allocations are made in favour of provinces and there are also grants provided for the development of roads under the General Development schemes which the Central Government is financing, so that I think, consistently with the financial resources now available to Government, Government are making good their undertaking that road communications should be developed as fully as possible. Reference has been made to the question of the bad repair in which a large part of our road system is at present. I can only speak for the National Highways; I do admit that the National Highways are not at present in that state of rapair in which I would like them to be. The point to remember is we took over responsibility for the National Highways only since the 1st April

1947. Till then the maintenance of these highways was the responsibility of the Provincial Government. After the 1st of April on account of the constitutional uncertainty, we were not in a position to provide all the funds required for the development or the maintenance of National Highways in that state of repair in which we think they ought to be. What we did was, in view of the uncertainty during the transition period—until things were more or less finalized, to advance about 25 per cent. of the amount that we had allotted previously for the maintenance of National Highways. Now we have been able to restore more or less the grant that we had originally intended and I hope it will be possible to secure a better level of maintenance for these National Highways. It must be remembered that the system under which we are working is that we provide all the finances required for the maintenance of National Highways, but the actual agency through which we are working is the P.W.D. of the Provincial Government; we exercise a certain amount of control, but the agency is theirs. The Central Government have not got the agency for carrying out the maintenance work required in respect of these Highways, but the question of maintaining them in a state of adequate repair is something, the importance of which I am fully aware of.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri raised the question of roads which have been damaged during the war; that raises rather a difficult problem. I will tell the House straightaway what the policy is that we are following in regard to that. Since we have accepted responsibility for the maintenance of National Highways, that is to say, a very large part of the road system for which the Provinces were responsible now have been taken over by us, we feel it is a fair proposition that while we would make ourselves responsible for repairing the damage caused by war in respect of National Highways, Provincial Governments should be responsible for repairing the damage caused by war, in respect of provincial road communications. That is the general principle on which we are proceeding. There is one matter which causes us a certain amount of difficulty there. It may be urged that in the matter of repairing war damage there are two problems that may arise. There is the problem of restoration and there is the problem also of reconstruction and development. As far as the mere problem of restoration is concerned, I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that Provinces must be responsible for repairing damage caused in respect of provincial roads. As far as the question of development or re-construction is concerned, there is a certain element of doubt; but suppose I accepted the principle that where a war-damaged road stood in need not merely of restoration but of development or reconstruction, that on that account the Centre should accept responsibility as a matter of administration, you would be up against the question of determining what is exactly 'restoration' and what is exactly 'development and reconstruction'. It is a thin line that divides the two. For the present, therefore, the only thing that I can say on that subject is that the Provincial Governments must accept responsibility for the time being in respect of their roads and we accept responsibility in respect of National Highways.

My Honourable friend Mr. Sharma referred to the important part which roads might play in the matter of transporting commodities. As regards *gur* he said if only we had an adequate system of road communications and motor transport for these roads we should be in a better position. I am rather doubtful about it. Even if you had first-class roads and even if you had the necessary motor vehicles, you would still be up against the question of petrol. That is a very difficult question at present and as far as I can see and judging the world situation at present, in respect of petrol, it looks to me that our position is not going to be easy. So long as the petrol position is very acute, it seems to me rather doubtful if in the next few years we could make any extensive use of road transport for the movement of commodities. In certain provinces re

[Dr. John Matthai]

cently on account of the difficulties that were experienced in respect of coal, road transport was attempted; they were up against the difficulty of finding sufficient quantity of petrol; they were also up against the difficulty of meeting the increased costs due to the high price of petrol as motive power. In view of these difficulties, I am rather doubtful about the possibility of supplementing to any large extent rail transport in the country by means of road transport. That I think, Sir covers more or less the points that have been raised.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the Honourable Minister has any information to give the House in regard to the building of strategic roads in our frontiers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Certain important strategic roads on the frontiers are matters which are now under discussion between us and the Defence Department and whenever a suggestion is made with regard to the construction of a strategic road, we give it the first priority so that the matter may be pushed through quickly.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, the Honourable Minister has not referred to the question of damage to municipal roads. In those towns where the military were stationed they used these trucks very freely and roads were heavily damaged in places, for instance, like Gauhati and Shillong; and the municipalities are unable to repair them. What about these roads?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am glad the Honourable Member raised that point because this question of municipal roads presents certain difficulties from the point of view of the Central Government. The principle that I suggested was that in regard to war-damaged roads we accept responsibility for National Highways and the Provincial Government responsibility for provincial roads. But so far as National Highways that pass through municipal areas are concerned, the policy that we are following at present is this. The approaches to a city up to a specific outer ring are the responsibility of the Central Government; that is to say, there is no National Highway as such that passes through a large town or an urban centre; they do not pass through municipal areas. There are various difficulties with regard to that. Supposing we accepted the principle that we should be responsible for a National Highway passing through a municipal area, the work that we do in respect not merely of development but also of maintenance might in a number of cases conflict with the city improvement schemes of the municipal area; it is much better that an outside authority keeps out.

There is another difficulty and that is this. When it comes to constructing roads in municipal areas the Central Government is faced with the extra cost of acquiring land in built up areas, which is going to place upon the Central Government a rather indefinite amount of financial responsibility. Therefore as far as the connection of municipalities with the National Highway scheme is concerned, the Central Government accepts no responsibility; we are not concerned with municipal areas. It necessarily follows that local bodies with the assistance of the Provincial Government should be responsible for the damage that has occurred to roads in municipal areas.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Sir, I wanted to know the supply position in regard to road materials like tar macadam, road rollers, etc. What is the position?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The position is still difficult.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,06,000 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 'Ministry of Transport'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 15th March, 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Monday, 15th 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:

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man (East Punjab: Sikh).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ORAL ANSWERS.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am answering the questions on behalf of the Minister of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker: I want to know who would be answering for the Honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I have the answers.

Mr. Speaker: Then who will be answering questions on behalf of the Honourable Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I have those questions.

Mr. Speaker: I was just experiencing that difficulty.

HEADS OF MERCHANT SHIPPING OFFICES BOMBAY, CALCUTTA AND MADRAS.

747. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether the Administrative Heads of the Merchant Shipping offices in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, are Indians or non-Indians?

(b) What are the qualifications prescribed for eligibility to the post of Shipping Master?

(c) Are training schools for this class available in India? If so, what are they?

(d) If not, what are the future plans of Government for giving such training to Indian Nationals?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The Administrative Heads of the Government shipping Offices in Bombay and Calcutta, *viz.*, Shipping Masters, are Indians. In Madras, where recruitment of seamen is on a comparatively small scale, the duties such as those performed by Shipping Masters in Calcutta or Bombay, are performed by the Principal Officer of the Mercantile Marine Department in addition to his duties as a Technical Officer. The present Principal Officer of Madras is also an Indian.

(b) The qualifications prescribed for the posts of Shipping Masters are:

(i) Executive experience, (ii) Experience of handling labour problems generally and maritime labour problems in particular.

(c) and (d). No training schools for this class of officers exist in India nor is there need for any special schools as the duties of Shipping Masters are mainly of an administrative nature.

HOISTING OF INDIAN UNION FLAG BESIDES THEIR OWN BY FOREIGN STEAMERS ENTERING INDIAN PORTS

748. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that under the International Shipping Conventions, all steamers owned by Foreign Nationals arriving in Indian ports have to hoist the flag of the Indian Union along with their own flag?

(b) Is it not a fact that several such steamers arriving in Bombay ports do not hoist the Indian Union flag?

(c) Do Government propose to draw the attention of the Port authorities of all ports in India that all steamers in the harbour on arrival and on departure should hosit the flag of the Indian Union along with their own flag?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Government of India are not aware of any International Convention making it obligatory on merchant ships owned by foreign nationals to hoist the flag of the Indian Union along with their own flag when arriving at an Indian port. There is, however, an old-established custom observed by the mercantile marine of nearly all the maritime countries under which the merchant navy ensign of the country into which a ship has entered is hoisted on board as an act of courtesy, along with the ensign of the country to which the ship belongs. This ensign, however, need not necessarily be the same as the national flag of the country.

(b) Though, as indicated in answer to part (a) of the question it is not necessary, the majority of foreign ships arriving in Bombay apparently hoist the Indian Union Flag.

(c) Government are considering the question of designing a suitable merchant navy ensign and the question of issuing necessary instructions for its use will be considered at the appropriate time.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that the Government of India have invited suggestions from the Indian Shipping companies in Calcutta as to the nature of the flag that the Indian merchant ships should fly?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The question of the design of the flag for the mercantile marine is under consideration and I suppose all the interests concerned will be consulted.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: My question was whether the Government of India have already asked for suggestions.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I have not got with me the answer to the question asked by the Honourable Member, but I will pass it on to my Honourable colleague and I have no doubt that he will take into consideration.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Under what flag is the Indian Mercantile Marine?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Under the U. K. Red Ensign. That is the ensign for all our mercantile marine.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: As other mercantile marines have made a change in their ensigns, our mercantile marine should also consider changing its ensign.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not know about the other institutions. But this Red Ensign is prescribed by the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894 which is still the operative statute for the registration of

ships. The Indian Shipping Act does not cover this point and this Act is now under revision and we are taking steps to ensure that this Act is amended and we will then prescribe our own ensign for the mercantile marine.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Government along with this take into consideration the desirability of revising the emblems the seamen wear on their shirts and also their caps?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That also will be taken into consideration.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Pending the final decision about our mercantile marine ensign, do not Government propose to have our own flag for the ensign at present?

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Yes, quite so. If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Under the Merchant Shipping Act the British ships registered in India have certain statutory privileges conferred upon them. Therefore, unless the Merchant Shipping Act is amended we cannot enforce the use of any particular flags on those ships: but we are taking steps to do that.

Shri K. Santhanam: Are the ships registered in India also bound by the Merchant Shipping Act of Britain?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That is the present constitutional position.

Shri K. Santhanam: Under what Act of the Indian Legislature is that obligation laid on the Indian ships?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The Merchant Shipping Act of 1894.

Shri K. Santhanam: Will he explain how the Merchant Shipping Act of Britain applies to Indian ships?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That is apparently how they did it in those days. I am not responsible for that.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that some of our Indian companies do fly our national flag at present?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: As I mentioned in my answer, as an act of courtesy even other ships that enter our ports do fly our Union Flag, but we will have our own distinctive mercantile marine flag.

NECESSITY OF HINDI SCRIPT ON KURUKSHETRA CAMP SIGN BOARDS

749. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the sign boards at Kurukshetra camp do not bear inscriptions in Hindi script and this causes great inconvenience to those refugees, and particularly to women refugees, who know only Hindi; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to see that all sign boards in Kurukshetra camp are being written in Hindi script also?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (b). Of the population of the Kurukshetra Camp only a small proportion can read the Hindi script. A majority of the literate are conversant with the Urdu script. Sign boards are in Urdu and English but some are in Hindi also. Instructions have been issued that sign boards should be in the Hindi and Gurmukhi script as well as in Urdu and English.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government propose to have literacy classes in these refugee camps so that the rudiments of language can be taught?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That does not arise out of this.

Shri H. V. Kamath: It does because of the script.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I may inform the Honourable Member that there are such classes in the camp.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Thank you, thank you!

Mr. Speaker: I do not think it is necessary for Honourable Members to say, "Thank you", "Thank you." I have often pointed out that Honourable Members have to address the Chair. The decorum and the seriousness of the proceedings do require that it should be taken in that light and there should not be light-hearted "Thank you's", which I have often noticed in this House, particularly on the part of some members, whose names I need not mention.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it in order to render thanks through the Chair?

Mr. Speaker: No: no "Thanks": no "Jai Hinds"; no "Bande Matarams": nothing of the kind.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Are Government aware that the inscription in Hindi caused great inconvenience to those refugees who are illiterate and if the answer to the question be in the affirmative, do Government propose to remove illiteracy?

Mr. Speaker: it does not arise out of this question.

EVACUATION OF NON-MUSLIM REFUGEES AND RESULTS OF ATTACK ON PARACHINAR CAMP.

750. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an attack in the last week of January by Muslims on the Hindu and Sikh refugees in Parachinar camp;

(b) the number of refugees, killed, wounded and abducted in this attack;

(c) whether Government have taken up this matter with the Government of Pakistan and if so, with what result;

(d) what was the total number of refugees in Parachinar camp on the date of the said attack;

(e) how many of these refugees have, since the date of attack, come over to India, and how many of them are in Kurukshetra camp and how many in other camps;

(f) how many such refugees are still in Parachinar camp, and what arrangement is being made for their early evacuation to India;

(g) for how long have these refugees been in Parachinar camp;

(h) whether it is a fact that the refugees at the said camp were neither given free rations nor were given rations at controlled rates and that they had to buy the same at exorbitant prices;

(i) why all the said refugees have not yet been evacuated;

(j) whether Government are aware that these refugees are very anxious that they should be rehabilitated in a place with cool climate to which they were used in Parachinar; and

(k) if so, whether Government propose to meet their wishes in this respect, and if so, where it is proposed to rehabilitate them?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Yes.

(b) About 138 refugees are reported to have been killed, 150 wounded and between 200 to 300 abducted.

(c) Yes. As a result of the representation made, a good number of abducted persons have been recovered.

(d) About 1,600.

(e) Apart from those who were killed or abducted almost the entire number have come over to the territories of the Indian Union. Almost all of them are in Kurkshetra Camp but a few have gone to their relations in other parts of India.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) About four months.

(h) That is the informatoin of the Government.

(i) Does not arise.

(j) and (k). Some of the refugees from Parachinar have recently made a representation for allotment of shops in Delhi. This is being considered. Attempts will be made to rehabilitate others in suitable places.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Out of the abducted persons how many are women?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I require notice of that question.

Shri M. Anathasayanam Ayyangar: Out of the abducted persons have any women been rescued?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: The number includes, I presume, both men and women.

REHABILITATION OF UNSUPPORTED REFUGEE WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

751. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether any houses have been established for unsupported refugee women and children and, if so, where?

(b) What is the number of inmates of each of these houses?

(c) How many unsupported women and children are there in the Kurukshetra and other camps?

(d) Do Government propose to remove them soon to the already existing houses or to establish new houses if the existing ones are not sufficient for the purpose?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Yes, three homes have been established for unsupported women and children at Kurukshetra camp, Shamshad Manzil and Poor House Delhi.

(b) The number of inmates in these homes is:

	Women	Children
(i) Kurukshetra	110	210
(ii) Shamshad Manzil, Delhi.	57	197
(iii) Poor House, Delhi.	20	112

(c) The information in respect of Kurukshetra is given in reply to part (b). The information in respect of other camps is as under:

(i) Delhi camps, Women 129, Children 171.

(ii) Other regional camps of the Central Government Women 918, Children 529.

Information in respect of Provinces has been called for and will be laid on the table in due course.

(d) The question will be considered when necessity arises.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Arising out of answer to part (c) of the question, may I know what steps the Government have taken to enlist the co-operation of the Kasturba National Trust workers and the All India Women's Conference to rehabilitate these unfortunate women, who are still in Kurukshetra?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am sorry I am not in a position to supply the information but I will ask the Honourable Minister concerned to supply the information to the questioner.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With regard to the helpless children are Government prepared to hand them over to individuals or institutions who are prepared to take care of them and apply to the Government for that purpose?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I will suggest to the Honourable Minister to consider the suggestion.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: If some of these women are found to be qualified either to work as sewing mistresses, school teachers or dancing teachers, will Government be prepared to make a list of those women and supply it to women's institutions and clubs?

Mr. Speaker: These are all suggestions for action.

HOUSES FOR OLD AND DISABLED REFUGEES

752. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any houses have been established for old and disabled refugees who have none to look after them; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to establish such houses?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (b). A home for old and infirm persons has been established at Kurukshetra. Its present strength is about 120.

SHORTAGE OF BURMAH SHELL OIL AND DIESEL OIL

†**753. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Burmah Shell Company have stopped the supply of oil to the general public and that diesel oil is not available in the market;

(b) whether Government are aware that the shortage of diesel oil has caused a serious set back to the industrial and agricultural projects sponsored or aided by Government; and

(c) the reasons for this shortage and what steps Government propose to take to improve the supply position of the oil?

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

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) It is not a fact that the oil Co. referred to have stopped supply of oils to the general public. Supply position of Diesel Oil is most unsatisfactory and what is happening is that deliveries to consumers are being restricted some-what on the basis of the availability of stocks.

(b) Government are fully aware of the position.

(c) The main reasons for shortage are:

(i) Expanding world demand for petroleum products beyond the present production capacity of the industry.

(ii) Shortage of tanker tonnage which may be regarded as specially responsible for the shortage of Black Oils, such as Furnace Oil.

India's internal production being very small, Government is exploring all possible means to obtain increased supplies from abroad.

DEPARTMENT DEALING WITH MUSLIM EVACUEES' PROPERTY IN DELHI.

†**754. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state when the department dealing with the Muslim evacuees' property (Delhi) was established?

(b) What is the number of care-takers appointed for business premises and the industrial establishments evacuated by Muslims and on what terms were they appointed?

(c) What is the total expenditure so far incurred for maintaining this establishment?

(d) Have Government framed any rules and regulations for governing and guiding the policy of the department in question?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) The Custodian of Evacuees Property started functioning on the 1st October, 1947.

(b) 73 caretakers have been appointed for business premises and 53 for industrial concerns. The terms and conditions of appointment are mentioned in the bonds executed by the caretakers copies of which are laid on the table. They include liability for any loss which the owner of the property may suffer due to the wilful negligence of the caretakers and the condition that all orders issued by the Custodian will be obeyed. Adequate sureties have to be given for the protection of the property on demand by the Custodian.

(c) The total expenditure so far incurred on the Custodian's establishment is Rs. 1,83,756.

(d) The draft rules under the old ordinance were prepared, but in view of the impending enactment of amending legislation, these were not put into operation. Fresh rules have been framed under the new law and will be published in consultation with the Ministry of Law. In the meantime the work is being done substantially on the basis of the draft rules.

To

The Custodian of Evacuee Property,
(BUSINESS SECTION),
'P' Block, Raisina Road,
NEW DELHI.

SIR,

Whereas you have taken possession of..... bearing Municipal No..... in street ..... Road..... Sector ....., Delhi, in your capacity as Custodian of Evacuee Property, Delhi.

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

And whereas you are willing to allow the temporary occupation thereof to me as a Licencee on the condition that the possession of the said premises shall vest and remain with you and that I will merely be allowed temporary occupation thereof as a Licencee under you on the terms and conditions hereinafter stated.

I, therefore, confirm having agreed to occupy the said premises temporarily as a Licencee and will for the occupation thereof pay you a sum of Rs..... .....every month.

I further undertake that I shall exhibit a signboard in the premises showing that I am appointed as a Licencee of the property in question and that my appointment as a Licencee does not confer any right to the allotment of the premises in my favour.

I further confirm having agreed that I shall be liable to be removed from the occupation thereof at 48 hours' notice by the Custodian or his nominee and in case of my refusal to do so, you shall have the right to summarily oust me without recourse to a court of law and to break open the premises and to evict me by use of such force as is necessary.

I beg to remain,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
Licencee.
Full name and address of the Executant in BLOCK LETTERS.
.....
.....
.....

Declaration by the Sector Custodian concerned.

The Licence is duly signed and dated in my presence by the Executant.

Signature,
Sector Custodian,
Sector.....

NEW DELHI, dated the.....194 .

Bond for safe custody of moveable property left in charge of any person and sureties

KNOW all men by these presents that we..... of ..... and ..... of ..... are jointly and severally bound to the Custodian of Evacuees' property of..... area in the sum of Rs..... to be paid to the said Custodian, for which payment to be made we bind ourselves, and each of us, in the whole, our and each of our heirs, executors, and administrators, jointly and severally, by these presents.

Dated this.....day of.....1948.

AND WHEREAS the moveable property/livestock specified in the schedule hereunto annexed has been handed over to and left in the charge of the said..... this.....day of.....1948.

Now the condition of this obligation is that, if the above bounden..... shall duly account for any loss which the owner of the property/livestock may suffer due to the wilful negligence of the bounden and produce, when required before the said Custodian all and every property/livestock aforesaid (and shall properly maintain and take due care of the livestock aforesaid) and shall obey any further order of the Custodian in respect thereof, then this obligation shall be void, otherwise it shall remain in full force and be enforceable against the above bounden.

1. .....
2. .....
3. .....

Signed and delivered by the above bounden in the presence of.....

Surety Bond.

WHEREAS the Sapurdar Mr..... has been directed by the Custodian of Evacuees' property of..... area to furnish security in the sum of Rs..... to produce and place at the disposal of the Custodian the property specified in the Schedule hereinto annexed.

THEREFORE, I..... have voluntarily become surety and do hereby bind myself, my heirs and executors, to the said Custodian, that the said Sapurdar shall produce and place at the disposal of the Custodian, when required, the property specified in the said schedule or the value of the same, and in default of his so doing, I bind myself, my heirs and executors, to pay to the said Custodian, at his order, the said sum of Rs.....

Witness my hand at.....this day of .....1948.
(Signed).

Witnesses :—
(1) .....
.....
.....
(2) .....
.....
.....

GOVERNMENT'S STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS.

755. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India propose to publish all their statistical publications including the publication which was known as the Statistical Abstract of British India, and if so, when;

(b) the reason why these are not yet published; and

(c) whether the staff maintained under different organisations in this regard are kept up as they were or whether there is any reduction?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (b). A list of the statistical publications which have hitherto been published by the Government of India is placed on the Table. These will continue to be published as heretofore. There has, however, unfortunately been some delay in their publication due in general to congestion of work in the Government Presses. Steps are being taken to remedy this defect and it is hoped that once the congestion ceases Government statistical publications will issue with regularity as before. The publication of the Statistical Abstract was postponed during the war on ground of paper economy, but special attention has now been devoted to bringing this publication up-to-date and ensuring that it reaches the public in time.

(c) As there has been no reduction in the work of compilation, the question of the reduction of staff does not arise.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS, INDIA

Publications noted below are obtainable from—In India and Abroad excluding Europe and America. The Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi :—Sale Depot at 8, Hastings Street, Calcutta. In Europe and America :—The Secretary to the High Commissioner for India, "India House", Aldwych, London, W.C. 2; also from all agents for the sale of Government publications. Remittances should be made either through a bank or by postal or money order and should include forwarding (*i.e.*, Packing and Postage) charges, where indicated in brackets after the price. In case of remittance by cheque it should be drawn in the name of either of the aforesaid officers concerned. Subscriptions are accepted only in terms of the official financial year commencing from 1st April, or, in the case of subscribers enlisting themselves within the currency of the year, for the entire period of the balance of the financial year but not extending beyond the close (*i.e.*, 31st March) of the year.

All communications regarding supply on payment and subscriptions and all payments for subscriptions and advertisements should be made direct to any of the aforesaid officers as the case may be.

WEEKLY

1. Indian Trade Journal, (Estd. 1906)—Issued on Thursdays. Annual rate of subscription *with Supplements* and quarterly index :—*Indian* (including postage) : Rs. 18, and *Foreign* (including postage)—(a) Europe and Amercia : Rs. 23 and (b) others : Rs. 22, respectively. Single copies (incuding postage) :—Current issue As. 6; Back numbers, when available, for any number over three months old Re. 1 each; Foreign (including postage) : As. 9 and Rs. 1-3-0 for current and back issues respectively.

[Orders may be placed, with prepayment, for particular issues of the Journal, *e.g.*, issues containing Crop Forecasts or those having special supplements.]

2. Statistics of Rail and River-borne Trade—Weekly arrivals and despatches of certain staple commodities into and from selected trade centres for the four weeks from week ending 15th December, 1945 to week ending 5th January, 1946. Rs. 3-6-0 or 5*s.* 6*d.*

MONTHLY

3. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India for December, 1946. Rs. 3-4-0 or 5*s.* 3*d.*

4. Monthly Statistics of Cotton Spinning and Weaving in Indian Mills, June and July, 1946. Re. 1 or 1*s.* 6*d.* Yearly subscription Rs. 7-8-0 post free.

5. Monthly Statistics of the Production of certain Selected Industries of India, April and May, 1945. As. 14 or 1*s.* 3*d.*

6. Indian Customs and Central Excise Revenue for May, 1947. One anna or 1½*d.* Yearly subscription As. 12 post free.

7. Joint Stock Companies (registered in British India and in the Indian States of Hyderabad, Baroda, Mysore, Travancore and Cochin), September, 1944. Rs. 3 or 5*s.*

8. Trade at stations adjacent to Land Frontier Routes for March, 1944. Rs. 5-2-0 or 8*s.*

9. Raw Cotton Trade Statistics (Rail and River) for September, 1945. Rs. 2-2-0 or 3*s.* 6*d.*

10. Exports of Indian Artware and Sports Goods for March, 1946. Rs. 4-6-0 or 7*s.*

11. Trade Statistics relating to the Maritime States in Kathiawar and the State of Travancore, May 1945. Rs. 4-4-0 or 6*s.* 9*d.*

12. Accounts relating to the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India for September, 1944. Rs. 3-4-0 or 5*s.* 3*d.*

13. Accounts relating to the Inland (Rail and River-borne) Trade of India for September, 1944. Rs. 2-2-0 or 3*s.* 6*d.*

14. Monthly Statement of wholesale prices of certain selected articles at various centres in India, March, 1946. Rs. 1-4-0 or 2*s.*

ANNUAL

15. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India for the calendar year 1941. As. 6 or 7*d.*

16. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India with the British Empire and Foreign countries :—

Vol. I.—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports for 1942-43 and 1943-44 (combined issue). Rs. 8-10-0 or 13*s.* 6d.

Vol. II.—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each Port, and Tables relating to the Trade of the French Possessions in India for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1940 (74th issue). Rs. 20-4-0 or 31*s.*

17. Statistical Abstract for British India (with Statistics, where available, relating to certain Indian States) from 1930-31 to 1939-40 (18 issue). Rs. 6-10-0.

18. Agricultural Statistics of India :—

Vol. I.—British India—for 1938-39 (55th issue). Rs. 10 or 16*s.*

Vol. II.—Indian States—for 1938-39 (55th issue). Rs. 8 or 13*s.*

19. Agricultural Statistics of British India (Provisional), 1943-44 (30th issue). As. 8 or 9*d.*

20. Estimates of Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India, 1940-41 (43rd issue). Rs. 1-8-0 or 2*s.* 3*d.*

21. Indian Tea Statistics, 1940 (46th issue). As. 14 or 1*s.* 3*d.*

22. Indian Coal Statistics, 1943. Rs. 2-6-0 or 4*s.*

23. Indian Rubber Statistics, 1941-42 (23rd issue). Rs. 1-6-0 or 2*s.*

24. Indian Coffee Statistics, 1940-41 (22nd issue). As. 3 or 4*d.*

*25. List of cotton pressing factories with names of owners and particulars of marks allotted to them in the different Provinces of British India and certain Indian States for the season 1941-42 (17th issue). As. 12 or 1*s.* *Amendments for 1942-43. Rs. 1-4-0 or 2*s.*

26. Joint Stock Companies in British India and in the Indian States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Gwalior, Indore, Travancore and Cochin, 1938-39 (25th issue). Rs. 14-12-0 or 23*s.*

27. Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India, 1938 (25th issue). Rs. 4-14-0 or 7*s.* 9*d.*

*28. Statistical Statements relating to the Co-operative Movements in India during the year 1939-40 (22nd issue). Rs. 1-12-0 or 2*s.* 6*d.*

BIENNIAL

29. Large Industrial Establishments in India, 1942 (16th issue). Rs. 2-8-0 or 4*s.*

QUINQUENNIAL

30. Quinquennial Report on the average yield per acre of principal crops in India for the period ending 1936-37. Rs. 1-10-0 or 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*a.*).

31. Live-stock Statistics. India, 1940—Report on the Fifth Census of Live-stock and Agricultural Implements and Machinery held in 1940. Rs. 10 or 16*s.*

32. Index Numbers of Indian Prices, 1861—1931 (3rd issue). Rs. 1-2-0 or 2*s.* (5*a.*). Addenda for 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940 are available. Price Anna 1 each or 1½*d.* (1*a.*).

33. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possessions in India for the nine calendar years 1926—34, (Supplement to Vol. II of the Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India). Rs. 2-14-0 or 5*s.*

34. Quinquennial Catalogue of the Commercial Library corrected up to 30th April, 1932. Rs. 8 or 13*s.* 6*d.* Part II of the Catalogue (brought up to April, 1941). Rs. 10 or 16*s.*

PERIODICAL

35. Crop Forecasts. (The due months are in brackets and the price noted is for each issue.) (Also published in the Indian Trade Journal, *vide* item No.1.)

(i) Rice—1st (October), 2nd (December), Final (February). As. 3 or 4*d.*

(ii) Wheat—1st (January), 2nd (March), 3rd (April), 4th (May), Final (July). As. 3 or 4*d.*

(iii) Cotton—1st (August), 2nd (October), 3rd (December), 4th (February), Final (April). As. 3 or 4*d.*

(iv) Linseed, Rape and Mustard (Winter Oilseeds)—1st (January), 2nd (March), Final (June). As. 4 or 5*d.*

(v) Sesamum, til or jinjili—1st (September), 2nd (October), Final (January), Supplementary (April). As. 3 or 4*d.*

(vi) Groundnut—1st (August), 2nd (October), Final (February). As. 2 or 3*d.*

(vii) Sugarcane—1st (August), 2nd (October), Final (February). As. 2 or 3*d.*

(viii) Castorseed—February. As. 3 or 4*d.*

MISCELLANEOUS

36. Varietal Cotton Map of India.—Showing the tracts growing the different varieties of cotton according to the latest Revised Trade Classification, 1939. Re. 1.

[All communications relating to the supply of Maps on payment should be addressed to the Officer-in-Charge, Map Record and Issue Office, 13, Wood Street, Calcutta.]

37. Crop Atlas of India (1939 edition). Rs. 8-4-0 or 13*s.*

38. Alphabetical Index of the Commodities that enter into the Foreign Sea-borne Trade of British India (1938 edition). Rs. 2-12-0 or 5*s.*

39. Directory of Exporters of Indian Produce and Manufactures (including those of Burma). (9th edition). As. 9 or 10*d.*

40. Report for the year 1939-40 by the Indian Trade Agent, Kabul. Rs. 2-6-0 or 4*s.*

41. Report on the work of the Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Osaka, during 1939-40. Rs. 3-10-0 or 5*s.* 9*d.*

42. Report on the work of the Indian Government Trade Commissioner in East Africa, Mombasa, during 1939-40. Rs. 2-4-0 or 3*s.* 9*d.*

†SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS TO THE "INDIAN TRADE JOURNAL"

43. Review of the Sugar Industry of India for the year ending 31st October, 1941. As. 6 or 7*d.* (Supplement to the issue of 21st December, 1944.)

44. Note on Tobacco. As. 4 or 5*d.* (Supplement to the issue of 15th July, 1937.)

45. Glossary of Jute Trade Terms. As. 3 or 4*d.* (Supplement to the issue of 18th September, 1924.)

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*Subsequent issues are obtainable from the Officer-in-Charge, Agricultural Credit Department, Reserve Bank of India, Bombay, or from the Managers of the offices and branches of the Reserve Bank of India at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Rangoon, Cawnpore, Karachi and Lahore, or from leading booksellers.

†Supplied free along with the copies of the "Indian Trade Journal".

46. Glossary of Raw Cotton Trade Terms. As. 7 or 8*d*. (Supplement to the issue of 21st June, 1928.)

47. Glossary of Terms relating to Hand-made Cotton Fabrics. As. 2 or 3*d*. (Supplement to the issue of 3rd July, 1930.)

48. Glossary of Terms relating to Hides, Skins and Leather. As. 8 or 9*d*. (Supplement to the issue of 12th January, 1933.)

49. Glossary of Terms relating to Cotton Manufactures (Mill-made). As. 4 or 5*d*. (Supplement to the issue of 11th July, 1935.)

50. Indian Customs Tariff (27th issue). Reprint of the First and Second Schedules appended to the Indian Tariff Act. XXXII of 1934 (as in operation on 1st January, 1947), showing the rates of Customs duties, including the additional duties levied under the Indian Finance Act, 1946, the Indian Tariff Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1946 (Central Ordinance No. XXVI of 1946), The Indian Tariff Act (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1946. Central Ordinance No. XXVII of 1946 and the Cotton Textiles Fund Ordinance, 1944 (Central Ordinance No. XXXIV of 1944), levied on goods imported into, and exported from, British India, together with (1) the tariff values fixed for certain articles under Government of India, Commerce Department, Notification No. 73-T(6)/46, dated the 14th December, 1946, for the purpose of assessment of Customs duties with effect from the 1st January, 1947; (2) the rates of duty leviable on articles, the produce or manufacture of Burma under the Government of India, Finance Department (Central Revenues), Notification No. 39-Customs, dated the 7th June, 1941, as subsequently amended; (3) the rates of Excise duties leviable on articles produced or manufactured in British India; and (4) the rates of Cesses leviable on certain articles on export or otherwise, and the Tariff values fixed for certain articles under Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Notification No. F.7-1/46-Co., dated the 10th July, 1946, for the purpose of the assessment of the Agricultural Produce Cess with effect from the 10th July, 1946. As. 5 or 6*d*.

Shri Biswanath Das: Can the Honourable Minister give the probable date from which we can expect to get these publications?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Steps have already been taken to resume the regular publication of these documents. As I said, one of the difficulties has been the very heavy congestion in the Government presses. I might inform the Honourable Member that the Commerce Ministry have acquired an independent press of their own. It is now under the process of erection and when that is completed the Ministry will be able to bring out their publications very regularly.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any coordination or collaboration between the statistical departments of Government and private or non-official bodies engaged in statistical work?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: As a matter of fact the statistical activities of the Government of India are now far from satisfactory. We have still to go a long way before we can claim that we have got any really satisfactory statistical machinery and the whole question of making our statistical organisation perfect and ensuring coordination with such organisations as the Statistical Society in Calcutta is now under active consideration.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether the Honourable the Finance Minister is aware of the fact that there is no machinery for the compilation of statistics in many of the provinces except Madras and Bombay and if so, whether any steps have been taken in this regard?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The whole question of the establishment of a really competent statistical organisation for India is now under the very active consideration of the Government.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With respect to these publications do Government propose to start from where they had left off or from the latest figures?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Many of these documents have been brought up to date.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As in the case of the Review of Trade and certain other publications which were suspended in 1943 or 1944, do Government propose to publish them as from 1945 or 1946 or start off from 1948?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I presume the Honourable Member's question is whether back publications will also be printed. I am not sure what the idea of the Commerce Ministry is but I will pass on that suggestion to the Ministry.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if the publications of the Ministry of Commerce are published in the same press as the reports of the Parliament?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: There are a number of presses which do Government work. I do not know where the publications of the Commerce Ministry are now being done.

Shri K. Santhanam: Are they published with the same punctuality?

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Is there any other source of knowing the actual position before the statistics are prepared and printed? Supposing you want to know the position as regards the sterling balances, import of capital goods or luxury goods, is there any other source of knowing these figures, even for the Ministers?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Obviously so far as the public is concerned there is no question of any information being available until it is actually compiled. Whether it is actually printed or not is a comparatively minor matter. When the figures are once compiled and even before publication if any Honourable Member is interested in any of these figures, I am sure arrangements would be made to supply the figures to them. So far as the Ministers are concerned they try their best to keep themselves informed of the statistical position relating to various subjects.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Is there any time fixed within which these figures are to be compiled?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am not sure of any exact time limit.

Shri Biswanath Das: In view of the incomplete nature of the census publications of 1940-41 may I know whether Government have considered the need of making summaries from the rest of the census reports which have not been published and making them available to the public in the course of the publication of their statistical abstracts, etc.?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not know if the Honourable Member is referring to the question of making the census publications more complete and more informed. If that is so I can assure him that we are taking steps to see that the next census is carried on on a more scientific and a more comprehensive basis.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: May I know whether the difficulties felt are in regard to the compilation of the figures or in regard to printing, or in regard to both?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The difficulty in printing is due to the congestion in the press. With regard to the actual compilation it is my own personal view that our machinery is not perfect or satisfactory today.

Seth Govinddas: As far as the next census is concerned, has any definite

plan been made by the Government to see that it is more scientific than the past censuses, or is such a plan under consideration?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am sure a plan would be made if it has not already been made, because it is our desire to make the Census Report in the future a much more valuable document than it has been in the past. Even in the past it has been a very good document; in future it will be still more comprehensive.

OCCUPATION OF SERVANTS QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT BUNGALOWS BY REFUGEE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

†765. ***Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the refugee Government servants living in servants' quarters of Government bungalows, have been served with notices to vacate these quarters?

(b) Do Government propose to direct Government Officers to allow the refugees to stay on in these servants quarters till they are provided with accommodation by the Estate Officer?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Persons who are in unauthorised occupation of some of the servants quarters attached to Government bungalows have been served with ejectment notices. It is, however, not known whether they are in Government service or not.

(b) Government have already issued an appeal to all Government officials to share accommodation with other Govenment officers or refugees and consider the response to this appeal satisfactory. They cannot however, compel the officers to accommodate particular individuals.

HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS LEFT LOCKED UP IN PAKISTAN BY REFUGEES

†757. ***Shri Ram Sahai:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of families who have left their household effects locked up in their houses in Pakistan?

(b) What is the number of houses which have been broken open and wherefrom goods have been removed?

(c) If some houses still remain locked, are there any arrangements by which the owners of these houses can bring their goods safely?

(d) What is the value of the goods that have been removed from these houses?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (b). Government have no information.

(c) Under the provisions of the law governing the evacuee property in West Punjab these houses are probably in charge of the local Custodian of Evacuee Property to whom the owners can apply for permission to remove their goods.

(d) Government have no information.

Shri P. Kunhiraman: Sir, with regard to Question No. 758 I desire to say that it may be treated as Unstarred.

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

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member does not want to put that Question?

Shri P. Kunhiraman: No, Sir. I want to put Question No. 759.

INDIANS DETAINED IN LAHORE FOR ALLEGED PARTICIPATION IN RIOTS

758. ***Shri P. Kunhiraman** (on behalf of **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of Indians who were detained in Lahore without trial for alleged participation in the riots?

(b) Is it a fact that there was an agreement that India would release Pakistan nationals so detained and Pakistan would release Indian nationals?

(c) Is it a fact that Pakistan is refusing to keep to her part of the agreement though most of the Pakistan personnel are released?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) It is not understood what the Honourable Member implies by the term Indians. The question of nationality and citizenship are still undetermined pending their clarification and definition by the Constitutent Assembly.

I assume that the Honourable Member means by this term the non-Muslims of West Punjab who are desirous of being evacuated to the territories of the Indian Dominion. Necessary information has been called for and will be laid on the table in due course.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by Honourable the Prime Minister to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 380 on the 21st February, 1948.

GOVERNMENT SERVANTS ALLOTTED QUARTERS UPTO FEBRUARY 1948

†759. ***Shri P. Kunhiraman** (on behalf of **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(i) the number of Government servants who are allotted Government quarters upto February 29th, 1948; and

(ii) the number of persons who are yet to be provided with quarters?

(b) What do Government propose to do in the matter of providing houses for those who are not provided with quarters at present?

(c) Do Government propose to direct those who are provided with quarters at present to share them with others?

‡Taken up in the second round; printed serially in these Debates.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) A statement showing the information asked for is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The Government of India have not undertaken to provide residential accommodation for all their staff; nor is it a condition of service under Government. They have however decided to construct about 3500 additional quarters, the details of which have been mentioned in the House on other occasions. In the case of low paid Government servants who have not been allotted Government quarters, house rent allowance is paid.

(c) Government have already issued an appeal to all Government servants to share the accommodation at their disposal with other Government servants or refugees.

Statement

Showing under of Government servants allotted accommodation up to 29th February 1948 and those not yet provided with quarters.

	Total No. of application	Total No. allotted accommodation upto 29-2-48	No. of Officers unprovided with Government accommodation
Officer drawing Rs. 600 P. M. and above.	2,655	1,924	731
Officers drawing less than Rs. 600 p. m.	23,693	9,103	14,590
Class IV Government Servants	19,219	2,576	16,643

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of answer to part (c), do Honourable Ministers propose to share their commodious bungalows with M.C.As. so that the M.L.As' bungalows can be allotted to other Government servants?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is going into an argument.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know what is the policy of Government for providing quarters for the low-paid staff, namely the *patwallas* and the sweepers?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I think the House is aware that the C.P.W.D. has undertaken more construction, and that was mentioned in this House during the debate on the Budget.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know what is the basis on which these quarters are allotted? Is it on the basis of their pay or on the size of their family?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Rent has to be paid for every house and therefore the allotment is according to the pay.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister consider the advisability of providing quarters for all Government employees, in view of the extreme difficulty of housing in Delhi?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes, steps have been taken to undertake construction that will provide housing for all those who want to reside in Delhi, whether they are officials or non-officials.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is it not a fact, Sir, that inspite of the acute shortage of available accommodation for Government servants, Government Departments are sought to be shifted down from Simla to Delhi?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I think some Departments have under consideration the shifting of some offices from Simla to Delhi. But that may be due to the shortage in Simla also where the East Punjab Government is for the present accommodated.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: What is the need of shifting the Public Services Commission, which employs 100 persons, to Delhi when it has been functioning perfectly all right in Simla for the last five years?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I think the Honourable Member is aware that for the last few weeks the members of the Commission have been functioning in Delhi, and now they are expected to be busy throughout the year; administrative convenience requires it that their offices should be shifted to Delhi.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will Government find accommodation for all these employees or will they be required to live on the streets?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Government will do all that is necessary to provide accommodation.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Arising out of answer to (c), may I know how far the Government servants have been directed to share their quarters with other Government servants or with refugees?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Not directed but requested.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: But has the request been adopted or implemented?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That depends on the individual convenience of the officers. Whether to take others or not depends on the extent they can accommodate others.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know by what date Government hope to provide quarters for all Government servants?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: No date can be fixed.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: In view of the fact that quite a large number of Government servants have rented out part of their houses, will Government enquire into the matter and make a list of those officers and find out whether they have rented out at a black-market rate?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: In some Departments this step has been taken and whenever it is found that they have rented out their houses they themselves are liable to be ejected from that house and the house allotted to others who stand in need of it.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether the Government would be pleased to consider the desirability of taking the size of the family also into consideration in making further allotments?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Who are the members of the family and who are not, that is also disputed.

CHARGING OF *Pugree* FROM TENANTS BY DELHI LANDLORDS.

†760. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar**: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that, in Delhi, landlords at the time of letting out their premises including houses, shops, godowns etc., charge from their new tenants, in addition to rent, a huge sum by way of premium known as "Pugree";

(b) whether Government are aware that this evil is wide-spread; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a), (b) and (c). The mal-practices referred to by the Honourable Member on the part of unscrupulous landlords was brought to the notice of the Government and in order to prevent them and to make such unlawful acts punishable by law, provision has been made in section 5 and 13(2) of the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947 (XIX of 1947). As provided therein any person from whom rent in excess of the standard rent of the premises is demanded is free to institute a suit against the landlord in a Court of Law.

RETURN OF ONLY OLD NON-MUSLIM ABDUCTED WOMEN BY WEST PUNJAB GOVERNMENT.

761. ***Shri Brajeshwar Prasad**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news published in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 28th February, 1948 that seven hundred non-Muslim abducted women and children were recently returned to the East Punjab authorities by the Government of West Punjab?

(b) Is it a fact that all the women returned were old?

(c) Is it a fact that two hundred non-Muslim young women, though recovered earlier, were later taken away by the West Punjab Police officials either to Peshawar or to Bahawalpur where there was no recovery campaign?

(d) Is it a fact that this was revealed by recovered women only after their arrival in East Punjab territory?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take in order to recover the two hundred young women who have been forcibly detained in Pakistan?

(f) Do Government propose to refer the details of this case to the Security Council of the United Nations Organisation?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Yes.

(b) In some batches the number of old women predominated but figures for the months of January and February 1948 show that the different age groups have been spread out satisfactorily.

(c), (d), (e) and (f). Government are making enquiries from their representative at Lahore. The information, when received, will be laid on the table and necessary action will be taken.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How many of these women were below twentyfive and how many were above twentyfive?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I require notice of that question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not apparent from the question itself—part (b) wherein it is asked whether all the women returned were old?

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

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: All of them were not old.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the age limit set by the Honourable Minister for classifying them as 'old'?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I will require notice of that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Honourable Minister's attention been drawn to press reports to the effect that the Pakistan Government have instructed Maulvis to intensify the conversion of young women?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am afraid I have not seen the report. But I may say that press reports are not always reliable.

Seth Govinddas: But as far as these press reports are concerned, does the Government not refer these press reports to the Pakistan Government and find out what their attitude is?

Sir, my question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: It is not going to be answered.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister kindly supply the figures to the House by age groups of the women recovered?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I will pass on the suggestion to the Ministry concerned.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government propose to recover young women also as soon as possible?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Every attempt is being made in that direction.

ACTIVITIES OF CENTRAL WATER-POWER, IRRIGATION AND NAVIGATION COMMISSION.

762. ***Shri B. N. Munavalli:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether the Central Water-power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission has submitted to Government any annual reports about its work and various activities?

(b) If not, why has it not submitted the reports?

(c) With what objectives in view, was this Commission brought into existence?

(d) How far have these objectives been achieved or attempted to be achieved so far?

(e) Are the technical officers of the Commission appointed on a competitive basis or are they drawn from different provincial cadres in proportion to any accepted basis?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) No. But the Government of India have been kept informed of its activities through monthly progress reports, weekly conferences with the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power attended mostly by the Chairman of the Central Water-power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission and through various reports of the Chairman on almost all important aspects of the work.

(b) The Commission was set up in April 1945, but due to the non-availability of staff and pressure of work due to enormous demands made by a large number

of schemes, no annual report was written. The position as regards technical staff has now fairly improved and the report is under preparation which will be ready by about April 1948.

(c) The functions of the Commission were laid down in the Labour Department's Resolution No. DW.101(2), dated the 5th April 1945 and the more recent resolution of Government No. DW.XVI-1(1), dated the 16th January 1948, copies of which are laid on the table†

(d) Inspite of the paucity of the staff available as stated above, several multipurpose river development schemes of stupendous magnitude have already been taken up in hand *e.g.* the Kosi Project in Nepal and Bihar and the Mahanadi Project in Orissa. Considerable progress has already been made as regards the investigation of the Kosi Project. In the case of the Mahanadi Project, investigations have reached a stage when detailed estimates for the Hirakud dam could be drawn up and construction work started on it.

In addition to the above, several reconnaissance surveys were made with a view to ascertain the possibility of developing the water resources of Assam, Central Provinces, Bastar State, Coorg, Bombay and Baroda and estimates for investigations of specific schemes have already been submitted to Government

The agency of the Central Water-power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission is also being utilised in settling inter-provincial and inter-state river disputes. For instance, the Tungabhadra dispute between Madras, Mysore and Hyderabad which had been pending for nearly 40 years has been settled by the Chairman. The disputes between Madras and Hyderabad regarding the Ramapadasagar project, between Coorg and Mysore regarding the Lakshmanatirtha Project, between Bombay and Baroda in connection with the Sabarmati project and between some of the Rajputana States regarding the Chambal development scheme etc. have been referred to the Commission. These cases are in various stages of settlement.

Another important function of the Commission is to give expert advice to Provincial and State Governments on technical matters and that is being done as and when requests are received. Expert advice has been given by the Commission on the flood and other river problems in Assam, irrigation problems in Bengal and Bihar, flood control, irrigation and other river problems in Bombay and a large number of States.

(e) The posts of Deputy Directors and above are generally filled by suitable officers drawn from the cadre of Provincial Governments. The other posts *i.e.* from the rank of Assistant Directors and below are filled by open competition on the recommendation of the Federal Public Service Commission.

Every effort has been made to draw more or less equally from all provinces, but the response has not been encouraging. Selection therefore, had to be limited to the officers made available by the Provinces.

Seth Govinddas: As far as the Central Provinces is concerned, is the scheme of Narbada before the Commission: and if it is, what progress has been made in that direction?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: All these schemes were before this Commission and I think the Honourable Member remembers the reply that was given in this House on a supplementary question put by the Honourable Member himself. If he requires more information I will pass on the request to the Minister concerned.

Seth Govinddas: As far as my supplementary question is concerned that was put about six months ago. I want to know what progress has been made during the last six months.

†Not printed in these Debates. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed. of D.*

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I will require notice.

Shri B. Das: Is it not paradoxical that in the same breath the Minister says that the Irrigation and Navigation Commission could not produce its report for want of men or for want of staff and at the same time attributes to the same Commission all the good work that has been done in the matter of development projects all over India? Is not that paradoxical?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That is a matter of opinion.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Minister if men for appointments below Assistant Officers are originally recruited on a temporary basis and later on before the Federal Service Commission the Chairman himself is there and he chooses the very same person?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: It often happens that somebody from the Department is co-opted to assist the Commission. But what exactly happened in this Department, I do not know.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether it is not a fact that all the appointments are being made from one particular province, instead of their being distributed over the various provinces?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: May be that residents of a particular province shine in competition.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether it is not possible to associate independent technical men to assist the Federal Public Service Commission in the matter of selection?

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Is it not a question for the Honourable the Home Minister to answer?

Mr. Speaker: He is asking so far as this Department is concerned.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: The rule as it stands now is that the advice of the Department is sought. I shall, however, pass on the Honourable Member's suggestion for consideration.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As regards the several schemes undertaken, may I know what has happened to them; for instance, we had a snow survey scheme which was undertaken and for which one Mr. Church was brought all the way from England. Has he sent in his report?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am not sure whether it arises out of this question. But if the Honourable Member puts me a specific question, I shall be prepared to answer it.

PROGRESS IN EXECUTION OF DAMODAR VALLEY PROJECT

763. *Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any actual work, in connection with the execution of the proposed Damodar Valley Project, has been taken up; and, if so, what and where;

(b) whether any lands have been acquired; if so, how much, from whom and at what price;

(c) whether any contract has been given; and, if so, to whom, for what work and for what amount;

(d) what steps Damodar Valley Corporation has proposed in order to obtain the co-operation of the people of the area of operation; and

(e) what policy the Damodar Valley Corporation follows in matters of appointment and contract to see that the local people, too, are benefited?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) A great deal of work in respect of the Damodar Valley Project has been done in the last two years *e.g.* preliminary investigation of the project, detailed designs, plans and estimates of the Tilaiya Project, preliminary designs for the other dams, setting up of organization for building construction camps at Tilaiya dam site, and building of construction camp at Maithon.

(b) No land has been permanently acquired so far. A small area near Maithon was temporarily acquired for two years since April 1946.

(c) No contract has been given out so far. The construction camp at Maithon was built by the military.

(d) and (e). The matter is under consideration of the Administrator, Damodar Valley Project in consultation with the participating Governments. The Damodar Valley Corporation has not yet come into existence.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has anybody been deputed by Government to study the working and administration of the Tennesse Valley Authority in America?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes; it was done.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Who has been deputed, Sir?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I will require notice of that question.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Has the personnel of the Corporation been settled?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: It is under consideration.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Has the Chairman been appointed?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: The Chairman has not been appointed.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Is it a fact that so far as contracts are concerned, they are given only to those people who are registered as Government contractors in Delhi?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Well, Sir, all the contractors who are registered as contractors in the P.W. Department will be eligible to apply for contracts.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Registered in Delhi?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: No, registered throughout the country.

DELAY IN METALLING OF A PORTION OF MADHOPUR-JAMMU ROAD

764. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the road connecting Madhopur with Jammu is in a bad condition up to Sambha and that it causes considerable delay in the arrival of the vehicles running on it at their destination?

(b) Are Government aware that in spite of its military importance no portion of the road has yet been metalled?

(c) Are Government aware that the metalling of the road is being delayed on account of the delay in the transport of the necessary material and the damage caused to the machinery sent from Madhopur?

(d) Has any date been fixed by which the road should be ready? If not, why not?

(e) Are Government aware that in some of the places where the road construction work is to be carried, little or no military protection has been provided?

(f) Are Government aware that a new labour force is recruited daily and that wages have risen considerably owing to want of security?

(g) Do Government propose to entrust the construction of the road to the military authorities?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Yes.

(b) It is not proposed to metal the existing road. Its surface is 'shingled' as required.

(c) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to another road connecting Madhopur with Sambha which is now under construction. If so, the answer is that some delay has been caused but every effort is being made to minimise it.

(d) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The second part does not arise.

(e) Arrangements have been made for military protection.

(f) Although some reshuffling has occurred it would not be correct to say that a new labour force is recruited daily. There has been some rise of wages but not of very serious nature.

(g) No.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Why did not Government entrust its construction to the Military Authorities?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: The Military Authorities were of course consulted. But they said that it would make no difference.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Does the Honourable Minister mean to suggest that the same delay would have taken place even if the Military Authorities had undertaken the construction of the road?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: The same difficulties would have been faced by them.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Are Government aware of the fact that during the war the construction of important projects was well programmed and a date was fixed by which construction should be completed?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Why has not that practice been adopted in the case of this road?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I have already said that the Defence Department was consulted and they were asked whether they would be in a position to construct the road in a shorter time than the P.W.D. But they said that as most of the labour would have to be recruited by the civil department, it would not make much difference whether the P.W.D. undertook the construction, or whether they themselves did it.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What I mean to ask is why was not a target date appointed for the completion of certain portions of the road.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: A target date was fixed.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Why has not target been observed?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: We have not yet reached that date.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What was the target date?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: It is the end of June 1948.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: June 1948?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: How could that be the date when the construction had not even started?

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Do Government want this road to be constructed after the operations are over? Is it one of their long-term projects?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Government would not like to wait for the completion of the operations till the road is ready.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it a fact that some of the machinery sent from Madhopur to a place where the road is being constructed has been damaged?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I require notice of that question.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: But that is part of the question.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Then the reply covers it.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What is the reply?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is referring to part (c) of his question. The Honourable Minister may read his reply to that part of the question.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (c) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to another road connecting Madhopur with Sambha which is now under construction. If so, the answer is that some delay has been caused but every effort is being made to minimise it. There has been some delay, I admit.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: But has any damage been caused to the machinery?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Damage was caused to the road, that is true.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: My question is whether any damage was caused to the machinery despatched from Madhopur.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am sorry I have not got that information, but I will ask the Ministry to supply it to the Honourable Member.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: But how did Government omit to answer a specific question put to them? Will Government look carefully into the question of the construction of the road at an early date?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes.

NEW TAXATION PROSPECTS BY FRENCH AUTHORITIES AND INDIAN BUSINESS INTERESTS, ETC. IN INDO-CHINA

765. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the hardships to which the Indian Nationals in Indo-China owning properties and business interests are subjected, by the taxation proposals recently published by the French authorities in Indo-China, whereas the Chinese Nationals in Indo-China are, by virtue of a Special Treaty arrangement between the Governments of France and China, exempt therefrom?

(b) Has any representation been made by the Indian Nationals in Indo-China in this behalf?

(c) If so, what action have Government taken so far or propose to take to safeguard the interests of Indians?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of making suitable representations to secure just and equitable treatment to the Indians in Indo-China?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Prime Minister. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for 22nd March 1948, when the Honourable the Prime Minister will answer it.

DEBT SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT OF INDO-CHINA

766. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether the Debt Settlement Agreement with the French Government of Indo-China which was hoped to be completed soon, has been reached? If not, why not?

(b) Is any other alternative proposal under contemplation of Government for giving relief to the Indian Nationals who have been put to considerable hardship on account of the blockade of remittances from Indo-China?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) An agreement has been reached between the Government of India and the French Government on all the points that were under discussion. The formalities connected with the actual signature of the Agreement have, however, still to be gone through.

(b) No, none that I am aware of.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister if he will place the agreement on the table of the House?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The agreement has not yet been signed. The last outstanding point under discussion was settled only a few days back and the implementation of the agreement by the exchange of letters is just now going on, and I expect that within the course of one month the agreement will be signed and then the question of placing it on the table will arise.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Minister take the House into confidence regarding the proposals before they are finalized in as much as they are not up to the expectations of nationals whose property is heavily involved?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not know, Sir, whether, in carrying on negotiations with a foreign government, the actual subject matter of the negotiation could be placed before the House. I think they could trust the Government to do all that lies in its power to see that the interests of Indian nationals in Indo-China are safeguarded.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if the treaty is subject to ratification by this House?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not know what the position is.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not the practice to bring Trade Treaties for ratification in this House like the Ottawa Agreement and so on?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not know what exactly is going to be the procedure in this case. I am unable to answer that question just now.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know when Government expects this agreement to be finalized?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Within one month.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether the agreement would be placed before the Standing Committee at least?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: So far as I am aware, the terms of the agreement have been practically concluded. It is only formal signature that is now to be made. I do not know whether it will be serving any useful purpose at this stage to consult the Standing Committee of the Ministry concerned.

Mr. Hussain Imam: May I ask whether as a matter of practice the Standing Committee would be consulted in future before negotiations are finalized in respect of agreements of this kind?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the question is hypothetical.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Why was the Standing Committee not consulted with reference to this agreement before finalizing it?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not know when exactly the negotiations relating to this agreement were really started, and obviously I am not in a position to give any reason as to why the Standing Committee of the Ministry concerned was not consulted.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether the Honourable the Finance Minister will please tell us whether in future Government will think of taking at least the Standing Committee of the Department concerned into confidence in such questions before they are finalized?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That matter will be kept in view.

Shri M. Ananathasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister if the Government will defer taking action on the release of assets of Indo-China in the country until the Assembly has got an opportunity to look into the agreement?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am afraid that that undertaking cannot be given because when that agreement is finalized, I think we will have to release that amount belonging to the Indo-China Bank which is held by the Custodian of Enemy Property. I do not think that can be delayed.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there a reciprocal agreement that simultaneously the assets of Indian nationals of Indo-China will also be released?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The Honourable Member is trying to find out the various clauses of the agreement by the supplementary question. I am afraid it will not be proper at this stage to disclose all the terms of the agreement, but he may rest assured that the Government have, during these negotiations, taken every step to protect the interests of Indian residents in Indo-China.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am only asking the Honourable Minister if care will be taken to see that action is not merely one-sided but correspondingly as and when releases are made of Indo-China assets here, simultaneously releases will be made at the other end of assets of Indian nationals also.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: It will be on a reciprocal basis.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the House be taken into confidence before the agreement is signed?

Mr. Speaker: That question has been answered.

LISTS OF CONSUMER GOODS ALLOWED AND NOT ALLOWED TO BE IMPORTED IN INDIA

767. *Dr. V. Subramaniam: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to give a list of the articles of consumer goods now allowed to be imported into India from foreign countries and also a list of articles which were formerly allowed to be imported but are now prohibited from being imported into India?

(b) Is any preference shown to medicines and medicinal articles?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) I may invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the Ministry of Commerce Public Notice, dated the 12th December 1947 (reproduced in the *Gazette of India, Extraordinary* of the same date) and the Public Notice, dated the 4th March 1948 which lay down the principles governing the issue of import licences for the half yearly period January-June 1948. Classes of goods including consumer items, imports of which will not be licensed or for which licences will be issued freely, have been specified in these Notices and accompanying appendices; articles not specified in either lists are licensed on a restricted basis. It has not been possible to prepare the specific lists required, but the Honourable Member will appreciate that the time and labour involved in the preparation of the lists in question will hardly be commensurate with the object achieved. The Public Notices that I referred to just now have been given due publicity and copies thereof are available in the Library of the Legislature.

(b) Yes. Government realise the necessity for importation of such drugs and medicines as are essential and are not manufactured in this country and they have made provisions so as to allow adequate imports of these goods.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: May I know if alcoholic drinks come under prohibited articles?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I have referred the Honourable Member to two notifications issued by the Commerce Ministry, and these contain very elaborate lists. Obviously the Honourable Member cannot expect me to remember every item which has been included in one particular list or another.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Have those lists been strictly adhered to or has any departure been made from those lists in various cases?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The lists are adhered to and if any departure is made, it will be for very valid reasons.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is there any periodical review of these lists?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: What we do is that in the light of our foreign exchange position, we prepare an advance programme of our export and import, and with a view to conserve foreign exchange, we take care to see that as far as possible we restrict the import of what we consider to be non-essential commodities, and that is the principle involved even in the preparation of the lists, and if in the course of the half year it is brought to our notice that any particular item should be included in the list of essentialities, then certainly we will do it.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact, Sir, that in these lists even such articles are included which are available in India like perfumery, etc.?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No. As a matter of fact, in view of the exchange difficulties we take particular care to see that we do not import commodities which are really manufactured in India and which are available in India in sufficient quantities to meet the demand.

Seth Govinddas: Are such articles also included in the lists of which there may be alternative articles in this country and we can do without importing those articles?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: As I said our exchange difficulties compel us to be very careful in the preparation of the import lists, but if it can be brought to the notice of the Government that any particular item included in the lists is one which is available in India, we will be very thankful to the Honourable Member if he supplies that information.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Arising out of the answer given by the Honourable Minister that there are certain articles for which licences are given freely, may I know what is the meaning of the word 'freely' there, in view of the exchange restrictions?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: 'Free' means that there is no restriction on the import of those goods, that is that anybody who applies for an import licence for that category of goods is given the licence automatically. That is the meaning of the 'free' list.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know, Sir, whether there are any goods on which no import duty is levied—which are duty free?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That is a very wide question. Our Import Schedule is quite an artistic document which I would recommend to the Honourable Member.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I know whether the Honourable Minister is aware that licence for importation of silk and silk goods from Italy has been given by the Government of India and that it is adversely affecting the silk industry in our country?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am not personally aware of it; if the silk industry in India is affected, naturally I would expect the silk industry to make proper representations to the Government.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know, Sir, whether in the preparation of this list the trade was taken into confidence—whether the trade interests or any Associations or Organisations were consulted?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am afraid I cannot give an answer to that question: I do not know who were all consulted with regard to the preparation of this list.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know, Sir, if as a rule articles of luxury are prohibited or a portion of them also allowed in this list?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Generally articles of luxury are prohibited, and I think it is in very exceptional cases that you will find such articles in this list at all.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: May I draw the attention of Government to the fact that due to the importation of silk from Italy the Government of India has been suffering a loss on the silk that the Government of India got by way of reparations from Japan?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not think we got any reparations by way of silk from Japan; I do not think we did.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: I beg to submit that I received a letter from the All-India Village Industries Association.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Government aware that the entry of articles from America, such as motor cars, is restricted into the United Kingdom on account of dollar shortage?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: It is so and that is also our policy. We very strictly limit the number of cars to be imported. As a matter of fact, I may inform the Honourable Member that with a view to make as many cars available to the people as possible within the limits of the exchange available to us, we have put a ceiling on the price of cars; above that ceiling, cars are not admitted into India, for instance big cars will not be admitted into India.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the minimum price of the car?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not exactly remember the ceiling price. But, for example, you do not have the importation during this half-year of the Buicke Roadmaster which costs about Rs. 17,000.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What are the other cars which will be admitted?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The smaller-size and the medium-size cars, for instance the Chevrolet, the Ford etc.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that Government have issued a licence to a Company for import of cars up to Rs. 80 lakhs?

Mr. Speaker: That question was put and the matter discussed previously.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware of the fact that out of a total sanction of Rs. 2 crores for the importation of cars, Rs. 96 lakhs worth licence has gone to one particular dealer in the country?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That was discussed on a Cut Motion.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE - *contd.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with discussion in respect of Budget Demands. I am informed that the Honourable Mr. Gadgil will be in charge, on behalf of Government, in respect of the cut motions coming under discussion today. He is on his way by air from Vizagapatam; and he is expected to be here very shortly. In the meanwhile, the Demands may be put before the House and Honourable Members may proceed with the discussion of the cuts. Notes are being taken not only by the Honourable Ministers here, but, I understand the Secretaries who are in the Official Gallery are also doing so and Mr. Gadgil will reply when he comes. He is expected any moment. So I shall put the Demands.

DEMAND NO.13.—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,75,000 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 'Ministry of Home Affairs'."

DEMAND NO. 27—MINISTRY OF STATES

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,23,000 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 'Ministry of States'."

DEMAND NO. 87—RELATIONS WITH INDIAN STATES

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 71,48,000 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 'Relations with Indian States'."

DEMAND NO. 14—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,69,000 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 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'."

I do not see any economy cut here. So we shall follow the usual procedure of discussion without taking up any time in moving the cut motions, I believe.

(1) DEMAND NO. 13—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(2) DEMAND NO. 27—MINISTRY OF STATES

(3) DEMAND NO. 87—RELATIONS WITH INDIAN STATES

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): I would seek your permission, Sir, to move the two cut motions which stand in my name.

Mr. Speaker: Is it necessary for the Honourable Member to move them?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I would like them to go on record, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: He can discuss these two items. However, if he is keen on moving them, I have no objection.

Administration of Chief Commissioners Provinces

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I would not take any time on it, Sir. Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Home Affairs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Home Affairs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Security Measures in Centrally Administered Areas and Re-organisation of Central Intelligence Bureau.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Home Affairs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Home Affairs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Before I make any observation on these motions, Sir, may I ask your permission to deal with both these motions together and in view of the fact that they relate to the Chief Commissioners' Provinces and I and Mr. Mukut Bihari Lal are the only two representatives of the Chief Commissioners' Provinces, request you kindly allow me some more time.

Mr. Speaker: I think, I might make the position clear to the Honourable Member. The whole Demand is before the House and therefore it covers all the three cut motions. It was made very clear that in view of the pressure of time and with a view to give opportunities to all, the Honourable Members will restrict themselves to the time-limit, irrespective of the number of cut motions that they move. The fact that they are going to move a large number of cuts is not a reason that they should get more time. The Honourable Member will appreciate that one and a quarter hours only are allotted to this Demand. That works out, as I have been saying, to 75 minutes, out of which 20 minutes will be taken by the Honourable Minister for reply. That will leave 55 minutes and if each of the Honourable Members is given time of 15 minutes for each cut motion 45 minutes will be taken for three cuts and then only 10 minutes will be left to other members of the House. That is hardly a fair arrangement. If the Honourable Members do not wish to speak, that is a different matter, but in fairness to other parties—these are all cut motions of the Congress Party—the non-Congress members of the House must have an opportunity and not be left with barely ten minutes. That is why it is not possible to grant him more time.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P. General): Could not other motions be moved formally?

Mr. Speaker: I have made that position very clear yesterday. Moving a motion does not imply the right to speak on it. If that was the point at the back of Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta's mind, then it was a mistaken one. Although, ordinarily, I would call upon a member who has tabled a motion to speak, in this context, the moving of a motion does not necessarily imply the right to speak. In fact, the cut motion need not necessarily be moved. If the Honourable Member is keen, he may move it, but the difficulty of moving is that it takes time in moving and my putting it and then again there is the procedure of withdrawing it. Therefore, only such motions as are desired to be put to the vote of the House should be moved. Otherwise, the whole field is open for discussion.

Suppression of Civil Liberties

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, I have a cut motion which I wish to move.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, he may move that.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Home Affairs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Home Affairs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

شری دیش بندھو گپتا : جناب صدر ! مجھے افسوس ہے کہ اس موقعہ پر بیماری کی وجہ سے آنریبل ہوم منسٹر یہاں تشریف نہیں رکھتے اور نہ ہی آنریبل منسٹر گیذکل جنہیں آج گورنمنٹ کی طرف سے جواب دینا تھا یہاں موجود ہیں ایسی صورت میں ہوم ڈیپارٹمنٹ پر نکتہ چینی کرنا محض ایک ضابطہ ہے جسے پورا کرنا ہوگا - اسلئے جو کٹ موشن میرے نام پر ہیں اور جنکو میں ہاؤس میں پیش کر چکا ہوں اس پر بہت مختصر الفاظ میں چند باتیں عرض کرونگا

پہلی چیز جسکی طرف میں ہاؤس کی توجہ کھینچنا چاہتا ہوں یہ ہے کہ جہاں تک چیف کمشنر کی پراونسز کے مستقبل کا تعلق ہے یہ امر بحث طلب نہیں رہ گیا ہے کہ اسکا موجودہ Administrative set up بدلے ہوئے حالات کے مطابق نہیں ہے - اسلئے میں اس پر زیادہ بحث نہیں کرنا چاہتا آپکی اور اس آنریبل

[شری دیش بندھو گپتا]

ہاؤس کی توجہ صرف اس طرف کھینچنا کافی ہوگا کہ ابھی حال ہی میں کانسٹی ٹیوایئنٹ اسمبلی نے ایک سپیشل کمیٹی اس بات پر غور کرنے کے لئے مقرر کی تھی کہ آئندہ چیف کمشنر پراونسز کے لئے جو کانسٹی ٹیوشن (Constitution) بنایا جائے وہ کن لائنز پر ہو - اس کمیٹی نے جس میں مسٹر گوپال سوامی آئینگر اور مسٹر کے سنتھانم اور ڈاکٹر پٹابھی سیتارامیہ جیسے قابل اصحاب شامل تھے متفقہ طور پر ایک رپورٹ پیش کی ہے جس میں سب کمیٹی نے اس امر کو تسلیم کیا کہ چیف کمشنر کے صوبجات کو ذمہ وار حکومت نہ دینا بہت زیادتی ہے جناب صدر! اس وقت سارے ملک میں Responsible Government قائم ہوچکی ہے — اور وہاں کا تمام نظم ونسق وہاں کے لوگوں کے اپنے ہاتھ میں آگیا ہے - لیکن اس کے باوجود دھلی اجمیر مارواڑ اور کورگ ہی ایسے بدقسمت علاقے ہیں جہاں کے متعلق یہ کہنا پڑتا ہے کہ وہی رفتار بے ڈھنگی جو پہلے تھی سو اب بھی ہے - جو طریق حکومت یہاں پہلے تھا وہی اب بھی رائج ہے البتہ اتنا Consolation ضرور ہے کہ اب بجائے غیر ملکی نوکر شاہی کے ایک Nominated Executive Committee کے اُنکی جگہ اپنی حکومت کا منسٹر انچارج ہے لیکن جہاں تک ان علاقوں کے لوگوں کا تعلق ہے یہ محض ایک Consolation ہے چونکہ حقیقت میں یہاں حکومت کا کام جس طریقہ پر چل رہا تھا اسمیں کوئی نمایاں فرق نہیں ہوا ہے جو حال پہلے تھا ویسا ہی اب بھی ہے -

اُس سب کمیٹی نے جو کہ کانسٹی ٹیوایئنٹ اسمبلی کی طرف سے بنائی گئی تھی اپنی شفارشات میں یہ تین recommendations پیش کی تھیں - وہ یہ ہیں :

"(1) Each of these three provinces should henceforth function under a Lieutenant Governor to be appointed by the President of the Indian Federation.

(2) Each of these Provinces should normally be administered by a Council of Ministers responsible to the Legislature as other Provinces, but any difference on an important matter arising between the Lieutenant Governor and the Ministry should be referred to the President of the Federation for final decision.

(3) Each of these Provinces should have an elected Legislature which should function like other Provincial Legislatures."

یہ تین important recommendations ہیں جو کہ اس کمیٹی نے جس میں کہ میرے وہ لایق دوست تھے جنکا میں نے ابھی ذکر کیا ہے متفقہ طور پر کئے ہیں سب کمیٹی نے اس اعتراض کا بھی جواب دیا ہے کہ چونکہ دھلی کو دارالخلافہ ہونے کی وجہ سے جو خاص اہمیت حاصل ہے اسلئے اسے ذمہ وار حکومت نہیں ملنی چاہیئے اُنہوں نے کہا ہے :

"We are fully alive to the circumstances which led to the formation of Delhi Province in 1912. We also recognise the special importance of Delhi as the Capital of the Federation. We are, however, of the opinion that the people of the Province which contains the Metropolis of India should not be deprived of the right of self-Government enjoyed by the rest of their countrymen living in the smallest of villages. We have, accordingly, placed the Delhi Province on a par with Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg and have recommended responsible Government subject to the limitations already indicated."

جناب صدر ! اس لئے میں اس بارے میں اور زیادہ بحث نہ کرتا ہوا یہ کہونگا کہ دھلی اجمیر مارواڑ اور کورگ کا موجودہ Administrative set up اچھا نہیں ہے - اور وہاں کے لوگوں کی رائے کے خلاف ہے - اور بہت ہی undemocratic ہے - اسلئے میری گزارش یہ ہے کہ کانسٹی ٹیوایئنٹ اسمبلی کی سپیشل کمیٹی نے جو سفارشات کیں ہیں اُنکا لحاظ رکھتے ہوئے درمیانی عرصہ میں بھی ایڈمنسٹریشن میں مناسب تبدیلیاں کر دی جائیں - دھلی اور چیف کمشنر کے دوسرے صوبوں میں جن مسائوں سے آج دوچار ہونا پڑتا ہے اُسکے لئے ضروری ہے کہ موجودہ طریق حکومت کو بدلا جائے - اسکے لئے ہمیں فوری کارروائی کرنیکی ضرورت ہے - ہمارا یہ کوئی نیا مطالبہ نہیں ہے - ہم اس بات کے لئے نئے کانسٹی ٹیوشن کا انتظار نہیں کرنا چاہتے ہیں ہم ان حالات کو بدلنا چاہتے ہیں - دھلی ایک بہت Important جگہ ہے - یہاں کا اثر دوسرے مقامات پر بھی پڑتا ہے - پچھلے دنوں جو واقعات یہاں رونما ہوئے اُنکی وجہ سے یہاں کی رائے عامہ کا زبردست مطالبہ ہے - کہ یہاں کے روزمرہ کے ایڈمنسٹریشن میں یہاں کے لوگوں کا ہاتھ ضرور ہونا چاہئے - اس سلسلہ میں پچھلے سال یکم اپریل کو آنریبل ہوم منسٹر نے ایک ایڈوائزری کونسل قائم کرنیکا اعلان کیا تھا جس سے یہ سمجھا جاتا تھا کہ وہ ترقی کی طرف ایک قدم ہے یہ ایڈوائزری کونسلیں دھلی اور اجمیر دونوں صوبجات کے لئے مقرر کی گئیں - اُمید تو یہ تھی کہ یہ کونسلیں یہاں کی ضروریات کو پورا کرنے میں مفید ثابت ہونگی - لیکن مجھے ایک سال کے تجربے کے بعد یہ افسوس سے کہنا پڑتا ہے کہ یہ محض کاغذی پھول تھے - عملی طور پر چیف کمشنر کے ایڈوائزری کونسلیں یہاں ضروریات کو رفع نہیں کر سکیں اور جو توقعات اُن سے وابستہ کی گئیں تھیں وہ بھی پوری نہیں ہوئی - ایک سال کے عرصہ میں اس ایڈوائزری کونسل کی دھلی میں صرف چھہ Meetings ہوئیں - اُن چھ میں سے بھی صرف دو تین Meetings ایسی تھیں جن میں عوام سے تعلق رکھنے والی باتوں پر غور کیا گیا باقی Meetings میں صرف ضابطہ کی کارروائی کیگئی اور رولز وغیرہ پاس کئے گئے - مئی کے مہینے میں دھلی کی ایڈوائزری کونسل نے رولز پاس کرکے ہوم ڈیپارٹمنٹ کو بھیجدئے تھے مگر اگست تک وہاں سے منظور ہو کر واپس نہیں آئے - اسکے علاوہ جو ریزولیوشن اس نے پاس کئے اُن پر بھی کوئی عملی کارروائی اب تک نہیں ہوئی - چنانچہ چیف کمشنر کی ایڈوائزری کونسل نے ماہ دسمبر میں جو meeting کی اُسمیں یہ مطالبہ کیا تھا کہ چونکہ موجودہ کانسٹی ٹیوشن یہاں کی ضروریات کے لئے کافی نہیں ہے - اس لئے ضرورت اس بات کی ہے کہ ہوم گورنمنٹ اسبات پر فوری توجہ دے اور ایسا طریقہ اختیار کرے جس سے کونسل کے ممبران کو روزمرہ کے ایڈمنسٹریشن کے ساتھ Associate کیا جا سکے اس بارے میں مشکل یہ ہے کہ جس نوٹیفیکیشن کے ذریعے یہ کونسلیں قائم ہوئیں تھیں - اُسمیں صاف طور پر کہا گیا

[شری دیش بندھو گپتا]

تھا کہ ممبران Day to day administration میں کوئی حصہ نہیں لے سکیں گے اسکا نتیجہ یہ ھے کہ سال بھر کے عرصہ میں دھلی اور اجمیر مارواڑ میں اس دوران میں کئی اھم تبدیلیاں ھوئیں اور غیر معمولی حالات پیدا ھوئے - لیکن اس ایڈوائزری کونسل کو کوئی ایسا موقع نہیں دیا گیا تاکہ وہ اپنی انکے بارے میں رائے ظاھر کر سکے - ایڈمنسٹریشن میں تبدیلی کے بارے میں بھی تین ماہ ھوئے ریزولیوشن پاس کر کے ھوم گورنمنٹ کے پاس بھیجدیا گیا تھا لیکن اسوقت تک اس پر بھی کوئی عمل درآمد نہیں ھوا میرا تجربہ یہ ھے کہ ایڈوائزری کونسل اگر کوئی ریزولیوشن پاس کرتی ھے تو اُس پر کوئی صاحب توجہ نہیں دیتے - اس کا نتیجہ صرف یہ ھے کہ یہ ایڈوائزری کونسلیں صرف دل بہلانے کی چیزیں بن کر رہ گئیں ھیں - عام لوگوں کو تو یہ بتایا جاتا ھے کہ صوبہ کی گورنمنٹ ایڈوائزری کونسل کے مشورے سے چلتی ھے جب کہ حقیقت یہ ھے کہ اس کونسل کے ممبروں کو بھی پتہ نہیں ھوتا کہ بڑے بڑے فیصلے کب اور کیونکر کئے جاتے ھیں کئی بڑی بڑی تبدیلیاں ھو جاتی ھیں لیکن ان کو اس کا کوئی علم تک نہیں ھوتا - مثلاً ایک نیا انسپیکٹر جنرل پولیس صوبہ میں لگا دیا جاتا - لیکن ان ممبران کو اس بارے میں پیشتر سے کچھ معلوم نہیں ھوتا - کئی نئی پوسٹ create کر دی جاتی ھیں - اور ان کو کوئی علم نہیں ھوتا - خرچہ میں لاکھوں روپیہ کا اضافہ ھو جاتا ھے - لیکن ایڈوائزری کونسل کے سامنے بجٹ بھی بروقت نہیں آتا - اور نہ ھی اس کے ممبران کو اس بارے میں کوئی پتہ ھوتا - ان کی حالت عجیب بے بسی کی حالت ھے -

دھلی میں اتنے بڑے قصے ھوئے ھیں - مہاتماجی کا بلیدان تک ھو گیا - اور اس اسمبلی میں بھی اس بارے میں سوال اُٹھا کہ کس طوح سے ھمارا ایڈمنسٹریشن اس بارے میں Precautionary measures لینے میں فیل ھوا ھے - لیکن اگر حقیقت میں دیکھا جائے تو ایڈوائزری کونسل کو اس بارے میں بھی کبھی یہ سوچنے کا موقعہ نہیں دیا گیا کہ حالات پر قابو پانے کے لئے کیا ذرائع اختیار کرنے چاھئیں دھلی میں ماہ ستمبر میں جھگڑے شروع ھوئے تھے اُن سے جو صورت حالات پیدا ھوئی اُس پر غور کرنے کے لئے ھم نے میٹنگ بلانے کے لئے کہا لیکن کوئی میٹنگ نہیں بلائی گئی - تین ماہ کے بعد جب ایک میٹنگ بلائی گئی تو وھاں پر چیف کمشنر صاحب نے کہا کہ چونکہ لوکل گورنمنٹ سے اختیارات عملاً چھین لئے گئے تھے - اس لئے ایڈوائزری کونسل کا اجلاس نہیں بلایا گیا -

جناب صدر ! میں یہ عرض کرنا چاھتا ھوں کہ آج دھلی ، اجمیر مارواڑ اور دوسری جگھوں سے جو مطالبہ کیا گیا ھے وہ سراسر جائز ھے اگر ھم ساری مانگ پوری نہیں کر سکتے تو نہ سہی لیکن جو کچھ دفعہ ۹۳ کے دور میں اُن صوبوں میں ھوتا تھا

جہاں کہ وزارتیں ختم ھو گئیں تھیں اور ایڈوائزر مقرر کر دیئے گئے کم سے کم اتنا تو ھم کر سکتے ھیں - اس وقت ایڈوائزروں کو اختیار تھا کہ وہ day to day administration میں گورنروں کو ایڈوائز کریں اور اُن کی ایڈوائز پر عملدرآمد ھوتا تھا - آج اگر ایسا ھی یہاں بھی کر دیا جائے تب بھی کچھ بہتری کی صورت ھو سکتی ھے - چیف کمشنر صاحب ایڈوائزرز سے روز مرہ کے کاموں میں مشورہ لے سکتے ھیں اور ان کی مرضی کے مطابق ایڈمنسٹریشن کو چلا سکتے ھیں اگر چیف کمشنر صاحب سے ایڈوائزرز کے کچھ رائے میں اختلاف ھو تو یہ ھو سکتا ھے کہ اوپر ھوم منسٹر صاحب تشریف فرماں ھیں وہ دخل دے سکتے ھیں لیکن آج یہ حالت ھے کہ چیف کمشنر صاحب مطلق العنان ھیں ان پر ایڈوائزری کونسل کا کوئی اثر نہیں ھے اس کے ممبران کوئی دخل حکومت کے کام میں نہیں دے سکتے ھیں - جناب صدر ! ایک اور تکلیف کی طرف ھاؤس کی توجہ کھینچنا چاھتا ھوں ھاؤس میں اس سے پیشتر میں نے سوال اٹھایا تھا کہ دھلی میں اگر علحدہ ھائی کورٹ نہیں ھو سکتا تو کم سے کم سرکٹ کورٹ یہاں بیٹھا کرے آج کل پنجاب کا ھائی کورٹ شملہ میں ھے سردی کے زمانے میں دھلی کے لوگوں کو مقدمات کی پیروی کے لئے شملہ جانا پڑتا ھے اور اس طریق سخت مشکل کا سامنا کرنا پڑتا ھے - ضرورت ھے کہ ھائی کورٹ کی جگہ وھاں سے تبدیل کر دی جائے اور وہ بجائے شملہ کے دھلی میں بیٹھا کرے - ایڈوائزری کونسل کے ذریعہ بھی مطالبہ کیا جا چکا ھے لیکن آج تک اسپر دھیان نہیں دیا گیا - اب اجمیر مارواڑ کا حال سنیئے - وھاں کیلئے ٹیننسی ایکٹ بنانے کی ضرورت ھے وھاں فیوڈل لارڈز کیطرح جاگیردار چلے آرھے ھیں مزارعوں کو سخت پریشانی کا سامنا کرنا پڑتا ھے لیکن اس کی نوبت نہیں آتی کہ ھاؤس میں اسبارے میں کوئی بل آسکے ، آپ حیران ھونگے جناب صدر ! کہ یہاں پر جتنے منسٹرس ھیں ان سے براہ راست تعلق چیف کمشنر کا ھے کوئی ایک منسٹر مرکزی صوبجات کیلئے ذمہوار نہیں اور مختلف وزیروں کے کاموں میں کوئی کوارڈینیشن نہیں ھے ایک ڈیپارٹمنٹ سے دوسرے ڈیپارٹمنٹ تک خط جاتے ھیں مہینوں مہینوں بلکہ بعض اوقات برسوں کا عرصہ گزر جاتا ھے- چنانچہ میرے ھاتھ میں ایک خط ایگریکلچر ڈیپارٹمنٹ کا ھے - میرے لائق دوست پنڈت تھاکرداس بھارگو کی تحریک پر ایگریکلچر ڈیپارٹمنٹ نے ۱۰ اپریل ۴۷ء کو ایک خط چیف کمشنر دھلی کو لکھا جسکا جواب ۲۵ فروری ۴۸ء کو آیا ھے پنڈت جی نے یہ تحریک کی تھی کہ ڈیپریسڈ کلاسز کو صوبہ دھلی میں لینڈ ایلینیشن ایکٹ پنجاب سے مستثنیٰ کر دیا جائے یہ پوچھنے پر کہ چیف کمشنر کو اتنا لمبا عرصہ جواب دینے میں کیوں لگا انہیں حکومت کی جانب سے یہ خط موصول ھوا :—

"I admit there was delay in dealing with this matter but you will no doubt, realise that the Chief Commissioner must have been too pre-occupied with other urgent matters during these critical months to be able to devote too much time to legislative changes."

[شری دیش بندھو گپتا]

یہی مثال نہیں بلکہ پچاسوں مثالیں اس قسم کی موجود ھیں کہ ایک محکمہ سے دوسرے محکمہ تک خط و کتابت کرنے میں کتنی دیر لگتی ھے اسلئے میں نہایت ادب سے ھاؤس کے ممبران سے جو دھلی میں مہمان ھیں عرض کرونگا کہ انہیں یہ سمجھنا چاھیے کہ دھلی انکا گھر ھے اور دھلی اور دوسرے چیف کمشنر کے صوبوں کے ساتھ اتنی بےاعتنائی کا سلوک نہیں کرنا چاھئیے میں سمجھتا ھوں کہ دھلی والوں کا یہ مطالبہ سراسر جائز ھے کہ دھلی ایڈمنسٹریشن میں دھلی والوں کی آواز ھونا چاھئیے - جسوقت تک اسطرف توجہ نہیں دی جائیگی دھلی کی رائے عامہ مطمئن نہیں ھوسکتی-جناب صدر ! میں ایک منٹ دوسری کٹ موشن کے بارے میں اور لوں گا اس سلسلہ میں میں صرف یہ کہنا چاھتا ھوں کہ آج دھلی میں دن دھاڑے ڈاکے پڑ رھے ھیں موٹریں روک لی جاتی ھیں - گورنمنٹ کو چاھئیے کہ اسپیشل C. I. D. کا انتظام کرے جسکا یہ کام ھو کہ ۵ لاکھ کے قریب جو آدمی باھر سے آئے ھوئے ھیں ان میں جو Bad characters ھوں انکی List تیار کرے تا کہ ان پر نگرانی رکھی جا سکے اس کے بغیر دھلی کا امن خطرہ میں رھے گا آخیر میں میں پھر اپیل کرونگا کہ دھلی والوں کے مطالبات پر ھمدردانہ غور کیا جائے اور انہیں ذمہ محسوس کرنیکا موقعہ دیا جائے دھلی کیلئے بھی سوراج پرابت ھوچکا ھے

(English Translation of the above speech)

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that due to illness the Honourable the Home Minister is not present in the House. Honourable Mr. Gadgil who was to reply on behalf of the Government is also not present. Under these circumstances it will merely be a formality to criticise the Home Department. I shall therefore speak a few words on the cut motions which I have moved.

The first point to which I want to draw the attention of the House is to the future of Chief Commissioners' provinces. No arguments are necessary to say that the present administrative set up of the provinces is not compatible with the changed circumstances. Therefore I do not want to argue it at length. It will suffice to draw your attention and that of the House to a special committee appointed recently by the Constituent Assembly to consider the lines on which the future constitution of the Chief Commissioners' provinces should be drawn up. This committee which consisted of learned men like Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Mr. K. Santhanam and Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya presented a unanimous report in which it has been admitted that it would be too much to deny responsible Government to the Chief Commissioners' provinces. Sir, responsible Government has been established throughout the country and the administration is being run by the people. In spite of this it can be said about Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg that they are still the unfortunate areas where the old system prevails. The old system of administration still exists but with this consolation that instead of an Executive Council nominated by foreign bureaucrats, it is under the charge of a Minister of our own Government. This is a mere consolation and in reality no change has occurred in the previous form of Government so far as the people living in these areas are concerned and the former conditions still prevail.

The Sub-committee appointed by the Constituent Assembly has *inter alia* made these three recommendations:

"(1) Each of these three provinces should hereafter function under a Lieutenant Governor to be appointed by the President of the Indian Federation.

(2) Each of these Provinces should normally be administered by a Council of Ministers responsible to the Legislature as in other Provinces, but any difference on an important matter arising between the Lieutenant Governor and the Ministry should be referred to the President of the Federation for final decision.

(3) Each of these Provinces should have an elected Legislature which should function like other Provincial Legislatures."

These three important recommendations were unanimously made by the sub-committee consisting of the above mentioned learned friends. The objection that Delhi should not be granted responsible Government because of her special importance as the capital has also been answered by the sub-committee. The Committee States:

"We are fully alive to the circumstances which led to the formation of Delhi Province in 1912. We also recognise the special importance of Delhi as the Capital of the Federation. We are, however, of the opinion that the people of the Province which contains the Metropolis of India should not be deprived of the right of self Government enjoyed by the rest of their countrymen living in the smallest of villages. We have, accordingly, placed the Delhi Province on a par with Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg and have recommended responsible Government subject to the limitations already indicated."

Sir, without arguing further I would say that the present administrative set up of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg is not good. It is very undemocratic and against the wishes of the people. I submit therefore that keeping in view the recommendations of the Constituent Assembly's special committee suitable changes should be made in the administration during the interim period. The problems that are to be faced these days in other provinces necessitate that the present form of administration should be changed and we must take prompt action. This is not at all a new demand on our part and we do not want to wait for the new constitution. We want to change these conditions. Delhi is an important place and has reactions on other places as well. Due to recent happenings there is an emphatic public demand that the people of this place should have a hand in the day to day administration. Last year on the 1st April the Honourable the Home Minister announced the establishment of an Advisory Council and it was considered a forward step. These Advisory Councils were established for both the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. It was hoped that these councils would prove beneficial in fulfilling the requirements of these provinces, but after a year's experience I am sorry to say that it has proved to be of no real benefit. In practice Chief Commissioners' Advisory Councils could not cater to the needs and did not come up to the expectations. Within the period of one year only six meetings of this Advisory Council were held in Delhi and only in two or three meetings public matters were considered. In other meetings only formal matters were discussed and rules etc. were adopted. The Delhi Advisory Council framed their rules in the month of May and forwarded them to the Home Department which did not approve them till August. Even on resolutions passed by this body no action has so far been taken. The meeting of the Chief Commissioners' Advisory Council held in December demanded that as the present constitution does not sufficiently meet the needs, the Home Department should pay their immediate attention to it and devise means so as to make it possible to associate the members of the Council in the day to day administration. The difficulty arises due to the fact that the notification under which these councils were set up expressly laid down that the members could not participate in the day to day administration. The result was that the Advisory Council had no opportunity to consider and express any opinion on the important changes and unusual events which occurred in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara during the year. The Resolution suggesting change in administration was passed and forwarded to the Home Department three months back but it has not been enforced up to this time. It is my experience that no heed is paid by any one to any resolution passed by the Advisory Council. The only conclusion is that these

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[Shri Deshbandhu Gupta]

Advisory Councils are merely for purposes of show. The public is told that the Provincial Government is carried on in consultation with the Advisory Council but the truth is that the members of this Council do not even know how and when important decisions are taken. Many important changes take place without their knowledge. For example these members know nothing till a new Inspector General of Police is appointed in the Province or any new posts are created. Usually no budget is presented to the Advisory Council in time even though there is an increase of expenditure by lakhs of rupees nor are its members informed about it. They are in a strange state of helplessness. Many things have happened in Delhi even Mahatma Ji's life was lost. The question regarding the failure of our administration in adopting precautionary measures was put in this behalf in this Assembly but in fact the Advisory Council had no occasion to consider the measures to be adopted in controlling the situation. We asked for convening a meeting to consider the situation which arose out of September riots in Delhi, but no meeting was convened. When a meeting was convened after three months, the Chief Commissioner stated therein that no meeting of the Advisory Council could be called because the local Government had been divested of all their powers.

Sir, I would submit that the present demands of the people of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara and other places are perfectly justified. If we are unable to meet all their demands, we can at least do as much as was done during the section 93 rule in those provinces where the ministries were dissolved and Advisers appointed. Advisers could advise the Governors in matters of day to day administration and their advice was acted upon. If this is adopted here also it would mean a step forward. The Chief Commissioner can take the advice from the advisers and run the administration accordingly. Honourable the Home Minister can interfere if there is a difference of opinion between the Chief Commissioner and his advisers. At present the Chief Commissioner is an autocrat. He can neither be influenced by the Advisory Council, nor can its members interfere in matters of administration.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to one more hardship. Earlier I raised the question that if there can be no separate High Court for Delhi, at least a Circuit Court should sit here. At present the East Punjab High Court is at Simla and in winter the people of Delhi have to go to Simla and have to encounter great hardships in conducting their cases. It is necessary that the seat of High Court should be shifted from Simla to Delhi. This demand has been put forward through the Advisory Council, but no heed has been paid to it so far.

Now about Ajmer-Merwara. A Tenancy Act is required there. Like the old feudal lords they have the Jagirdars and the tenants have to face great hardships. So far it has not been possible to introduce a Bill to this respect in the House. Sir, you will be surprised to know that the Chief Commissioner has direct contact with all the Ministers of our Government and no one of them is solely responsible for the centrally administered areas. There is no co-ordination in the working of various departments and it takes weeks, months and sometimes even years for a letter to reach from one department to another. I have a letter of the Agricultural Department in my hand. It was at the initiative of my learned friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava that a letter was addressed by the Agricultural Department to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, on the 10th April, 1947. A reply to this was received on the 25th February, 1948. Pandit Ji desired that the depressed classes of Delhi should be exempted from the operation of the Punjab Land Alienation Act. On enquiring why it took so much time for the Chief Commissioner to reply, the Government wrote as follows:

"I admit there was delay in dealing with this matter but you will no doubt, realise that the Chief Commissioner must have been too pre-occupied with other urgent matters during these critical months to be able to devote too much time to legislative changes."

There are many instances which give an idea about the time spent in Departmental correspondence. Most respectfully, therefore, I request those Honourable Members of the House who are at present in Delhi as visitors to consider Delhi as their home and not to make differential treatment between Delhi and other Chief Commissioners' provinces. I am of the opinion that the demand of the people of Delhi to have a say in Delhi's administration is reasonable. Unless attention is paid to this the public opinion in Delhi can not be satisfied. Sir, I shall take a minute more to discuss another cut motion and will say that in Delhi day-time dacoities and motor-car hold-ups take place frequently. Government should depute a special staff of C.I.D. to prepare a list of bad characters from the five lakh immigrants and to keep a watch on them. Otherwise peace in Delhi is likely to be endangered. In conclusion I shall again submit that the demands of the people of Delhi should be considered sympathetically so that they may have an occasion to realise that Delhi too has achieved freedom.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava (Ajmer-Merwara): Sir, I rise to support this motion. So far as Delhi is concerned, notwithstanding the examples given by my Honourable friend, it has always been receiving special treatment at the hands of the Government of India. Even in the present budget not less than 62 lakhs has been allotted for new development schemes while poor Ajmer is the recipient of only about 10 lakhs. But apart from this differential treatment—which is only natural as Delhi happens to be the capital of India—there is absolutely no reason why the administrative set-up in these two provinces and also in the province of Coorg should be so out of date and antediluvian. All measures of reform since 1909,—the Morley-Minto Reforms, the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms and the Government of India Act, 1935,—have left untouched these conclaves of undiluted bureaucratic administration; and it is high time that some suitable changes on a popular basis are introduced as early as possible. The Constituent Assembly sub-committee, whose recommendations in brief have been read out just now do contemplate that there must be in the future set-up of the country a democratic constitution for these provinces. On the lines suggested by that special sub-committee it is possible to bring in something immediately. Section 94(3) of the Government of India Act clearly lays down that a Chief Commissioner's province shall be administered by the Governor-General acting, to such extent as he thinks fit, through a Chief Commissioner to be appointed by him. The statute does not specify the powers and rights of the Chief Commissioner; they are to be determined from time to time by the Governor-General; and the recent notification issued in the Extraordinary Gazette dated 8th February 1947 which brought into existence the present Advisory Council clearly shows that Government have power to make any necessary changes in the administrative set-up of these areas. No Act or enactment is necessary for improving the tone of administration in these areas; only a suitable modification in the terms of that notification will be enough. I suggest that the Chief Commissioners of these provinces need no longer be I.C.S. men. If leading public men and patriots can be entrusted with the administration of big provinces like the U.P. and Bombay, etc., there is absolutely no reason why the head of the administration in these provinces should not be a public man with a record of good service. Similarly during the interim period Executive Councillors or Advisers of the Chief Commissioner can be selected from the Advisory Council or from any other public body representative of public opinion in the province; and these Advisers or Ministers or Executive Councillors by whatever name you may call them—should be in charge of the day to day administration in the province. They should normally be in charge of the administrative machinery and the Chief Commissioner should be the constitutional head. In case of any difference of opinion on an important issue, the matter may be referred to the Minister in Charge and his opinion should prevail. There should be no difficulty whatsoever in bringing about this moderate change in the tone of the administration.

[Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava]

My friend has drawn your attention in what manner these areas are being affected for want of proper attention and reformatory measures of very great urgency. The Ajmer-Merwara Tenancy Legislation is a case in point. It has been for years hanging fire and the relations between the tenants and the feudal lords is very acute. During the last session of the Legislature, this matter was brought to the attention of Dr. Rajendra Prasad who was then in charge of the Department of Agriculture and he had promised to give it the highest priority. The draft of the Bill has been before the Government of India for over a year and still it has not been possible in spite of the Minister in charge giving highest priority to pilot it in the House. The result is that the agrarian trouble is again brewing and it is bound to come to a head in the coming rabi crop.

There is another fact in respect of Ajmer to which I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable House. Geographically, Ajmer is surrounded on all sides by the Rajputana States. We have seen the process of territorial and administrative integration that is taking place, by which the States are setting up popular ministries. Round Ajmer-Merwara there are the small states of Shahpura and Kishengarh which have already conceded responsible Government and popular Ministries are in charge of the administration there. It appears illogical that Ajmer, which is directly under the Central Government, should not have any responsible Government when it is insisted that even in small States there should be a responsible Ministry. Therefore, it is an additional argument why responsible Government should be introduced as early as possible.

There is one other matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. Ajmer is situated in the midst of the Rajputana States and we are seeing how the fissiparous tendencies left behind by the British are being counteracted by our astute diplomat and veteran leader. The result is that there is a strong process of territorial and administrative integration taking place amongst different groups of States. The Orissa States have already merged in Orissa: the Deccan States in Bombay and the Chatisgarh States in C.P. and there have already come into existence the new provinces of Saurashtra on the one hand and Bundelkhand on the other. This process of cohesion has also influenced the Rajputana States. In these days of transition, Ajmer being in the heart of the Rajputana States, it is essential that for the interim period responsible Government should at once be established and the administration of the Province should be in the hands of the accredited representatives of public opinion there. Without such a change it will not be possible for Ajmer to play its historic role today, when the new Rajasthan is in the making and is bound to come into existence sooner or later. The cohesion of over 500 small States into sizable units has been the result of the astute statesmanship on the part of our veteran Sardar Patel and I take this opportunity of offering him my humble tribute. This for all ages to come will go down as the greatest achievement of constructive statesmanship and of straight forward Indian diplomacy.

With these remarks I again support the cut motion and press upon the Government of India the urgency of bringing about immediate responsible Government for the interim period in the province of Ajmer-Merwara.

In respect of Coorg, I also want to submit one thing. Recently a retired I.C.S. man, a Madras man, aged about 60, has been appointed as Chief Commissioner. This is another latest example of what consideration is given to Chief Commissioner's provinces. Probably the Government of India is so occupied with problems of countrywide importance that it does not find time to devote sufficient attention to matters concerning these small areas. So far as these areas are concerned and their people, it is of immense importance and I submit that it is essential in the interests of the people and also in keeping with the spirit of free India, that some democratization of administration in these areas should take place immediately.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I have moved a cut motion to discuss a very important subject. I think since the news of Mahatma Gandhi's death the whole country has been benumbed. It was just like a shock and we never thought that civil liberties which we had allowed so liberally could ever be marred like this. And for at least two weeks after his death we were simply stupefied. We ourselves never cared what people said and we thought we were right in seeing that we found out how this thing had happened. But now over a month has passed and I feel that we must think coolly as to whether we are not giving the go-bye to all the ideals for which we had lived and for which we had fought.

Today in several parts of the country we hear general complaints that civil liberties have been suppressed altogether. I know our leaders have been the greatest exponents of civil liberties not only in this country but before the whole world. They have fought for them and they are renowned for them. But today, on account of a mad act of a mad man we do not know what to do. Yet I think the time has come when we should review the whole situation. Today the accusers tell us that we cannot do any work either in labour or kisans: that we cannot do anything we like. There are instances where people have been taken in falsely by policemen and been told that they are R.S.S. men. There are instances where people have been frightened in to paying subscriptions because they were afraid they would be challaned as R.S.S. men. I know there are policemen who have made a good lot of money by releasing those who were actually in the R.S.S. but keeping under arrest those who were not and who were innocent people. I do not want that the Government should be accused in this manner. The prestige of the Government is the concern of all of us. In this country we should be able to stand up and say that we stand for civil liberties. We want every body to be a citizen of this country whether he is a Hindu, Muslim, Christian or Sikh. In our constitution there should be nothing like the religious denomination of anybody. We want no reservation, no separate electorates. We want a complete secular state and that is our ideal. What are we doing about it?

I have been watching the course of events in the country. About 30,000 people have been arrested, of which 25,000 are R.S.S. men and the rest are labour workers. Sometimes I feel that if we had diverted somehow the energies of these R.S.S. men in different channels, the Mahatma's life would not have been lost. If was a great misfortune that we did not do it or probably God ordained it so. Now are we doing something which we ought to have done in the beginning? I was present at Lucknow when Sardar Patel delivered his speech, in which he said to the R.S.S. men that they were young men, who despite their ideals were going in the wrong way. He asked them to mend themselves and join the Congress. He made a speech which would go down in history. But what is it that we are doing? We are putting those people in jail and when they come out they will come out more hardened R.S.S. men. We were put in jail by the British Government and when we came out we were more hardened Congressmen than what we were. It is the same mistake which we are committing. I am afraid when these men come out they will not be chastened but will become worse R.S.S. men than what they were before. I therefore think that the time has come to reclaim them, which Sardar Patel at Lucknow talked about. I wish all of them were released now, except those against whom there is a charge of complicity in the assassination of Mahatmaji. Those people who had any hand in the murder of Gandhiji will go down in history as the blackest of men in the world. But let it not be said that we have used this occasion to suppress our political opponents through political motives. When they talk to me in this way, I argue with them, I appeal to them that it is wrong. The country is bewildered:

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

we have lost the father of the nation. We want to root out communalism. We want to build up a great state in our country. But with all our arguments we are unable to convince them. We must think coolly and try to reclaim these misguided youths and make them to become the builders of the nation. There may be 50 lakhs people in the R.S.S. You may not be able to convert them all but you can make most of them staunch pillars of the nation by approaching them in a different manner. On the other hand, I know in many places the district magistrates have used their offices to curb down all opposition. In Dehra Dun one of the members of the Assembly was present at a meeting when a friend protested against certain remarks in his speech. That man complained to the Provincial Government against the magistrate there. The magistrate asked of the man "Why have you complained against me?" and immediately he called the policemen, had the man handcuffed and put him in the jail. These things are not put in papers. Before a man is put in jail we must frame a charge-sheet. We must have a psychological method of converting and bringing back those men who are in the R.S.S. and not by putting them in jail. We must have a democratic state in which everybody must be a citizen, except those who are traitors and disloyal to the State. All must have full and equal rights. I hope that the Government will take care to see that they are not accused of suppression of civil liberties. In Bengal Poet Tagore's nephew, a leader of one party, was arrested. In U.P. Mr. Dwiwedi has been arrested. . . . .

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): On a point of order, Sir, how is it relevant?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is speaking on the cut motion relating to the suppression of civil liberties.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: These arrests were made in the provinces. The Centre has nothing to do with them.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: When a member of the Assembly is arrested surely it is a matter of concern to the House. It is a reflection on our Government. I hope that the Government will see that it is not done in future. We are all jealous of the prestige of the Government and of the Congress. We must not resent when we point out these things. These things are a disgrace and matters of shame. The whole country is one with you in the ideals which you have got. I want that these things should be done in a manner so that nobody will point his fingers of accusation at us, that we are not putting our ideals into action in a proper manner.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Rose—

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member has got only six minutes to speak, as the Honourable Minister will take 20 minutes to reply to the debate.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it necessary that the Minister should reply? Let him reply in the afternoon.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): I am agreeable to that arrangement also, if it suits Honourable Members.

Mr. Speaker: The time allotted to each of these three cut motions is one and a quarter hour and if a separate reply is expected to each of these cut motions, we might have the reply now or later on the Minister may speak for 45 minutes. which is not going to make any difference, so far as the time allotment is concerned.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, there should be no reply now. All these points may be remitted to the Minister concerned and he can take another day when he is well to reply to the debate. At present it would not be a proper reply at all.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): In view of the fact that these subjects relate to the Deputy Prime Minister it would be better to have the replies put off.

Mr. Speaker: I may point out that it would have been, in that case, much better if these demands had not been taken for discussion today. What will happen is that all that Honourable Members are saying will get publicity in the country without the Government being given any chance to represent their case. I do not agree with the view that there should be no reply. I quite agree with the view that the reply will not be satisfactory or full as we would otherwise have expected from the Minister concerned, if he had dealt with the matter personally.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Sir, I would suggest that the Honourable Minister's reply may be made after lunch, so that we can give him sometime to apprise himself of the realities of the situation from the secretariat.

Mr. Speaker: That will mean that this particular cut will continue a longer time and we shall have to cut the time in respect of the other cuts.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The reply can be given by the Minister for two cuts together.

An Honourable Member: For all the three cuts one reply can be made.

Mr. Speaker: The present cut motion will come to an end at 12-40.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It need not come to an end, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members may make up their minds about it.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The arrangement was that the Minister in charge would take 15 minutes on each cut motion. But unfortunately he is ill. I do not think the Honourable Minister who is going to reply will take thirty minutes. He may be given twenty minutes.

Mr. Speaker: It is on the basis of twenty minutes for him that I have set the time as 12-40 for the cut motion to end. However, we need not take more time over a discussion on this. If it is the desire of the House that we proceed till Lunch with this cut motion. I have no objection. I am merely pointing out that it will lead to the curtailment of the time for other cuts.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): May I have fifteen minutes, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: I see that other Members are anxious to speak. So I am allotting ten minutes to each Member so that we can have three speakers.

پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو : جناب کی اجازت سے میں اس موشن پر جو کہ اس ہاؤس کے سامنے اس وقت ہے - کچھ تھوڑا عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں - میں اس بات کر صاف کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ میں اس موشن پر اگر بولتا ہوں تو وہ محض اس وجہ سے بولتا ہوں کہ میں محسوس کرتا ہوں کہ کانگرس اور کانگرس گورنمنٹ کا وقار اور عزت اس موشن کے ساتھ وابستہ ہے - میں چاہتا ہوں کہ کانگرس - کانگرس گورنمنٹ اور ہمارے اس نیشنل گورنمنٹ کے نام پر کسی قسم کا دھبہ یا برا نام نہ ہو - اسی وجہ سے میں اس موشن پر ذرا feeling کے ساتھ بولنا چاہتا ہوں - مسٹر سکسینہ نے اس [illegible] جن لوگوں کو اس کا احساس ہے اُنہیں شرم کے مارے اپنا سر جھکنا پڑتا ہے -

[پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو]

جو یہاں پر موجودہ حکومت سے پہلے حکومت تھی، وہ برٹش گورنمنٹ تھی - اُس نے کانگریس پر بہت موقعوں پر سختیاں کیں - اس Organisation کو ban کر دیا- اس کے ورکروں پر مقدمہ چلایا اور ان کو بے وجہ قید کرتے رہے- میں یہ پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا آج کل جب ہماری اپنی گورنمنٹ یہاں ہے تو کیا دیش میں لوگوں کو یہ کہنے کا موقع دیا جائیگا کہ ہماری اپنی نیشنل گورنمنٹ بھی برٹش گورنمنٹ کے نقش قدم پر چلنا چاہتی ہے - اور لوگوں کو بلا مقدمہ چلائے عرصہ تک قید میں رکھنا چاہتے ہیں -

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma (U.P.: General): On a point of order, Sir, the Government and the Congress are two different things.

Mr. Speaker: All right. The Honourable Member may proceed with his speech.

پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو : میں نیشنل گورنمنٹ کے نام کی اور کانگرس کے نام کی عزت کرتا ہوں - لیکن میں پہلے گورنمنٹ اور موجودہ گورنمنٹ میں کوئی خاص فرق نہیں دیکھتا ہوں - اگر پہلے کی گورنمنٹ کی طرح لوگوں کو بلا اسپر مقدمہ چلائے قید میں رکھا جائیگا -

ہماری حکومت نے راشٹریہ سوئم سیوک سنگ اور دوسرے ایسوسی ایشنوں کو ban کیا ہے - میں حکومت کی اس کارروائی کی مذمت نہیں کرنا چاہتا - میں یہ کہنا ہوں کہ گورنمنٹ کو جن organisations کے متعلق یہ شک ہو کہ وہ ملک کے امن کو خراب کرتے ہیں اور ان میں Violance پائی جاتی ہے – ان کو ban کرنا گورنمنٹ کا فرض ہے - اگر گورنمنٹ اس دیش میں امن و امان قائم کرنا چاہتی ہے -

(English translation of the above speech)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, with your permission I want to speak briefly on the motion before the House. I want to make it clear that my only object in speaking on the motion is that I feel that the dignity and prestige of the Congress and of the Congress Government are linked with this motion. I wish that the fair name of Congress and the National Government may not be stained and therefore, I want to speak on the motion with some feeling.

Mr. Saksena has brought to the notice of the House matters which are well-known, and those who understand these matters have to hang their heads in shame.

Before the present Government we had the British Government who treated the Congress with severity on most occasions. They banned the organisation, prosecuted its workers and put them into prison without assigning any reasons. May I ask that today under our National Government people will be afforded an opportunity to say that our National Government also wants to follow in the footsteps of the British Government by putting people in prison for long periods without trial.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma (U.P.: General): On a point of order, Sir, the Government and the Congress are two different things.

Mr. Speaker: All right. The Honourable Member may proceed with his speech.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Though I respect the National Government and the Congress, yet I would find no marked difference between the previous Government and the existing Governmnt if like the previous Government people were to be put into prison without institution of legal proceedings against them.

Our Government have banned Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh and other associations. I do not want to condemn this action of the Government but what I mean to say is, that to maintain peace and order the Government must ban only those organisations which are violent and which are suspected of disturbing the peace of the country.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): May I interrupt the Honourable Member? Sir, all of us are interested in the comments which the Honourable Member, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, is making. And he is talking in fluent Urdu! If he would kindly speak in English all of us can follow his speech.

Mr. Speaker: Let us not take time in that discussion. It is left to the Honourable Member.

Shri B. Das: It is left to him no doubt. But we would all like to respectfully listen to his speech if he changes the language.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I am not going to disappoint Mr. Das. I was submitting for the consideration of the House that the name of the Congress and the name of our National Government are very dear to each one of us. If I say something in respect of our own Government it is with due deference, respect and love for my Government that I speak. We know that the British Government proceeded against Congressmen and other organisations in this country. It proceeded on certain defined principles and so far as the apparent tenor of those principles is concerned, it took good care to see that the courts in this country upheld the laws. We know that Section 26 of the Public Safety Act was declared illegal by the High Courts. What is the position today? The R. S. Sangh and other bodies have been banned. No case has been brought against the members of those bodies in their capacity as members of the R. S. Sangh, etc. Many persons have been arrested under the provisions of the Punjab Safety Act as applied to other territories. The position is this. Even if the Deputy Commissioners were not satisfied that certain persons were behaving in a criminal manner, or even if they thought that they were not dangerous to society, yet those persons were put in jail. Warrants were issued for those persons who had given, or who were party to give, donations to the R. S. Sangh, months before it was banned. I humbly submit that this position is not legally correct. If the Punjab Safety Act is being applied, let it be applied in the ordinary way. Persons who are really dangerous may be put in jail for such time as is necessary. I have no objection to that. But I know that many persons who are very loyal Congressmen, who would have stood between the assassin and Mahatma Gandhi and offered their lives in defence, are in jail. Persons who went to jail for the Congress cause many a time and are absolutely loyal, more loyal than many an average Congressman, are still in jail. I am ashamed of it. I cannot reply to these men. My own friends, many of them who have been working for the cause of the country, who are absolutely loyal, are still rotting in jail. I cannot show my face in the country or before them. It is not only to save my face but I cannot give them any consolation why our own Government is behaving in this manner. Since I feel this I have taken this opportunity of appealing to the Government to behave in a more legal manner and in a more considerate manner. About three hundred people of Delhi are in jail. I know many of them. Two hundred of them, I have been informed, have given assurances to the Government that they are not going to behave in any manner which is not liked by the Government. The R. S. Sangh has been

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dissolved by the founder of that Sangh and therefore continuance of association with that Sangh is no longer a crime. At the same time we know that the rot has gone much deeper than we think. If there are people who believe in violence and act in a manner prejudicial to the state I am at one with the Congress Government and our National Government that such persons should be kept in jail; I have not a word of sympathy for them; I want them to be kept in jail. But with regard to other persons my humble submission is that we should behave in a manner which is dignified. What is the use of enacting this Constitution which you are enacting if by your own acts and if by the manner in which you proceed with the administration of law you make the lives of so many people uncomfortable and you detain them in custody? It is against the grain of the Congressman, it is against the grain of the National Government that this National Government should allow itself to behave in a way which is not fair and just. If you see Section 15 of the Constitution you will come to know that the basic principle of personal liberty has been enshrined in this Section. I wish that the National Government works in the spirit of this Section and not otherwise.

This is not all. I may bring to your notice that there are many persons, hundreds of them, who are not even members of the R. S. Sangh—even they are in jail. There are a good many people who knew the R. S. Sangh only as a body which insisted on physical culture; there are many who believed that if a person belonged to that body he was doing nothing wrong except just having physical culture. Those people should not be put in jail. At the same time may I humbly suggest and complain before this House that the policy of the Government is not secular, is not I should say non-sectarian in this sense. We want to have a secular state. It is all right. I do not want that this Government should in any way favour the Hindus. But what do we see the policy elsewhere? Today in Karachi persons are attacked because they are Sikhs. A Mussalman cannot tolerate the appearance of a Sikh in Karachi. They are attacked because they are in a Gurdwara! And what is our Government doing? The Urs must be held under the auspices of the Government and with the supervision of Government officials. All mosques must be protected and repaired. I want the protection of all mosques. I want that the Muslim who lives in India must live safely and honourably. At the same time I do not want that a favourable treatment should be granted to the Muslim community or the Hindu community or the Sikh community. Two thousand houses and buildings are kept under protection here in the expectation that the Muslims will come and occupy them. Is similar treatment going to be given to any other class? I want this secular Government to act in a secular manner and for no reason should it be partial to this Community or that Community.

I therefore humbly submit for the consideration of this Government that in regard to members of the R.S.S. they should adopt a policy which is just and humane, and in our own interests it is no use when we are in office to prejudice ourselves by alienating the sympathies of these people, who have always been supporting the government, and to see that the rot enters their mind, and when they come out of jail or as long as they remain in jail to allow them to think that the government is not behaving properly. Out of crores of people who live in this country, how many are members of the Congress, but the entire country wants the Congress government to go on. We all want—not only members of the Congress, but all those whom you do not know, whom you do not count as Congressmen, do want that this national government should go on. They will shed their blood for the national government. For God's sake do not alienate them for reasons for which there is no legal or moral justification. I earnestly appeal that the cases of all those persons should be reviewed and justice done to each one and all of them.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although it is for the first time during the present Budget discussion that I am speaking, I am doing so with considerable hesitation and the reasons are two-fold: Firstly as one who has been giving lists of speakers from day to day I feel a little embarrassed when certain friends who were more anxious to speak today have not been allowed to do so: and secondly, Sir, the Honourable the Home Minister is not here and it is again a bit embarrassing to say what I have to say in his absence. Ordinarily if it were only something concerning him personally or requiring his attention, I would have had a talk with him personally or written to him, but it is not only for his information, but to remind the House and the Ministers about the importance of the task of reorganizing the secretariat, and still more to tell men and women in the secretariat as to what we in the House think of them and what this House, the country and the party which supplies the government expect of them. Sir, the secretariat is an important part of the government machinery. Indeed it is the fly wheel of the machinery and for the efficient and smooth working of the government machinery it is necessary that the free wheel of the secretariat should be moving smoothly. It should not be carried on with corruption. It should not be rusted with inefficiency and self-interest, and it is only then that this government machinery can keep moving. Sir, we all know that last year Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru admitted on the floor of the House that he had inherited an unfortunate legacy in the shape of bureaucratic machinery and he felt greatly handicapped because of it. I want to ask the Ministers as to how much this machinery has changed. We all know how it is functioning now. There has not been any change during the last year. If we go to the secretariat, we find it is as overcrowded as before. I will just give you a list of the Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries, and from that you will see that I am justified in making my statement. As regards Secretaries, in 1924/25, we had only 9 Secretaries to Departments; in 1938/39 we had 10 Secretaries; and in 1948/49 we have 22 Secretaries—so that there has been a rise from about 10 to 22 Secretaries.

Then as regards Additional Secretaries, in 1924/25 we had none, in 1938/39 we had 3 Additional Secretaries; and in 1948/49 we have 5 Additional Secretaries; so that we have in all 27 Secretaries or Additional Secretaries working in the departments.

As for Joint Secretaries, there were 7 in 1924/25, 10 in 1938/39; and 37 in 1948/49.

Then as regards Deputy Secretaries, in 1924/25 we had 15, in 1938/39 we had 19, and now we have 88.

Again in regard to Under Secretaries, in 1924/25 there were 4, in 1938/39 there were 17, and now in 1948/49 we have 73.

Again as regards Assistant Secretaries, we find in 1924/25 there were 21, in 1938/39 there were 21, and now we have 127. There are Assistant Secretaries with only three Assistants and Superintendents with even two assistants.

So this is the position in regard to these officers in the secretariat. I know that a Retrenchment Committee has been appointed. As a matter of fact this committee has not been able to function. I was told it would be functioning and would be submitting interim reports, but from what I have heard it is not going to begin its work in right earnest till April. Anyway I am not concerned with the economy or the retrenchment part of it. It was said on behalf of the Production Department and industrialists that Transport was the biggest bottle-neck. The Transport Minister on the other hand said that the biggest bottle-neck was production. Personally I feel that the biggest bottle-neck is the secretariat where all schemes are throttled, delayed

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and do not get as prompt attention as they should. We have heard appeals from the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Production for more and more production—Produce or Perish is their Slogan. But what are these gentlemen producing? They are not producing anything but files and red tape. The Railway budget papers were supplied this year tied in blue tape and the General budget papers tied in white tape, and I thought the red tape had gone. The red tape is still there and we find that even now letters to the secretariat are not acknowledged for months together. Sir, what is our expectation? We want that the secretariat should be efficient. The Staff in the secretariat should be patriotic and public-spirited. I do not want them to indulge in politics, but I do want that they should be public-spirited and patriotic, but what do we find in the secretariat? We want them to be governed by the Gandhian principle, and the Gandhian principle means simplicity, service and sacrifice. These gentlemen who adorn the high posts of Secretaries are those persons who in 1920/21, when the appeal came from Mahatma Gandhi to give up their studies, stuck on, went to foreign countries and qualified themselves and now they are in the I.C.S., while their compatriots, those persons who were competing with them, went to jails, and some of them are also members here, and they complain that while those persons who were their colleagues and co-students are Secretaries representing the India Government at different international conferences, they are not even consulted about these important questions.

Now, Sir, talking about their patriotism again—I know these gentlemen, know that according to the constitution all the titles will be abolished in this country, but then these gentlemen have not even thought it necessary to give up their O. B. E. and M. B. E., and Rai Sahib and Rai Bahadur titles. You will see British Imperialism may have gone but these Officers and Members of the British Empire continue. Again, what is the change in their dress? They continue in their old uniform. Not only that. What is their attitude towards inferiors? They themselves may come and dance attendance on Ministers. They may just try to prove their efficiency to them, but you go and see their attitude towards inferiors. The subordinates are kept at a distance. They are not accessible to them.

Then again they want to draw their maximum salaries of Rs. 4,000, although according to the recommendations of the Pay Commission none of them should draw more than Rs. 3,000. We know in Burma the Secretaries were drawing high salaries, but they have given them up simply as a patriotic duty. Even in Pakistan their Secretaries have, in response to the appeal by the Prime Minister, accepted a reduction in salaries. But our patriots will have none of this; they must have their full pound of flesh no matter whether the country bleeds or whether the tax-payer suffers.

One thing more about these I.C.S., officers. I had a talk with the Honourable the Deputy Prime Minister and he said he was working with one-third the number of the I.C.S. I told him. "Why then, if you have got only one-third, should you have these persons going to foreign countries, and working as Private Secretaries and working everywhere"? He said, what could he do? Everybody was demanding for I.C.S. officers with ten years' experience and all that. Why this new love for the I.C.S.? Why this change and diffidence on the part of our leaders? Who are these persons? After all, if we could carry on our fight against the British Imperialism without the help of these people—nay, with these people arrayed against us, and using their talent and experience crushing our movement—I cannot understand why we cannot carry on the work without the help of these Secretaries.

There are the administrative heads. Then why should you have a Secretary to intervene between the Head of the Department and the Honourable Minister? In the Posts and Telegraphs Department for some time the Director of Posts and Telegraphs has been working as the Secretary. In the Health Department it is the Surgeon-General who is working as the Secretary. Again in the Education Department it is the Educational Adviser who is working as the Secretary. Why should we have so many persons here? If there is a shortage of I.C.S. people, the less we employ them in these Posts the better for us. We should have administrators who should work as Secretaries.

Then again they may be specialists in one branch. But wherever there is room for promotion they are sent from this Department to that—even for a period of three or four months they are sent from the Defence Department to Information and Broadcasting and from there to some other place.

Then we find that superannuated persons are being recruited—those who have retired, and who had joined business houses or those who had gone to the States and being re-employed in the Government of India.

I have already spoken about the extra staff. The sooner the extra additional staff is removed from the Secretariat the better for every one of us. I do not say that they should all go into the streets; but for God's sake they should be removed from the Secretariat. They are overcrowding the Secretariat, they are infecting idleness and inefficiency and they are breeding corruption and the sooner they are sent out of the Secretariat the better for every one of us.

Then you have got the "show" of work. If you go to the Secretariat, you find everybody with little work. I have a suggestion to make and that is this. We must have efficiency squads. These efficiency squads must be deputed to every Department. There should be say five or six squads; they should not be composed of the I.C.S. people but should be formed out of Class II and III officers. They should go and see how much work each Department has and how it is disposed of, whether the communications that are received are acknowledged and replies despatched, and action taken in the minimum possible time. Is there any business house where a letter remains unacknowledged for three months or where every time you go and enquire you would be told, "Kindly send another copy"?

In addition to high salaries, then we have got recreation allowance. I think some recreation allowance has been recommended for these gentlemen; although they have high salaries still they want that allowance. During war this innovation was mad that for going to the hills they must be paid Rs. 150 for themselves and Rs. 150 for their wives. I understand that a proposal is being made that it should be continued and I am afraid that it might be introduced after the Budget is passed because then the House will not be able to go into the matter.

Then there is unjust distribution of work. Some of the staff are overworked and some of them are underworked although they make show of work. I would like that the appointments that have been made during the last year or six months must be enquired into; we will find how nepotism is going on. Communalism may have gone, but there is provincialism, there is sectarianism and there is nepotism.

Then about the national language. While we do encourage everyone of us here to talk in the national language, no subordinate can talk in any other language than English to his Secretary or Deputy Secretary or even Under-Secretary. What do they think? These gentlemen in five years time are supposed to learn our language, to work in the national language. And they do not encourage that language!

Then we have got the national dress. While we have prescribed a national dress for our Ambassadors and others, here the old British tie and collar continue.

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

Unions and associations of employees are not encouraged. I think it is time that these should be encouraged and there should be more intimate contact not only between the Secretaries and the subordinate staff, but also between the Ministers and the subordinate staff. They should have periodical conferences with them and the staff must have occasions to bring their grievances to the notice of the Minister.

One thing more and that is about the service books. All sorts of remarks are put in the service book and there is no appeal. There is nobody to check whether what is done is right or not. I know of some persons engaged in the Secretariat and I think every Member here knows them—they come to them. They say, "This remark has been put in the service book, it is baseless but there is no appeal". I think there should be some machinery provided for going into the question as to whether these remarks are justified or not.

I have already spoken of the heads of the Departments, and their Deputy Secretaries and Under-Secretaries. Why should we have so many of them? Even for the Minister without Portfolio, we have got a Secretary without portfolio and a Deputy Secretary without Portfolio.

I have to say a few words about the Public Service Commission. The other day our Maulana Sahib talked about new weights, measures and new *tarazu*, but what about the persons who are using these weights and scales? Their mentality is the same—they are brought up in the bureaucratic spirit; they have no regard for those persons who have suffered for the sake of the country. If these people go before them they are as much disqualified as before. What I want is that there should be a radical alteration in the personnel of the Federal Public Services Commission. I do not want that it should have a Party colour, but I want that there must be persons there who must appreciate patriotism, who must be public-spirited, who must appreciate adventure in our youth. Then alone will we derive the benefit out of it. After all, the Public Services Commission is a sieve through which all posts go just as for flour we have one kind of sieve, for rice we have another kind of sieve. It may have been a good machinery for the old days when these retired officials or the senior I.C.S. officials were appointed to the Public Services Commission. I think the time has come when the personnel of the Commission should be changed. I think we can have patriotic men—not necessarily politicians—who may be appointed to the Public Services Commission.

Then, Sir, about appointments in the Departments where the Head of the Department sits and goes through the applications. I know how these Secretaries are carrying on their nepotistic activities. One Secretary whispers into the ear of another Secretary that the Prime Minister wants this man to be appointed and the other Secretary speaks to his master who thinks it must be correct because after all Secretaries were responsible men. There is such a case within my knowledge Sir. The blame goes to the Prime Minister or the Minister without his knowledge I know these gentlemen who have suffered in the cause of the country would never stoop so low as to recommend for one man or another or their relations or friends. It is these Secretaries who place the Ministers in such an embarrassing position.

After all, you know what happened, Sir, the other day when the Maulana spoke. A note was circulated to us and I know it is the Secretary or Deputy Secretary who did this, and the person responsible must be called to explain why such a thing had happened.

Lastly, Sir, I would say that Sardar's illness has come to us as a warning. We know that Mahatmaji's death, unfortunate as it was, gave us a warning that there was danger to the safety of our Ministers and at our request the Prime Minister and the Ministers have accepted our suggestion to have bodyguards and shadows and have adopted other safety measures for the safety

of their persons in the interests of the nation. But I see another danger, and that is one revealed by the Sardar's illness. Our Ministers are being over-worked. How tremendous is the strain which they are undergoing in the cause of the country is well known to all of us. It is, we know, a high sense of duty and patriotism which impel them to work late hours and carry on their multifarious activities, but still in the interests of the country, it is necessary that they should be relieved of the pressure of work, so that they may preserve and conserve their energies and they may live long and give us their guidance. I hope, Sir, that the Sardar will soon recover. That is the prayer of all of us. We want him to have a speedy recovery. Still, we want that he should not exert himself in the manner he has been doing, because we want his guidance for long on the critical problems that are facing us. I hope that a special note of this will be made and concrete steps will be taken in the next two months to re-organise the Secretariat and to deduce the over-staffing that exists. They may be utilised for the spread of literacy and so many other national activities. Sir, I have done.

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. Speaker: I may say that I am going to call upon the Honourable Minister to reply to both the cuts at Ten minutes past Three.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, the subject that I wish to discuss at the moment is concerning the Hyderabad Issue. While speaking on this, I am conscious that we have had quite a good deal of information on this question from replies in answer to questions put by Honourable Members of this House and from statements made by the Honourable the Prime Minister as well as the Minister in charge of the Department. Even so there is in the minds of most people, at any rate, a very large number of people, a sense of dissatisfaction at the way in which the Hyderabad issue has been tackled and is still pending. Some of the Honourable Members of this House whilst making speeches on the previous motion have already referred to the causes that determined the attitude of some of the people, especially the members of the R.S.S. towards the present Government. In the opinion of quite a large number of people, Sir, the assassination of our dear Mahatmaji was not the act of a solitary individual gone mad. It was according to them a sort of a climax of an intense a sense of dissatisfaction and frustration that a set of people in India felt This sense of frustration and disappointment arose as a result of their view of the attitude and policy of our Government towards not only the State of Hyderabad or the Muslims in general, but our attitude towards our neighbouring state of Pakistan. Sir, my friend have complained that in trying to suppress the R.S.S. we were guilty of denial of civil liberties that we were resorting to excesses, that we were putting in jails people who were completely innocent. Sir, while on the one hand it is necessary that the R.S.S. should be dealt with a strong hand, it is also necessary to look into the causes which led to the mentality from which every member of the R.S.S. has suffered and is still suffering and those causes, Sir, not only affect the minds of the members of the R.S.S. but there is a huge number of people who although not members of the R.S.S are dissatisfied with our attitude towards Pakistan. Innumerable grievances concerning the treatment or rather the illtreatment of the non-Muslims in Pakistan have been ventilated on the floor of the House. When people compare the way in which the Government of Pakistan deals with the minorities there and when they compare the gentleness, and the over-generous way in which we look at the same set of people here, a large section of our people feel an amount of dissatisfaction. It was the result of this sense of disappointment that many people' minds have been affected.

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

So far as Hyderabad is concerned, Sir, we have been told when a statement was made on the floor of this House by the Honourable Minister in charge on the 29th of November that this was along with Kashmir and Junagad one of the three States that had not acceded to the Indian Union till then. Although Kashmir and Junagadh had been mentioned then as States which had not acceded, we all know that both these states have now completely and finally acceded, to the Indian Union and there can be no question about their accession raised in any quarter. But so far as Hyderabad is concerned, a standstill agreement was concluded. The House, Sir, did not manifest much dissatisfaction at the time this news was conveyed to it and most of the members of this House refrained from criticising this stand-still agreement. But events that occurred on the borders of Hyderabad, inside Hyderabad as well as in the territories under the Indian Union have been a matter of grave concern to all of us not only before the stand-still agreement was concluded, but ever since. When the Honourable Sardar Vallabhai Patel made a statement before this House with regard to the Hyderabad issue, he had hopes, Sir, and all of us hoped that circumstances would alter and the situation would undergo a change. Unfortunately, Sir, it is my painful duty to point out that instead of the situation bettering, it is worsening in every respect and the news is pouring in almost daily of the excesses committed by the Hyderabad *Ittehad-Ul-Muslimeen* not only inside the borders of the Hyderabad State, but even outside. So, Sir, while considering this issue, we have to consider it not only from the point of view of our capacity to deal with an Indian State, however large or small, but also from the point of view of the tranquillity and peace of our country and the safety of the property and the lives of our people. It is from that point of view, Sir, that I would urge the Government to consider the matter and whether it is not time that we took some firmer steps than we have so far taken, so that the properties and lives of our people are safe. We for a moment, may even disregard what is happening inside the Hyderabad State. Of course, that is also a matter of very intimate concern to us because those people are not any different from people living in the Indian Union. But even so, if merely for argument's sake, they were left to their fate so far as the Hyderabad subjects are concerned, those outside Hyderabad have got a claim on us. We are responsible for any inconvenience or hardships they may suffer from, I think, the way in which we are dealing with this; some at the moment we can hardly say that we are discharging the responsibility properly, in any case not to the satisfaction of the people of India. So, the House, I think, is entitled to know all the details and have an explanation as to what is going to happen in the immediate future and to what extent it will be possible for us to protect our own people on the borders. Day in and day out we hear of raids; we hear of properties being carried away, cattle being stolen and people being looted. When all this is going on the people are bound to feel distressed and nervous and they are accusing this Government of inactivity and lack of consideration. I do not think, Sir, it is good for any Government that its capacity of protecting its own people should be doubted or disputed. It is therefore, Sir, necessary that the Government should tackle the issue at an early date more firmly. I think there are a large number of speakers on this issue and therefore, I do not wish to take any more time of the House.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain (Bihar: Muslim): Sir, history tells us that there was a time when everything existed for the ruler. The people existed for the ruler whose word was law. Louis XIV of France is reported to have said, "*L'etat, c'est moi*" (I am the State). But now the times have considerably changed and they have changed for the better. Now the rulers do not count; it is the people who count and everything now exists for the people and the rulers are simply the servants of the people. Sir, most of the States were

at one time merely the provinces of the Central Government, I do not think there was any State in India which was independent with external sovereignty. And all these States which were really provinces of the centre had as their rulers people called Subahdars who are now called Governors. The difference between the Governors of those days and the Governors of the present day is only this that in those days the period of office was not fixed; he might be Governor for life or in perpetuity or from generation to generation. But now the term of office of the Governor is fixed. When the British came out to this country, and became its rulers they thought they would not be able to remain in India long if they had direct contact with the people. They did not want to have any connection with the people, and they devised two methods for this. They created two institutions; those who were Subahdars of provinces were recognised as perpetual rulers of the province which was called a principality; and the petty holders of land scattered everywhere were called *Zamindars* or *jagirdars* or *talukdars*. The princely order, whether they had or did not have internal powers, were the real backbone of British rule, and they did everything to support the British people in ruling this country. And in recognition of their services titles were showered upon them, like Maharaja and Knighthood, and so on. But the British did not realise that the world's greatest man in modern times would be born in this country and open the eyes of the people who would see that they were slaves who by his nonviolent methods would succeed in turning them out of this country. Alas, he is no longer with us though he is with us in spirit. But the point is that the British had to go. And as soon as they went away we had the rule of the people here. The first thing we did was to abolish this feudal system and the intermediaries known as *Zamindars*. And in every province there is an attempt—which I hope will succeed in the end—to abolish these intermediaries. But then I am unable to understand the anomalous position that is being created. In the centre there will be a republic,—I presume and hope it will be socialist republic. In the provinces there will be the rule of the people but in some part of India the old feudal system will continue as before. Our Government say there is some difficulty about it; we cannot get rid of these people because when the British were going away they told these so-called Princes, "We are going away after creating two Dominions; it is for you to accede to either of them or to become independent. Paramountcy has lapsed." But are we going to act up to the advice of these people who have gone from here? Were they not our enemies throughout? Did they not try to throttle us in every way when we tried to achieve our freedom? I will advise my Government to abolish this princely order forthwith as the *Zamindaris* are being abolished. There should be no princely order anywhere and every State without exception should go. There should be our Governors; they were Governors in perpetuity and now they should be our Governors for a fixed period, say, five or six years, and nothing beyond that. Why should the Princes be given any compensation? I am not in favour of giving anything to them. They have extracted enough money in cash and kind from the poor people of the land; they hoarded enormous amounts of cash and jewellery and they are far more wealthy than any one of us. Let them go away unsung and unhonoured. But there is one class of people on whose behalf I will appeal to the Prime Minister, and these are the rulers and *Zamindars* who were the first people to fight against the British in 1857. Some died on the battle-field while others were hanged or shot dead, their properties and estates were confiscated. With regard to such people I want to know what the policy of Government is, whether they are going to be compensated or not. I submit, Sir, that these are the only people who are entitled to compensation and compensation must be given to them.

There is one aspect of the matter which I want to mention before I deal with Hyderabad. Supposing there is a war and some foreign power invades India, do you think for a moment that these so-called ruling Princes will side

[Mr. Tajamul Hosain]

with us? Are they not sorry now that the British have left and some of them have to merge with other States or provinces? If left as they are—as feudal lords—they will become fifth columnists and attack us when we are attacked by a foreign power. Therefore I submit that the princely order must be abolished forthwith.

Now I will deal with Hyderabad. In 1713 the ancestor of the present Nizam of Hyderabad—Asaf Jah—was appointed Subahdar by the then Central Government in 1800 there was a treaty of alliance between the East India Company and the then Nizam in which the latter has been described as Subahdar.

Maulana Hasrat Mohani (U. P.: Muslim): What is he now?

Mr. Speaker: Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: To answer my Honourable friend I will say that he is now the same Subahdar that he was in 1800. If he was prepared to accept a Subahdarship under the East India Company, why should he not accept it under us? We are now his masters.

Sir, I was saying that the Nizam never exercised external powers, and a State which does not exercise external powers cannot be described as an independent sovereign State. No doubt the British created the Nizam perpetual ruler of that principality but the Nizam always remained a subordinate vassal of the British Empire. He received titles and honours like Farzand and Arjumand of Britainia and so on, and also "His Exalted Highness", etc. But it was only 12 years ago in 1936 that the present Nizam agreed to accede to the Federation of India. Does that not show that he has always been a subject and a vassal of the Central Government? Sir, the British have always claimed to be the successors of the Moghul Empire and no doubt we are the successors of the British Government; and so the Nizam is nothing better than a Subahdar. He was Subahdar during the East India Company and during the British rule he was Subahdar. Now that the real rulers in the shape of the people come in, he says, "No, I will not accept you". I am afraid he is making a fool of us and we are showing weakness. Our Government is showing weakness. I cannot understand the idea of appointing an Agent-General. Does the Honourable the Prime Minister think that by sending him the State will accede to the Indian Dominion? Do you think the Nizam will ever come down? I say that negotiations are a waste of time, money and energy. The Honourable the Prime Minister the other day in answer to a supplementary question of mine said that he wanted to know the wishes of the people of Hyderabad as to whether they will accede or not. But I will ask the Prime Minister how is he going to ascertain the wishes of the people as long as the people are under him. Unless you take possession of the State you cannot get the people over to you.

I would advise the Honourable the Prime Minister that the first thing he should do is to stop negotiations: secondly recall the Agent General: and thirdly march an army there at once. I am sure that within a couple of days you will capture the whole of Hyderabad. It is not Kashmir and nobody can come to the help of Hyderabad.

My time is up although I would like to say more. I however believe that there should be no princely order. It does not matter whether Kashmir goes over to Pakistan or not but in the Dominion we must have one Government throughout.

Mr. Speaker: I would just inform the House that the clocks have stopped working. I am going according to my own watch.

Shri B. N. Munavalli (Deccan and Madras States Group): Sir, the time at my disposal is very short. So I will touch on only some of the points. As regards the policy that has been adopted by our Government in the interests of the States, it is entirely to the satisfaction of the people, and Sir, I may tell you that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who is in charge of the States Ministry, has won the admiration of the States' people by handling these affairs in the most tactful manner.

About a month or two ago, when I had the opportunity of speaking in this House on the Extra-Provincial jurisdiction Bill, I said that in the Deccan States a union was going to be formed and a Covenant that was drafted by the Rulers was being thrust upon the people against their will. But, Sir, in the meanwhile the visit of Sardar Patel to Cuttack which induced the Chatisgarh States to merge, had such a dramatic effect both on the Rulers and the ruled that the ruled were encouraged to agitate for merger: the ruler began to quake with fear and so they accepted merger. Today we see that a number of States have merged. However, after the merger so many points have arisen. The area which ought to be taken into certain districts have not been properly adjusted. On this point, I request the Government that the wishes of the people should be taken into consideration. And in the normal fight that the people have put up for the establishment of responsible Government or a merger, so many have suffered and the property of so many have been confiscated and they have not been returned. I tell you, for example, Sir, that in Ramdurg, which took the lead for establishing responsible Government and also for getting certain grievances redressed, although there was an amicable settlement on the 26th February 1939, after the settlement the State authorities took it into their heads that the Praja Sangh, which was an organised institution, should be put down and all of a sudden, they went to repress that institution, and when on the 5th April 1939, the repression started and the leaders were thrown into prison for no fault of their own, at once there was such a terrific agitation among the people on account of the repression and on account of the news that was spread by the police that their leaders were done to death, that the people of the whole State marched from the villages and they wanted to see their leader who was kept in jail. But the authorities concerned, instead of showing them their leader, began to fire on the people without knowing that they had sufficient cartridges. When the cartridges were exhausted, then the Superintendent of the Jail came bowing before their leader and asked him to pacify the mob. The mob was pacified and went away. Still the authorities were not satisfied. Somehow or other they wanted that something should be committed by the people, and again the police came in a lorry and began to fire on the mob which was going away calmly. At this they were infuriated and some murders also took place. Thereafter, taking advantage of this position, the military was called and on the evening, the shops of many merchants were looted. Nearly 35 shops were looted and property worth more than two lakhs was taken away and that too under the nose of the ruler and at the instigation of the Dewan, the Deputy superintendent of Police and the Sub-Inspector. The police were in the loot. Although all these things happened, yet at the time of the enquiry, when witnesses were coming on behalf of the people, they were terrified. In spite of this terror, they went to give their evidence, but the very next day, they were found clapped in jail. Such was the harrowing-tale. At that time, quite a lot of property was confiscated, including that of the president of the Praja Sangh. He came only 15 minutes late to the court, as the river was in floods and he was delayed. His property was confiscated, not only his share but the share of his son and brother and it was kept in their own possession. There are other serious cases also. The properties of many such persons have been taken away and their families have been thrown on the streets. All along they have been

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left abegging; and after seven years when the ban on the Praja Sangh was removed and when we went to Ramdrug and we claimed that our properties be restored, the Raja delayed the matter. Without giving any responsible government or appointing any persons from the Praja Sangh as ministers he went on delaying and now he has merged his state. I request that the Government should take note of the properties confiscated and restore them to the persons who have fought heroically and won the freedom and saw to it that these states have merged.

As regards the administrations in the states, they have been topheavy. Most of the officers are not required now. If they are removed immediately, we will be saving a large amount of expense. I am requesting the Government that immediate steps should be taken in that direction also.

As regards Hyderabad, the Standstill agreement of one year is not very happy. All states people are looking to this one important problem of Hyderabad. Hyderabad people are being tormented in all possible ways. Of course the struggle which has been started, is still going on, and the people are determined to see that the struggle goes on, until they get responsible government. However, it is an important matter and the Government should see that the Nizam of Hyderabad yields and accedes to India not for a temporary period but permanently. Otherwise, the Government should deal with the matter, as quickly as possible, to strengthen the hands of the people who have been all along suffering. Sir, I have done.

Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha (Bihar: General): Sir, I shall be very brief in my submissions to you. I am profoundly grateful to you for permitting me to address the House sitting.

We are very sorry that the Honourable Minister for States is ill. We wish him speedy recovery, and I hope the Honourable Mr. Gadgil will convey to him our good wishes for his return to the House as soon as possible.

I am here today to bring to the notice of the Honourable Mr. Gadgil, who is representing the States Ministry, and also of the Honourable Members of the House, to two grievances in regard to the Province of Bihar. These grievances are in relation to the states that had either merged or were going to merge, or may ultimately merge in the province of Bihar itself, or in the neighbouring provinces, the Central Provinces, on the one side, and Orissa, on the other. There has been a long and an unfortunate controversy between these three provinces; and I have not the least desire to add to the controversy by referring in detail to any unpleasant matters or incidents; but the dispute between Bihar and Orissa has already led to a serious riot, and a number of people had been killed. The States Ministry have now appointed a Bombay High Court Judge to act as the Commissioner or Arbitrator; and I understand that this learned judge will soon be going to adjudicate upon the matter. In view of that fact we shall wait until he comes to Bihar, or goes to Orissa, and we shall lay before him our grievances against what we consider to be the wrong action of the States Ministry in this particular matter, and we shall abide by his decision, whatever it may be. I may inform the Honourable Mr. Gadgil that in regard to both the grievances the Bihar Government have prepared elaborate memoranda, which have been formally submitted, I think, to the Secretary in charge of the States Ministry, and which memoranda, if he so desires, I shall be very glad to furnish him with.

In regard to the Central Provinces the matter stands thus. When many years back the partition of Bengal was effected by Lord Curzon, a number of Bihar States were allowed to be transferred from the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of the Chhota Nagpur Division of Bihar to the jurisdiction of the

Commissioner of the Chhatisgarh Division. That has remained so far; but as no question of accession or merger arose till now the people of Bihar did not agitate about it. Now that the question of merger or accession is going to be settled we have submitted a memorandum showing that all these states, or at least as many of them as the States Department think it right and proper, should accede to Bihar, and the rest may go to the Central Provinces. Our position, I submit, is a very fair one. We follow the lead of the Honourable the Prime Minister, who said yesterday at Vizagapatam, that while he does not desire to encroach upon the rights of others he will not permit others to encroach upon our rights. We in Bihar take the same attitude in this particular matter, and I hope the Honourable Mr. Gadgil will consider my request reasonable and fair, which is that when this learned Judge, of the Bombay High Court, comes to investigate and record evidence, or in any way that he thinks it proper to decide the dispute between Bihar and Orissa, he may also be asked or authorised to settle the dispute between Bihar and the Central Provinces.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several cuts have been moved with respect to matters falling under the Home Ministry as well as matters falling under the Ministry of States. I propose to deal with most of them as briefly as possible for it is most difficult within a short space of forty minutes to do full justice to every aspect of criticism that has been levelled in the course of the debate this morning and also this afternoon.

With respect to the cut motion which has been moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta and which was supported by the representative in this House from Ajmer-Merwara I only want to say that the whole matter is in a sort of melting pot. The Constitution has been prepared and the draft has been circulated. This question will be dealt with permanently and I hope in a satisfactory manner in the Constituent Assembly. There are only a few months left between now and the time when the New Constitution will come into force. Meanwhile I would ask the Honourable Members concerned to put up with some inconvenience which they have put up with for many many long years. But as a matter of fact this Advisory Council scheme came into existence as a result of representations made by the very Honourable Members who have participated in today's debate. It may not be entirely satisfactory and there are good reasons, such as constitutional and political, why it cannot be entirely satisfactory.

The next question that was raised in connection with these Centrally administered areas was about the security measures. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago the Honourable the Deputy Prime Minister gave details about the situation in Delhi and the main fact that he pointed out was that immediately after partition when disturbances started here there was desertion in the police ranks on a very large scale both here in Delhi as well as in Ajmer. In Delhi the total strength was about 3,500 out of which only a thousand were left, the rest deserting. In Ajmer-Merwara 50 per cent of them were Muslims and they also deserted. The House can well imagine the difficulties which the Honourable the Home Minister had to face and I should say it is a great tribute to his tact and resourcefulness that within a short space of two weeks he brought the whole situation under control and imported police from the provinces of C.P. and U.P. Recruitment has started and it is expected that the full complement will be available in good order in the course of a few months, and the new plan is that even in a great emergency there should be no recourse to military. That is the plan on which the Ministry has been working.

As regards other matters, during the disturbances, it was not that there was any lack of determination to go to the full measure in taking precautions. The apparatus of the state was brought into full operation. Two thousand people were arrested, meetings were banned, proceedings were taken against

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newspapers; in fact everything that was expected of this Government was done. I do not think therefore that I need waste any more time on his.

The third cut motion, which was moved by Prof. Shibbanlal Saksena, dealt with civil liberties. He went on to point out that there has been a process of indiscriminate arrests following the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. He gave certain instances, and certain other instances were given by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. Our critics cannot have it both ways: they cannot say that this Government has been weak and at the same time accuse Government of being so strong that there has been a process of indiscriminate arrests. When we talk of civil liberties it must have reference to normal times. When we are living in abnormal times when the very existence of the state is challenged by a section of the community or a well-organized group, then it is not only the duty of the state but the duty that the state owes not only to the present generation but to the generations to come that it must bring into operation swiftly whatever apparatus it has and put it down with a heavy hand. Sir, you are aware of the way in which Mahatma Gandhi and certain Congress leaders were abused in the Mahratti press, and when that paper which was edited by the assassin of Mahatma Gandhi was asked to deposit security there was a regular howl against the Provincial Government of Bombay from all quarters—Communists, Socialists, and Congressmen and everybody who counted for public life in that Province. Now, when this violent propaganda has ended in the assassination of Gandhiji they suddenly turn round and accuse the Government of being weak. All I want to say is this that this policy—the policy of strong government you may call it—will remain in force so long as the needs of the situation justify it. There is not the slightest desire on the part of the Government to detain a single person beyond what the exigencies require. So far as Delhi is concerned there are three hundred persons detained and about ninety are detained in the Ajmer-Merwara Commissioner's area. Their cases are being reviewed and they will be reviewed from time to time. Everybody will be released unless there are strong grounds to suppose that he is involved in criminal activities or if released there is a possibility of the revival of those activities the putting down of which was the objective of this Government. A point was made by the Honourable Member, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, as to why they should not be tried if there was enough evidence. The House knows, Sir, that there are cases in which it is not possible to prove in the judicial sense but all the same the moral proof is there, and some discretion must be given to the executive government if the government is to govern. The essence of executive action is arbitrariness and swiftness. And, as I said, you cannot have it both ways. You cannot call the government weak, hesitant and at the same time when it takes action, not a minute earlier but just at the right time and takes the right sort of action, you cannot suddenly turn round and accuse it of being repressive in the name of civil liberty.

Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): How many of these three hundred men detained in Delhi were Muslim National Guards?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I cannot give it offhand. The point is this Sir that as Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has said, it goes against the grain of Congressmen to resort to such action. I share that feeling and I have no doubt that the Government shares that feeling. But the use of such measures is reduced to a minimum both in extent and in point of duration also. At the same time, if the necessity of maintaining law and order is well appreciated, and without which there cannot be progress, peace or prosperity, these powers must be left to the Government.

I do not claim that this Government, or for the matter of that any Government, is infallible. After all a Government consists of men and they are bound to commit mistakes. But I can assure you that this Government is not obstinate and if any instance in which a mistake has been committed is pointed out, I assure you that justice will be done at once.

Reference was made to the speech of the Deputy Prime Minister which he delivered a few months ago at Lucknow. It was pointed out by the same speaker why an attempt should not be made to win over these youngmen who merely are doing some sort of physical training and drill. What the Deputy Prime Minister said in that speech was that after the attainment of freedom there was no necessity for the Hindu Mahasabha organisation or the R.S.S. and that they should merge in the Congress and do useful social service. He also pointed out that *lathi* was not the solution, or the only solution of this problem. I wish to point out, Sir, that this Government is very much alive to the fact that the basis of state is the consent of the governed. A willing citizen is an asset; a repressed citizen is a potential danger. At the same time it should be remembered that when you have cast the responsibility of maintaining law and order on this Government, it is only expected of the members of this House and the public at large that they should give their whole-hearted support to the Government. As no reference has been made to any other aspect of civil liberties, I do not want to take up the time of the House.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: What about labour and kisan arrests?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I think I have covered that.

Then, Sir, while a cut motion was moved by 'left' Saksena, criticism was indulged in by 'right' Saksena. He referred to certain aspects of Secretariat recruitment, and some other points, which if I were to deal in detail, will take me a couple of hours. I do not propose to do that. I will say nothing about the dress and diet and other matters which are the individual concern of the I.C.S. officers. I will in this connection only refer the House to the compliment that was paid to the members of this service by the Deputy Prime Minister a few months ago on the floor of the House. It is possible, Sir, that some of us may not able to get over the prejudice which has been very carefully nursed in us in the course of the last so many years in which we have been brought up in an atmosphere of agitation. I may tell you, Mr. Speaker, from the personal experience of my own Ministry that the few I.C.S. officers I have have adjusted themselves well within a short time of fifteen days. I have never found them impeding or pigeon-holding any scheme. On the other hand, they are very anxious to cooperate. After all, let us remember they are Indians and they are now in tune with the spirit of the times. If there are exceptions here and there, that should not prejudice us to generalise in a manner which will instead of enabling us to get the best out of them will have the contrary effect. After all, in a democratic Government the permanent services must be left aloof from politics. Whatever politics may dictate us in the matter of dress or diet that should not be made applicable to them. It is for them to wear Gandhi cap or not. What I want to point out, Sir, is that the services should be kept aloof from politics.

It was pointed out by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena that there are innumerable posts carrying more than Rs. 3,000 per month.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I never said that.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Well any way you referred to high Salaries. There are 189 such posts in the Central Government out of which only 69 are held by members of the I.C.S. If the House decides that no public servant should be paid more than a particular sum by way of salary, that decision will be carried out.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): That has already been decided at Karachi.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: So long as the sentence of execution is not carried, even the man under sentence is entitled to get his prescribed diet. If the House decides that no man should be paid more than 500 or a thousand or 1,500, or whatever it is, Government is bound to carry out that decision, and those who do not want to serve will find out alternative jobs for themselves.

As regards Reorganisation I may bring to the notice of the House that several attempts have been made for the reorganisation of the Secretariat. Before the war there were two committees appointed, the Wheeler Committee and the Maxwell Committee. During the war, Mr. Tottenham was appointed to draw up a scheme of secretariat reorganisation. The recommendations of all these committees have been mostly implemented. Recently another committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai was appointed to suggest ways and means by which the secretariat machinery could be put on a sounder footing; some of its recommendations have been adopted. As the House is aware, a Retrenchment Committee has been appointed, and if according to their recommendations it is found that the Secretariat is over-staffed it will be put on its optimum strength. Another direction in which Secretariat has been re-organised is the abolition of the War Department and the distribution of its work between the Defence and Home Ministries.

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

Mr. Saksena then referred to the composition of the Federal Public Service Commission. Under the Act, 50 per cent of the Members of the Commission must be persons who have put in ten years of service. His point was that no independent-minded persons are appointed. I want to bring to his notice that it is not so. There are in the Commission persons from public life and persons who were on the High Court Bench. Many improvements have been made in the matter of recruitment and promotion. If I were to detail all these, Mr. Chairman, it will take quite a long time. I want only to assure Mr. Saksena that in whatever suggestions he may make in respect of economy and efficiency this Government will heartily cooperate.

Then the last cut was with respect to Hyderabad and the policy of the States Ministry with respect to States generally.

Before I proceed to say what I want to say about that, I want to reply briefly to two points which were made out by my Honourable friend Mr. Munavalli. He referred to certain problems which have arisen which are bound to arise after merger, such as the allotment of these states or parts of their territory to this district or the other, and the restoration of properties of those workers who have suffered. All I say at this stage is that they will be duly considered. As regards delimitation, it is necessarily bound up with the wider question, and when the wider question is discussed and decided, the question with respect to the areas which were under the jurisdiction of the Deccan States will also be decided. As regards the restoration of properties, now that these states have merged into the Indian Union, I have no doubt that the liberal and generous policy which has been the policy of the Indian Union Government will continue to be the policy with respect to these matters wherever there may be any occasion for consideration of the same.

Now Sir, as regards the states history is moving so fast, as was well said by Mr. Munavalli, that it is very difficult to say anything with certainty as to what will happen with respect to any state tomorrow, and I join with the previous speaker, Mr. Munavalli, in paying the compliment he has paid to the Honourable the Deputy Prime Minister. There are still four Groups of smaller states; 23 states of Malwa, 32 states of Bundelkhand, the East Punjab States and the Gujerat States. The Deputy Prime Minister has deputed the Secretary of the Ministry of States to visit the necessary areas to discuss with the rulers and the people concerned the question of the future of these

states and I have every hope that a satisfactory solution will be evolved by the end of this month.

When all this has been accomplished, we shall have simplified very considerably indeed the problem of Indian States. We shall have reduced the States Units from more than 600 which existed before the 15th August 1947, to about 30. There would still be left a number of smaller States who, according to our standards, would not be viable units. We hope the Rulers of these States and their people will also follow the examples set by States elsewhere and will elect for merger or integration as might be suitable. There would, however, still remain a number of major States unaffected by this movement for merger or union. The States which have individual representation on the Constitutent Assembly have been assured by the Government of India from time to time that they will be treated as separate viable units. In regard to them, the Government of India's policy is clear and unequivocal. There is no desire on our part, in any way, to compel or coerce them into merger or integration. If they wish to remain as separate autonomous units, we would have no objection, but if Rulers and the people of any of these States desire to merge with the neighbouring Province or form a Union with the neighbouring States on a voluntary basis, obviously the Government of India cannot say "No". It is in this context that proposals for the formation of Malwa and Bundelkhand Units which would involve States like Gwalior, Indore and Rewa should be judged. It is clear, however, that in these States, which remain separate units, there would be continuous popular pressure for the grant of full responsible government. I hope the Rulers of these States will appreciate the necessity of retaining the affection and goodwill of their subjects by timely concessions, rather than futile resistance, to popular demands.

I shall now turn to Hyderabad about which my friend Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh spoke. Here again, we inherited a most difficult legacy. Practically every vestige of political relationship with the Crown had been sought to be wiped out by the late Political Department before they left. The cantonments were returned, the airfields were given back, the return of the Residencies had been promised and the withdrawal of troops had been stipulated for. Indeed, in our view, relationship with Hyderabad started with much worse handicaps than with other States. Nevertheless the House will recall that when Sardar Patel made his statement in this House on the 29th November last, and announced that an agreement had been concluded with the Hyderabad State he expressed the hope that agreement would bring Hyderabad closer to India, and that we could look forward to a relationship animated by cordiality and goodwill. The Government of India had at no time any doubt that linked as Hyderabad is with India the creation of an organic unit between the two by the accession of the State on the three subjects of Defence, External Affairs and Communications, would prove of lasting benefit to both and that it was a natural and logical step for Hyderabad to take, if it decided to accede to the Dominion of India. We have not changed an inch in this position and have made abundantly plain during all our negotiations with the Hyderabad Delegations. In this respect, therefore, there is no change whatsoever in Government of India's attitude to other States and that relating to Hyderabad. We stand by the advice which we have throughout given to the Hyderabad Government that it was in their interests to accede to the Indian Dominion and that as far as we know that was also consistent with the wishes of the people of Hyderabad.

Nevertheless, the position in Hyderabad was complicated by factors of which the Government of India could not but take congnisance. His Exalted Highness the Nizam had his internal difficulties with which we thought that lapse of time might enable him to deal satisfactorily. We also felt that situated as he is it was for him a big decision to take and that given an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality it would be possible for him to come to the

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only right and proper decision, namely, accession to India. We also felt that the maintenance, for a limited period, of the *status quo* between us and His Exalted Highness the Nizam on the lines on which his relationship was regulated with the Crown Representative minus Paramountcy would promote this end.

We are, therefore, naturally disappointed to find that while we have spared no effort to make the agreement a success, on the part of the State the agreement has not been observed in the spirit in which it was intended to work. Breaches of the agreement have undoubtedly occurred. One of them was taking place even while the negotiations were on. These breaches have enhanced distrust and suspicion which the internal situation in the State has undoubtedly engendered not only in the neighbouring Provinces but all over India. Recently we have had discussions with the Hyderabad Delegations on the several points in dispute. I would not like, in any way, to prejudice the discussions which are still going on and are to be resumed by the end of the month. The House, I hope, will therefore bear with me if I do not enter into details. But I can assure the House that the Government of India are determined if the Government of Hyderabad would also help us, to find a satisfactory and friendly solution to the many problems of major and minor importance affecting both of us. I am sure, in this we have the entire support of this House because I feel convinced that this House, no less desires an amicable and peaceful solution if at all possible. We shall strain every nerve to achieve that peaceful solution; but at the same time I would be failing in my duty if I did not refer to two or three questions which, in our view, require more than a mere passing attention. This was referred to also by the Honourable Member Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh.

First there is the question of the border incidents. This is a most important issue because not only the peace and tranquillity of the whole of the Southern, Central and Western India hang on it, but also because these are symptomatic of the poisoned atmosphere that prevails and an evidence of the extent to which subversive activities inside the State are going on without apparently any check from the forces of law and order. When the agreement was reached in November, we had hoped that we could look forward to an era of goodwill and cordiality and put these happenings back in the past. We are sorely disappointed, therefore, to find that not only border incidents have not been stopped but they have continued to occur with even greater frequency and have lately assumed more formidable proportions. This is a development which we have viewed with great concern because as I have said the whole future of the peace and tranquillity in the South may depend on the speed with which these border incidents are put down. We are, therefore, anxiously waiting for an indivation from the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam that they intend to deal with the situation with resoluteness and determination. I am sure nothing will promote—not even perhaps the remedying of the breaches of agreement that have occurred—the feelings of amity and goodwill between the Hyderabad State and the Indian Dominion than the stoppage of these raids. Within the relationship as determined by the Standstill Agreement between the Government of India and His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government, the Government of India are doing their utmost to secure this objective. The question was discussed at a recent meeting of the Prime Ministers concerned and suitable counter-measures have been settled. We have impressed upon the Hyderabad authorities the need for concerted action to put an end to this increasing source of difficulty. We fully realise the causes far deeper than those that can be controlled by administrative action might be responsible for these raids; but that, Sir, would be no excuse for omission to act in the administrative sphere and I hope the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam will see that that action is taken before embitterment of relations which these raids undoubtedly produce reaches a more critical stage.

Secondly, we feel that it is time Hyderabad Government turned its attention very seriously to the internal forces which are not only undermining clandestinely as well as openly the established authority but are also spreading terror and fear in the local population. I refer, in particular, to the activities of the *Ittehad-ul Mussalmin* and its volunteer organisation known as the Razakars. The blatant speeches openly preaching hatred and spreading communal poison of the worst kind, which the leader of these organisations has been making apparently without any check from the local authorities are giving rise to misgivings about the *bona fides* of the State. The resultant oppression of the poor and defenceless Hindu population in the State is threatening the peace and tranquillity of the whole of the South. We would urge upon the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam to deal efficiently and effectively with this threat to law and order in the State and to amity and goodwill between Hyderabad and its neighbours.

Lastly, we feel that viewing the position as we do, we cannot have conditions conducive to lasting and stable amity unless a permanent settlement can be reached. I should also like to make it clear that we should ourselves like in Hyderabad State a Government which enjoys the confidence of the people as a whole. After all, it is primarily the settlement of this much larger question which is bound to determine the relationship between Hyderabad State and its neighbours. To that extent, therefore, the permanent remedy for causes of friction is the attainment of responsible Government by the people of Hyderabad, and the determination of the relationship between the Hyderabad State and the Indian Dominion in accordance with the popular wishes. We who believe in democratic institutions cannot obviously take a different view. Therefore, before ending my statement I make an earnest appeal for a friendly settlement of this most difficult question, not on the basis of prejudices or preconceived notions, but on the basis of neighbourliness and concord between the people of India and the people of Hyderabad. I hope even now the voice of wisdom and statesmanship would prevail over fanaticism and communal bigotry and that counsels of peace and friendship would supervene over forces of hatred and disorder. The choice, I need hardly say, lies with His Exalted Highness the Nizam. Let us hope he will make a wise choice and that our patience and forbearance which have withstood many provocations will at last have their just reward.

Mr. Chairman: Do the Honourable Members who have moved their cut motions want to press them?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I beg leave to withdraw my cut motions.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I also beg leave to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: Have the Honourable Members leave of the House to withdraw their cut motions?

The cut motions were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,75,000 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 'Ministry of Home Affairs'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,23,000 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 'Ministry of States'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 71,48,000 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 'Relations with Indian States'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 14.—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Mr. Chairman: I think if the members are willing we will follow the usual practice of the cut motions not being formally moved.

Shri B. Shiva Rao (Madras: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, before I speak of the Government's policy with regard to external publicity, I would like to dispose of one preliminary point which arises in connection with an observation I made last week in the debate on the External Affairs Estimate, and also certain observations made by the Prime Minister in his reply to that debate. Sir, I said that Pakistan had arranged with the British Information Services for its publicity in the United States. Now, that statement has been contradicted from New York by the representatives of the British Information Services and it has been asserted that as from 15th August the India Section of the B.I.S. has ceased to exist. Now, Sir, I want to make a very brief statement on that subject before the House. It is true that the India Section of B.I.S. has been dissolved on paper, but I have it on the authority of American journalist friends of mine that whenever they telephone to the British Information Services in New York the reply comes back "This is the India Section of the B.I.S. speaking." and I am referring to a period after the 15th August. I am not relying on hearsay evidence. In December last I went to the offices of the B.I.S. in New York and was told by the officials themselves that they answered in New York all enquiries relating to India and Pakistan, some of them being referred to them by the office of the Indian Trade Commissioner in New York. On the day that I visited their offices, I was informed by the officials of the B.I.S. that they had two visits from representatives of very prominent New York journals who wanted background material for writing articles on India and Pakistan.

Sir, I have no desire to dwell on a somewhat unsavoury past, but since some one statement made by the Prime Minister also has been contradicted. I feel bound to say this in fairness to him. All through the years of the war, the best seller in the United States was not Jawaharlal Nehru's Autobiography or anythings written by Mahatma Gandhi but an infamous libel of Mahatma Gandhi written, I regret to say, by a Madrasi journalist who went round on lecturing tours throughout the United States very frequently arranged by the British Information Services. I made three attempts to send copies of that book to Mahatma Gandhi himself and succeeded on the third attempt. He authorised me to approach the publishers, the Oxford University Press, and contradict the libellous statements contained therein. I got no reply from the Oxford University Press. I also know this, that tens of thousands of copies of that book were distributed freely among the American troops. Sir, the British Information Services is a vast world organisation.

An Honourable Member: What is the name of the author?

Shri B. Shiva Rao: T. A. Raman, who is now employed in the U.N. Secretariat, not I am sure through the efforts of the present Government of India.

An Honourable Member: Had they purchased him?

Shri B. Shiva Rao: It is not necessary in the United States to be in any one's pay. Lectures are often handsomely paid for, from anything like 50 to 200 dollars for each lecture.

Sir, the fact is, as I was going to say, the British Information Services is vast world organisation. I have many friends on its staff, broad-minded men who are honestly convinced that it would be better for Great Britain to drop her imperialist role; but there are also others on the staff who cling to a past and all the methods of that past. Sir, I shall leave this point with that observation.

So far as external publicity is concerned, my task has been simplified somewhat by the statement made by the Prime Minister last week that he is contemplating the establishment, if I understood him aright, of a separate Section in the External Affairs Department to deal with public relations abroad. I prefer to call it 'public relations' rather than 'publicity' because I think it has a much wider connotation. Internal publicity, however well handled by the Bureau of Infomation, is utterly different from external publicity as I found myself during my visits to the United States. Even among newspaperman in that country, ignorance of India is profound. I remember, Sir, in 1945, at the time of the World Conference in San Francisco, Lord Wavell announced that he was having a Conference of our leaders at Simla. A leading paper in San Francisco came out with the headline, "India's Viceroy Summons Native Chieftains". And later when I visited the office of a big newspaper in Chicago and was honoured with an invitation to give an interview for publication in the next day's issue, the Chief Reporter of that paper started off with the usual questions about Hindu-Muslim riots, untouchability, child marriage and so on; and then suddenly he startled me with an enquiry: "How many amongst India's Muslims," he asked, "are Buddhists?" I was more tactful than the House, and in all seriousness explained to him that the two were very different religions, started at very different times in two very different countries. Now, these are just instances of the standard of knowledge that prevails even amongst newspapermen who, as you know, Sir are believed to be experts on almost every subject under the sun.

Now, the second point that I would like to make with reference to the Prime Minister's statement last week is this. He said that at the most Government would not think of employing more than six Indians in the United States for public relations work. All the greater reason I would urge therefore that these six men should be chosen with the utmost care. I cannot say that the Government has always been very wise or happy in its selection. I think it is wrong and unjust to ignore competent and experienced men in the Bureau of Information and go outside in search, not of experts, but of untried and inexperienced men. Sometimes it seems to me that the Government of India acts on a principle which has been suggested to me by friends of mine who say: "My son is a good boy but he cannot get through any examinations and cannot therefore qualify for any profession. Do you think he would make a good journalist?" I would suggest to the Prime Minister that he should without delay consider attaching to every Embassy and Consulate throughout the world and every High Commissioner's office a Public Relations Section under competent and trained men. I know that, that is not easy and in this connection I would like to inform the House that we, in the Asian Relations Organisation have been trying in our own humble fashion to train up young men for this kind of work. At the present moment perhaps it is a compliment to the effectiveness of our work. I am in danger of losing every one of my young men who are being absorbed in such work abroad. But I think it should not be difficult, if the External Affairs Ministry were to take an active interest in the matter, to work out the details of a scheme which will not cost much money but which would necessitate the

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securing of a certain amount of accommodation, to train up a certain number of young men who have done well in the Universities, who have an aptitude for journalism and who have agreeable personalities, in order that they may be sent abroad for such jobs. May I, Sir, in this connection add another suggestion of no less importance? From the various embassies and consulates and the High Commissioner's office, I would like the Prime Minister to ask for detailed and regular reports of conditions in their respective countries, because it is necessary that those reports—at least such parts of them as could be released to the press in this country—should be made available through press conferences. I know that the Prime Minister is an over-worked man and therefore cannot afford to take press conferences frequently. Nevertheless, as pressmen, we attach very considerable importance to press conferences in the External Affairs Department, and where it is not a question of policy, I would suggest that the release of material of this kind should be left to the senior officers of the Department to handle; because it is essential to build up an informed and intelligent public opinion on world affairs in this country.

4 P. M.

I referred at the beginning to public relations rather than publicity because of its wide accommodation. A great deal can be done, as I know, on the cultural side in countries like the United States. For instance, Uday Shankar, the dancer, is remembered by thousands of Americans who are eagerly awaiting his return to America, and it will not cost this country any dollars, because he will earn more dollars than he spends going to the United States.

Another line of useful activity would be to send out art exhibitions of the kind that is now being shown in London. Such exhibitions, either temporary or even permanent, in the big cities of the United States would do a great deal to foster cultural relations between the two countries. Sir, I have spoken mainly about the United States, because I speak from experience, but I am certain that what I have said about the United States is applicable in more or less the same terms to other parts of the world. I would particularly request the Prime Minister to attach importance to the establishment of Public Relations offices in the countries of the Middle East and the countries of South Eastern Asia. I would like to see in our embassies comprehensive up-to-date libraries on India. I would like to see photographs of our archaeological monuments, of centres which may prove attractive to tourist traffic. I would like to see commercial samples and of all our cottage industry products, so that we may build up overseas markets for these things. At the present moment, we are spending a great deal of money in the United States, most of which, I regret to say, is utter waste. For instance we fly out regularly copies of a bulletin known as *Indian Information* which is reproduced at considerable cost in Washington and distributed in thousands. That is a complete waste of money, as I know from personal experience. We are spending quite a lot of money in running separate offices, for the Indian Trade Commissioner, for the representative of the United Nations and for the New York branch of the India Supply Mission. In Washington we have a very big office for India's Ambassador and a separate one for the Public Relations Directorate. We are still maintaining a separate and very costly office for the India Supply Mission Headquarters in Washington, and all this money, which is now being wasted to a considerable extent, could be far better utilized in the way I have suggested. Sir, I move.

श्रीमती कमला चौधरी: माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं महसूस करती हूं कि मुल्क के आज़ाद होने के बाद सिर्फ यह कहने से कि हमें देश का नव निर्माण करना है, हमें अपने देश को तरक्की की तरफ लेजाना है इस तरीके से काम नहीं चलेगा आम लोग इन बातों को नहीं समझेंगे। मैं समझती हूं कि आज हमारी सरकार का जो प्रचार

विभाग है उसमें रेडियो प्रचार के लिए एक बहुत उत्तम साधन है आज के ज़माने में विज्ञान की रेडियो बहुत बड़ी देन है। अत: सरकार को आज अपने प्रचार के इस क्षेत्र को विस्तृत करना चाहिये। मेरा मतलब सरकार की नीति की आलोचना करना नहीं है यह भी नहीं है कि हमारी गवर्नमेंट का उस ओर ध्यान नहीं है यह ज़रूर मैं महसूस करती हूं कि इस ज़माने में प्रचार विभाग का अधिक विस्तार होना चाहिये और जहां मैं देखती थी कि जब हमारा देश आज़ाद नहीं था ब्रिटिश हुकूमत के ज़माने में रेडियो विभाग एक मनोरंजन का साधन बना हुआ था। केवल नगरों की शिक्षित जनता के लिये। मगर आज उसमें बड़ी भारी तबदीली हो गई है उससे मुझे बहुत ही प्रसन्नता हुई है आज हमारी राष्ट्रीय सरकार ने इस ओर ध्यान दिया है। रेडियो के साधन द्वारा उन बेपढ़े लोगों तक जिनकी संख्या हमारे मुल्क में बहुत ज्यादा है सरकार ने अपनी आवाज़ पहुंचाने की चेष्टा की उनका सुधार करने की तरफ हमारी सरकार का ध्यान गया स्पष्ट है कि हमारे मुल्क में जो भारी संख्या में ग्रामीण जनता है उनको सहायता पहुंचाने का रेडियो सर्वश्रेष्ट साधन है लेकिन मैं देख रही हूं जो तबदीली आज कल हो रही है वह क्षेत्र को एक तरीके से संकुचित और सीमित करने का ढंग जान पड़ता है और उससे आगे बहुत बड़ी हानि होने की सम्भावना है। मैं यह भी देखती हूं कि हमारे हिन्दी के कई कलाकार इस विभाग में आ गये हैं और उन्होंने सुधार करने की कोशिश की है और अपने देश की जनता में राष्ट्रीय भावना उत्पन्न करने का भी प्रयत्न किया है। लेकिन साथ ही मैं यह भी देखती हूं कि उन लोगों का अधिकतर ध्यान इस विभाग में उस तरफ लगा हुआ है, जैसा कि मुझे महसूस होता है कि उन्होंने समझ लिया है कि वह वहां साहित्य का प्रचार करें जो कि पढ़े लिखे लोगों तक ही सीमित कहा जा सकता है। मेरा अपना विचार है कि जो शिक्षित जनता है उनके पास जानकारी के अनेक साधन और तरीके हो सकते हैं, जैसे कि किताबें अखबार आदि शिक्षित व्यक्ति अन्य साधनों से भी समाचार जान सकते हैं अन्य तरीकों से जानकारी हासिल कर सकते हैं। लेकिन हमारे देश में अधिक संख्या उन लोगों की है जो विचारे केवल अपने दस्तखत ही करना जानते हैं और वे लोग बड़ी २ बातों से महरुम रह जाते हैं। हमारी सरकार किस प्रकार से देशकी उन्नति करना चाहती है इन बातों को जनता को जानना चाहिये। मगर प्रचार के अभाव में जनता इन खबरों से अनभिज्ञ रह जाती है। मेरा तात्पर्य गवर्नमेंट का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना है कि वह रेडियो द्वारा जो प्रचार करती है उसको सीमित न करे बल्कि उसको बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ाने की चेष्टा करे और जहां रेडियो नहीं पहुंच सके हैं वहां सरकार रेडियो ले जाने की कोशिश करे। जहां बिजली नहीं पहुंच सकी है वहां सरकार को चाहिए कि बैटरी द्वारा चलने वाले रेडियो का प्रबन्ध किया जाय। हमारे गांवो में जितने भी अनपढ़ लोग हैं उनमें भारी सुधार करना है जब कभी मैं उनके बीच में जाकर खड़ी होती हूं तो

श्रीमती कमला चौधरी]

मालूम होता है कि उन की जिन्दगी में बहुत भारी तबदीली और कायापलट की ज़रुरत है और मैं जानती हूं कि हमारी सरकार भी ऐसा ही महसूस करती है किन्तु यह भारी परिवर्तन तभी सम्भव है जब रेडियो विभाग इस बात का पूरा ध्यान रक्खे कि हमको सबसे ज्यादा प्रचार जो करना है वह देश की अशिक्षित जनता में करना है । मेरी समझ नहीं आता कि आज जबकि अंग्रेजी और राष्ट्रभाषा के बीच एक संघर्ष छिड़ा हुआ है हम उसको महसूस करें या न करें लेकिन देश की जनता की एक कुदरती मांग है जिसे म समझती हूं कि हमारी सरकार भी ज़रूर महसूस करती है कि आज हमारा काम विदेशी भाषा और अंग्रेज़ी से चलने वाला नहीं है। बहुत जल्द हमें ऐसी ज़बान से काम लेना है, जो अपनी हो चाहे उसका नाम हिन्दी हो या हिन्दुस्तानी ?

इस बहस में जाना मेरा तात्पर्य नहीं है लेकिन अब जनता में प्रचार के लिये या जनता के कार्य्य संचालन के लिये जो भी भाषा हो वह सीधी सादी सरल होनी चाहिये जिसे आसानी से हमारे सभी देशवासी समझ सकें, यदि कोई अपनी भाषा होगी जिस में भविष्य में हमारा काम चलेगा। अगर उसे बनाना है तो उसके ही ज़रिये आज चार करना अच्छा होगा जहां तक मेरा ख्याल है वह ज़बान ऐसी होनी चाहिये जो कि इस हाउस के सब सदस्यों से लेकर, एक राजमहल से लेकर, एक किसान की झोंपड़ी तक समझी जाय। तो भी इससे हमारे प्रचार का लाभ देश की जनता पा सकेगी और जो हमारे देश में अनपढ़ जनता है वह जल्दी व्यवहारिक अमल हासिल कर सकेगी। सरकार चाहती है कि किसी तरह से जनता में स्वास्थ्य और सेहत बनाने की भावना पैदा हो। अच्छा जीवन बनाने की भावना उत्पन्न हो और शारीरिक, मानसिक, आर्थिक सभी प्रकार से जनता का विकास हो किन्तु यह तभी होगा जब प्रचार विभाग इसके लिये पूरी कोशिश करेगा ।

आज मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि जब हम यह महसूस करते हैं कि हमने अपनी भाषा बनानी है और अपनी जबान बनानी है तो अंग्रेज़ी को इतना महत्व क्यों दिया जाता है। आज में देखती हूं कि जितने खास २ समाचार होते हैं वह सब अंग्रेज़ी बुलेटिन में आते हैं वे हिन्दी की न्यूज़ प्रोग्राम में नहीं आते हैं ।

मैं समझती हूं मुख्य-मुख्य समाचार हिन्दी में आए तो उससे हमारे मुल्क की जनता का बड़ा फ़ायदा होगा, हर एक आदमी उसे अच्छी तरह समझ सकगा ।

जहां तक प्रान्तीय भाषाओं का ताल्लुक है उसमें भी मैं सामंजस्य की ज़रुरत महसूस करती हूं और उसके लिये भी रेडियो सर्वश्रेष्ट साधन है । अपने प्रांत का मुझे अनुभव है, मैं कह सकती हूं कि हमारे यहां थोड़ी-थोड़ी दूर पर बहुत सी ज़बानें बोली जाती हैं जो कुल जगह को बोलियां ऐसी भी हैं जो कि एक प्रान्त के रहने वाले आसानी से नहीं समझ सकते। मैं समझती हूं कि रेडियो इस सम्पर्क को बढ़ाने के लिये एक उत्तम ज़रिया है। जो हमारे यहां की ग्रामीण भाषाएं हैं,

हमारे एक ही प्रान्त में भिन्नता से बोली जाती हैं, उन ज़बानों का प्रोग्राम रेडियो से सुव्यवस्थित ढंग से रक्खा जाय जिससे एक दूसरे का सम्पर्क बढ़े और लोगों में प्रत्येक ज़बान के प्रति दिलचस्पी पैदा हो । मैं समझती हूं कि मुल्क का सुधार होगा और जैसा हम चाहते हैं कि एक राष्ट्र-भाषा बने, वह राष्ट्र-भाषा स्वतः ही हम बहुत जल्द बना सकेंगे । जहां तक मेरा ख्याल है, जो ग्रामीण भाषाएं हैं उनको प्रोत्साहन देना आज बहुत ज़रूरी है और रेडियो सब से अच्छा ज़रिया है । रेडियो के स्थल से वह ज़बान जिसे हम लिटरेरी (Literary) ज़बान, या साहित्यिक भाषा कह सकते हैं उन्हें न बोल कर यह समय एक सरल भाषा के प्रचार में लगाया जाय ।

हमारे यहां की ग्रामीण भाषाओं को वहां बोला जाय उस सामंजस्य को बढ़ाया जाये तो मैं समझती हूं इस प्रचार से हम अपने देश का बहुत कुछ उद्धार कर सकेंगे ।

इसी तरह, जैसा आज कल हर एक आदमी जानता है, हमारे यहां एक साम्प्रदायिकता की लहर फैली हुई और आज भी है। और उस मनोवृत्ति का प्रभाव हम पर एक वज्रपात के रूप में हमारे उपर हुआ । हमने अपने राष्ट्र क बहुत बड़ी निधि पूज्य महात्मा गांधी को खो दिया । मैं समझती हूं इस मनोवृति को नष्ट करने का भी रेडियो ही एक उत्तम साधन है जिसके ज़रिये हम अपने समाज में, अपनी अशिक्षित जनता के दिमागों में, अपनी संस्कृति और सभ्यता के विकास के लिये जो हमें बड़ी-बड़ी तब्दीलियां करनी हैं वह कर सकते हैं।

मैं बहुत अदब के साथ अपने माननीय प्रधान मंत्री का ध्यान इस ओर ले जाना चाहूंगी कि यह जो रफ्तार आज कल रेडियो विभाग की चल रही है यह हानिकर है । हम देख रहे हैं कि एक वह स्थल जिसका क्षेत्र बहुत विस्तृत होना चाहिये, वह बहुत सीमित होता चला जा रहा है । इस लिये में उनका ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहती हूं

(English translation of the above speech).

Shrimati Kamala Chaudhri (U.P.: General): Mr. Chairman, I feel it that after the dawn of independence in the country, the mere use of slogans that we have to reconstruct our country, and take it towards progress will not serve any purpose. The common men will not understand things in this way. I realise that the Radio is the best means of propaganda in the Publicity Department of our Government. In this scientific age, radio is a great invention. Therefore, the Government should enlarge its present sphere of activities in publicity. I do not mean to criticize the policy of the Government and do not say that it is not paying any attention to that I do realize that in the present age the Broadcasting Department should be further expanded. During the days of British regime when our country was not free, I found that the Radio Department was exploited only for the recreation of the educated people living in the cities. But to-day a radical change has been made which is a matter of great pleasure to me. Our national Government has now devoted its attention

[Shrimati Kamala Chaudhri]

to this aspect. The Government has tried to send its message by means of Radio to those illiterate masses who form the majority of the population of our country. Our National Government has now concentrated its attention on this matter. It is thus quite obvious that Radio is the best means for extending help to the villagers who are in an over-whelming majority in our country. But I feel that the changes which are taking place now seem to narrow the scope of activities of this organization. This is likely to prove injurious. I also observe that many of our Hindi Artists have joined this Department and they have strived to improve matters and inculcate a sense of nationalism in the minds of their countrymen. At the same time, I notice that while in the Department, these people have thought of devoting their energies mainly to the propagation of literature—the scope of which is confined only to the educated community. This is what I observe and my own feeling is that the educated people have many ways and means of gathering information such as from, books, newspapers, etc. The educated persons can also derive information from other sources. They can utilize other methods for obtaining information. In our country the majority of people know only how to sign their names and they are thus unable to understand many important matters. The public should know the manner in which our Government wants to ameliorate the condition of our country, but for want of publicity, the people remain ignorant. I would like to draw the Government's attention to this aspect that it should not narrow its sphere of propaganda through the Radio. On the contrary, it should try to promote its activities further. The Government should instal radios at places where this has not yet been done and should arrange for the installation of battery fitted radio-sets at places which are not electrified. We have to make considerable improvement in the lot of the illiterate masses inhabiting our villages. Whenever I go and stand amongst them, I feel that there is a great necessity for making a drastic change in their mode of living. I also admit that our Government feels like this but this tremendous change can only be brought about if the Radio Department realizes that they have to enlarge the scope of their propaganda activities mainly for the benefit of illiterate masses of the country. I fail to understand the present controversy about the English and the National languages of this country. We may or may not appreciate but I understand this is the natural demand of our people and the Government understands it that our business should not at present be conducted in any foreign language. We have to evolve very soon a language which may be called Hindi or Hindustani. I do not want to indulge in this controversy, but whatever language you may prescribe for propaganda amongst the masses or its use by them in daily routine, it should be quite simple and plain and easily understood by our people. if we are to adopt a language for conducting our future business, then it would be better to use it also as a medium for propaganda at present. So far as I think that language should be capable of being understood by everyone from all Members of this House and the princes to the villagers living in cottages. Only then the people will derive benefit out of our propaganda activities and the illiterate masses will become accustomed to its use. The Government want that somehow a desire for health-building and living a better life is created in the people and they are enabled to develop their physical and mental faculties and financial resources in every possible manner. All this can be achieved only if the Publicity Department will earnestly do its utmost in this direction. To-day I fail to understand why such an importance is being attached to the English language when we realize that we have to evolve a new language. At present I find that all the important news are incorporated in the English bulletin and these are not included in the Hindustani News Programme. I realize that if these important news are broadcast in Hindi, it would surely result in a good deal of benefit to our people. Everybody will be able to understand it thoroughly.

So far as the Provincial languages are concerned, I feel there is some necessity of co-relation and for that purpose also Radio is the foremost organ. I know of my own Province. I daresay that in our Province different languages are spoken in different places separated by short distances. The language spoken at certain places are not sometimes easily understood by people living in other parts of the Province. I feel that the Radio is the best means for promoting this union.

The village dialects spoken in our Province are spoken in different ways and the Radio programme should be arranged in a suitable order so as to develop mutual contact and create interest in the minds of people. I realize that the existing conditions in the country will thus be improved and very soon we will be able to accomplish our desire to evolve a national language. It has become all the more necessary to-day to encourage the language spoken in villages and Radio is the first-rate medium to achieve this. We should utilize this opportunity by using a simple language for propaganda purposes instead of a literary language which is the media for broadcast. Our common languages spoken in villages should be used for broadcasting purposes. These two languages should be brought together by means of this propaganda and I think we can do a good deal for the betterment of our country.

Just as every one knows, the wave of communalism is at present rampant in our country and has produced baneful effect on the minds of people and has hit us like a bolt from the blue. We have lost our revered Mahatma Gandhi —the most precious wealth of our country. I feel that Radio is the best method for ending this state of mind and we can also make drastic changes in the society and, in the minds of illiterate people and develop our culture and civilization.

With due respects, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Prime Minister to the fact that the speed at which the Radio Department is moving is likely to bring harm. Its scope should be widened instead of being narrowed down. I would like to invite his attention to this.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable the Prime Minister and of the House to certain aspects of Information and Broadcasting. There is under the Government of India a Press Information Bureau and there are nine officers in various languages. There are about 15 officers to deal with news in the English language, one in Hindi and one in Urdu. But with regard to the other languages in India there are only Assistant Information Officers. With regard to these, one characteristic is very much visible, that most of them are either retired professors or lecturers. I do not desire to say anything in disparagement of their qualifications, but they were only accustomed to teaching our boys and young men. So far as Information of the present day is concerned, it is an expert job which is the business more or less of journalists. I understand there are only a few journalists who are capable of dealing with the Information service of the Government in an expert manner. I wish to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to this aspect of the matter. So far as professors and lecturers are concerned, there is ample scope for their work in various other departments, but this is a kind of work in which they are not specialists and they cannot generally equal others who have made it their job to deal with news and information for the consumption of the public.

Then there are various provincial branch offices. I understand officers are sent there who are not particularly suited to local conditions and men are sent to particular provinces who do not know the provincial languages. In view of the language difficulty in the provinces an Information Officer must know the local languages. We have got newspapers in the vernacular languages and persons who do not know the provincial languages are misfits. The language diffi-

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

culty cannot be got over by mere theories from here. In Eastern Bengal there has been a tremendous protest against the imposition of Urdu as the official language. I believe the trouble has not ended; it has only begun. I think the time is fast approaching when the people of Eastern Bengal will enforce the use of Bengali as one of the official languages. I submit that it would not do to ignore the existence of the different languages. We are certainly expecting the time when there will be an official language in India, but till that goal is reached, it is better to realise and recognise existing facts and suit our Information Officers from that point of view.

Then with regard to Broadcasting. There are some news editors in the All-India Radio. There are Hindustani supervisors. It is also noticeable here that men who had devoted their life to the educational service are mostly requisitioned for this purpose. Here again I repeat that broadcasting, which is akin to journalism, is an expert business and it is particularly the business of journalists to run this business with real effect. Then as a result we find that matters not of a very high order are dished out for the public. These seem like mere translations of dry official reports and statements and they jar on the ears of many people and the All India Radio service, though not of a very mean order, does not compare well with the British Broadcasting Corporation news and reports which we hear everyday. I submit that in this business also, more newspaper men, who are trained journalists, should be taken to give it a fillip and give it some kind of life. In this connection I submit one other matter that what is given out as the Hindustani news is really Hindi news. There is nothing Hindustani about it. It is pure Sanskritised Hindi. There are other languages in which the news service is given excepting Urdu. I submit when Hindi in the purest tpye is given out for a certain class of public, Urdu may be introduced also along with the other languages. Besides, Urdu is still the mother tongue of a large number of people, Hindus and Muslims.

Then with regard to the foreign news service, I have something to say. So far as the foreign news is concerned, *Reuters* were being paid Rs. 50,000 per annum for a long time. I understand that has been discontinued. The reports from the United Nations Organisation, especially with regard to Kashmir, have been of a very unsatisfactory character. I have it from very high authority—some men connected with the Delegation—that the various news items which were sent out from the United Nations headquarters to India were mostly of a perfunctory and misleading character. The reason is that though there may not be any intention to distort or manipulate the news, and however sympathetic foreign news agencies may be towards India, they will still have their own viewpoint and it is inevitable that in sending out news which affect India vitally, they do introduce their own viewpoint. Again, they cannot give the same amount of attention which they give to the news from their own national point of view. In these circumstances, I should submit that the Government should encourage Indian agents to start branches in the different countries. As has been suggested, newspaper men should have information officers attached to the various Embassies which go out to different countries. That would at once improve the tone of our news service.

In these matters, it should be noted that the U.K. has its own news service. The U.S.A. also has its own news service. France and Russia have their own national news service. I think it is a natural corollary from the fact that we have attained independence from the 15th August, that we should have our own national news agencies in the different parts of the country. Since many independent countries have their own national organisations in different countries, it is meet and proper that we should now have news agencies of our own in foreign countries.

As I submitted, and I repeat that the need of associating really first-class front-rank newspaper men—journalists—in this business is extremely important. The materials which are supplied by Government to newspapers are not of a very high order. They are dull and disconnected. There is no co-ordination. There are various departments which have their publicity officers. They often go against each other and even contradict one another. This should be co-ordinated and I submit that journalists should be specially associated with this aspect of the activities of the Government. It is very desirable that the activities of the Government should receive the fullest publicity not only in India but in foreign countries also. For want of the right outlook, for want of sufficient experience, they are handled in an unskilled manner and Government actions do not receive the desired publicity. I submit that the Honourable the Prime Minister will look into this and do the needful.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: (Madras : General): Mr. Chairman, though I am not moving the cut motions standing in my name, I intend to discuss the general policy of broadcasting in India with particular reference to rural broadcasting.

Sir, in the limited time that is at my disposal, I would like to offer some suggestions for the consideration of the Ministry concerned and also for the consideration of the House. In view of the great importance of broadcasting and also its utility and service to the nation, it is high time that we should have a clear-cut, definite policy and also a plan, a method and a system in our broadcasting. But it is really regrettable that we do not have any policy, or if there is one, not a definite policy, at any rate till now, in some of the aspects of our broadcasting.

Sir, With regard some of the aspects of broadcasting I would like to mention some here: with regard to news service and also news bulletins, and in regard to the selection of news commentators or artists or some such personnel we do not seem to have a clear-cut policy till now.

Now, Sir, it is really a pity that we still retain and carry the old legacy. With regard to language neither the national language nor the provincial language has been given any precedence over the foreign language. We have far too many news bulletins in English, I suggest that two news bulletins one in the morning and the other at night will suffice and the other two bulletins, one at 1-30 P.M. and the other at 6 P.M. may be replaced by the provincial languages. People coming from the South do not mind if there is a Hindustani news bulletin in the morning. I should like to say that there is no use of insisting on Hindi in the Parliament when we hear more of English, less of vernacular and nothing of Hindustani. Therefore this consideration may be borne in mind with regard to our news bulletins.

With regard to the other point, that is the present system of news service, I agree that the centre should give out the news and the provincial stations should relay, because that is not only economical but will also help in uniting the nation.

There is one point which I really regret to mention and that is the way in which local news is treated. The time allotted for local news is only five minutes. In these five minutes we hear more of the interviews the Governors are pleased to grant or the ununderstandable Government communiqués or advertisements for federal and provincial services than any real local news. Considering the importance of our provinces, some of which are twice as big as some of the European nations, I feel that the system which we are now following is not satisfactory. Therefore I suggest that the Broadcasting Department should organise an Independent provincial news service system. Really many important things happen either in the districts or taluk centres. Riots may break out or strikes take place engineered by Communists, or nation-building activities may be undertaken by charitable or social service organisations but

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these will not appear in the local news. Therefore I suggest that the central news broadcasting department should organise an independent provincial news service organisation operating under their control.

There is another point and that is with regard to rural broadcasting. I would say that giving out news is the best form of propaganda. We cannot really claim that we are doing much for rural welfare if we do not organise a rural broadcasting service. There is no good of giving a talk on cattle-breeding or the prevention and cure of a particular disease to the villagers but if you give out the news that a certain village or a panchayat has organised a fair, a cattle show or a village dispensary, that is the best way to give out news and it will also get the rural people news-minded. It is only then that they will take interest in this matter. Invariably I have seen in our rural programmes that the villager is represented as an ignorant mass of flesh and he requires constantly to be educated. But this is really overdoing the thing. I do not have any knowledge of village men but I do have some knowledge of village women. They are never idle. It is really the middle class and the rich class people living in towns, particularly the women, who require to be taught something more. Therefore I request the broadcasting department to pay special attention with regard to the Mahila Mandal programmes which they are organising.

There is another point which I would like to mention with regard to the present morale of the broadcasting department. The conditions are not very satisfactory. Reports regarding how the girls working in the broadcasting department are treated or the artists who are called there to take part in programmes are treated, are very unsatisfactory. I have reports with me giving dates and some very authentic data that in some of the stations, things are not very satisfactory. I have an example of Calcutta to give. A girl working there was insulted by a commentator who came there fully drunk. She has given some written complaints but no steps have been taken to remedy her grievance. Therefore, the standard of broadcasting is to be kept at a high or respectable level and we have to take every step to see that respectable men, women and children are attracted to take part in these programmes. Therefore something should be done in this regard.

Then there is also a lot of corruption going on. Every one of us have some knowledge with regard to this matter. I mean corruption with regard to the selection of artists, and people who are asked to give talks, etc., where favouritism is shown. This must be checked. The non-official advisory bodies merely exist for names sake. They should be given a fair hand and asked to deal with these matters severely. At present we have some non-official bodies to advise the radio authorities on several matters regarding policy and programme which they are at present adopting. I have my own experience of the Madras station to which I have the honour to belong and I am a member of the non-official advisory body for Madras station. These bodies rarely meet. I have also information regarding Calcutta. Since 1946 this Committee has never met till today. Therefore I would suggest to the department that they should make these non-official bodies really powerful and active in the matter of advice to the broadcasting department.

I have not got much time to dwell upon other matters which require consideration but I hope these few points which I have made will receive the consideration of the department and they will do the needful in the matter.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (Prime Minister and Leader of the House). Sir, with your permission before I deal with the subject matter of the debate, I should like to make a reference to the tragedy that occurred in Europe a few days ago. I refer to the death of Mon. Jan Masaryk, the Foreign Minister of the Czechoslovakian Republic. Not only is this in itself

a very tragic event, (so far as I am personally concerned I was acquainted with him and it was a personal loss to me also) but in the circumstances in which it has occurred it may have grievous consequences. I took the liberty to send to the Ambassador of the Republic of Czechoslovakia here the sympathy and condolence of the Government and the people of this country and I am sure the members of this House will also like to add their own sympathy to that message.

Now, Sir, on the occasion of a cut motion in regard to the policy of the External Affairs Ministry, rather incidentally and casually, I made a reference to the British Information Services in America—In fact my colleague Mr. Shiva Rao had mentioned it and I also referred to the fact that he had mentioned it—and I stated that they had been asked and they had been carrying on publicity at the request of the Pakistan Government. Further I mentioned that they had employed some Indians. Now the British Information Services in America have contradicted that statement and have clearly stated that they are not carrying on any propaganda, or rather publicity, on behalf of the Pakistan Government and that they have not employed any Indian on their staff. I must accept that now and I express my regret for having made a statement which was not factually true. I do not wish to enter into this argument. But apart from being factually true or not, it is possible to point out many things which occur, and which occur simply because they have been occurring for a long time past and it is difficult to get out of the old rut. A little while ago an article by an eminent British journalist dealing with Kashmir was circulated by the British Information Services not only in America but in various foreign countries. Now this article contained certain statements which were completely untrue. For instance, to mention one, it stated that it was after the accession of Kashmir to the Indian Union that the Tribal people, irritated by that accession, invaded Kashmir, which was just a reversal of what took place. This is a minor matter. I merely mention this because people who have been connected in the past with a certain type of work naturally tend to look at a problem from that point of view; it is difficult to get out of that rut. However, I am sorry I made a statement on the last occasion which was not correct. I regret it.

Now, in regard to external publicity I have very little to say except to welcome many of the suggestions that Mr. Shiva Rao made. External Publicity it is called, and perhaps Honourable Members may think that we should try to flood foreign countries with facts and figures in the nature of propaganda. I do not think that it is desirable for us to do that or that we can in fact do it. I do not think our approach should be the pure publicity or the advertisement approach. We cannot do it because the way to do it would be to spend far vaster sums than we can ever afford, to engage far bigger personnel and so on and so forth. But my main reason for not desiring to do so is that I do not like that approach at all. That approach tends inevitably to become a tendencious approach, and while it may perhaps create an impression now and then the value of it progressively lessens when people realize that it is too much propaganda of a particular type. I would much rather place the facts before the public here in India or outside. Naturally I shall place them inevitably from our point of view, try to give the background of the facts—but facts and nothing more than facts as far as possible—and allow other people to judge. Of course it makes all the difference in the world how facts are placed before the public. Statistics may be made to tell almost any tale. That is so. Anyhow, this business of publicity, whether factual publicity or any other kind of publicity, is an extraordinarily tricky business anywhere, and more especially in foreign countries. It is easy to criticize it, and I think many of the criticisms advanced are justified. It is also easy perhaps to draw up schemes which appear good on paper but which may not succeed so well in practice.

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As I told the House on the last occasion we have been discussing this problem, the problem of this external publicity, because external publicity is so intimately aligned to external policy that normally every country has its external publicity organised by its Foreign Office and not by its internal publicity machine. Here, owing to various developments, war-time developments—because this was only thought of in war-time—external publicity became a part of our Information Department here. The more I have given thought to it the more I have realized that this is not a very satisfactory arrangement. Obviously there must be the closest co-operation between the internal publicity machine and external publicity. But it is far better, I think, that the External Affairs Ministry should have a greater part in the organization of external publicity than it has had thus far.

I agree with Mr. Shiva Rao when he refers to Public Relations Officers rather than publicity agents abroad. That conveys far more the idea of the work they ought to do. At the present moment the various hand-outs, etc. that are issued no doubt do some useful purpose, but I do not think they are worth the money we spend upon them. My own impression, not now I mean but previously, and my own, because I have myself tried to do—not as a Member of the Government but as a private individual or as a member of the Congress organization—some kind of external publicity, is that all these hand-outs and pamphlets and leaflets find their way to the waste paper basket. They influence very few persons—except a few persons who have been previously converted and who use them and keep them for their own benefit. The whole thing has to be looked upon entirely from a different point of view, from a psychological point of view from the point of view of the requirements of each country concerned. For instance the approach in the United States of America is likely to be different—I think completely different—from the approach in France and even more different from the approach in the Soviet Republic. The kind of paper that one may produce in America ought to have some bearing on the kind of information that America requires. In France it will not be the same. I can say that with assurance. They have a different outlook and attach different values. The kind of information that we send to the Soviet Republic will be entirely different or almost entirely different. The kind of information that the Soviet Republic asks us, our Ambassador tells us, is almost entirely economic information like what is being done in our various projects, various schemes, dams, reservoirs, river valley schemes and the rest, irrigation, education. They ask us for these; they are interested in them. No particular enquiry about politics as such has come from them. Now, it may be that they deliberately put forward those kinds of enquiries because they are mostly put forward by governmental agencies there. But my point is that the approach has to be different in every country that we tackle. It can only be fully appreciated by competent Public Relations Officers as well as our Embassies and Legations there as to what is required and how it can be done properly. And then it has to be co-ordinated with our publicity arrangements here. So I do think that all this matter has to be considered fully, and in fact the External Affairs Ministry and the Home Ministry are considering this matter. We hope to evolve some more feasible and better method. Inevitably we shall have to approach this question by the method of trial and error. There is no way to find the perfect method of doing things except by experience. Then again the other countries that idulge in this kind of publicity have done so for many years and have got a great deal of experience. They spend vast sums of money, employ very large numbers of persons, and have already developed very intimate contacts with the publicity organizations in the countries they function in. It is easy for them. We may send the brightest of our young men from here. It takes time for him to develop those contacts, and not only physical contacts, but psychological and other contacts, so that if results are not brilliant, the House should realise that it is not a mechanical matter, of sending shoalful of pamphlets, leaflets or lecturers and others, but developing something which is much more intricate and difficult. Undoubtedly the present arrangements are not very happy and they have to be changed, I think, more or less on the lines of some of the suggestions made in this House.

Now coming to Information and Broadcasting, may I say that both in regard to information and broadcasting, and publicity, etc., the Ministry has very kindly given me full notes containing a large number of particulars. I do not propose to read them to the House because that will take too long a time and the House might get lost in a large number of figures: but the House should know those particulars of course and I shall suggest to the Ministry to place them before the House or before the public in the proper form so that they may know exactly what is being done. Now my own view of the set-up for broadcasting is that we should approximate as far as possible to the British method, the BBC: that is to say, it would be better if we had a semi-autonomous corporation under of course Government, with the policy controlled by Government but otherwise being not conducted as a government department but as a semi-autonomous corporation. Now I do not think that is immediately feasible. I have merely mentioned this to the House. I think we should aim at that even though we may have many difficulties. In fact in most matters we should aim at these semi-autonomous corporations, the policy and otherwise being distantly controlled by government, but government or government departments not interfering in their day-to-day activities. But that is not an immediate issue. Obviously these debates about the policy to be pursued, about our various services—news services, the language question and the rest—have given an indication of the mind of the House. That helps. But if they are to bear real fruit, there should be far more discussions more or less on the—shall I say—not academic level but certainly on the scholarly level carefully by committees, etc. It is impossible really to consider these matters in vague speeches connected with cut motions. I am sorry to learn from an Honourable Member that these Advisory Committees have not been functioning in some of the provinces. I should have thought that in regard to broadcasting etc., it was necessary for such committees to function very frequently, for advice to be taken, for them to be told what was happening, and generally for there to be co-ordination between the non-official element and the official element. I should have liked the Standing Committee attached to this Department also to consider all the matters that are raised in this House and discuss them with the officials in the department. That is the proper way of dealing with them. It is not very satisfactory for Honourable Members to make speeches here and for me or someone else to make a reply, and there the matter ends for the year. I hope therefore that this kind of intimate contact and intimate discussions over these matters will take place much more so in future than in the past. Now take any question, like the language question. It is obviously a matter for high scholastic consideration, not a matter which can be disposed of properly in the heat of a political debate. More especially a broadcasting organization should consider it from that point of view, should have indeed high class advisers who know something *about* languages and the rest and who can advise them. In England there is no such language issue of course, as to what language should be employed, but the best literary figures in England are employed to advise the BBC—men like Bernard Shaw and others. They have them on the permanent Advisory Committee as to the use of language. I am not quite sure if the biggest literary figures were asked to advise us, if the results would be very happy because their advice would probably apply to other literary figures and persons like me

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will not understand at all what has happened. That is a conceivable possibility. Nevertheless my point is that persons capable of understanding this problem, in its educational as well as public aspect, should dispassionately consider this, should be attached to these Broadcasting Ministries, and should advise them, and should make lists of words, vocabularies, etc. to be used. That is done in every country even though there is no such type of controversy that exists here. That applies to the kind of news that is to be given also.

Now there can be no two opinions in this House as to the importance of the development of broadcasting in the rural areas. I did not quite understand what I think Shrimati Kamala Chaudhri said, something about much more time being given to the rural areas. It is not a question of time at all, I think. Suppose you give instead of an hour a day, five hours a day. They can only listen at certain times and there is such a thing as overdoing it. Nor do I think it would be at all right for us to proceed in our broadcasting programmes with the fixed desire to benefit the other person concerned. I do not know how Honourable Members react to attempts being made to improve them, but I react strongly against it. If anybody is going to sermonize me, well I am not going to listen to that sermon. I think that is the general public psychological reaction: too much sermonizing, too much attempt to benefit, too much being told to be good, does not result in good results. One must approach differently. If you want to educate, you must do it in an amusing way, entertaining way, in a light way, sometimes in a heavy way too if yau like, just as you cannot train a child by simply dozing him with heavy stuff all the time.

You just ruin his life if you do that. So you must treat him better. I suggest these are matters for experts to consider. So I think it would be desirable for members of separate committees to consider them and co-ordinate their activities and advise the Ministry, and thus gradually we might improve.

I am sorry I have not dealt with many of the matters raised, but I have suggested the way that should be followed in order to deal with them.

3 P.M.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,69,000 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 rspect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday the 16th March, 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Tuesday, 16th 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

ARMED FORCES HEADQUARTERS PUBLICATIONS

768. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Armed Forces, Headquarters have their own Printing Press?

(b) Do they publish any magazine or periodicals? If so, what are they?

(c) How many Editors and Sub-Editors are employed for publication of such periodicals?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No.

(b) Yes. The *Fauji Akhbar* and *Jawan*.

(c) The following is the editorial staff employed in connection with these publications:

Editor—1.

Assistant Editor—1.

News Editor—1.

Sub Editors—5.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know where these publications are printed, if they have no Press of their own?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: They are printed in a private Press called the Army Press. That is not an Army Press at all.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: To whom are these journals circulated?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: They are circulated to the members of the Armed Forces.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the circulation of these journals?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The circulation of *Fauji Akhbar* is 11,000 while the *Jawan* which is supplied free has a circulation of approximately 40,000.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the subscription of *Fauji Akhbar*?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not give it straightaway, but I shall supply the information to the Honourable Member later.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if the Honourable Minister is aware of the fact that these publications when they were started were designed to carry on a certain type of propaganda? Has there been a change in the policy of the publications and in the editorial staff due to the changed circumstances so that there may be the right type of propaganda done in the Army hereafter?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I think that is so.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In how many languages is the *Fauji Akhbar* published?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: English, Hindi, Urdu, Gurmukhi and Tamil.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the editorial staff of these papers is the same which was appointed under the previous Government, and is there any proposal to change the editorial staff?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There has been change in the editorial staff. I do not think the Honourable Member's information is correct. There have been a lot of changes and my information is that the staff which is employed now is quite different from the staff which used to be employed before the 15th of August.

Seth Govinddas: Has the Editor in Chief been changed?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not say off hand, but I shall give the information to the Honourable Member later.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, whether the matter has been recently considered as to whether it is worth while to continue these two papers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The matter was reconsidered and it was decided to continue these two publications.

Shri B. Das: In view of the bad antecedents and bad legacy of *Fauji Akhbar*, has the Honourable Minister considered the changing of the name of *Fauji Akhbar* to something else, so that it will command the respect of the Army and the public at large?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question contains so many allegations and imputations. It is not proper.

Shri B. Das: May I put it in a different way?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri B. Das: Has Government thought it advisable to change the name of *Fauji Akhbar* into something that will satisfy the Indian soldier and public?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not seen any objection as far as the name is concerned, but the policy of these two papers has been suitably changed.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: What is the net loss which the Defence Ministry incur on the publication of these magazines?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I want notice of the question.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated that the policy has been changed. May I know what is the present policy?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The policy the Honourable Member will find in the paper itself.

I. N. A. OFFICERS IN SERVICE OF INDIAN UNION

769. ***Mr R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what is the total number of I. N. A. officers and men now in the service of the Indian Union?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer to Starred Question No. 900, asked on the 12th March, 1947.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I only want to refresh my memory, Sir. Will the Honourable Minister tell me what is the number of the I.N.A. men and officers in service?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I gave the answer on the 12th March. I will get the requisite information later and bive it to the Honourable Member.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Will the Honourable Minister kindly inform the House what the total number of I.N.A. men who have not been employed is? The question was how many have been employed and what is the total number. I want to know how many have not so far been employed and the reason for their non-employment so far, and whether Government consider it desirable to employ the whole lot of them?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I want notice of that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any bar to the employment of these men in the Indian Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As the Honourable Member knows, this question is under consideration and when the decision is announced, he will know what the Government is going to do about it.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether a larger number is employed or a larger number is unemployed?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: A larger number is unemployed.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: Has it come to the notice of the Honourable Minister that in Mysore I.N.A. men have been reinstated in the Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is what I have read in the paper.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: Will the same policy be adopted here?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The Government policy will be announced within the next few days.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN CANTONMENT AREAS

770. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what percentage of the total income of the Cantonment Boards of Ambala, Bareilly, Meerut, Jubbulpore and Poona is spent on elementary education?

(b) What steps do Government intend to take to spread elementary education among boys and girls living in Cantonment areas, under sections 116 and 117-A of the Cantonment Act?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) 5·77 per cent., 2·8 per cent., 2·19 per cent., 3·38 per cent. and 3·34 per cent. respectively.

(b) Government have called for complete details with regard to educational facilities now existing in all Cantonments with a view to examining what improvements can be effected.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is the education now given compulsory in the primary stage?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not got that information, but I will get it for the Honourable Member.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Minister aware that as far as Jubbulpore cantonment is concerned, there has been no change in the facilities of education and does the Honourable Minister want to do something in that respect?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have said, Sir, that we have called for details. When I get those details I will be able to inform the House.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: If primary education is not compulsory, may I know if Government would be prepared to consider the introduction of compulsory education in this area?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That will be taken into consideration.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the largest item of expenditure in the budgets of these Cantonment Boards?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I want notice of that question.

CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR IN DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA

771. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the quantity of liquor consumed in the centrally administered provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara during the year 1933 and during the last three years?

(b) What is the amount of income from excise on liquor in these two provinces during the years referred to in part (a) above?

(c) Have Government taken any decision to introduce prohibition in the centrally administered provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara? If so, has any scheme been prepared? If not, why not?

(d) Do Government propose to impose a ban on the import of foreign liquor for ordinary consumption? If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(c) The Government have accepted the principle of prohibition and the scheme to give effect to this policy is under their consideration.

(d) This will be considered at the appropriate time in connection with the policy of prohibition.

Statement

Showing the quantity of liquor consumed in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara during the year 1933 and during last thres years and the amount of income from excise on liquor in the two provinces during those years.

Year	Dehli		Ajmer-Merwara	
	Quantity of liquor Consumed	Income	Quantity of liquor Consumed	Income
	Gallon	Rs.	Gallons	Rs.
1933-34	1,17,284	5,42,390	81,346	5,45,647
1944-45	2,09,754	35,23,014	1,21,364	11,17,808
1945-46	3,52,929	37,51,450	1,35,730	13,46,166
1946-47	4,45,676	42,35,739	1,51,804	15,65,099

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: May I know by what time positive steps will be taken to implement this policy of prohibition?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am unable to indicate any definite date, Sir.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that the liquor shops are going to be auctioned in Delhi on the 21st of this month? Will the Honourable Minister direct the Local Government not to auction shops particularly situated in Chandni Chowk, Karol Bagh and other prominent streets? Is the Honourable Minister aware that in this respect the Advisory Council has also a resolution to that effect?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member is both making suggestion for action and getting argumentative.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: No, Sir. I am only asking whether the Honourable Minister has issued instructions to the Local Government in this respect?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I have stated that the Government have accepted the policy of prohibition and that the implementation of that policy is under consideration. I am not in a position to say anything beyond this.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: How much money, Sir, will Government lose by the introduction of prohibition?

Mr. Speaker: In other words, what is the excise revenue at present?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Do I understand that the Honourable Member wants the information in regard to Centrally Administered Areas?

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Yes.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I have got information regarding Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara here. The total income from liquor in 1946-47 in respect of Delhi is Rs. 42,35,739 and in respect of Ajmer-Merwara Rs. 15,65,099.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Is the Honourable Minister in a position to inform the House what will be the total loss if there is a total prohibition in India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am not in a position to give the information.

Shri B. Das: Is it a fact that most of the foreign liquors consumed in Delhi are consumed by the Government officials?

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: May I know if the same policy will be applied to Coorg also?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: When the Government of India take a decision, it will certainly apply to all the Centrally Administered Areas.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: May I know if the Honourable Minister can point out a civilised country where prohibition is in force?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have Government received complaints both from the Police and public against a liquor shop in Chandni Chowk and have Government taken any action on these complaints?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I want notice of that question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Pending the introduction of complete prohibition, do Government propose to enhance the import duties on foreign liquor to such an extent that the prices will become prohibitive?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The import duty on foreign liquor is already on a very high level.

RETRENCHMENT OF HINDU AND SIKH EMPLOYEES IN PAKISTAN ARMY HEAD QUARTERS

772. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Army Headquarters (Pakistan Dominion Defence Services) have retrenched all civilian personnel who were Hindus and Sikhs and that they are now residing as refugees in India?

(b) What is the number of such refugees?

(c) Do Government propose to consider their cases for employment in the Indian Defence Services?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Most of the non-muslim civilian employees who have come over from Western Pakistan to India have come as a result of what happened to non-muslims in general in Western Pakistan and not because they were retrenched. They are also therefore, in a way, refugees in India.

(b) The number of civilian personnel who were employed before partition in Defence Installations situated in Pakistan and who have so far reported here for employment is 4,210.

(c) Yes. 2,047 have already been absorbed and efforts are being made to absorb the rest.

NON-PAYMENT OF PRICE OF A PIECE OF LAND NEAR CHAH (WELL) WAZIRWALA, AMRITSAR.

773. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India acquired in 1942 under the Defence of India Rules, a piece of land measuring 7·7 acres, situated near Chah (Well) Wazirwala, inside Municipal Committee limits, Amritsar (under Notification No. 1336/CR/1/42/DIR, dated the 2nd September, 1942);

(b) whether it is a fact that a Government factory for the manufacture of munitions was subsequently erected on the land thus acquired;

(c) whether it is a fact that the full price of land has not, so far, been paid to the owners, in spite of their repeated reminders to Government and if so, the reasons; and

(d) whether it is a fact that a number of memorials have been sent to Government by the owners of the land, praying for the immediate payment of their longstanding dues in view of the extremely heavy losses suffered by them in the recent Punjab tragedy, and if so, what action has been taken thereon, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The price of the land has not so far been paid to the owner, as the matter is still *subjudice*.

(d) No reminders have been received in the Defence Ministry but it is possible that the local military authorities were addressed and enquiries are being made of them.

AREAS STILL IN POSSESSION OF RAIDERS IN KASHMIR AND RE-CAPTURE OF GILGIT.

774. *Shri Ram Sahai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the names of districts or villages in Kashmir which are in the possession of the raiders?

(b) What are the names of the places in Gilgit upto which raiders have advanced, and what are the names of places where the Indian Union Troops have checked their advance?

(c) What arrangements have been made to recapture Gilgit?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) to (c). It would not be in the public interest to give at present the detailed information which the Honourable Member wants. General information with regard to the progress of events in the fighting in Kashmir is contained in the daily communiques issued by the Ministry of Defence.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact, Sir, that in some of the villages which have been captured by raiders, the residents of those villages welcomed the raiders or did they not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have no information.

ATOMIC RESEARCH IN INDIA.

775. *Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have so far taken towards the promotion of Atomic Research in India; and

(b) the progress achieved in that direction up-to-date, having regard to the constructive as well as destructive aspects of Atomic Energy?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: یہ سوال آنریبل منسٹر فوڈ انڈسٹری اینڈ سپلائی سے کرنا چاہئے تھا - اب یہ انکے پاس بھیج دیا گیا ہے اور ۲۹ مارچ کے سوالوں کی لسٹ میں اسے جگہ مل گئی ہے اُسدن آنریبل منسٹر فوڈ انڈسٹری اسکا جواب دیدینگے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 29th March, 1948, when the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply will answer it.

PREVENTIVE AND CURATIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT AND TOLL TAKEN BY TUBERCULOSIS

776. *Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the toll that tuberculosis took in India in each year during the period between the years 1942 and 1947 inclusive; and

(b) the steps, preventive as well as curative, taken by Government to combat the menace?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) There are no complete statistics but it has been estimated that the number of deaths from tuberculosis is about 500,000 a year.

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

Statement by Government to combat tuberculosis.

The matter is primarily the concern of the Provincial Governments. As regards the Centrally Administered Areas, the Government of India have taken over from the Delhi Municipal Committee the Silver Jubilee Tuberculosis Hospital and the question of its expansion is under consideration. It is proposed to start a T. B. Clinic in Ajmer and to make an annual grant to the Radar Union Sanatorium in Ajmer-Merwara.

2. The Central Government have on their staff an Adviser in Tuberculosis whose expert advice is made available to Provincial Governments in drawing up their schemes for combating tuberculosis.

3. In collaboration with the World Health Organisation, Government are taking steps to introduce B. G. G. vaccination for the prevention of tuberculosis in the country.

4. An annual grant of Rs. 13,500 is given to the Delhi University for a post-graduate diploma course in tuberculosis and the question of establishing an Institute of Tuberculosis under the Delhi University is under consideration. An annual grant is made to the Tuberculosis Association of India from Central revenues for the maintenance of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Clinic and for 30 beds at the Lady Linlithgow Sanatorium, Kasauli, for Government employees. The Government also made a capital grant to the Tuberculosis Association for the construction of the Sanction at Kasauli. An annual grant is also made to the Provincial Tuberculosis Association of Delhi for an organised home treatment scheme for tuberculosis in Delhi city. Under this scheme doctors and health visitors visit patients in their homes to give treatment and advice on preventive measures.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are the deaths on the increase or decrease in recent years?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Tuberculosis is on the increase.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of this do Government propose to undertake a vigorous propaganda drive for dietetic reform and improvement in conditions of living?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government propose to take all the action that it can.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the action proposed to be taken?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: If the Honourable Member will read the statement, he will get information from that.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: May I know, Sir, how many sanatoria there are in India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would require notice of that question.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What is the nature of preventive measures that the Government has taken?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The introduction of this B.C.G. vaccination is a very big step in the matter of prevention. For the rest, of course, malnutrition and bad housing play a very great part in the incidence of Tuberculosis.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Has Government taken any measures so far as food is concerned which is the cause of malnutrition?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That question should be put to the Food Department.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: In view of the fact that the number of T.B. cases are in the increase, as the Honourable Minister has just said, is it the policy of the Government to increase the number of sanatoria in India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes. It is.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: May I know the number that is under contemplation for the increase?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: We are trying at the moment. I am making enquiries as to the possibility of starting new T.B. sanatoria in three different places.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Among which classes of people is the incidence of T.B. highest?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Naturally amongst the poor.

HELP TO VARIOUS SEMI-MILITARY ORGANISATIONS SET UP BY VARIOUS PROVINCES

777. ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what help and facilities, if any, Government are providing to the various semi-military organisations in the provinces started by their respective Governments like the Prantiya Raksha Dal in the United Provinces, the National Volunteer Corps in East Punjab and the Volunteer Corps in Orissa?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Wherever possible, Government have provided such help and facilities to these organisations as Provincial Governments have asked for.

DEBARRING OF ASSISTANTS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FROM POSTS HIGHER THAN ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.

†778. ***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Assistants in the Government of India are debarred from being appointed to posts higher than those of Assistant Secretaries?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No.

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

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

†779. ***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that most of the members of the Federal Public Service Commission are retired members of the Provincial and Indian Civil Service?

(b) What are the qualifications necessary for being appointed as members of the Federal Public Service Commission?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Of the four permanent members of the Federal Public Service Commission one (the Chairman) is a retired I.C.S. officer and another is a retired P.C.S. officer. One of the two Additional Members is also a retired member of the P.C.S.

(b) Under Section 265 (1) of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted, at least one half of the members of the Commission shall be persons who on the dates of their respective appointments have held office under the Crown for at least ten years.

RELAXATION OF RULES OF SERVICE FOR STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN 1942 DISTURBANCES.

†780. ***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government are aware that during the August, 1942 disturbances, several students who had taken part in the political struggle, had to discontinue their studies?

(b) Is any provision being made for recruiting them into Government service by relaxing the rules in their cases?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) Any relaxation of the rules in regard to educational qualifications which leads to a lowering of standards would not be desirable but Government would be prepared to consider any case where the maximum age limit has been exceeded owing to imprisonment in connection with national movement.

PROVISION FOR STUDENTS FROM C. P. AND BERAR FOR STUDY OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

781. ***Seth Govinddas:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government are aware that in the overseas scholarship scheme of 1947-48 of the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar, there was a provision for a scholarship for the study of the Russian language?

(b) Did the Government of India express their inability to make the necessary teaching arrangements for the selected candidate in the Soviet Union or elsewhere?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to re-open the matter with the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar and to get the selected candidate admitted into a Russian University?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: (a) ہاں جناب! ۴۸-۱۹۴۷ء میں سنٹرل پراونس اینڈ برار گورنمنٹ نے ایک سکالرشپ اس غرض سے تجویز کیا تھا کہ روسی زبان کی سٹیڈی کیجائے لیکن کسی خاص اسکالر کے نام کی شفارش نہیں کی تھی۔

(b) اس وقت حالات ایسے تھے کہ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے خیال کیا ایک ہندوستانی ودیارتھی کو یو-ایس--ایس-آر میں بھیجنے اور پڑھائی کا انتظام کرنے کے لئے جن آسانیوں کی ضرورت ہے اُن کا بندوبست نہیں ہو سکے گا۔ لیکن ساتھ ہی پراونشل گورنمنٹ کو یہ بات بتلادی گئی تھی کہ دلی یونیورسٹی میں روسی زبان کی تعلیم

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

کا انتظام ہوسکتا ہے اور ہر طرح کی آسانیاں یہاں اس کیلئے موجود ہیں۔

(c) اس وقت کوئی چنا ہوا اسکالر ایسا موجود نہیں ہے جسکے لئے کسی روسی یونیورسٹی میں داخل ہونے کا سوال پیدا ہوتا ہو یا روسی زبان سیکھنے کیلئے وہ روس جانا چاہتا ہو اگر اس طرح کا سوال اُٹھا تو گورنمنٹ ضرور اسپر نئے سرے سے دھیان دیگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Yes, Sir, There was a provision made by the Central Provinces and Berar Government for the award of a scholarship in 1947-48 for the study of the Russian language. No scholar was, however, actually recommended by the Provincial Government for this subject.

(b) Under the then existing circumstances the Government of India were not in a position to arrange necessary facilities in the U.S.S.R. It was, however, suggested to the Provincial Government that adequate facilities existed in the Delhi University for the purpose.

(c) There is at present no selected scholar whose admission is desired in any Russian University or for the study of the Russian language. If and when the question arises, the matter will be re-examined.

सेठ गोविन्ददास : क्या माननीय सदस्य के पास नागपुर के मौरिस कौलिज के एक प्रोफ़ैसर का नाम सी० पी० गवर्नमेन्ट ने लिख कर नहीं भेजा था ?

Seth Govinddas: Did not the C.P. Government send up the name of a professor of Morris College, Nagpur to the Honourable Minister?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جہاں تک میں نے کاغذات دیکھے اسطرح کا کوئی نام نہیں تھا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: So far as I have gone through papers, I have not come across any such name.

सेठ गोविन्ददास : अब यह मामला कहां तक आया है । हालांकि जहां तक मेरी इन्फारमेशन है, वह भेजा गया था, अब अगर वह नाम माननीय सदस्य के पास पेश हो तो इस मामले में क्या किया जायेगा ?

Seth Govinddas: How does the matter stand at present? As far as my information goes, the name was sent. What will be done in the matter if the name is brought to the notice of the Honourable Minister?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: گورنمنٹ اِس پر ضرور غور کریگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Government will certainly consider it.

مسٹر تجمل حسین۔ کیا یہ حکومت کی پالیسی ہے کہ ہر ملک کی زبان کی تعلیم ہم کو دی جائے تاکہ کوئی نہ کوئی آدمی ایسا اکسپرٹ ہوکر جائے جو وہاں اگر ایمبیسیڈر (Ambassadors) ہوکر جائے تو وہاں کی زبان بولے ?

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Is it the policy of the Government that we should be taught the language of every country so that persons going to those countries as Ambassadors may be experts in the language?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: گورنمنٹ کی یہی پالیسی ہے ۔ گورنمنٹ اس کا انتظام

کر رہی ہے اور ابھی آنریبل ممبر کے سامنے یہ بات آچکی ہے ۔ کہ دہلی یونیورسٹی میں روسی زبان کی تعلیم کا انتظام موجود ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes, that is the policy of the Government. The Government are making arrangements. It has just been pointed out to the Honourable Member that the arrangements for teaching Russian exist in the Delhi University.

सेठ गोविन्ददास : दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी में रूसी ज़बान के सिवा और किस किस ज़बानों में तालीम का इन्तजाम हुआ है ?

Seth Govinddas: Arrangements for the teaching of what other languages besides Russian have been made in the University of Delhi?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: اسکے لئے نوٹس کی ضرورت ہے ۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This requires notice.

LEAVE RULES FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS PROCEEDING OUT OF INDIA

782. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that under the Fundamental Rules, a Government servant has to proceed out of India to draw full average salary for periods of leave in excess of four months?

(b) If so, in view of the abolition of recruitment of foreigners into Government service, do Government propose to revise this rule?

(c) If not, what are the reasons for its retention?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) to (c). The Honourable Member's impression is not quite correct. Officers under the Special Leave Rules of the Fundamental Rules are entitled to take eight month's leave on average pay at any one time while those subject to ordinary Leave Rules of the Fundamental Rules are entitled to take only four months' leave on average pay at any one time, but the limit may be raised to eight months at any one time when leave is taken on medical certificate or is spent outside India. The Special Leave Rules apply to all persons of non-Asiatic domicile and some officers of Indian domicile who joined certain superior services prior to 1924. The Fundamental Rules do not apply to 'new entrants', *i.e.*, those who entered Government service after 15th July 1931. In regard to members of the Secretary of State's Services who were governed by the Fundamental Rules, Government have, on transfer of power, given an assurance for the continuance of the same conditions of service regarding Pay, Leave, Pension, etc. In view of this assurance it is also not proposed to deliberalise the rules in regard to other officers in service who are old entrants.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know if Indian officers who go to foreign countries are entitled to free passage and allowances as in the past?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I shall require notice to answer that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does it not mean that officers cannot have leave for eight months in India on full average pay?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Yes, they can under medical certificate and not otherwise.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government propose to revise this rule so as to enable officers to spend eight months' leave in India on full pay without medical certificate?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I have made it clear in my reply that this is a legacy from the past. We have given an assurance on the transfer of power on the 15th August, last that so far as the Secretary

of State's services are concerned, we will continue all these privileges. Having given this assurance to those men who are protected by the Secretary of State we did not think it proper to take away this priviilege from officers of Asiatic domicile who also had the benefit of these leave rules; but we do not propose to extend this concession in our future rules.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Was this assurance given to the Secretary of State or to these people?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not know whether the assurance was given to the Secretary of State or to these people, but it is a sort of contractual obligation that we have undertaken. On the transfer of power the Government of India gave an assurance that those who had the protection of the Secretary of State in the services would not be affected by any change in the rules relating to pay, leave or pension.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How long will these hangovers from the past continue to plague us?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Until all these gentlemen in service who have got this protection either resign or are removed by an act of God.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As these same rules apply to Indian members of the services, has the Honourable Minister tried to ascertain their views as to whether they want to go to foreign countries and enjoy these privileges or whether they would like to give up these privileges in view of the changed circumstances?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Does the Honourable Member want a plebiscite to be taken?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: A circular may be sent round asking them whether they insist on those privileges and will go to foreign countries.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Even without sending any circular the object can be achieved if the Indian members of the services who have got the protection of these rules make up their minds not to ask for this eight months' leave.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: The assurance mentioned by the Honourable Minister was given to non-Asiatic officers. But the rules apply to Indian officers also, and if they want to take eight months' leave and spend it here instead of going to a foreign country, what harm is there in changing the rules to that extent?

Mr. Speaker: I think the matter has been sufficiently discussed. Next question.

INCOME-TAX OF INDIAN NATIONALS IN INDO-CHINA

783. ***Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been made by the Indo-China Indian Association that on account of the war from 1941 to 1946 and the consequent Japanese occupation in French Indo-China, most of the Indian Nationals suffered great loss of life and property;

(b) whether the Government of India propose to waive all taxes and assessments on the income of the Indian Nationals as in the case of the Burma evacuees;

(c) whether Government are aware that the Income-tax authorities in India are often demanding taxes for the above periods though the parties have not received any money during the period;

(d) whether Government propose to place on the table of the House the instructions issued to the Provincial Heads of the Income-tax department relating to the collection of taxes from Indians owning properties and business interests in Indo-China;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India have forwarded to the Ministry of Finance, the proposal to give advance loans to the Indian Nationals owning properties and business interests in Indo-China, residing in India, against an equivalent amount in *piastres* in Indo-China; and

(f) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter and when?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not a fact that in the case of Burma evacuees all taxes have been waived. Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to certain instructions issued by the Central Board of Revenue in regard to the computation of the profits or losses of assessees arising in Burma during the period 1942-43 to 1946-47. These instructions, with minor modifications necessitated by the difference in circumstances (*e.g.*, the exchange position) have been extended to assessees who had income in Indo-China also.

(c) Instructions have already been issued that if the income arising in Indo-China has not been brought into India the tax due thereon should not be collected, and that the assessee should not be treated as in default.

(d) I lay on the table copies† of the instructions issued in this matter.

(e) and (f). The Government of India is considering this matter.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there a frequent demand from Indian nationals who have trade and business in Indo-China for releasing all the holdings of the Indo-China Government here as against their holdings in Indo-China? What steps have been taken in the matter?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Representations have been made to Government that Indians who have got their assets in Indo-China and who cannot have them removed to India should be paid by the Government of India against the security of their assets in Indo-China. Obviously it is not possible for the Government of India to undertake an obligation of such a wide character. But I am considering granting that request in a somewhat modified form if possible. I might also inform the Honourable Member that when our agreement with the Indo-China Government is signed, there will be a remittance of Rs. 200 per month per individual allowed by the Government of Indo-China subject to a certain maximum remittance every month.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Minister aware that a remittance of Rs. 200 is too small for those persons who have carried on business in Indo-China? And will he make attempts to give them some lump sums from the Indo-China holdings in this country?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: This monthly remittance of Rs. 200 is really intended to give some help to the middle class people who were depending upon remittances from Indo-China. I am sure the Honourable Member will agree with me that it is more necessary to give some sort of relief and assistance to these middle class people than to the richer sections who can afford to keep their money locked up in Indo-China for some time longer.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister recall the reply that he gave yesterday on behalf of the Commerce Ministry and tell the House

†Not printed in these Debates. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed of D.*

if he can link up the payment of the monies due to the Indo-China Government that is now with the Government of India and the claims of Indian nationals on the Indo-China Government?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I have been told that we have got some amount belonging to Indo-China which is now frozen and which is in the custody of the Custodian of Enemy Property. I have also been told that it is not possible to unfreeze this for the benefit of Indians, and that under the agreement we have to give it back to the Bank of Indo-China. But I am prepared, as I said, to consider offering, in addition to this Rs. 200 monthly remittance, some further assistance to these people who have got their assets frozen in Indo-China.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Cannot something be done to adjust these two accounts—the amounts due to our nationals from Indo-China, and those due to the Indo-Chinese people from here?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Well, Sir, I do not know the details of the negotiations that took place between the two Governments, but as I have stated evidently it has not been possible for our representatives to these negotiations to secure that arrangement.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that our nationals have assets in Indo-China to the tune of about 10 crores of rupees, as against the frozen asset of 45 lakhs of rupees of Indo-Chinese nationals in this country.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That seems to be approximately correct.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If so, would the Honourable Minister negotiate with the Indo-China Government to let at least half of these 45 lakhs of rupees to be utilised by the Indian nationals here who have business in Indo-China towards their corresponding assets in India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The agreement with the Indo-China Government, as I mentioned yesterday on behalf of my Honourable Colleague, the Commerce Minister, has now reached the final stage and only the signature has to be affixed. I do not know whether it would be possible to bring about any material alterations in it. But I would certainly pass on the suggestion to the Honourable Minister for Commerce.

ADMINISTRATOR FOR JAISALMER BORDER AREA.

784. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an Administrator has been sent by the Government of India, to be on Jaisalmer border area lying adjacent to Pakistan?

(b) If so, what are the relations of this Administrator with the Government of the Jaisalmer State?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). Government have suggested to His Highness the Maharawal of Jaisalmer the appointment of a person of their choice to administer the State under the aegis of the Maharawal and His Highness has accepted the suggestion.

Seth Govinddas: What would be the relation of this official, Sir, with the Government of Jaisalmer?. Will he be working under the Government of India or under the Maharawal?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: He is, technically, appointed by the Maharawal, as Dewan, or some such designation; but, naturally, he will be receiving general directions from the Government of India.

RISE IN PRICE OF TEA AND COFFEE

785. *Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the price of tea and coffee has suddenly risen since the introduction of the Budget for the year 1948-49, in the Assembly on the 28th February, 1948?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The imposition of an excise duty must normally be expected to increase the price of the commodity on which the excise is imposed by an amount equivalent to the duty. Actually in the case of tea, there has, on the whole, been very little change in price. As regards coffee, such increase as has occurred is attributable partly to the decontrol of this commodity;

(b) Government find no reason to take any special steps in the matter.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Will the Honourable Minister please indicate the prices of coffee and tea before the budget and after the budget?.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I have got some information, Sir, regarding the price of tea and coffee which I got collected. Now, in Allahabad, for instance, the price of tea before the excise duty was Rs. 2/6/- and after the budget also the price is Rs. 2/6/-. The only place where the price has increased is in Ajmer where the price of tea was Rs. 2/5/6 before the budget and it is now Rs. 2/7/6, that is an increase of 2 annas which is the excise duty. In Bombay there has been no increase at all in the price of tea; it was Rs. 2/6/- before the budget, it continues to be Rs. 2/6/-.

With regard to coffee, the position is rather interesting. As I said in my answer, it so happened that on the 19th February, that is, just about a week before the budget, we decontrolled coffee. The result was that prices have gone up. Even here in the Allahabad collectorate there has not been any increase. The price of coffee there, before the budget day was Rs. 2/8/-. It is Rs. 2/8/- even today. In Cawnpore it was Rs. 2: now it is Rs. 2/4/-. In Ajmer it was Rs. 2/6: now it is Rs. 2/8. In Bombay there has been an increase in price by 2 annas per pound. But in Madras the price of one variety of coffee before the budget was Rs. 1/6 per pound, after the budget it is Rs. 2/3 per pound. That only shows what a great demand there is for coffee in Madras.

Shri K. Hanumanthiaya: By what per cent. has the price of cigarettes gone up, Sir.

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

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Are the prices quoted by the Honourable the Finance Minister wholesale prices or retail prices?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: These are retail prices.

Shri H. V Kamath: What is the position in our capital city?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I have not got the information for Delhi.

ION OF UNITED RAJASTHAN PROVINCE OF RAJPUTANA

786. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether any representation has been received from the United Rajasthan Campaign Committee for convening a conference of the representatives of the people and the rulers to decide the formation of a United Rajasthan Province of Rajputana States?

(b) If so, what action, if any, have Government so far taken on that representation?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India have already explained their policy on the question of merger and integration of States on the floor of this House yesterday. In view of that policy no action was necessary on the proposal.

GRANT TO INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISION.

787. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a resolution passed recently at the last session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Jaipur requesting Government to make an initial grant of Rs. 25,000 for the collection of material for preparing an authoritative history of the Indian National struggle for freedom; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the request?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: (a)اور(b) ہاں پریس رپورٹ گورنمنٹ کے جاننے میں آچکی ہے مگر ابھی تک آفشیل رپورٹ گورنمنٹ کے پاس نہیں آئی کام کا ڈھنگ جو پہلے سے چلا آتا ہے – یہ ہے کہ انڈین ہسٹاریکل ریکارڈ کمیشن کے جلسوں میں جتلی تجویزیں منظور کی جاتی ہیں وہ سب باضابطہ گورنمنٹ کے پاس بھیج دی جاتی ہیں – میں آنریبل ممبر کو یقین دلادونگا کہ جونہی یہ تجویز گورنمنٹ کے سامنے آئی - گورنمنٹ پوری ہمدردی کے ساتھ اس پر غور کریگی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b). Government have seen press reports but as yet have no official information on the subject. All resolutions of the Indian Historical Records Commission are forwarded to Government, and I can assure the Honourable Member that Government will examine sympathetically the resolution to which he has referred.

RAIDS ON BHARATPUR BORDER VILLAGESBY MEOS FROM GURGAON DISTRICT

788. *Ch. Ranbir Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Meos residing in the adjoining villages of Gurgaon district raided Bharatpur State border villages several times?

(b) Is it also a fact that they carried away a large number of cattle belonging to the villagers?

(c) Is it also a fact that the border villagers of Bharatpur State have been deprived of their licensed arms by the authorities?

(d) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to create confidence in the villagers living in the border area of Bharatpur State?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes, but these raids took place last year.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

PEOPLES' GOVERNMENT IN JIND STATE.

789. *Ch. Ranbir Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a parallel Government has been set up in Jind State?

(b) Is it also a fact that the Peoples' Government have captured Badhara Police Station in Daderi District?

(c) Is it also a fact that the administration of 184 villages is being carried by the parallel Government and the State Government has failed to maintain peace and order in the state? If so, what steps do the Government of India propose to take to maintain peace and order in the State?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c). There was an agitation in Dadri district of Jind against the State administration. On the advice of the States Ministry the agitation in Jind has been suspended and the State authorities have released all the State Congress leaders who were arrested in connection with the agitation.

Ch. Nihal Singh Taxak: May I know whether it is a fact that since the 25th February, no cases are coming to the State courts, as there is a Panchayat raj in each village?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know. But I am very glad to learn that litigation is ending in the Jind State.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Is it a fact, Sir, that some prajamandalists have been arrested by the State authorities and have not yet been released?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have just stated that the persons who were arrested have been released. I do not know if anything has happened very recently. If the Honourable Member will draw our attention to it, we will certainly enquire into the matter.

UTILISATION OF FOREIGN CAPITAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN INDUSTRIE

790. *Shri P. Kunhiraman (on behalf of **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the policy of Government in the matter of utilising foreign capital in developing our industries?

(b) Are any concessions being offered to firms in the United Kingdom and the United States of America to develop industries in India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: 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 29th March, 1948, when the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply will answer it.

STUDENTS SENT TO U.S.A. FOR STUDY OF CINEMATOGRAPHY

791. *Shri P. Kunhiraman (on behalf of **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether any students were sent to the United States of America under the overseas scholarship scheme to study cinematography?

(b) What are the Universities in which these students are undergoing training?

(c) Have the film-industry been consulted regarding their requirements in technical development in the selection of these candidates?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: (a) ہاں اسوقت تک چھ سکالرز یونائٹڈ سٹیٹس آف امریکہ میں اس غرض سے بھیجے جا چکے ہیں کہ سلیما کی تصویریں بنانے کی کاریگری سیکھیں

(b) دکھنی کیلی فورنیا کی یونیورسٹی

(c) نہیں جناب ! یہ سکالرشپ اس لئے دئیے گئے تھے کہ گورنمنٹ کے کاموں کی مانگیں پوری ہوں

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Yes. Six Government of India scholars have so far been sent to the United States of America under the Overseas Scholarships Scheme for advanced studies in cinematography.

(b) The University of Southern California.

(c) No, Sir. These scholarships have been awarded in order to meet the requirements of Government.

श्री० एच० बी० कामत : अमरीका को छोड़कर क्या किसी और मुल्क में भी स्कालर भेजे गए हैं।

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have scholars been sent to any other country also other than America?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : نہیں صرف امریکہ ہی بھیجے گئے ہیں ۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No. They have been sent to America only.

श्री० एच० वी० कामत : क्या गवर्नमेन्ट और मुल्कों में भेजने पर भी गौर कर सकगी ।

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government consider the question of sending scholars to other countries also?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ ضرور غور کریگی – غور کا دروازہ کبھی بند نہیں ہوتا ۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Government will certainly consider it. Consideration is always possible.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

792. ***Shri P. Kunhiraman** (on behalf of **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before Government to start a college of Pharmacy in India?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, has any decision been taken regarding the location of this college?

(c) What is the number of approved Pharmacies in India and what is the requirement on the population basis?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). There is no proposal before Government to start a college of Pharmacy.

(c) Under the Drugs Rules premises where drugs are sold are licensed by authorities under the Provincial Governments. No information is available regarding the number of such licensed premises. It is not possible to estimate the number of pharmacies required in the country on the basis of population.

DETECTION OF ADULTERATION IN FOODSTUFFS AND MILK IN INDIA

793. ***Shri P. Kunhiraman** (on behalf of **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any staff is working in the Province of Delhi to detect adulteration of food-stuffs and milk?

(b) What is the number of prosecutions launched in the last financial year for such adulteration?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Six Medical Officers of Health and Assistant Medical Officers of Health and a staff of eleven Food Inspectors are employed in the urban area of Delhi Province to detect adulteration of food-stuffs and milk.

The Punjab Pure Food Act of 1929 has also been extended now to the rural area and a staff of two Medical Officers and eight Sanitary Inspectors are being given the necessary powers.

(b) The number of prosecutions launched during 1946 was 371.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Are these Inspectors under the control of the Municipal Committee or the Government?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Committee.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do these Inspectors judge the adulteration by sight or are they armed with lactometers?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: They have all the necessary instruments for judging.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What was the result of the prosecutions launched?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Do you mean the punishments? In that case I would have to be given notice.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I shall be grateful if you will allow me to put my questions now. I regret I was not present at the time when they came up.

Mr. Speaker: I think I made the position clear last time that, except in exceptional circumstances I shall not feel inclined to grant such permission. Members ought to be careful to see that they are present at the time of their questions. I have also made that request in the case of Honourable Ministers and I do not see why I should make a distinction between Honourable Ministers and members. I am sorry that I cannot allow the Honourable Member to put his questions unless there are exceptional reasons for doing so.

REPRESENTATION AGAINST EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AMBALA CANTONMENT

794. ***Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether a representation containing allegations of corruption, bribery and highhandedness against the Executive Officer of Ambala Cantonment was sent to the Government by the President of Anti-Corruption and Anti-Oppression Committee of Congress workers of Ambala District, duly signed by himself and some other public workers?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action was taken by Government in this matter?

(c) Is it a fact that an open enquiry was demanded in the said representation but no enquiry of any sort has yet been made?

(d) Do Government propose to institute an open enquiry or take such other suitable action as the circumstances of the case require? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No such representation was received.

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

VALUABLES OF REFUGEES DEPOSITED WITH BRANCH OFFICE OF IMPERIAL BANK AT GUJRANWALA

795. ***Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Gujranwala branch of the Imperial Bank of India has been closed? If so, since when and for what reasons?

(b) What is the position about the articles deposited with the said branch for safe custody?

(c) Can they be removed from Gujranwala to some station in East Punjab or to Delhi by the Bank? If not, why not?

(d) What is the impediment for the Branch Office of the Imperial Bank of India at Gujranwala to give delivery of articles deposited with them at some branch of the bank in East Punjab or Delhi, in case the depositor agrees to stand the expenses of safe transport from Gujranwala to some branch office of the said bank in East Punjab or Delhi where delivery can be given?

(e) Are Government aware that the Hindu and Sikh refugees, find it unsafe to go to Western Pakistan to take delivery of their valuables deposited with the different branches of the Imperial Bank of India in Western Pakistan and it would greatly help if the bank agrees to deliver the said articles at Delhi or some other branch in East Punjab?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes, since the 8th November, 1947 due to communal disturbances and staff difficulties; except from the 5th December, 1947 to the 16th February, 1948 when it remained open for transferring constituents' accounts to branches in India.

(b) The Agent of the Sialkot Branch is arranging for the delivery of safe deposit articles at Gujranwala on Sundays, provided all the necessary formalities are completed and are in order.

(c) and (d). Normally, delivery of deposits should be taken at the place where articles were deposited; but in view of the difficulties pointed out by the Honourable Member, Government is taking up the matter with the Pakistan Government and the Imperial Bank.

(e) Yes.

IMPORT OF FOREIGN LIQUORS

796. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the volume of different kinds of foreign liquors imported into India annually?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of banning the import of all kinds of foreign liquor?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) A statement giving the figures for the last five years is laid on the table.

(b) This will be considered at the appropriate time in connection with the policy of prohibition.

Statement

Showing the quantity of foreign liquor imported into India

	Ale, Beer and Porter	Cider and other Fermented Liquor	Spirit (Brandy, Gin, Liqours, Rum, Whisky, etc.)	Wines
	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons
1942-43	638,532	2,389	488,476	81,684
1943-44	301,454	..	525,509	81,233
1944-45	420,381	1	502,657	81,997
1945-46	142,632	.. 441	758,047	174,767
1946-47	788,269		896,817	219,716

Note: These figures relate to undivided India.

PRODUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL FILMS IN INDIA

†**797. *Shri R. R. Diwakar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether there are any film-producing companies in India which produce educational films exclusively? If so, how many and which are they?

(b) Are any other film-producers also producing educational films? If so, who are they?

(c) Are there any films on such subjects as communal harmony, removal of untouchability and equality of all citizens?

(d) Are Government making any special efforts to see that films on the above subjects are produced? If so, what are they?

(e) Are Government following any definite policy in the use of educational films? If so, what is it?

(f) Did the Education Conference held on 15th and 16th January, 1948 lay down any policy or give any direction in the matter? If so, what was it?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) No. The second part does not arise.

(b) Precise information is not available.

(c) The film organisation of the Government of India had produced and distributed a short film on communal harmony in 1945. No films were produced on removal of untouchability or equality of all citizens. Government are not aware of any such films produced by non-official agencies.

(d) and (e). Government are alive to the need for and importance of educational films. The Central Bureau of Education maintains a library of educational films and a few projectors and loans them to educational institutions and authorities. It has been decided to add to the stock by purchasing more films and also a few projectors. The whole scheme of visual education including the production of educational and cultural films with the co-operation of the films organisation of the Government of India is at present under their active consideration and it is hoped that early steps will be taken to give effect to it.

(f) The Education Conference held from the 16th to the 18th January, 1948 at New Delhi recommended that the Central Bureau of Education should extend its activities in the film Unit. It also recommended that the Central Government should assist in procuring films and other accessories of visual education by obtaining priorities and making available the services of the officers of the Government of India abroad.

SCHEDULED CASTES SCHOLARSHIPS

798. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the Scheduled Castes scholarships were started;

(b) what annual allotment was made for this;

(c) whether it is a fact that the whole amount has not been utilized in any year;

(d) whether Government accumulate the unspent balances for being made available to future scholars; and

(e) what the total expenditure so far incurred on this account is?

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

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد :(a) ۱۹۴۴-۴۵ء میں

(b) تین لاکھ روپیہ

(c) پہلے دو برسوں میں یعنی ۱۹۴۴-۴۵ء اور ۱۹۴۵-۴۶ میں پورا روپیہ خرچ نہیں کیا جاسکا - لیکن بعد کے برسوں میں یعنی ۴۷ - ۱۹۴۶ء اور ۱۹۴۷-۴۸ میں جسقدر روپیہ خرچ ہوا ہے وہ تین لاکھ روپیہ سے بھی اوپر پہنچ چکا ہے- ۱۹۴۶-۴۷ میں چار لاکھ تیس ہزار روپیہ خرچ ہوا ہے اور ۱۹۴۷-۴۸ میں چار لاکھ پیسنتھ ہزار -

(d) اِس سکیم کے لئے یہ خاص بات رکھی گئی ہے کہ اگر ایک برس کی رقم پوری خرچ نہ ہوسکی تو جو روپیہ باقی رہ جائے وہ نئے برس کی رقم میں بڑھا دیا جائے اس طرح کوئی رقم لیپس نہیں ہوتی-

(e) جو توتل رقم آج تک خرچ ہوئی ہے وہ ۱۱،۵۸،۰۰۰ ہے

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) 1944-45.

(b) Rs. 3,00,000.

(c) In the first two years, 1944-45 and 1945-46, the whole amount was not utilized, but in the years 1946-47 and 1947-48 the expenditure incurred is much above the annual allotment of Rs. 3,00,000. The expenditure incurred in 1946-47 amounted to Rs. 4,03,000 and in 1947-48 it so far amounts to Rs. 4,65,000.

(d) The unspent balances are carried forward to the following year and are made available for scholarships for that year.

(e) The total expenditure incurred upto date is Rs. 11,58,000.

डाक्टर पी० एस० देशमुख : अगले साल के लिए कितना रुपया बजट में रखा गया है ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: How much money has been allotted for the next Budget?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ سکیم پانچ برس کے لئے منظور کی گئی تھی- یہ اسکا آخری برس ہے - اس برس یہ سکیم ختم ہو جائیگی - اور آئندہ کے لئے اسپر پھر سوچ بچار کیا جائیگا ؟

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This scheme was sanctioned for five years and this is the last year of the scheme. It will be completed during this year, and the matter will be considered again.

डाक्टर पी० एस० देशमुख : क्या यह समझा जाय कि अगले साल के लिए कोई गुंजाइश नहीं है । और कोई रकम नहीं रखी गई है ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Does it mean that no provision has been made for the next year, and no amount of money has been allotted for it?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد - یہ سکیم جو پانچ برس کے لئے منظور ہوئی تھی اس برس ختم ہو جائیگی- لیکن گورنمنٹ کی پالیسی اس بارے میں یہ ہے کہ اسطرح

کی امداد برابر جاری رہنی چاہئے - مجھے یقین ہے کہ جب آیندہ برس یہ معاملہ نئے سرے سے سامنے آئیگا - تو گورنمنٹ پوری ہمدردی کے ساتھ اسپر غور کریگی

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The scheme was sanctioned for five years and will end this year. But the policy of the Government in this connection is that this kind of help should continue. I am sure that the Government will consider this matter with full sympathy when the question comes up next year.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Is the Government aware that Provincial Governments are also giving scholarships like this and will they consider the possibility of having the scholarships given by one agency instead of two agencies and at different rates?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : مشکل ہے کہ اس وقت اس بارے میں کوئی فیصلہ کیا جائے- نئے سرے سے جب اس پر غور کیا جائیگا - تو اُس وقت معاملہ کے اس پہلو پر بھی نظر ڈالی جائیگی

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It is difficult to decide anything about it now. This aspect of the question will also be considered when the scheme is considered afresh next year.

GOVERNMENT AID OR SCHOLARSHIP FOR BACKWARD HINDU COMMUNITIES

799. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the Government of India have given any aid or scholarship to any backward Hindu communities other than the Scheduled Castes?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to assist these communities, in matters of education?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد:(a) گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے اس برس کے بجٹ میں پچاس ہزار روپیہ کی رقم اس کام کے لئے رکھی ہے کہ بیک وارڈ ٹرائبس کو سکالرشپ دیئے جائیں-

(b)اس معاملہ پر گورنمنٹ سوچ وچار کر رہی ہے-

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The Government of India have provided a sum of Rs. 50,000 for award of scholarships to students belonging to Backward Tribes (Aboriginals and Hill Tribes) during the financial year 1948-49.

(b) The question is under the consideration of Government.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it the settled policy of Government to recognise certain communities as backward and others as forward?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس میں ریکگنیشن کا سوال پیدا نہیں ہوتا - اگر ہم چاہتے ہیں کہ پورا ملک آگے بڑھے تو جو کمیونیٹیز بیک ورڈ ہیں اُنکو آگے بڑھانے کے لئے مدد دینی چاہیئے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The question of recognition does not arise here. If we want that the whole country should make progress we should help the backward communities to advance.

सेठ गोविन्ददास : क्या आनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहिब को मालूम है कि जिस वक्त मनुस्वामी पिल्ले ने यहां रेजोल्यूशन पेश किया था तो उस वक्त गवर्नमेन्ट ने आशा दिलाई थी कि बैकवर्ड क्लासेज के लिये काफी रकम अगले बजट में दी जायेगी।

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Minister aware that when the Honourable Munishwami Pillai moved his resolution in the House the Government held out a hope that sufficient money would be allotted for the backward classes in the next Budget?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: اس برس گورنمنٹ اس بارے میں زیادہ روپیہ کا انتظام نہیں کرسکی۔ لیکن یہ بات طے کر دی گئی ہے کہ سامنے برس کے بجٹ میں کافی رقم اس کام کے لئے رکھی جائیگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Government could not arrange for more money this year, but it has been decided that sufficient money will be provided for this purpose in the next year's Budget.

PROVINCIAL INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—contd.

DEMAND NO. 17—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,42,000 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 'Ministry of Agriculture'."

DEMAND NO. 26—MINISTRY OF FOOD

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,81,000 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 'Ministry of Food'."

DEMAND NO. 7—FOREST

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,04,000 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 'Forest'."

DEMAND NO. 20—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 80,76,000 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 'Ministry of Finance'."

I take it that the cut motions are not going to be moved. Of course, it will be open to the members to speak on these cut motions and also on the general demand for grants. If that is so, I will proceed calling upon the various speakers

(1) DEMAND NO. 17—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.
(2) DEMAND NO. 26—MINISTRY OF FOOD
(3) DEMAND NO. 7—FOREST

Shri Satis Chandra Samanta (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, I am thankful that you have allowed me to discuss a subject in which I am greatly interested. I come from the community of agriculturists and therefore I should like to put before the House what the agriculturists want. I am going to discuss the question of food self-sufficiency in India.

India is deficit in respect of food. It was deficit and is still deficit. During the pre-war period India had to import rice from Burma, because India was a deficit country in food. West Bengal, Bihar, U. P., Madras and Bombay are deficit in foodstuffs. The C. P., Berar, Orissa and Assam are surplus provinces. So if we want to make India self-sufficient as regards food we should find out the means. Our Government is going on trying various schemes and measures to make India self-sufficient as regards food. Various committees were appointed, agricultural research institutes have been established but to our surprise we see that we have to import more foodgrains from outside. The Grow More Food campaign was launched by the Central Government but to no effect. We could not find out the real difficulties. We must first of all support those who make themselves self-sufficient, those who are the producers of food. We are not looking after them. They produce the food but they cannot get sufficient food to eat. They want at least one pound of foodstuff per day but to our surprise we see that they cannot get it. How can they then produce the food for us? If we want to make India self-sufficient as regards food we must first of all look after these agriculturists, so that they may be well fed and well established. On the other hand, they are dying. In one word if I describe you will know what is their condition now. Their condition may be compared with that of a milch cow, which is milked every day twice or thrice but is not given sufficient food. This is the condition of the agriculturists in India. We are going to make India self-sufficient in food but their wretched condition is not being alleviated. They till their lands from morning to evening with the sweat of their brow for us, for the whole of India but in return they have to lead wretched lives. First of all their condition should be bettered. For that they should have sufficient food for themselves, sufficient nutritive food. I know they produce milk from their cows but they cannot consume it. They produce the crops but they cannot keep them for themselves or for buying their needs. First of all we should try to better their condition.

When I look at the whole of India I see that rice is the staple food, next comes wheat, barley, maize, millet etc. One third of the total cultivated area in India produces rice. Next to China India is the biggest producer in the world in rice. India is deficit in rice but not in wheat. Wheat is exported from India in some quantity. Nowadays it is impossible to export it. We should come to a stage when we want to export foodstuffs but not import them. If we depend on importing foodgrains from other countries, what is the use of being independent. We were better under the British regime. The British have gone. I know they have broken down our morale but it will take time for us to recover. I request the Ministry to be alert. They should see that the system of government as regards agriculture is not allowed to go in the old manner. Research institutes have been established. The Grow More Food Campaign has been launched. But what is the result? These institutes will be doing research work and their researches should be placed before the agriculturists in the interior villages. We are in towns, where the researches may be shelved. What is the necessity of such research in towns? Money is being spent for these researches and the result should go to the villages in the interior. I know the agriculturists are to some extent conservative. For that reason the educated men, the officers should reach them and do away with their conservatism. In this respect my experience is that these officers can do nothing. They should go through philanthropic organisations such as the Congress and the like. The Congress is in complete contact with the masses, the agriculturists and the producers. So anything which should be done for them in the interest of the whole of the Indian Union should be done through the medium of these philanthropic organisations, especially the

[Shri Satis Chandra Samanta]

Congress. When our officers go for the Grow More Food Campaign in the villages they take their abode in towns. Once or twice in a month they tour in the villages. In their town abode the officers give an exhibit of the grow more food campaign. I have seen with my own eyes, and perhaps many of my friends have also seen, what the result is. There in the handsome gardens where flowers are blossoming, some fruits and the like are grown, which is quite insignificant in comparison with what the agriculturists produce in the interior villages. I know that the agriculturists are experienced in the subjects. If they are to be more experienced, such experts who will be able to convince them should go there. Sir, the English have left us a few days back. But the methods and the ways to which we are accustomed are not yet over. The poor agriculturists fear the officers. Those fears should be removed. The officers should now truly love our Congress Government. By that way the country will improve both in the matter of foodgrains as also in all other matters.

Sir, I find many difficulties in the way of progress of agricultural improvement. Besides the lands which are cultivated there are nine crores of acres of land left in the Union of India which can be cultivated. With a view to grow more food in the cultivated and cultivable areas arrangements for irrigation should be made. The manuring system which the Government is trying to adopt by way of ammonia, etc. is not suitable as I have seen. Compost manure made of night soil, refuse, etc. should be used and that is very useful manure. The irrigation system is taken up by the Government in a large scale. I submit that small scale irrigation measures should be taken in hand so that the produce may come earlier. The Provincial Governments should be intimated in this respect. As I have just now mentioned, Bengal is a deficit Province. There are 1 million landless *bargadars*, 2 millions who have between 2 and 5 acres of land and 3 millions who have less than 2 acres of land. The landless labourers live mostly on agricultural wages. Bengal has been sanctioned 2 lakhs tons of foodgrains But on account of the immigration from East Bengal, West Bengal is claiming 1 lakh tons more of foodgrains, as I have seen in the newspapers.

I hope the Agricultural Ministry will take steps and direct their utmost attention to the Madras Province where famine is at hand. Bengal experienced famine in 1942-43. So Bengal fears and urges that immediate steps should be taken in regard to Madras. With this request I resume my seat!

चौधरी रणवीर सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने भी दो कटौती के प्रस्ताव भेजे थे । एक का आशय यह था कि एग्रीकल्चरिस्टस (agriculturists) की प्राडकटस (products) की प्राइसीज़ स्टेबिलाइज़ (prices stabilize) कर दी जायं। और दूसरे का आशय पैदावार ज्यादा करने का है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक देहाती हूं और किसान हूं । मैं जब देहात में जाता हूं तो मेरे देहाती भाई और किसान भाई खास तौर पर मेरे से पूछते हैं कि पहली सरकार एक सौतेली मां की तरह से हमेशा हमारे साथ वर्ताव करती रही । क्या यह सरकार भी हमारे साथ सौतेली मां जैसा वर्ताव रक्खेगी? मिसाल के तौर पर वह मुझसे एक सवाल पूछते हैं कि प्राइसेज़ (Prices) का जब कन्ट्रोल (control) किया जाता है तो वह शहरियों के फायदे के लिये किया जाता है । जब कभी एक किसान को अपने अनाज पर एक पैसा भी ज्यादा मिलने की उम्मीद होती है तो सरकार के कायदे और कानून उसके

रास्ते में आ जाते हैं, और उसकी प्राइस कन्ट्रोल (price control) कर दी जाती है और यह कानूनन जुर्म करार दे दिया जाता है कि इस से ज्यादा कीमत पर वह बेच न सके लेकिन जब उसका सवाल पैदा होता है तो कोई आदमी नहीं पूछता । इस में कोई शक नहीं कि मैं उन आदमियों में से नहीं जो अपने नेताओं पर किसी किस्म का अविश्वास रखता हो, मैं तो उन्हें यही विश्वास दिलाता रहता हूं कि पं० जवाहर लाल के नेतृत्व में किसानों का फायदा है, वह किसानों के फायदे के लिये ही वज़ारत की कुर्सी पर बैठे हुए हैं और वह जब तक यहां मौजूद हैं तब तक उनको कोई नुकसान नहीं होगा। लेकिन फिर भी मैं इस बात को जानता हूं कि उनके आस पास मोटरवाले फिरते रहते हैं और एक देहाती आदमी उसके पास न मोटर है न उसके पास अखबार है, उसकी आवाज़ प्रेस (press) में आ नहीं सकती। मैं आज आपका ध्यान इस बात की तरफ़ आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं । एक दफ़ा पहले भी मैंने मंत्री महोदय, का ध्यान आकर्षित कराया था, कि गुड़ की कीमत इस मौसम के अन्दर २४) से घट कर के ४) मन तक पहुंची। मैं यह दावे से कहता हूं कि अगर किसी दूसरी वस्तु की कीमत में इतना घटाव-बढाव आता तो अखबारात हिन्दुस्तान के कोने कोने में शोर मचाते और इस हुकूमत तक पहुंचाने के लिये उनकी जितनी शक्ति होती वह लगा देते। मिसाल के तौर पर मीठे का सवाल लीजिये । दूसरा मीठा गुड़ के अलावा चीनी है। चीनी का कन्ट्रोल (control) हटा और जितने चीनी पैदा करनेवाले बड़े बड़े अमीर थे उन्होंने एक कन्ट्रोल (control) बांध दिया, और इससे डीकन्ट्रोल (decontrol) होने के बाद कीमत घटी नहीं बल्कि बढ़ी। इसके मुक़ाबिले में गुड़ की कीमत छः गुनी कम हो गई। कहां २४ कहां ४ रुपया ? इस मौसम में भी, मिसाल के लिये उन्हें एक चर्खी या उसे कोल्हू कहिये, उसको किराये पर लेने के लिये कन्ट्रोल प्राइस (control price) देनी पड़ी और ब्लैक मारकेट प्राइस (black market price) भी देनी पड़ी। परसों १४ तारीख को मैं एक दिल्ली के देहात में एक मीटिंग (meeting) थी, उसके अन्दर उन्होंने मुझे बुलाया। तो वहां उन्होंने बताया कि दिल्ली की सरकार ने एक कन्ट्रोल (control) मुकर्रर किया था और इस कन्ट्रोल प्राइस (control price) पर एक भी आदमी ने एक भी ऐसी चर्खी नहीं जिसे उठाया हो। उसकी कन्ट्रोल प्राइस (control price) से फालतू लिया गया। और उनसे रसीद कन्ट्रोल प्राइस (control price) की ली गई । चूंकि समय भी, अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे बहुत थोड़ा ही मिलेगा इस लिये मैं अपने माननीय मंत्री का ध्यान प्राइस सब कमेटी (Price Sub-Committee) की रिपोर्ट की तरफ़ दिलाना चाहता हूं । एग्रीकल्चरिस्टस (agriculturists)

[चौ० रणवीर सिंह]

की प्राडकटस (products) की कीमत अच्छी रक्खी जायगी तो उसमें सिर्फ एग्रीकलचरिस्टस (agriculturists) का ही फ़ायदा नहीं है बल्कि तमाम हिन्दुस्तान का फ़ायदा होगा । और एग्रीकलचरल इकानमी (agricultural economy) ठीक होगी । हमारा देश देहाती और किसानों का देश है, अगर एग्रीकलचरिसटस agriculturists) की और देहातियों की इकानमी (economy) खराब हो जाती है तो तमाम हिन्दुस्तान की इकानमी (economy) खराब समझनी चाहिये । जो हमारे दूसरे भाई यहां बैठे हुए हैं उनका भी ध्यान इस रिपोर्ट की तरफ़ दिलाना चाहता हूं । इस रिपोर्ट में भी साफ़ तौर पर यह वाजे किया गया है कि एग्रीकलचरिस्ट (agricultrist) के इकानमी (economy) के साथ तमाम देश की इकानमी (economy) मबनी हैं ।

"The effective guarantee of a minimum price will not only introduce an element of stability in agriculture, but will also promote stability in other spheres of economic life, and will assist in securing a general rise in national income. The maintenance of the income of the agriculturist at a satisfactory level will provide a large home market for the products of Indian industries and encourage their development. It will maintain the revenues of the Provincial Governments, because of its direct effects on land revenue and water charges, and its indirect effects on the yield of other sources of revenue. It will increase the remunerativeness of public works in the sphere of agriculture. It will maintain the value of the only security that the agriculturist can offer, increase his credit and promote the development of marketing and credit organizations. The guarantee of a minimum price, which introduces an element of stability in agricultural incomes, is thus a measure of pivotal importance for general economic development."

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक और बात की तरफ़ मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं । अभी (Budget Session) बजट सैशन के अन्दर जब (Finance) फाईनेंस के मंत्री महोदय ने बजट पेश किया तो उस वक्त बताया था कि शिकागो के अन्दर जो देश गेहूं पैदा करते हैं उन देशों ने गेहूं के पैदावार के फ़ायदे के लियें गेहूं की कीमत पर एक किस्म का control सा कर दिया है और उस देश से जो देश गेहूं लेना चाहते हैं उससे यह कहते हैं कि उतनी कीमत पर उन्हें पांच सालों तक उसमें थोड़ी बहुत घटती बढ़ती होगी इस किस्म का कन्ट्रोल (control) कर दिया गया है ऐसी ही चीज़ में अपने माननीय मंत्री से भारत देश के किसानों के लिये चाहता हूं । वह यह कि पहली चीज़ जिसकी तरफ़ मैंने अभी उनका ध्यान आकर्षित कराया, गुड़ की कीमत को वह (control) कन्ट्रोल करें ताकि हिन्दुस्तान के उन गरीब किसानों को, इन मेहनत करने वालों का फ़ायदा हो । एक चीज और मैं इस दौरान में कहना चाहता हूं कि सब से ज्यादा मेहनत जिस में एक किसान को करनी पड़ती है वह ईख की पैदावार है । तो माननीय मंत्री महोदय का मैं इस तरफ़ ध्यान आकर्षित करा रहा था कि गुड़ की कीमत जरूर control करें । इस control में शक नहीं कि शहरी भाइयों का फ़ायदा नहीं होगा, उनका नुकसान होगा । लेकिन पहला

जो (control) कन्ट्रोल हुआ था वह शहरी भाइयों के लिये था तो अब की दफ़ा किसानों के लाभ के लिये कम से कम आप (control) कन्ट्रोल करें ।

अब चूंकि समय बहुत थोड़ा रह गया है । दूसरी चीज़ जिसकी तरफ़ मैं हाऊस का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं वह (Grow More Food) ग्रो मोर फूड है । इस साल भी एकसौदस करोड़ रुपया बजट में रक्खा गया है जो बाहर से अनाज मंगाने के लिये खर्च किया गया है । मैं मन्त्री महोदय का इ बात की तरफ़ ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं कि इसमें से अगर चन्द करोड़ रुपया भी मन्त्री महोदय अगर कुंए बनवाने के लिये किसानों को दान कर दें । मिसाल के तौर पर एकसौदस करोड़ के मुकाबिले में चार करोड़ रुपया कोई बड़ी चीज़ नहीं है । चार करोड़ रुपया कुएं बनवाने की मद में सूबों को भेज दें और उसमें यह भी रख दें कि चार सौ रुपया हर कुएं बनाने वाले के लिये दान की शक्ल में या (grant) ग्रांट की तौर पर दे दिया जाय तो इस तरीके से इस देश के अन्दर एक लाख कुंए बन सकते हैं । और उन के पानी के द्वारा एक फसल में एक करोड़ बीस लाख मन अनाज पैदा किया जा सकता है । अब मैं हाउस का ज्यादा समय न लेते हुए मन्त्री महोदय का और अपने नेता का ध्यान किसानों की हालत की की तरफ़ विशेषतया दिलाना चाहता हूं और मुझे पूर्ण आशा और उम्मीद है कि मन्त्री महोदय और हमारे नेता किसानों के लाभ के लिये हमेशा जो कुछ उनसे बन सकेगा, वह करते रहेंगे ।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, I had also given notice of two cut motions. The object of one was to stabilize prices of agricultural produce and of the second to increase production.

Sir, I am a villager and a farmer. When I visit the countryside, my countrymen and fellow farmers specially put me this question: "The old Government had always been meting out a step motherly treatment to us; will this Government also treat us in the same way?" As an illustration they say that when prices are controlled it is the interests of the urban people that are kept in view and whenever there is a chance for the peasant to make even the smallest profit, the Acts and ordinances of Government come in his way. Prices of his commodities are controlled and it becomes an offence to sell things at higher prices. But nobody takes care of his interests. I am certainly not one of those who entertain any distrust of our leaders. I have always been trying to convince the farmers that the leadership of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru is to their advantage; that he has assumed the office of a Minister only for their good; and that no harm shall befall them so long as he is there. But then I know that he is surrounded by people in motor cars. A villager, who owns neither a car nor any newspaper, has too feeble a voice to make himself heard through the press. Today I want to draw your attention and to point out to the Honourable Minister once again that the price of **'Gur'** in this season has fallen from Rs. 21 to Rs. 4 per maund. I am sure, had there been so much fluctuation in the prices of any other commodity, the press would have raised a hue and cry all over the country and would have spared no pain in bringing it to the notice of the Government.

[Ch. Ranbir Singh]

Take for example the case of sugar, which is the substitute of *Gur*. As soon as sugar was decontrolled all the sugar producers, who are rich men, joined hands in controlling its selling price. Its price, instead of coming down, has gone up after decontrol. In comparison to that the price of *Gur* has fallen to one sixth Look at the difference between Rs. 24 a maund and Rs. 4 a maund. In this month farmers had also to pay 'black market price' along with the control price for hiring an expeller (*kohlu*). Only the other day on the 14th I was invited to attend a meeting in a suburb of Delhi. I was told there that the Delhi administration had fixed a controlled price for this machine, but not a single person could purchase it at the controlled price. They were charged more than the controlled price but were given receipts for the controlled price. The time at my disposal is short, I would therefore, Sir, like to invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to the report of the Price Sub-Committee. If fair prices are fixed for agricultural products, not only the agriculturists but also the whole of India will be benefitted. This will set right the agricultural economy. Ours is an agricultural country, a land of farmers. If the economy of agriculturists and villagers is adversely affected that would effect the economy of the whole of India. I also like to invite the attention of the Honourable Members to this Report. It is clear from this report also that on the 'Agriculturist Economy' the economy of the whole country is dependent.

"The effective guarantee of a minimum price will not only introduce an element of stability in agriculture, but will also promote stability in other spheres of economic life, and will assist in securing a general rise in national income. The maintenance of the income of the agriculturist at a satisfactory level will provide a large home market for the products of Indian industries and encourage their development. It will maintain the revenues of the Provincial Governments, because of its direct effects on land revenue and water charges, and its indirect effects on the yield of other sources of revenue. It will increase the remunerativeness of public works in the sphere of agriculture. It will maintain the value of the only security that the agriculturist can offer, increase his credit and promote the development of marketing and credit organizations. The guarantee of a minimum price, which introduces an element of stability in agricultural incomes, is thus a measure of pivotal importance for general economic development."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to another point. While presenting the Budget in the current session, the Honourable the Finance Minister stated that in Chicago, the wheat producing countries have imposed a sort of price-control for the benefit of wheat-growers. They warn the countries desiring to purchase wheat from them that the latter shall have to pay a stipulated price subject to slight fluctuations for a period of five years. This type of control has been enforced. I would like the Honourable Minister to take similar action for the benefit of agriculturists in India. The first thing to which I just now drew his attention is that he should control the price of *Gur* so that some profit might accrue to the poor agriculturists in India who have to toil hard. In this connection I may also mention that a farmer has to put in the greatest amount of labour in the cultivation of sugarcane. I was thus drawing the attention of the Honourable Minister to the necessity for controlling the price of *Gur*. There is no doubt that this control will not result in any gain to the urban people; it will rather harm them. The previous control benefitted them. Now you should at least enforce the control for the good of the agriculturists.

There is very little time left now. The other thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is "Grow More Food". This year also a sum of Rs. 110 crores was provided in the budget for importing foodgrains. I would like the Honourable the Finance Minister to set apart a few crores of rupees out of this amount for the construction of wells by the farmers. The sum of Rupees four crores is not much as compared with the figure of Rs. 110 crores. Rupees four crores may be allocated to the Provinces under the head "Construction of Wells"; and provision should also be made to the effect that a sum of Rs. 400 may be given in the form of a donation or grant for the construction of a well. In this way, about 1 lac of wells can be constructed in this country, and by utilizing their water; 1·20 crore maunds of foodgrains can be produced from one crop.

Without taking any further time of the House, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Minister and our Leader to the condition of the peasants particularly, and have every hope that they would always do whatever they can for their betterment.

Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to intervene in the debate because I have one or two points to mention which go against the generality of the opinion held by people in India. I refer to derationing and decontrol. Therefore I wish to clear my position as to why I favoured the continuation of rationing despite all the difficulties that we were encountering in meeting our requirements. The argument which I used in my note of dissent is there in Foodgrain Policy Committee and therefore I do not wish to take up the time of the House in repeating it. But I wish to point out that some of my fears have already proved to be facts. The failure of Madras to produce as much rice as it was estimated it would produce has brought about a situation which will materially alter the policy of the Central Government to accumulate a reserve, which is the basis of the policy of decontrol. This memorandum, which has been just issued and which we received only the day before, makes it quite apparent to us that the position as far as procurement inside the country is concerned is not up to the mark. The Government does not expect to collect as much as it had expected. A 25 per cent. reduction—from 4 lakh tons to 3 lakh tons—is envisaged at the moment. What would be the position when *rabi* is harvested, is still to be found out. I am rather doubtful that the wheat and jawar collection will not be up to the mark. In my own province of Bihar we have been very deficient as far as rice is concerned. Our estimates have very sadly failed. We have to realise that in the matter of food production India's estimates are only estimates; you cannot rely on them due to the fact that they are so much dependent on the vagaries of the monsoon—especially rice—and the irrigated area is so small that you cannot ever be definite of your ability to produce a given target.

12 NOON

It has been said that the "Grow More Food Campaign" has been a failure because there is no spectacular increase in production.

An Honourable Member: None at all!

Mr. Hussain Imam: That is what I am saying; people say tha tit has been a failure. But if you regard it as a guarantee against failure of crop, it has done some good. If you are able even to be assured of a minimum production even that is something to go on.

Sir, the condition of India is such that since the separation of Burma we have always been deficit in rice. As long as Burma remained part of British India we did not know that we were deficit because the economy was a joint one and the imports from Burma were really a movement inside the country. With the separation of Sind and Punjab again our problems have increased; these two Provinces have been responsible for intensifying the food deficiency. It is not that India has all of a sudden become deficient in food, but its deficiency was missed formerly but has become apparent now.

The Indian Union as it is now constituted has been a deficit country and will continue to be a deficit country for years to come. I do not envisage, even after all your schemes are initiated, that we will become self-sufficient in the matter of food at least for five years. It will be a varying amount dependent on the vagaries of the monsoon and the shortage will continue as long as the population increase remains at the present rate. An increase of population of five million a year is something terrific; with the limited resources of land as well as with the greater limiting factor of the bullock power, it is an item which

[Mr. Hussain Imam]

has not been given proper consideration. With the failure of our motive power—because we have no mechanised motive power but animal power with which we work our agricultural lands—we cannot expand our agricultural production with as great a rapidity as we can expand industrial production.

I therefore appeal to the Government to start big Government farms—if possible collective farms—and that can only be done on a mechanised basis. Sir, in Assam we have got a reservoir which can eliminate all the deficit which India has in rice. The amount of cultivable rice lands which are not under the plough in Assam is more than double the land which is under the plough—I am not positive about the figure, but it is double the amount of land under cultivation. On account of the fact that rainfall is so great in Assam, utilization of this uncultivated land would not be difficult provided we have the motive power. The difficulty in Assam is that the cattle there is very deficient; it is a very small puny type of cattle that we have there and it is because of that, that we have not been able to cultivate those lands. But it would be possible to do it with light tractors which could work paddy lands. It is a tall order, I know, because tractors have to be used for wheat lands and wet cultivation has to be started in rice. But if you could arrange these tractors we could become self-sufficient, and without irrigation demands. In every other place you have to have a well or a canal or some other means of irrigation to put the lands under rice cultivation, but in Assam you can do it without any irrigation facilities provided you have a light tractor evolved. I therefore think that the Government should now concentrate, as a measure of short term policy, more and more on Assam and develop a new lighter type of mechanised units.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I have given notice of a Cut Motion to discuss the forest policy. One of the havocs that have been caused upon this country by the recent war is the devastation of our forests. We were proud of our forests before the War, today they are in a most deplorable condition. In Sweden there is a rule that no man can cut a tree unless he plants seven trees, but here in India no effort has been made for protecting our forests. For building material, for fuel and for the manufacture of charcoal, our forests have been cut to such a large extent that today our forests are in a most denuded and deplorable condition.

We have a very big Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun and it is costing something like Rs. 26 lakhs. As far as the training of forest officers and rangers are concerned it may be a good institution, but as far as the research work is concerned I am sorry to state that no such valuable research has been done. Barring the pulp that is required for the manufacture of newsprint, which is even today made from bamboo no effort has been made to see whether newsprint could be manufactured from hard teak wood.

Sir, "Forest" is a Provincial subject, "Agriculture" is a Provincial subject. Notwithstanding that, we are maintaining a very huge Department, a very costly Department, and with all that I do not think we are doing very useful work inspite of the heavy expense that we are incurring. Before the War we had one Inspector-General of Forests who was the President of the Forest Research Institute. Today, after the War, we have got an Inspector-General of Forests on Rs. 3,250 and the President of the F.R.I. again on the same salary. Then there is one Deputy I.G., one Director of Forests, another Director of Timber and a Liaison Officer drawing something like Rs. 2,150. These are the additional officers recruited after the War. Then, Sir, if you turn to page 18 you will see under the Budget there is provision for Rs. 1,25,000 for 'Reorganisation Officers'; their number is not mentioned and no details are given as to what this amount is for and what kind of reorganisation is to be carried on with such a large amount.

I therefore feel that our Forest Department is really very expensive. We have no forests of our own. The Centrally-administered areas of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg also have their own Forest Officers and separate Forest Departments. We are merely supervising, and for that purpose we are maintaining this costly institution at Dehra Dun. I hope the Government will seriously consider this matter. Particularly when both 'Agriculture' and 'Forests' are Provincial subjects and all the Provinces have highly paid Forest Officers like the Conservator of Forests and a number of Deputy Conservators, I do not see why a large number of officers should be maintained at the Centre unless it is simply to provide some man here or there.

Well, Sir, that is the position about the Forest Department. I do not want to go into the expenditure on 'Agriculture' although it is also top-heavy—it has also considerably increased. I might mention that before the War expenditure on 'Agriculture' and 'Forests' was Rs. 55,48,000. Today, 'Agriculture' spends —I am not mixing up 'Food', 'Food' is quite separate, I am only mentioning "Agriculture"—"Agriculture" spends Rs. 2 crores today whereas it was only Rs. 55 lakhs in 1939. I fail to see why in the Agriculture and Forest Departments such a huge jump by three times must have taken place. I therefore not only draw the attention of the Economy Committee that has been appointed, which will of course go into this matter very minutely, but I would certainly request the Honourable Minister to look into this high cost which has gone up to an extraordinary extent, particularly when no specific work is required to be done as far as the Central Government is concerned. As I told you, Sir, we have no forests of our own for which we require a Conservator of Forests or anybody of that type.

Now, Sir, having done that, I will pass on to the question of the contract given in the Andaman forests. The other day in reply to a question the Honourable Minister stated that the Andaman forests have been given away on a contract to a certain firm, wherein Government is going to invest 51 per cent. of the capital. The total capital was said to be about 2½ crores of rupees. Sir, the wonder of wonders after reading the Agreement is that although Government have got a share of 51 per cent. they have only a minority representation on the Directorate. 4 Directors represent the Companies, whereas Government have been given only 2. Of course, the Chairman will be a Government man, but he will be appointed from the nominated Directors. But I really fail to understand why inspite of having 51 per cent. of the shares, Government should not have a majority of the Directorate.

Apart from the representation in the Directorate, Sir, I dispute the very fact of this forest exploitation being given on a contract basis. The Forest Department has all along been run by the Government in the Provinces. Similarly, the Andaman forests should have been retained by Government and exploited by Government. We know, Sir,—although I have not gone there, at least I have heard and read of it—that these forests produce costly type of timber. I therefore ask, Sir, why not Government maintain these forests rather than given them away to contract.

And what is it, they have done? Rs. 35,000 will be paid as a minimum profit. Whether there is a loss or a profit they have guaranteed this amount. This huge amount will be assured to the Managing Agency. We are out to destroy the Managing Agency system under the Companies Act, but something like a Managing Agency is established in this new concern. I am really surprised, to find that Government without giving any proper thought to this matter have entered into this contract, which is really detrimental to our interests. The royalty that has been fixed, 12 annas and 6 annas, is really very low. I do not know why a proper sum of royalty has not been fixed and why all these assurances have been given. I cannot understand the Agreement which has been presented to us, of which you have been kind enough to supply us with a copy. That Agreement is certainly not in our favour

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva.]

Then, Sir, the Honourable Minister stated in reply to a question that a survey was undertaken by the Government of India just before the war broke out and a working plan was nearing completion, when the records were destroyed by the Japanese invasion of the Andamans and that a new working plan of the area to be leased out was under contemplation. From this it will be observed that Government have not taken any steps to ascertain whether these forests would be profitable or not. Before doing that, they go on giving a contract. Does this not show that there is likelihood of huge profits? When the previous Government wanted to survey these forests and wanted to give a contract—I do not know whether they wanted to run it Departmentally or by a contract—supposing they wanted to give on contract, they would have given it to a white man. Now what have you done? You have given it to a brown man. That is all the difference we have seen. Government have not otherwise taken any steps to find out whether these forests, these valuable forests, these rich forests, will prove profitable or not, before entering into a contract. Now, Sir, I do not know if the Agreement has been signed. The Honourable Minister's reply was that the Draft Agreement was under preparation. So, if the contract has not been signed, I would suggest that this matter should be again gone into by the Honourable Minister and Government should take steps to safeguard their interests thoroughly.

Of course, as regards dividend they have stipulated that they cannot pay more than 6 per cent. That is a different matter. To that extent I have nothing to say. But I again want to reiterate that the royalty for timber of various qualities, this minimum of 3 annas, 4 annas and 6 annas which has been fixed, is very low, and if it is possible,—of course, if the contract has been signed we are helpless—but if the contract has not been signed and the Agreement is still under contemplation, I would request the Honourable Minister to consult the various Departments in this matter who are experts and enquire whether the royalty which has been fixed is really sufficient. Personally, my information is that this royalty charge is very very low. It is low to the extent of 100 per cent. and to that extent Government will incur loss.

When a member asked what was the object of giving this on contract basis to a Managing Agency, the Honourable Minister stated in reply that he selected those persons because they had knowledge of manufacturing boats from plywood; therefore, they were given contract. If that is the only qualification upon which such huge forests are entrusted to them, then I say Sir that it is a bad policy which the Government have adopted. Really speaking, Government should run these forests. I want to know, Sir, whether they consulted the Inspector-General of Forests, whether they consulted the President of this Institute, and what their opinion was. If Provinces can run their own forests, I fail to see why we should not do the same. We have our Department here. In these circumstances particularly, I do not see the necessity for giving away these rich forests to a private owner.

I have many other things to say as regards Agriculture but the time at my disposal is short. So I would only like to say as far as the Forest Department is concerned, once again that the Honourable Minister should get the best possible out of the Institute at Dehra Dun and see that the money which belongs to the State is utilised in the best possible way.

Maharaja K. C. Gajapati Narayan Deo of Parlakimedi (Orissa: General): Sir, I rise to thank you for giving an opportunity for one who is interested in agriculture and interested also in the welfare of agriculturists in India. Today it is stated everywhere that in spite of the enterprise and perseverance of the agriculturists of India, India is on the verge of starvation and serious lack of food everywhere. With the practical experience that I possess,

Sir, I would like to submit to the Honourable Minister in charge and to you, Sir, and to the House, that there are practical obstacles in the way of the agriculturists today which thwart them from doing their utmost and produce the maximum quantity. The practical obstacles are these. When an agriculturist who is keen to expand his agricultural operations approaches the officials in charge of the place,—the district, the province—for the supply of seeds, manures, etc., it is most surprising and pathetic to state that hardly any response comes from the officials to the keen agriculturist. I say this, Sir, with first-hand experience and personal knowledge. Of course Agriculture is a provincial subject, but I say the Centre cannot separate itself or dissociate its interest from the important industry of India. Whatever is said and done, agriculture is a key industry of India today and it will continue to remain so for quite a long time. My remarks confine to the two Provinces, where I have interests in farming and those are Madras and Orissa. During the crop collection of 1946-47, the Government of Madras held out in broad headlines to the cultivators under their procurement scheme that if the producer could hand over a certain quantity of paddy to the Procurement Department he will be paid so much bonus, in cash so much and so much in the shape of manure. As it was believed then that the Government would fulfil their promise all the producers of that area did their very best and utmost even at slight sacrifice of their own interests to hand over the produce that was available to them and it is a very sad story, Sir, that upto-date, particularly in the Vizag District, where I am interested, neither cash nor manure is supplied to the cultivator. Manure would have been a great asset if Government only make it available at this time of the year. I do not mind synthetic manure; even manure that could be produced out of agricultural produce is not guaranteed or supplied to the producer. I mean particularly ground-nut cakes. Well, as a practical agriculturist I approached the Collector of Vizag; he turned me on to the District Officer and he in his turn said: "We are awaiting orders from the Minister in charge". I am sure there have been so many requests of that type and that is the reply to all. When that is the actual fact why should not Centre take some action when multitudes of people died out of starvation. You must, if you want to advance Indian agriculture, feed your people, you must first of all look to the needs and requirements of the agriculturist. Apart from the supply of manure, Sir, seeds supply also are treated with the same sort of apathy Potato as a supplementary food crop is being grown in Vizag district and that was entirely out of private enterprise, not through the demonstration of the Department. There too, when there are facilities to grow potatoes on the plains and practical proof has been held out to the Department that here potatoes can be grown just as efficiently as on the hills, the same sort of step-motherly treatment is given to the producer and the seeds are not supplied in time or in sufficient quantities. As regards the power that is required to produce food in an area to the maximum quantity, who is looking into the dietary deficiency that is found in the different parts of India today among the agriculturists. Not long ago at a very heavy cost the Royal Commission on Indian Agriculture was instituted and that Commission went deep into the matter of different popular diets of each province and has devoted pages after pages recommending how in each provincial diet the ingredients necessary to make up the required nutrition could be complimented. Today Punjab has got the best man-power and everything including agriculture. That is so because it has got the best diet. Madras and Orissa have got the poorest man-power because of its deficiency in nutritive ingredients of the popular diet. Well, Sir, these diets defective in nutrition have been gone through very minutely, carefully and scientifically by the Royal Agricultural Commission and suggestions made to improve upon the defectives in diets to improve the power behind Indian agriculture. It is a very sad story and I find that no move has been made any where in that direction. On the other hand, private

[Maharaja K. C. Gajapati Narayan Deo of Parlakimedi]

enterprise is not lacking; through private enterprise scholarships to carry on necessary research work have been created.

Another point I would like to say is that if you want to advance agriculture and production you have also to make available marketing facilities with transport. There are immense opportunities and immense areas available today if only transport facilities could be made available and scientific agriculture demonstrated in these areas. I know even the foodstuffs that is produced in certain areas go to rot because there are no facilities of transport. The produce of those areas find their way to the market only by buffalo carts and bullock carts and even those buffalo carts and bullock carts are denied to these areas as soon as rains set in and how can there be any expansion? There is perennial supply of water; there are fertile areas which could double the production and double the actual surplus quantity of that province. Here I refer to Orissa. There again private enterprise is not lacking to come to the rescue of the agriculturist by creating miles of railway so that agricultural produce could be marketed. Why should not the Government undertake such an enterprise and even develop it further? If Provincial Governments lack in funds, which I am sure, is the case, well in the interests of India and the multitudes of India's population the Centre should come to the rescue of Provinces to meet this demand.

I am glad, Sir, to find in the proposed draft of India's Constitution on page 14, section 38 the following is stated:

"The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its peoples and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties."

I am glad that there is something in this draft constitution which comes, or aims to come, to the rescue of the practical agriculturist. Today we are faced with malnutrition, diseases, ill-supply of seeds, manures and transport facilities.

Sir, I thank you once again for giving me this opportunity to place before the Honourable Minister and the House the practical difficulties that today stand in the way of production of more food.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram (Minister for Food and Agriculture): Sir, I have welcomed this discussion because all discussion and comment on the administration of Government helps Government. But frankly speaking it has also been for me a matter of regret that there has not been sufficient time for a larger number of members to express themselves on the working of the departments with which I am concerned. It has been my effort, and it will be my effort, to give both inside and outside this House all opportunities as time would permit for discussion of matters relating to my department. We are having this evening after the session is over a meeting of the Food Advisory Committee, of the Legislature and also a few days hence a meeting of the Committee of the legislature relating to Agriculture. I propose also, over and above these two occasions, to discuss with as large a number of members of this House as possible any other details they desire relating to my departments.

The other thought that has been passing in my mind as the discussion has gone on is that part of the remarks seem to relate not to the present Government but to the past Government. Let us realise that the present Government has taken charge of the destinies of the country, practically speaking, only a short while ago. The Government is confronted with many problems and many big problems and some of these big problems are also urgent problems. I have no doubt that, looking to the importance of the subject of food, which has been given in the Finance Minister's speech the first priority, it should have received also our first attention when we took charge of the affairs of the country. The House knows what events have transpired during the last few months. But still I must state that we should as early as possible, having taken charge of the affairs of the country after the termination of British rule, try to set about planning all round on a long-term basis for our

country. So far as agriculture is concerned, both under British rule and I admit also during the interval that the present Government has been incharge, there has been a kind of piecemeal attempt to deal with the problem. I take the responsibility for that and I wish the House also to share that responsibility. I am not satisfied that we are handling the question of food production in the country and of making our country self-sufficient in regard to the production of food as well as we ought to—And I do propose, with the collaboration of the House, to set up some kind of agricultural planning commission which will go to the bottom of the whole question, plan out a programme scientifically, and plan out what may be of practical achievement within a limited number of years. I do not know how far this planning commission will be able to achieve the purpose, but I can assure the House that it is the intention of Government to try to solve our fundamental problem of food in a fundamental manner. We are trying to deal with the question of defence, to deal with the question of industrial development; but agricultural development cannot also wait longer. There is no doubt that we have had a variety of schemes left to us by the British Government. I do not know how far they suit us; they will have to be examined. People talk of the self-sufficiency of India as a whole; people speak also of regional self-sufficiency; our country is vast in area, our soil is also varied and our water resources are manifold. It may be that it may be a wiser plan to have some kind of regional self-sufficiency on the whole; it might save a great deal of the strain on our transport system which may be available for other purposes. And so there are several considerations that I think would have to be taken into account if we want to plan for our country in a proper manner. But I also wish the legislature to realise that Government at the centre, as has been suggested by more than one speaker, is today without much scope for action. The field and power of action is with the provinces. We are in a position to advise, to make researches here and there and try to help financially.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): You may give them a lead.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That is what I said, we can give them advice. But the execution is to be with the provinces. And part of the criticism today and a good part of the criticism which we hear generally relates to work in the provinces. I do not know how far the legislature would support the suggestion that is being made that the centre ought to have more power with regard to production of food. After all it is our major problem Food is the fundamental need of man. And if it is the fundamental need of man—that is, of India—I do wish that the centre should have more power. I do not know what our future constitution will provide; I do not know whether I personally would have any say in the matter. But the question of the future constitution is before the Constituent Assembly, and I do hope that the Constituent Assembly will go fully into this matter and give to the centre far greater power than it has today. With power must also come finances. There has been a complaint that the Central Government is spending so much on agriculture; it has increased its expenditure on agriculture, on forests, on food. I hope that I will not be misunderstood when I say that in my opinion the centre ought to spend much more on agriculture and much more on plans for production of food. I do not want to tire the House with many figures because I am afraid I may have to place some more figures in regard to some other points.

But I will take one minute only of yours to give you necessary figures on this point. There are other Federal or Central Governments also in the world. Power with regard to agriculture and production of food in their case also lies largely with the provinces. But still with the Centre lies much more power and with the Centre are available far more funds than in our country. I will give you only three instances.

[Shri Jairamdas Doulatram.]

Here is U.S.A. The Federal Government spends Rs. 80 per head on Agriculture. We spend one anna per head.

The Central Government in Canada spends Rs. 21 per head on agriculture. We spend one anna.

The United Kingdom, a highly industrialised country, which should be expected to spend far less than India on agriculture, spends Rs. 2 per head on agriculture: we spend one anna per head.

It may be said that the income of those States is larger. I will therefore give you other figures.

The U.S.A. spends 3.3 per cent. of the Central Budget on agriculture. Canada spends 1.6 per cent. Even the U.K. spends .8 per cent. We fall below even that and with the inflated figures, as some might say, which are being criticised today in the House, we spend .75 per cent. I do not think it is possible with the funds at the disposal of the Central department we can make any greater progress in advising, guiding, helping and giving the lead to the provinces as it has been suggested. If the Central Government misspends the money, it is the right of the Legislature to call it to book, because after all the Government is wholly responsible to the people and on their behalf to the Legislature. But I do believe that unless the Central department is given more powers and more funds, it will not be possible for us to handle the situation satisfactorily.

I wish now, the time being exceedingly limited, to confine myself only to two or three outstanding issues which have arisen in the course of the debate. But there are also one or two minor points which I cannot but refer to because they have been brought out a little more prominently in the debate.

One relates to the arrangements for the Andamans timber and wood exploitation. I think it will be fair to judge this matter only in the setting of its real background. As is known, the former Government wanted to hand this industry over to a European firm for exploitation. The option before our Government was, when we took charge either that Government itself should run it as its own concern, under its direct control and supervision, or that it should be handed over to Indian exploiters, or there should be another arrangement which may give us the advantages of both. I know the criticism in this House with regard to official management of things. We have heard of it often. We have heard of it today.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): You have not experienced it!

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We have also heard of the criticism against private exploitation. It was quite possible for our Government in the midst of other heavy tasks, in the midst of other urgent tasks, in spite of the need for concentration on industrial and agricultural development within the country, also to take charge of a kind of a new venture, far away from the Centre of control and leave it to be administered by the official element. I do not know whether a year or two hence, there would not have been far greater criticism than there will, I expect, be now. We have tried to find a solution with this background before us. We have tried to provide, that, while attending to development in other sectors within the country, we should also be able to exploit this large source of wealth for the country. We have tried to take the maximum precautions in the agreement. It is true that the agreement is not one-sided because, as I have said, the arrangement is not one-sided. We have consulted our experts. We have consulted our forest experts. We have consulted our other departments. It is the decision of the Cabinet as a whole in which all the departments are concerned. We have gone into the question of the royalties that are being taken in other provinces. After getting all that information we have reached an agreement. In case there is any loophole which goes against the public interest, we do propose to go into the terms carefully when they are being finalised.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: General): Were not these forests exploited before?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They were very slightly exploited. It was nothing of the nature which is contemplated now. If I may say a little more with regard to the Forest Department, though I intend to say much more with regard to the food situation, we have in this Forest Institute probably the finest Research Institute in the world. It has been left to us by the foreign Government, let us make the fullest use of it. We are experimenting and contemplating making research in that Institute on ply-wood, composite wood, paper, cellulose, rayon. We want to develop all these lines. We want to intensify research. We want to make it possible for us to reserve steel and iron for industrial and agricultural purposes. Research is going on following the example of the U.S.A. and other countries to treat our timber, to make it available for telegraph and telephone poles: if possible to make it available for the construction of bridges and for a variety of other uses to which treated timber is being put in other countries. All this requires additional effort. All this requires further development of research. Surely all this requires a host of men to conduct that research. I would plead that the House should criticise most vigorously when mistakes are made but need not criticise in anticipation when plans are being made. The plans are being made after fullest discussion with all the departments. Plans are being made with all the experts that are available, and I have no hesitation in saying so far as agriculture, food and forests are concerned that any expert advice that is reasonably available and has not been consulted will be taken before the final schemes go through.

May I, Sir, in the few minutes that are left to me refer first to the Madras situation and then to the food question generally, though I am sure it will remain my regret that I would not have a full opportunity to explain these matters fully at least today in this House. But I do hope to take the public and the press into confidence within a few days and deal more fully with regard to the food question than it may be possible in the course of the few minutes that remain.

May I, Sir, with regard to the reference to the memorandum on food made by my friend opposite, say that it is out-dated because it is one month old? During this one month things have moved further. The state of things it mentions existed a month ago when all of us were feeling anxious with regard to the food situation. Since that month, we have put forth fresh effort. We have not allowed things to remain in a static condition. We have moved and used all the influence which we could command, and today, as I will explain presently, the position is definitely better and absolutely hopeful. May I, Sir, take the House fully into confidence with regard to our food budget and tell them much more than has been known to them so far.

When we started our decontrol policy this was our proposed food budget. If the members of the House will bear with me for a few minutes I will give them a few uninteresting but possibly helpful figures.

The balance of what we had contracted to purchase in 1947 but were to receive in 1948 was 5.4 lakh tons of foodstuffs. This is what we started with. Our internal resources from various parts of the country, which were expected to give us some their surplus, was 4 lakh tons. That makes 9.4 lakh tons and the imports which we were . . . .

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): Do you expect to receive that now?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, and much more than that. The memorandum is one month old. I will take the House into confidence with regard to the latest details. The imports were to be 20 lakh tons. That makes in all 29·4 lakh tons. Against that we had to allocate to various deficit areas 22 lakh tons. That left a balance with the centre of 7.4 lakh tons of foodstuffs. Since then we have increased the allocation for Madras by 2 lakh tons, so that the total allocations for the provinces are 24 lakh tons, leaving a balance of 5.4 lakh tons with us.

About a month ago we began to receive reports from certain provinces and the official versions as well as other signs also seemed to indicate that we may possibly have difficulties. The position, as then understood was, that while the balance of the 1947 purchases, *i.e.*, 5·4 lakh tons, would of course be there, the internal supplies may be reduced from 4 lakh to 3 lakh tons. For this there were two reasons. One main reason was that Assam which had promised 50 thousand tons was not able to send us anything, and there were some difficulties also with regard to Hyderabad State.

Then with regard to imports I will give you the details.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether he has read the speech of the Minister of Civil Supplies for the Province of Bombay delivered by him recently at Surat, in which he has said that if the present situation in respect to prices and other factors continues, controls will have to be reimposed?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I know about that and I will deal with that also. With regard to the imports we had arranged and we are getting 7 lakh tons from Australia. For the first quarter of 1948 we will have from America one lakh tons. That makes 8 lakh tons. Then from Burma and Siam for the first half year of 1948 we will have another 4 lakh tons. That makes 12 lakh tons. About a month ago it was felt that out of the 20 lakh tons, these 12 lakh tons were assured, but we were not quite certain as to what would happen with regard to the rest. Since then things have moved. More facts have come to be known to us and the position today as I am speaking is that from Burma and Siam for the second half of the allotment three lakh tons more are to come. This makes 15 lakh tons. And from America as good as certain for the second half of the year will be received 3 lakh tons more. That makes in all 18 lakh tons.

Then may I refer back to those surpluses which we had budgetted as 4 lakh tons but which we thought a month ago might be reduced to 3 lakh tons. When we realised that this might be the state of things and we had to see Madras and possibly West Bengal also through, we took special efforts to improve the response from our own country. I say with pride that our provincial ministries are rising to the occasion and various provinces are putting forth their best efforts and giving us a most promising response. I will give you some details.

I had to use the influence of our own Prime Minister to see that certain provinces which were otherwise not so energetic put forth fresh efforts. I will give you the response that we have got from the provinces. I had to send a seniormost officer of my department to Assam to try to understand Assam's transport difficulty and find out the ways and means how it could be overcome. He contacted the Prime Minister, he contacted the Governor, he contacted the Minister in charge and the officials concerned and as a result of the discussions and the interest taken by those who are in charge of Assam, the situation now is entirely different. We are going to get from Assam 65,000 tons in monthly allocations of 8,000 tons and the first small allotment of 1 000 tons is starting by a roundabout route, while we are trying to negotiate a more direct route. So our internal surplus position with regard to Assam is going to improve by 65,000 tons.

East Punjab was a deficit province according to our plan and we felt that we should have to give something to East Punjab. Things have changed there also, the crops have been better. The position is that during the last few months the East Punjab have informed us that they could easily spare 37,000 tons for us. This is only up to the month of March and they say that they expect to help us hereafter also when the crop position becomes surer.

The U. P. was a deficit province and it was felt that they would require some help from us. We went into the matter more fully and the U. P. Government has responded and it has been possible for them to forego 35,000 tons, which we otherwise were to give them.

Egypt is a country with which we were negotiating for rice in exchange for maize. Egypt has recently entered into an agreement with Russia. That agreement is not on the basis of exchange of cereals but on the basis of exchange of rice for anything else. We are now negotiating with Egypt for the 25,000 tons of rice which we otherwise were to receive as against maize which we were to give them and we hope to get those 25,000 tons without having to give our foodstuffs in exchange. This increases our internal surplus.

Orissa and the Central Provinces are both surplus provinces. I had occasion to contact the premiers and ministers of both provinces and they assured me that larger surpluses than they were able to declare (on the basis of which we had framed our food budget) will be available from their provinces. As I said we had provided for only 4 lakh tons as the internal surplus and that is going to be exceeded. I therefore feel that instead of what we thought about a month ago, namely that our country will be able to raise internally only 3 lakh tons for Madras and other deficit areas, we would now be having 5½ lakh tons. And I have no doubt that as a result of further efforts the supply position in the country in regard to food is going to substantially improve. If this is the position then our originally budgeted figure of 5 lakh tons as central balance will remain.

May I draw the attention of the House to another important factor? We have just concluded, the Wheat Agreement through the International Emergency Food Council. This had not been done a month ago. Under this Wheat Agreement we will get, if we want, 7¾ lakh tons of wheat for each of the next five years at very reasonable prices and also proportionately falling prices as time passes. Part of it we can get in the course of this year because the Wheat Agreement begins to apply from 1st August, that is four to five months hence. It means that for the remaining five months of the year we have other new sources to fall back upon and to build up our further supplies for Madras or for our own reserves.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Is this the Australian Agreement?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: This is a new Agreement. This comes into force from 1st August 1948. The Australian Agreement was made last year.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That also continues for five years.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No. That was for only one year and was made because of emergency; and we entered into a contract only for 7 lakh tons. This is a new source of supply to the country if other internal sources fail us and it is with regard to wheat alone.

With regard to a period agreement for rice I cannot say anything definite now. A Rice Conference is also due to start at Washington on the 5th of April Whether any arrangement on this matter will be negotiated there or

[Shri Jairamdas Doulatram.]

not it is not possible for me to say at present, gram and pulses in increasing quantities are also available over and above the original food budget.

Then, may I say that so far as our internal supply position is concerned, it is definitely far better than it was a month ago? Much that has been stated in the memorandum prepared a month ago would have to be re-written if we deal with the situation today. I do promise the House that the Food Ministry is not going to sit idle. We are having a Conference of all Premiers of the provinces and Premiers of some of the leading States and the Food Ministers of these areas, probably just before the Constituent Assembly sits. We propose to discuss with them further possibilities of help to all our deficit areas. I have no doubt that with the help of our Prime Minister, who is going to attend that Conference and who has been taking special and active interest in this matter and giving all aid despite so many burdens on his shoulders. We are going successfully to face the situation without dependence on outside help except to the barest minimum limit necessary.

May I say some specifically with regard to Madras. I do want Madras also to share the feeling that we are going to pull ourselves out of the difficulty. I am afraid that the greater the talk of famine and starvation the higher will the prices go, the greater will be the risks of hoarding and the greater will be our trouble—again a self-created and man-created trouble. I do wish that we should maintain our morale, maintain our self-confidence and face the difficult situation with courage, determination and energy. Madras in 1946 had cyclone difficulty in the north; at the same time it had failure of rains in the south; and though it demanded 15 lakh tons from the Centre it was able to tide over the difficulty with 6 lakh tons as help from the Centre. I do not say that this is an indication of the help they will now get. They will get the utmost assistance that is possible from the Centre and I have no doubt that the Provinces which are surplus also will be able to help much more than they can today. We have given to Madras 92,000 tons as its original quota for the present quarter. Over and above this original quota of 92,000 tons we have given to Madras 99,000 tons more for this quarter, just to help it to build up its stocks over and above its local procurement from surplus districts. Our Department is going to take steps from now onwards to divert to Madras such of the stocks as can be available and keep them there so that they may be handy at any time. Madras is going to be one of our reserve centres, and that deliberately, so that we may be able to handle the situation properly. I know that all these stocks may not be needed today. But because I see that the psychological factor is important, that the morale of the agriculturist, the consumer, the seller and the Government official has to be maintained, we want to follow this policy in accordance with a suggestion which was made by a friend from Madras a few days ago.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: What is the reserve that is kept in Madras?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The exact figure I will be able to give the Honourable Member in due time at a later meeting of members.

May I say a few words now generally? We should not die before we are dead; we need not begin starving before we are starved. All talk of famine and starvation spoils the situation. I have no doubt that the time for starvation will not come if we maintain our morale and if the Provinces and the Centre act energetically in dealing with the situation. I will now, Sir, refer very briefly to . . .

Mr. Speaker: Is the Honourable Minister likely to take a long time?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will finish in five minutes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: We must, in any case, adjourn at 1-15. If the Honourable Minister wants more time it can be given at 2-30 because this is a matter of importance to the House; or if he wants to finish now, he may do so.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I personally am prepared to discuss with the members of the House whether in the House or in a Committee or in any other way as fully as possible all matters relating to the Departments under my charge. If I may take up some time of the House I will do so; otherwise I will conclude in one minute.

Mr. Speaker: I do not wish the Honourable Minister to finish his speech in a hurry on such an important matter like this. I was only suggesting an alternative. Either we sit longer now if he wants to continue his speech and we may re-assemble a little later, say, at 2-45; or if we adjourn now we may give him sometime, fifteen minutes or so, when the House re-assembles.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I regret, Sir, that I have fixed at 3 o'clock a meeting in connection with the development of agriculture in Delhi.

Mr. Speaker: Then the Honourable Minister may take his time now, and if he takes a much longer time we will adjust the time for re-assembling.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will read out to you in just three or four minutes a few interesting figures which might explain to the House the difficulties with regard to the grow more food campaign. I am at one with the House that we have not made much progress with the grow more food campaign. I am at one with the House that many of the suggestions which they have made are worth being considered and implemented. But there are certain experiences which might be put before the House. We had, for instance, for the year 1947-48 a target of 9 lakh acres extra to be put under the plough. We planned a variety of methods: firstly minor irrigation works which meant wells, surface wells, tube wells, pumping plants etc. For these and for implements we asked the department concerned for only 3 lakh tons of steel and iron for agriculture generally. But all the Provinces of India could get only 2 lakh tons instead of 3 lakh tons—and not for agriculture only but for all uses. So that, when we started the grow more food campaign, we found that though for that campaign we had budgeted for 50,000 tons of steel and iron for all these implements, wells, and pipes, etc., we got only 4,500 tons which is one-seventh of the quantity on the basis of which the plans were made. Take again fertilisers. For 1947-48 we budgeted for 3 lakh tons for the country. But the International Council—which still governs the distribution—allocated only 50 per cent. of our demand to us. With regard to actual receipts they were even half of this. So that, the grow more food campaigns dependent on steel, iron and fertilisers had to face these difficulties.

Coming to technical staff, we wanted for the drilling machines which drill tube wells, five drilling engineers; we secured only one. We wanted thirty subordinate drilling staff. We secured 30 men from the ex-Army trained staff but after partition most of them went to Pakistan. Today we are hardly with any subordinate drilling staff. We wanted from America 29 rigs for drilling wells; we got only eight. We budgeted for 6,000 feet of pipes for these wells; we could not get any because the factory in Lahore was included into Pakistan. Today we are applying to the Indian Hume Pipe Company for these pipes. These are illustrations of the difficulties of not only 'Grow More Food' campaign, but our planning for agriculture. Probably by the end of this month

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we will have reclaimed 10,000 acres in the U.P., but they have no facilities for carrying on further agricultural operations. They have come to the Centre for help with regard to the preliminary cultivation of the land and we are going to do the best we can. We have a plan for reclaiming about 20 or 25 lakhs of acres of weeded land in Central India, and other parts of India where weeds grow and the land gives only 2 maunds per acre instead of 8. We have plans for reclaiming about 25 lakhs of acres which are not weeded but are otherwise lying waste. Now for these 45 lakhs to be reclaimed, we require oil, tractors, technically qualified staff. If we plan on a long range, possibly all these needs will be there for some time, but our immediate needs are not satisfied. It may be that if we so plan our programme that we depend entirely on mechanical cultivation, tractors and oil and such things, we may find that as in the case of the 'Grow More Food' Campaign 1948, at the end of the year or at the end of the period we fix we have not progressed as much as we should have done. I discussed with the Premier of Madras his plans for agricultural development and rejecting the bigger plans he proposed that if the Centre could give them Rs. 3 crores a year, he would insure Madras against famine permanently. Hundreds of years ago our ancestors who ruled that part of the country had built up tanks which stored water for irrigation. The population grew. The need of more land to maintain that population increased. More area began to be cultivated from that limited source of supply and the tank could not retain water for 3 to 4 years as it used to do formerly. Whatever water was there began to be consumed in a shorter period of time. He says 'I do not want iron and steel, I do not want tractors and diesel oil. I want money. My people are here: they are without food because they received no share of grain. This because there was no grain: and that because there was no rain. So they have neither grain nor cash: if prices rise, they have nothing to depend upon'. His plan is that the Centre should give Madras Rs. 3 crores a year. Within 5 years of this, 26 thousand tanks will have been enlarged by the labour of human hands and made famines a rarity in Madras.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Are they permanent cement tanks?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No, earthenware tanks which have stood the test of all these hundreds of years. I am considering this plan and I have asked for details. I have suggested to the Foodgrains Policy Committee that 'in the second part of your labours which deal with the question of making India self-sufficient, of making India produce as much as she needs, you must give us plans which are practicable. We may have mechanical reclamation to the extent that is absolutely necessary, but we must depend upon our other resources for agricultural development and build up plans which we can implement within a reasonable measure of time. I cannot say today what those plans will be. On that committee are men who have handled big undertakings. There are men who understand agriculture because they are also agriculturists. On that committee there are also others who have studied these matters for a number of years, and besides there are those who represent various schools of economic thought. I do expect that within a reasonable time that committee will give us something which we can implement and carry out. That report will be before the Assembly and before the public and all those who are interested in the subject: but I do suggest that unless the Centre has more powers, unless the Centre, subject to correct handling of funds, subject to correct handling of the plans, is helped to put and carry out the recommendation of that Committee, I do not think we will be able to deal with the country's food problem satisfactorily. I hope that if I have not covered all the points that had to be covered, other opportunities will be available when I will explain to the members of the House in another place all that is being done and discuss all that has yet to be done by my departments.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the recent rain has improved the kharif crop?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I received a telegram some time ago from the Madras Food Minister that the rains in January have somewhat improved the prospects of crops in Madras. I cannot today estimate to what extent. These are matters which will be known I suppose in due time, but I do not want simply to build on that. I am building on our arrangements to meet any contingencies.

श्री० राम सहाय : क्या मिनिस्टर साहब को यह इल्म है कि ट्रान्सपोर्ट की दिक्कत की वजह से मद्रास को अनाज नहीं पहुच सकता है

Shri Ram Sahai (Gwalior State): Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that due to transport difficulties foodgrains cannot reach Madras?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: With regard to the transport difficulties, anticipating that between May and October there will be greater need of movement of food towards Madras and so more transport facilities must be already provided for, the Transport Minister is going into the question fully. Our two departments are discussing these details, and already, a rough outline of what we have to do from May to October is being blueprinted. I do hope that there will be no serious difficulty, because all details are being worked out.

Mr. Speaker: I think I need not put the demands just now, but will adjourn the House for lunch recess to reassemble at 2-45 instead of at 2-30.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter to Three of the Clock.

[*The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter to Three of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.*]

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Sir, before you put the Demand to the vote, may I ask the Food Minister, who said that the Memorandum on Food Policy was out of date, why he allowed such a Memorandum to be circulated without a note being attached to it showing the present position?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The Memorandum was drafted and finished about a month ago; no new instructions were issued, the instructions were one month old.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Why was it allowed to be circulated by the Honourable Minister without seeing that a note was attached to it showing the present position?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I see that it was circulated probably yesterday; I thought it had been done a month ago. As I said the Memorandum dealt with matters one month old.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: It was circulated three days ago.

Mr. Speaker: He did not know it, he thought that it was circulated a month ago.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Was it circulated without his permission?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I did not say "without my permission". I say it is an out-dated, one month old matter

Shri B. Das: That shows how the Department works!

Mr. Speaker: I will now put the Demands to the vote of the House.

The question is.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,42,000 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 'Ministry of Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,81,000 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 'Ministry of Food'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,04,000 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 'Forest'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 20—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, throughout this Budget Session I have taken up the thankless task of pleading for economy. I would myself have preferred to have been able to urge expansion, more expansion and even reckless expansion in all Departments. But, Sir, our country is just recovering from its war-shattered economy. When a person is just out of his sickbed, no well-wisher will suggest to him that he should go about horse-riding or mountain climbing; we must have our economic health well restored before we go about for very rapid expansion.

But I wish to tell the House that I am not interested in mere reduction of expenditure. My conception of economy is quite different. By economy I mean maximum public work for minimum expenditure, and the rate of increase in public work should be greater than the rate of increase in expenditure. I am afraid, Sir, that today we are getting minimum work for maximum expenditure and that the rate of increase of work therefore is less than the rate of increase of expenditure. Any programme of expenditure at the present stage means that for every rupee we get only eight annas worth, and therefore expansion on the present level will mean a great and increasing loss to this country.

Therefore, the first aim of our policy should be the restoration of the pre-war level of efficiency, and then to plan our expansion so that there will be progressive increase in that level of efficiency. It is for that purpose that I am anxious there should be economy in present expenditure.

Sir, my friend Mr. Mohanlal Saksena pointed out the vast expansion that has occurred in the Secretariat. I have got some more figures compiled. The old Executive Council had only one officer, the present Cabinet has eight. The old Ministry of Home Affairs had 56 and the present Home Ministry has 65—that is one of the few Ministries which has had the least expansion and consequently done the greatest work. The old Department of Health, Education and Lands had only 16 officers and now we have the Ministry of Education with 61 officers, the Ministry of Agriculture 94, and the Ministry of Health 17 officers.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: All Provincial subjects.

Shri K. Santhanam: Yes, but now they have become Central subjects.

The Ministry of Finance had 43 officers including those of the Central Board of Revenue and now there are 246 officers in this Department. The Ministry of Commerce has increased from 11 officers to 95 officers and the Ministry of Labour from 12 to 53.

Sir there may be many justifications for this expansion—I am not here to say that all this expansion is wrong or is a mere waste. But I have not the least doubt that a large part of this expansion is waste, that where one officer was there to do the work in 1938, there are three or four people doing the same work today. There is almost a jam of officers in the Secretariat, and as it usually happens this jam is preventing people from doing work rather than facilitating it. It is for this purpose that the Finance Minister appointed an Economy Committee. I want to know why the Committee has not begun its work. I have nothing to say on personal matters and so far as I know the Chairman is an able industrialist and a capable man; but obviously this economy in the Central Government is not the first charge on his time or interests—it is almost like a very minor wife in a big harem! I think this economy job should have been given to one who would have forsaken every other private interest and considered this as his sole and primary duty till it was finished. I suggest that hereafter when any Committee is appointed they should take a formal pledge that they will forget their private work and do the public work first If any person is not ready to do this, however efficient he may be, however capable he may be, we should discard him. We should learn to subordinate our private work for public work. The way in which people subordinate public work to private work is something shameful in this country and we ought to set up a better tradition.

And then, that we should enforce economy in the present state of affairs is one thing. But that is not enough. There should be a continuous prevention of waste and economy should be exercised from the beginning. In economy also, the proverb "Prevention is better than cure" is eminently applicable. Now, what are the measures that we should take to ensure economy all along the line and from the very beginning? Sir, the Finance Department is considered to be the guardian and the watchdog of all the country's finances. I do not know how the transfer of power has affected the position of the Finance Department in the Government of India. I do not know whether it is contended that the Finance Department should relax its scrutiny over the other Departments or that it should be taken for granted when a responsible Minister sanctions any expenditure that that expenditure ought to be sanctioned automatically by the Finance Department. If that is the tradition set up, I would strongly protest against that tradition. The Finance Department should be able to scrutinise and should be able to put down its foot and say: "This is a wasteful expenditure. We cannot allow it." I do not suggest that the Finance Department should be a clog or a bar to progress by putting down its foot on really constructive and productive expenditure. It should have a wide and national outlook in all these matters. But when it comes to heavy or indiscriminate demand of staff or officers, it should say "This is too much. We cannot allow it."

For all these purposes there are Finance Officers in all Departments. There are some in the Postal Department, in the Commerce Department, in the Industries Department and in all the other Departments. I would like to know what exactly is the relation of the Finance Department to these Finance Officers. What is the work they do? I think there are two checks open to the Finance Minister. One is these Finance Officers in the Departments. The second is the Standing Committees of this House which we have set up for each Department. If the Finance Minister will only depend less on these Finance Officers and utilise the Standing Committees more, he will find in it a valuable check on the extravagance of every Department. Therefore, I suggest that he should adopt some such procedure as the following before every Budget. When once the first estimates come, the Finance Department should scrutinise them and send them on with remarks or instructions, the whole thing—the Budget as well as the remarks—to be placed before the Standing Committee of each Department. The Standing Committee should have plenty

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of time to scrutinise each item of the proposed expenditure or increase in expenditure together with the remarks of the Finance Department. It is only when they have this full information that they will be able to sanction the expenditure. When the Standing Committee has sanctioned it, then it should come back to the Finance Department and it should go before the General Estimates Committee or the Finance Committee whatever you name it. If this procedure is adopted, I am sure that every Department will think twice or thrice before they put forward any demand before, first, the Finance Department and then before their own Standing Committee and when the sanction comes finally, they will know that only such expenditure as is necessary in the combined judgment of both the Finance Department and the representatives of this House will be sanctioned.

Sir, at present I am not satisfied with the composition of the Finance Committee. It has got a two-fold function, or rather, it ought to have a two-fold function. Now, it is supposed to look after the entire finances of the country, but there is no Committee to look into the finances of the Finance Department itself. The Finance Department has got not only its own Ministry but it has got the Income-Tax, it has got the Excise; it has got the Customs, all of them very big Departments spending crores and crores of ruppes. There should be a separate Standing Finance Committee for the Department of

3 P.M. Finance and then we should have a Coordination Committee which, I suggest, should consist of representatives of every Standing Committee of each Department and should constitute something like an Estimates Committee. The function of this Estimates Commitee should be not to go into particular items, which may be looked into by the Standing Committees, but to take an over-all picture and see if there is a demand for Rs. 50 crores what the Finance Department can afford, and if it can afford only Rs. 25 crores, how and in what Departments temporary cuts should be made, so that the country's general economy may be managed to the best advantage possible.

Sir, it is through these means, both from above and from below, that proper economy can be enforced. And if out of the present expenditure of Railways, Defence and other Central Departments which is of the order of nearly Rs. 450 or 500 crores, even about a fourth—which I think is quite a practical limit—can be economised then the whole country will have for its future expansion a recurring income of Rs. 100 crores, which will mean a great deal. Therefore, I suggest that in the year to come there should be a big drive, a nation-wide drive, for economy in all respects in all Departments and in all offices, and with this economy there should be also some proper estimate of the efficiency of each Department. Sir, in one of my weekly articles, I have suggested that there should be a time-audit of each Department. Time today is as valuable as money and if we should have a day in railway wagon movement saved, that means so much more goods taken. Similarly, if telegrams can be despatched within five minutes of their handing over at the Telegraph Office and if every other thing can be speeded up, the actual estimated value in terms of money will run into crores and crores of rupees. In all respects, there should be economy; there should be efficiency; there should be speed. I hope the House will consider all possible steps and decide at the end of the session after we have done with this Budget what procedure we should adopt to enforce economy in all respects and through these means exercise proper democratic control over this expenditure.

With these words, Sir, I commend my remarks to the attention of the House and the Honourable the Finance Minister.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I did not want to follow my friend Mr. Santhanam so soon lest my words shall fall flat on the House. He

has said most of the things which I wanted to say. Regarding the Department, I want that the Finance Department should exercise greater control over the expenditure. I find that there is a tendency on the part of some Departments or Ministers to go over the head of the Finance Department and the Standing Finance Committee. If that is the way in which allotments are sought to be made, that will greatly imperil the Administration and the check that the Finance Department can exercise over the expenditure. I hope the Ministers themselves will not put forward such claims and the Finance Department would not yield to such pressure. Above all, the Finance Minister can rest assured that whatever reasonable proposals he entertains, whatever reasonable decisions he takes in the economy of the country, in all those he will have the certain backing of this House, for after all he has to find the money for all the demands and therefore it is his ultimate responsibility which he cannot shirk. He need have absolutely no fear in that direction The Standing Finance Committee is there. I only want that he should take the Committee more into his confidence and entrust them with the scrutiny of each item, so that when the proposals come up before the House it is not only the Finance Minister who has to stand up by the proposals but every one of the members of the Standing Committee who were a party to them who will have to stand up and support each item when it comes. Next, Sir, the Honourable Finance Minister said that he would bring a proposal here for enlarging the scope of the Standing Finance Committee. I would welcome the suggestion of my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam who said that the composition of the Standing Finance Committee may be altered this way. A member of each of the Standing Committees may be elected to the Standing Finance Committee, so that whatever decisions are taken there, may come out of first hand knowledge and the member can come and report to the Standing Finance Committee about the views and attitudes of his Standing Committee. He can convert others and he can also be converted. That is a matter which can be explored.

Then, Sir, the Public Accounts Committee has not been reconstituted. It is a statutory Committee; the last election took place a number of years ago and once in three years election has to take place. I am sure, the Honourable the Finance Minister will soon bring in a new Public Accounts Committee into existence.

I am sorry to say, Sir, and I agree with Mr. Santhanam that in the matter of appointing any Committee the Finance Minister or any other Minister ought not to yield to temptation and though it is a matter of patronage for him somehow there is a feeling in me that the choice of the members of the Economy Committee is not quite in the interests of the country. Persons who may not have the requisite time and according to me have not the inside knowledge of the administration are not the proper persons, whatever their capacities may be. In another place it was said: Is not a merchant fit to enter into this? A gold merchant is not useful to decide what the price of sheepskins ought to be. Therefore, however, great a man might be, I do not think it is competent for him and there is no good in calling the example of the President of the Inchcape Committee. Our situation is different. I have been in this House for the last 13 years, but still what is the knowledge that I have gathered through opportunities here and there, but those opportunities are denied to those who will be elsewhere. Therefore a different method ought to be adopted in the matter of choice of members to sit in Committees and they must go into the matter of an all round economy wholeheartedly. Before the Committee was constituted, adequate terms of reference must have been placed before the Standing Finance Committee for its approval.

There has been of late a tendency on the part of institutions to ask for charity from the Central Government. If a man is a scientist he approaches

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the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and if he is an agriculturist he goes to the Council of Agricultural Research and allied Research Organisations for grants for all kinds of researches, but not one single research is found useful. We are yet to see all these researches and all these people have taken away crores and crores of money. If the Joint Secretary refuses to sanction, he goes to the Additional Secretary; if he refuses to sanction, then he goes to the Chief Secretary; if he refuses to sanction he catches hold of some one or other of us who are members in the Standing Finance Committee. Ultimately, there is the Finance Minister. I would ask and urge upon the Finance Minister to see to it, to whatever influences we may be liable, he must be above all influences. Let us assume that a grant of 50 lakhs of rupees is demanded for a university. The Finance Minister must stand as a rock and say: "Unless I send my auditor or my accountant to look into your accounts and satisfy myself that you have really incurred a deficit or expanded money properly, I am not going to give one pie of the public money." The Honourable the Finance Minister is sufficiently rich and he can give a lakh of rupees by way of donation, but let him not waste public money. I fear he has not sufficient strength or courage to say he will not give. I want him to satisfy himself with respect to the administration reports of various Bodies—all the letters from A to Z have been exhausted in bringing into existence the various institutions of Research—there is the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and then there is the Scientific and Industrial Research etc. I do not know what other researches there are and they are spread all over the continent of India. I am not opposed to research, but research is not trying to get oil from sand. If a man tries to find out if there is really oil from Til or oil underground I think something of that kind may be done. A man starts on a mustard research and after seven years in that research is sent away to potato research; there is such a difference between the two researches as between a mosquito and an elephant. These are the various researches of which the Honourable Minister of Agriculture is so proud. For twenty long years there has been no research made and nothing useful done. I wish that the Honourable the Finance Minister and the Standing Finance Committee exercise sufficient financial control over such researches.

I do not want to spend more time over giving instructions as to what the Finance Minister should do. I am also a member of the Standing Finance Committee. When it meets he and I will measure our strength. If he yields, I will try to protest and if he does not yield I hope the members will stand by him.

Now, let me come to the sterling balances with respect to which I wanted to raise a debate today. I am sorry, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Minister has let down this country. I do not think he wanted to, but whenever he starts he has got too much softness for our friends on the other side of the Atlantic, on the other side of the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea and so on and so forth. He is more fond of his white brethren than of us of darker skins. Our one largest investment in the world is of the tune of 1,160 million pounds. That amount is in the form of sterling; it is all locked up in the United Kingdom. We know we are a free country and we won't stand before the United Kingdom with outstretched hands. What did we get last year? 35 million pounds. This year 10 million pounds. The 10 million pounds alone are to be convertible; Out of our sterling balances that are due to us 18 million pounds will be released this year and out of this 10 million pounds can be converted into any other currency. 8 millions plus 10 millions or 18 millions can be freely utilised in the sterling area countries. Now let us see. The agreement has been entered up to 30th of June. Thereafter let me not go into that. Now as regards the 10 millions this is made up as follows.

From the last years 35 millions some six or seven millions would have been the unspent portion and this year to make up the 10 millions, all the balances that are in other banks in foreign currency (which comes to 1 million) that is also taken into account. Then 2 millions is the balance of the Dollar Pool and that also is taken into account. So 7 plus 2 plus 1 is equal to 10 million pounds. What is it that Sir Jeremy Raisman gave to my friend the Honourable the Finance Minister. There is a proverb Panchapandavas are five; a man showed four fingers, drew 3, then corrected it into 2 and then showed it as a 0. What are these 10 millions? That is the present situation. I am sorry to have accused Mr. Narhari Rao, the other day. What can the poor man do. I was mistaken. He does not seem to be responsible. The Minister seems to have been indifferent in this matter, or at any rate, a little weak in this matter. Don't you know that Sir Stafford Cripps is going about setting the Thames on fire and the Atlantic Ocean on fire saying; "We are having a crisis almost everyday in our life". What is that crisis? Their crisis is that they have been accustomed to eat five times a day with all the meat eggs, bacon, cheese and milk grown anywhere or produced anywhere in the continent under the Sun. They were enjoying a favourable trade balance for ages and now the cry of Cripps is to make out a favourable budget and my Honourable friend the Finance Minister is here to help him, to resuscitate him on putting him on his legs. When Mahatma Gandhi went to England he was asked by the Lancashire millowners how being a humanitarian he could advocate the boycott of British goods, because the poor mill workers would suffer. In answer he contrasted the position of our poor men with theirs. He said, "You have got tea, you have got milk, only you are crying for a little more sugar. Our people do not have even some rice gruel, and they are dying for a pinch of salt." That is our position and that is their position. They want to put themselves once again into the same standard of living as they had before the war. Are we to subscribe to that? And should our Finance Minister go on weeping and wailing every day for these brothers in the west? I am really sorry that he has yielded too much to the impartunate eloquence of Sir Jeremy Raisman. But let us not weep for what has been spilt; the time has now come to settle it finally. £1,160 millions is due to us under the Reserve Bank of India Act we have to keep 40 per cent of our reserves in their currency. The Bank has not more than 40 million. Why should we have sterling currency after the establishment of the International monetary Fund? We should not have our reserves blocked up or centred in any one currency; our reserves must be in several currencies. We have to purchase things and so we want U.S. dollars and also sterling. As regards the rest where are we today? I am opposed to pensions being commuted. Every year the pension charge may come to 5 or 6 million. Let us pay from our balance of trade. There seems to be a move that the pensions must all be commuted and once for all 150 million should be given away to them. I am not in favour of that.

My suggestion is that we should take away all their coalfields, jute industries, their paper mills, in India and all these other things owned by Europeans in India.

Shri Ramnath Goenka (Madras: General): They do not own them; they are only managing agents.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then send them away; they have managed long enough. The coalfields are owned by them. Already the Coalfields Committee has said that we must nationalise all coal mines. The coal mines are with them, the tea estates are with them, the jute mills are with them, the paper mills are with them. You can follow the precedent of Argentina. Argentina purchased away many of the assets belonging to English nationals in their country. That is a fruitful source; it may be about 500 crores or so. My suggestion is that we are hard up for hard currencies. Our

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

balance of trade is no doubt very negligible on account of our heavy purchases of foodgrains. That is why for some years until we make ourselves fully self-sufficient we will have an adverse balance of trade, more so when we want to purchase capital goods from America. Where shall we find the dollars? They are not prepared to give us and we do not have a favourable balance of trade. When the British Government is not able to give us dollars from America let them guarantee a loan by us from the United Kingdom and pay interest of 10 or 15 million every year. It is easy for them to do that. Unfortunately in this country neither the Finance Ministry, nor the public nor even the host of journalists who make much of a small aeroplane crash in Argentina worry about these sterling balances. Why do you not cry about that? If the British Government does not pay we will not look at them. We are today the second largest importers from the United Kingdom; we get 8·1 per cent of the exports of the United Kingdom, and so they can ill afford to lose us. Let us tell them that they must either negotiate with us on our terms or get away. It is not as if they have not got the money; they have all the wealth of the South African gold mines, and they have not yet disclosed what gold they have. If they produce in the market even one ounce of gold some British economist cries out that all their resources are being sold away. They raise a huge cry but we are not prepared even to cry when we are so low. During the war the health and wealth of the English people improved, but in our country where there was no war five million men died in Bengal. What is it that we are doing? Therefore we must insist on the British Government guaranteeing a loan on a Governmental basis with the U.S.A. and giving us dollars. If they cannot give us dollars straightaway let it be spread over 10 years and pay the principal and interest in instalments; otherwise we will not treat with them. We can easily say that because they cannot afford to lose this market.

Then, Sir, they have got a number of ships along our coast and also aviation lines. Let us have an interest in coastal shipping and in aviation. Why should we not arrange that? We are not going to ply our ships along the coast of England; that will be quite useless. But so far as our coastal shipping is concerned, when British concerns are plying their ships in our coast let us take a dominant interest in them.

These are the ways in which we can negotiate these loans. I want to in press on the Finance Minister that he should not go alone; let him take strong people with him. After all this is an extraordinary affair. They owe us 1160 millions and they owe various other countries. They have settled with Egypt which got something and then went out of the sterling bloc. Let us also decide this early and not spread it over 50 or 60 years. We should decide it as early as possible; and let there be a bare 200 or 250 millions which are necessary for our export trade and for our normal needs. Let us not have anything more to do with them.

Another point is this. I want to know what has become of the dollar pool. I gather it has taken wings and vanished into the sky. We had 140 million, we were told recently it has come down to 8 or 10 million and then it was 2 million and now we are told by my Honourable friend and journalist Mr. Santhanam that it has all dried up. Sir, it is a scandalous thing. Let us not be absolutely self-complacent and feel that we have done everything. On the other side also let not these people think they can deceive us; thy must know they have strained every drop of blood in our country and made our country impoverished. They purchased our articles at enormously low prices. After 1939 when prices alround mounted up by 200 and 300 per cent they paid only 25 per cent more than the pre-war prices. It is not just 1160 million; if we calculate it properly, they would have owed us if they paid the proper market prices not that amount but over 4,000 millions. And now we are starving

They embarked upon a trick. Before the war they took away a sovereign for Rs. 22 when its market price was Rs. 15. And thus they took away 300 crores worth of gold from our country which they said we had hoarded. And what did we hoard them in? Small trinkets and other things worn by our women. But all the gold in the world is in America today buried in the earth between two walls. And likewise in the United Kingdom. These people have a propaganda machine saying that we have all the ornaments and we are old aborigines and they civilised us and buried our gold in the ground. Sir, so far as that is concerned, I shall ask for an account of all the dollars that we acquired during the war to the last pie.

Then I say that the time has come for us to get out of the sterling area. Let the Honourable Minister make up his mind about that; there is nothing to be gained there. If we sell something to England they are bound to pay us and it is bound to be convertible multilaterally. If they are not able to pay, why stick to a horse which has got lame? That is not going to help us; it is not going to supply us the capital goods or machinery. It is itself sinking and there is no use trying to get hold of a sinking ship. It is like one blind man leading another; or, as the *shloka* says, one who is not learned in the Vedas trying to lead another man to *Parabrahma*. Likewise there is no good trying to become satellites round and round the United Kingdom.

Sir, I have said enough. I only wanted to give sufficient courage to my Honourable friend the Finance Minister. He is going to bargain about this huge sterling balance and let him not think that this is not proper for his Government. It is the property of the teeming millions who have suffered during the war. While the population of India was put on a 6 ounce unit ration the unit of ration in England went on improving. (*An Honourable Member*: "Not in England"). If not in England, in the rest of the world. In these circumstances, it should be remembered that the balances we have built up is the balance built out of blood of the toiling millions of this poor country. That is how they have looted this country.

Let the Honourable the Finance Minister, therefore, have the courage to say that what England owes us is not 1,500 millions, but 4,000 millions. Let him tell them that if they begin to bargain we will for ever shut our eyes against them; we will not have any of their imports. You go about saying that you are the premier nation of the world; if you cannot afford to repay us say so. Let him, therefore, not be weak. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Let us therefore wait for a couple of months and see how he is going to manage this affair. Sir, this is all I have to say.

Shri B. Das: Sir, I endorse the remarks of my Honourable Friends, Shri Santhanam and Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar about economy in the public finances of India. On future occasion during the debates on the Finance Bill, I will have an occasion to speak on the need for economy in expenditure. Today I shall confine my remarks to the sterling balances. Sir, it is very alarming to me that on the eve of England declaring bankruptcy and almost on the verge of declaring a moratorium, the signs are very clear that India is not alert. My Honourable Friend the Finance Minister laughs when I say that England would declare a moratorium. He and I were here in this House in 1930 or so when Germany declared moratorium, and we know what a loss it meant to the countries of the world. If England cannot afford to pay the whole of the debt to India she can certainly be honest in her dealings. The actual debt that England owes us is not £1,000 millions, which the stooges and henchmen of British imperialism fixed, but it is £4,000 as was rightly pointed out by my Honourable Friend, Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

Sir, the other day I read an obviously inspired message in the Indian press that our Finance Minister is going to visit England in May for a permanent settlement of the sterling balances.

[Shri B. Das]

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

I do not want my Finance Minister to go to England. I want Sir Stafford Cripps to creep into India. Let it be settled here. I came across an inspired Reuters message that England will pay £15, millions annually for a period of 25 years. That is the typical British approach to the huge debt. The £1,000 million was the amount fixed by the colonial stooges in India with their masters in England. The people of India and we the representatives of the nation are no party to that settlement and I do hope that the Finance Minister will appreciate the feeling on this matter both in this House and in the country at large. I would therefore suggest to the Honourable the Finance Minister to fix a meeting of this House *in camera* when this whole question can be thrashed out threadbare. If after a discussion, we feel that no useful purpose would be served by his going to the U.K. let us go to the Hague Tribunal. I have no faith in the U.N.O.; it has failed miserably. Let us, therefore, go to the Hague tribunal and let that body decide what England actually owes us, because the allocation of military expenditure put America and the U. K. in a considerably advantageous position during the second War. Of course, we have benefited to some extent by the settlement relating to the American disposals. If the Hague Tribunal were to decide that we are entitled to only £1,000 million, then this House will endorse it. As my Honourable friend, Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar pointed out the purchases which led to the accumulation of sterling balances were made at pre-war prices. But what happened? While the cost of living index number went up by hardly 46 points in U. K. and about 96 points in the U.S.A., in India it rose up by 200 points. According to the British Government calculations about 50 lakhs of people died in Bengal, while according to the *Times of India* one million died every week; so many millions must have died. India faced famine, starvation and death, supplied U. K. and U.S.A. war materials and foodstuff at cost and not only prices got inflated but our currency got inflated too. Sir, I do hope the Finance Minister of the Free India Cabinet will have the courage to demand the revision of the military allocations of those fateful years, and to see that India has not paid more money than was India's share. India should not have paid anything because we were slaves and our masters were ruling. England had gone on saddling on India the cost of the Chinese wars, the cost of the Afghan wars, the cost of the acquisition of Burma, the cost of the conquest of Arabia, including the cost of Aden and even part of the Egyptian wars. England put nearly 40 to 50 per cent more of the war expenses on us than should rightly have been borne by India. There was no spokesman for India. Congressmen went to jail and Congressmen left this House and Congress Ministers in the Provinces went into wilderness. That was very unfortunate. They brought into operation section 126A of the Government of India Act and bled India white by it. If England declares a moratorium and becomes a fifth-rate power in Europe, as everyone supposes England to be, let it be so. But let the world know that England cannot have its own way and talk of paying India 15 millions a year for 25 years and liquidate her vast debts to India.

I would like my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister to give us a word of encouragement. Let us know if India has gained anything by attending the Bretton-Woods Conference or becoming a shareholder in that International Monetary bank. In the conference which he attended in 1944, he could not bring one point in favour of India *viz.*, to gain certain monetary facilities against the war expenditure and war advances of India on U. K. But he could not get that conceded in the year 1945-46 and even America has forgotten her obligations to India. Today America possesses the greatest hunger

for power politics in the world. It wants to fight every one. It may keep England as a stooge or a hanger-on, but that is of no concern to me. But I do not want to see my Finance Minister or the delegates of the free India Cabinet going to England to negotiate an agreement. To what shall we agree? We must just decide first what money England owes to India and find out whether she has the capacity to pay. If we have to lose, let us fight it out and let us lose bravely. But let us know the amount that England owes to India and not say that out of the 1,000 millions 10 millions have been conceded this year. I have no faith in British promises. Britain has never fulfilled any of its promises unless it is to acquire more power. England had exploited us and had bled India white. But I do not want England to pretend that the U. K. is behaving like a gentleman and is trying to deal fairly and squarely with India.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Perfidious Albion!

Shri B. Das: The United Kingdom is certainly perfidious! But she is also treacherous! Think of her doings in Pakistan and Hyderabad! I do hope the Finance Minister will take us into his confidence. If he does not want to do so now but only when the House sits *in camera*, the House will welcome such an occasion. But India's honour should not be sacrificed at British discretion for the paltry £1,000 millions.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): After having heard the eloquent words that fell from Mr. Santhanam, Mr. Ayyangar and Mr. B. Das when they were talking of large economies and of the dollar pool of the 1,150 millions of sterling balances, I beg to bring the House to the humdrum realities of taxation routine and the taxation system of our poor India.

Sir, I wish to speak about a matter today, of which I have been speaking in this House for a very very long time. In the years 1928, 1929 and 1930, when the Honourable the Finance Minister adorned these benches from which I am speaking, we had discussions in the House about the taxation system in respect of the undivided Hindu family and I again have to repeat the very same arguments which I submitted then, as the arguments are so plain and unambiguous that they cannot be changed. The Honourable Finance Minister of that time had to acknowledge that the taxation system in regard to the Hindu joint family was intrinsically bad. He admitted it but he had not the courage to rectify it. But I will just quote before the House his words in which he submitted to the House that "there were frequent cases of injustice in regard to the Hindu joint family" so far as the incidence of taxation was concerned. But then he and other Finance Members always took the plea that at the time of the Finance Bill such a matter could not be gone into. In the time of Sir Archibald Rowlands, the question rose again and he also admitted the same thing. But again he said that this was not the proper opportunity. It was promised to us that some taxation enquiry committee would be appointed and in course of time the Committee will go into the question and put the matter right, but no committee has so far been appointed and I do not know when it will be appointed.

To-day, I do not expect the same reply from our present Finance Minister. I hope he will see the justice of the claim and will rectify it. Now, Sir, the proposition is very simple. On the face of it, it appears as if I was claiming some concession or privilege for the undivided Hindu family from the Honourable the Finance Minister. Nothing of the kind. I do not want any discrimination for the undivided Hindu family. I want that every Hindu should be taxed in the same manner as a Muhammadan, a Christian, as a member of any other faith and according to the law of the land.

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

My humble submission is that as a matter of fact, the undivided Hindu family has been discriminated against in this matter from the year 1860. I have been trying to find from the books in the library as to what the reason was that the undivided Hindu family was treated as a person. When you look at the definition of the word "person" in the Income-Tax Act, you will find that a person included an undivided Hindu family. I want to know why one of the first axioms of Euclid—that a collection of things is greater than its components—the whole is greater than the part has not been adhered to in practice in law! After all, a family must consist of individuals and how is it that a collection of individuals has been so to speak made equal to one individual Sir, I have not been able to find the reason. I went through the Taxation Enquiry Committee report of 1923-24 and I found that when the Government wanted that the Hindu undivided family should pay a tax, which according to legal theory, it could not realise from it, it changed the entire law and held that for purposes of taking taxes from the Hindu undivided family it should be regarded as a divided family. I would refer to paragraphs 373 and 374 of the Taxation Enquiry Committee report, where the relevant statements I have referred to will be found. I do not want to read these portions to the House as I have done it many times before and such reading will take away some of my time. When the taxation department want that they should gather tax from the Hindu undivided family they accept one theory but when we pray that the undivided Hindu family should be treated with ordinary fairness they trump out other theories.

Take the Estate duties Bill which has been introduced and reintroduced in the House. A perusal of clauses 5, 6 and 12 would show that this Bill enunciates that for certain purposes, for gathering taxes from a Hindu undivided family, the family is treated as a divided family. If you go into the theory of Hindu law death does not make any difference in the status of a Hindu undivided family. It is partition alone which creates separation. Therefore on the occasion of death no duty can be collected. But the taxation department did want to collect taxes and therefore they treated as though the Hindu joint family did not exist as such. If you go into the merits of the question you will be pleased to see that there is no difference between a Hindu undivided family and a Muslim family so far as earning capacity is concerned or liability to taxation is concerned. I can understand joint trading partnerships, as being fit for taxation which are dealt with in Gour's book in Chapter 9. For certain characteristics if they are treated for purposes of taxation as partnerships, I have no objection. It so happens that the Brahmins and the Chamars form the biggest majority among the Hindus. The Brahmins are not a trading class, nor are the Chamars. Therefore I submit it is not the question of a Hindu undivided family being a trading concern or not which is the real basis. Hindus to whatever profession or whatever caste they belong are treated as Hindu undivided family. The taxable limit is ostensibly Rs. 2,500 today. It was changed from 2,000 to 2,500 only last year. If the family consists of a father and three sons, if the entire family earns 2,500, it is subject to taxation. If the father earns 1,600 and the 3 sons Rs. 300 per boy per year, the whole family will be taxed: even incomes which are not more than those of ordinary labourers will be taxed, so that in regard to undivided Hindu families the taxable minimum is not Rs. 2,500 but it may be only Rs. 500. This is to say the least unjust. A movement is afoot that this taxable minimum should be raised from 2,500 to 3,000. May I submit for the consideration of the Honourable Finance Minister, much as I would like that this taxable minimum is raised. I would rather prefer that justice be done before generosity is indulged in. It is just that you do not tax the labourers and poor people whose incomes are 2,500 or thereabout. But the family may consist of more than one person: it may consist of 9 or 10 or

3 or 4, or 4 or 5 persons. If that is so you must look into the matter rather carefully. You are taxing the very bread, I should not say milk, because they cannot afford milk, or rather the very salt of their life. It is unjust that you go on raising the taxable minimum and committing a fraud upon poor man belonging to the Hindu undivided family and showing to the world that you have raised the taxable minimum. I would therefore like that before you raise the taxable minimum you kindly go into the question as to how many are penalised by your present system.

I had occasion to put a question in this House on February 18, 1946, I gather the following facts from the reply. In 1942-43 there was something like 12,113 Hindu undivided families which were taxed and whose income was below 2,000, 34,573 families were taxed whose income was less than 3,500, 44,960 families whose income was below 5,000, 53,494 families whose income was below 7,500 and 57,813 families whose income was below Rs. 10,000. Other figures are also given for 1944 and 1945, which I do not propose to read to the House. If a family may be taken to consist of 4 persons then the income below 10,000 is not taxable in any other family except a Hindu undivided family. All these 57,000 families should not have been taxed according to the present taxable minimum. Therefore I submit that if you want to do justice to the Hindu undivided family you must enact that the Hindu undivided family will be taxed as an ordinary member of any other caste or religion.

If you refer to the legal theory on the question may I be permitted to say that it is entirely wrong to assess any of these families as an individual. Take the two systems of law which govern the Hindu undivided family. In the Dayabaga system the shares of each person are definite and ascertained. I ask the Honourable Finance Minister under what provision of law or theory does he want to tax the undivided Hindu family. Section 9 (3) of the Income Tax Act says where the rights are definite and ascertainable such property would not be taxed as joint property. If this principle is true in the case of the individual it is true in the case of the undivided Hindu family, where the rights are definite and ascertainable. My submission is that Dayabaga families cannot justly be assessed as such.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Did not the question with reference to Dayabaga families go up to the High Court?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: As regards Mitakshara families as far back as 1889 the High Court of Lahore held that no such families are to be found in the Punjab. This is true in the U.P. and Sind. I belong to these parts and I know the undivided Hindu families of these places. All I can say with certainty is that the Hindu joint family of the ancient shastras with its theory of survivorship, in which all the treasures of the family were in the family chest, with jointness in worship, estate and property, does not exist in these parts of India. According to the present law it has been established that a son cannot obtain partition in the Punjab and similarly it is so I understand in Bombay, from which it follows that a man is not born with some rights inherent in himself according to the present system of Mitakshara as obtaining in these parts. Therefore I submit that according to legal theory it is not right to tax these families as such. My friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar put a question about taking the question to the High Court. What happened if a case could be taken there? The law, I should say, is the handmaid of the Taxation Department. When a law was enacted here in this House some years back they made another Section—Section 25A. Under the Hindu Law, according to Privy Council rulings, a Hindu has the remedy of separation in his own hands. He has to unequivocally declare that he stands separated and there he stands separated. It is a question of evidence. How is the declaration going to be proved? As soon as he declares unequivocally that he is separated, he stands separated. That is the present law according to the rulings of the Privy Council. But in this House, in Section 25A the rule was enacted that

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

when a member of a joint Hindu family appears before the Income-tax officer and tells him that he has partitioned, then the Income-tax officer shall inquire into the question. As if the mere declaration that he has separated is not enough, he shall inquire. And what shall he inquire? Not inquire whether legal separation has taken place but whether the partition has been made into definite portions—and it has been subsequently interpreted—whether the partition is made by meets and bounds. I submit this is going too far. You do not follow the principles of Hindu Law when he declares that he has been separated. You only follow them when you want to tax him, when you want to fleece him. My humble submission is that the state of the law is in such a hopeless condition that the Income-tax authorities have always seen to it that what they declare and what is best for them is the law and not the true Hindu Law.

I have submitted in brief some of the reasons why it is not fair to treat the Hindu undivided family in the manner in which we have been treating it for the last more than eighty years. I have put a question to the Honourable the Finance Minister and I hope that he will be pleased to give a reply to it. The question is coming on the 19th. The question is as to what the difference will be if the members of the Hindu joint family are treated as if they were divided—what it means to the exchequer. I hope he will be pleased to give a reply to it. In anticipation of the reply may I submit that the amount which will be mentioned by him will be the exact amount by which for these eighty years or more the Income-tax Department has been realizing illegally as dues from the Hindu joint family. It may be that originally the income-tax was imposed only upon those people of this land who were the trading *mahajans* and who could only afford to pay the taxes. In those days they were very rich; they could afford to pay. Among them it was a trading business partnership That is my conjecture. I have not been able to find the exact reason. I have already asked the Honourable Minister to enlighten me on the point and if he can give me the reason why the Hindu joint family was treated as such. We know that the Hindu family is a social unit. It has been woven into an economic unit for taxation and for no other purpose. A firm or corporation has got a legal existence; it can sue and be sued. Can a joint family sue and be sued? Not according to law. Section 30 of the Civil Procedure Code applies only to firms and corporations. The Hindu joint family has no legal existence as a corporation or a firm. I think I am correct. I may be corrected if I am wrong.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Cannot the *karta* of a joint Hindu family sue on behalf of the family?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Every agent can sue on behalf of his principal. The question is not whether a *karta* can sue or not. The question is whether a Hindu joint family can sue. I am unable to say that the family can sue. It is only a firm or corporation which can sue—not a family. A Hindu joint family cannot sue or be sued. If my memory does not deceive me I can cite No. 69 of 1906 Punjab Record. Unless all the members of the family are parties to the suit the suit cannot proceed. The manager of the family can

4 P. M. of course sue as an agent on behalf of the family; but the family cannot sue as a plantiff unless all the members are parties to the suit. Then all the members can sue, or the manager on behalf of the members can sue. As I said, the family as such has no legal existence. My submission is that for no other purpose except for taxation has the joint Hindu family been allowed to have separate existence. Under all these circumstances my humble

submission is this. We have been fighting for removal of this injustice for 20 years or more. Every year the Finance Minister has said 'this is not the proper time'. In 1928 I sent in a Bill and wanted sanction from the Governor-General so that I might bring an amending Bill and so that the joint Hindu family might be taken off the list of Income-tax assessees. But I was not given sanction. I raised the question. The then Law Member Sir Brojendralal Mitter gave a definite promise in this House that if a Bill were brought he would appoint a Committee of the House to go into the question. Sir George Schuster and Sir Archibald Rowlands did not understand this undivided Hindu family law affair. Last year also Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan had to admit that logically I was correct, but he said that a Taxation Enquiry Committee was going to be appointed. This year I am not going to listen to any such plea. The Honourable Mr. Shanmukham Chetty is our own National Finance Minister. I am not going to believe that he is not able to remedy this injustice. For, it is an injustice and I have already quoted Sir George Schuster. He admitted it was unjust.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: It is an old story.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Mr. Sidhva says it is an old story. It is too real to be merely a story. For eighty years we have been taxing the people unjustly and my friend says it is an old story. This is not the way to look at the question. Today I beg on bended knees before the House and I want to submit to every section of the House that I am not asking for any special concession. Is it fair that you should tax the poor man? Ninety per cent. of the assessees are Hindus. It is not even a question of Hindus. It is a question of the rich Hindu and the poor Hindu. I want to submit that under Section 14 there is a compensatory advantage. What is that advantage: that in cases in which a Hindu has got two kinds of income, a joint family income and a separate income, the income from the joint Hindu family will not be tacked on to the separate income. That is the only concession which is given. I humbly submit take away this concession. That is a concession to those who are rich, who have two kinds of income. May I enquire if a rich man in Nainital gets this concession what is it to a poor Brahman family in Amritsar or Simla? There is no concession at all. All the Hindu families are not integrated in such a manner that the detriment or advantage can apply to them as a whole. The fact that this is a long-standing grievance requires that it must be looked into and remedied at once. I will make a sporting offer to the Finance Minister. if he cannot do away with this altogether as he may say that he has not gone very deep into the question, let him adopt the alternative remedy. When the Business Profits Tax was here I raised this question and the Select Committee agreed that for the purpose of the business profits tax the limit should be Rs. 1 lakh for the individual and Rs 2 lakhs for the joint Hindu family and in the super-tax the taxable minimum for the undivided Hindu family was Rs. 75,000 and for the individual Rs. 50,000. It was admitted by Sir George Schuster that it was logical to claim that the limit should not be the same in the case of the joint Hindu family and the individual. If my Honourable friend is unable to do complete justice—let him confess that he is unable to do justice—let him try to do the second best. To start with let him raise the limit to twice the amount because no family consists of less than two individuals or he may halve the rate of the incidence of taxation for the Hindu undivided family. If he cannot do complete justice let him do this second best. The previous Finance Ministers were evading the issue. they were setting a false trap. they were giving false promises all along. The matter is simple and it has been before the House and the country for the last twenty years. There is no reason why justice should not be done. I very humbly plead before the House that it may do justice to the poor undivided family.

Maulana Hasrat Mohani (U.P.: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have much to say about the proposition, but I reserve my right to speak at length on a subsequent occasion before the Constituent Assembly. For the present I have only to put a direct question to the Honourable the Finance Minister and that question is this: May I ask him to give us the reason why he wants any monetary help from foreign countries or for that matter any monetary help from the Indian capitalists in India also? I ask why the state itself cannot arrange to finance all new industrial proposals? Why should he wander about seeking the help of foreign countries or of industrialists in India? I ask why is he against state capitalism in preference to individual capitalism? Capitalist minded as he is, I think that he wants to introduce a new fraud to which I can give only one name. He wants to introduce here and encourage capitalism, but I would call it national capitalism. It is nothing less and nothing more than this. This reminds me of another new phrase coined by imperialist England in connection with the question of Republican India. On that occasion our Prime Minister, the Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, wanted to silence me saying 'I have already passed it in our resolution about the Republic'. He said 'In our resolution we have expressly mentioned that we want a Republic'.

Mr. Chairman: May I draw the Honourable Member's attention that he is straying outside the scope of the present discussion?

Maulana Hasrat Mohani: I am only giving a similarity. The similarity is that the British imperialists have coined a new word, and what was that new word? They wanted to create a new thing which I call a Republican Dominion, a dominion of the sort that Holland wants to impose on Indonesia, France wants to impose on Viet-Nam by accepting that dominion which they will afterwards call a Republican Dominion. I am sorry that from the various speeches of my Honourable friends there, they appear to have accepted this thing and they said 'All right, we will do that'. As in the case of the question of Republican Dominion, these people fooled us by coining a new word. I submit that our Finance Minister is imposing another fraud. He wants to encourage capitalism but in the name of national capitalism. I challenge him to come forward and reply to what I have said. Otherwise he is not a supporter of socialism and all those things. He is all for capitalism in the name of national capitalism only.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Mr. Chairman, I believe I have risen at a very unfortunate moment. The House is in a state of excitement and ire on account of the very passionate speeches which have been delivered by the two Honourable Members who have preceded me, but I am not going to take the time of the House for long. I want to ask a few straight questions of the Honourable the Finance Minister. Sir, I am no longer referring to dreams or anything of that kind because I have found to my cost that the English people are really very correct in what they say. There is the English expression 'Dreams go to the contrary', and that has proved very true in my case. Sir I want to ask the Honourable Minister if he is going to carry on his trade in opium. I find from a reference to the budget papers here that more than a crore of rupees is derived as income from this source. May I tell the Honourable Minister that Assam had the reputation of being very much addicted to opium? In fact Assam had derived a revenue of 40 lakhs from opium out of its total revenue of 3 crores, a very big amount, and all that was sacrificed in order to get the province rid of it. But what has been the result of that? The government revenue has gone, but the consumption of opium has not reduced. On the other hand it has increased in recent years on account of the free way in which the Government of India and other powers are manufacturing and distributing opium. There is no licence, there is no control in the rest of India, and the opium which is manufactured by the Government of India goes to the ruin of Assam and they are selling it at a very high price. Formerly government opium sold at Rs. 2 per tola, now smuggled opium sells at Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per tola. The opium consumption is going on. People are getting it at a very high rate. At the same time government revenue has disappeared. But has the Government of India done anything to help the Government of Assam in getting more revenue? Times without number, representatives from the province of Assam have appealed to the previous government, and also to the present government, for a share in the excise duty on petrol. Petrol is simply getting dried up in our province but we have not received any share up to now. Times without number we have addressed appeals to the Finance Minister of the Government of India to give us a share of the export duty on tea. I find that as much as 412 million pounds of tea goes out of India to other countries, and a large portion of it, as the Honourable Minister knows, comes from Assam. A huge amount is collected as export duty. Why have you not allotted a single penny out of it? Sir, Bengal had jute, but then Bengal gets a large amount of money as they share of the excise duty on jute. It will be said that we are also entitled to get it. Quite true, but we have very little jute in our part of the country. Why not give us a share of the thing which we produce instead of giving us a share of the thing which we do not produce at all? If Bengal gets a share on jute, let us have on tea. Now, Sir, I find from the report of the expert committee that all these things have been ignored. Now to say that we may be getting a share of duty on tobacco means that we shall get nothing! We do not manufacture or produce tobacco very much.

So, why is this callous attitude of the Government of India towards Assam? I could have understood it when the other British Finance Minister was there—I cannot understand it now. Why should it be so? What is our fault? Sir, you will be surprised to learn that in the whole Secretariat of the Government of India there is not one man from Assam—not one. I put a Question last year to the Honourable the Home Minister and he said there were 14 members from Assam in the Secretariat. I questioned that the Honourable the Speaker who was in the Chair stated that I must accept the Honourable Minister's statement. Well, Sir, I accepted it. I went round the Secretariat. Going through the corridors I found on one side rows of Ayyangars and Ayyars and Swaminathans and Sundarams with a sprinkling of Chettiyars somewhere. But I did not see the 14 members from the Province of Assam—either they had not existed or they disappeared like the 14 points of President Wilson or even of Qaid-e-Azam Jinnah—there was absolutely not one from the 14. When I go to the Railway Department or the Postal Department and this Department and that Department of the Government of India they say, "How can we help? You must first try to get someone in Home Department". After all, charity begins at home.

Sir, I am not making a joke of it—I am asking very seriously. If the people of Assam are not fit to have any office under the Government of India in any of the Departments, if that unit is not competent enough to produce one to take up that position, why keep that unit in your Union? Let it separate from the rest of India; let it try its fate with Burma or somewhere else; let it remain independent. Why do you want such a disgraceful Province from whom you cannot get even a single officer to serve you? Why do you have this Province?—only in order to get some money out of it. Sir, I felt very much gratified when I heard the Honourable the Food Minister uttering the word "Assam" three times in this House today; no other Honourable Minister had condescended to do that ever. He uttered three times the word 'Assam'; and why did he do that? Was it to give something to the Province of Assam? No, Sir, to take something out of Assam. To take something out of Assam he repeated 'Assam' several times. He has brought rice out of Assam, but may I ask if he had been able to send anything to Assam?—things which Assam never produced, for instance wheat or sugar? No; it was not for that reason he thought of Assam or spoke of Assam.

[Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri]

So, whatever it is—whether you fear the people of Assam on account of the enchantment they might practise, or whether you hate them on account of their backwardness (cries of "No, no")—leave Assam alone. If you do not want to leave Assam alone, give something to Assam—give its proper share, I do not want anything extra.

But do not make them again addicted to opium. I think it is not known to many in India today that it was not Assam which really first started opium consumption. There is one theory that the Moghul Emperor, in order to please the Assam King, sent a present of opium. The correct history is that in 1795 the Assam King wanted some help from Bengal and some mercenaries—Rajput soldiers—were sent out who were addicted to opium. They were sent to Assam to keep peace there. And these people settled in Assam; and they cultivated opium for the first time. That is the history; I could read it from the Congress Enquiry Report; they started it. In those days even the soldiers used to take opium and that is the reason why in the 18th or 16th century India lost her independence. Soldiers took opium and soldiers cultivated opium in Assam, and for these long years we have lost even the opportunity of serving the Government of India because the general reputation is: we are opium addicts which we are not.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava (Ajmer-Merwara): Sir, during the course of discussion on the Budget, there has been reference several times to the Sterling Balances. I also want to add a few remarks in this connection. Now, Sir, the agreement that has been recently arrived at and concluded between the U.K. Delegation and the representatives of the Government of India, I must remark, is wholly of an unsatisfactory character and not at all in the commercial interests of the country. During the general discussion, when a point was raised we found that one of the Honourable Members of this House came to the rescue of the Honourable the Finance Minister saying that even the non-official Members of the House were taken into confidence. But, Sir, whether it is an achievement of the Department of Finance headed by the Honourable the Finance Minister, or whether it is an achievement of the Department in collaboration with the non-official members of the House, the fact remains that it is a transaction that has let us down in the international world. I would respectfully ask, why should we have surrendered ourselves to the U.K. Delegation? What have we gained by this transaction?

We have seen that similar agreements have recently been concluded by Great Britain with Egypt, with Argentine and with Ireland. After the War, India was the biggest creditor: the debts of Egypt, of Argentine or of Ireland, in comparison, pale into insignificance. Still we find that all these countries have arrived at comparatively more beneficial agreements with Britain and we have failed altogether therein. Take for example, the Agreement that has been concluded by the U.K. with Argentine. We find that there was sterling assets to the tune of £130 million only which the U.K. had to pay to Argentine, but look at the terms on which the Agreement has been concluded. It has been decided, Sir, that the whole of the sterling assets of Argentine must be liquidated by Great Britain before 31st March, 1949. Now, what is the agreement with India? Out of the £18 million to be transferred in our current account, only up to the ceiling limit of £10 million we can utilise for honouring our international obligation. According to the estimates furnished by the Honourable the Finance Minister himself, our deficit balance of payments in the next six months, *i.e.*, from 1st January, to 30th June is to the extent of Rs. 52 crores. Out of these Rs. 52 crores, we find that as per this Agreement U.K. will be bound to honour only up to the extent of Rs. 13½ crores. The remaining amount we will have to pay by exhausting our borrowing capacity

from the International Monetary Fund. In these days when India is in the grip of a serious economic crisis, although our Finance Minister has no doubt assured us that the financial position of India is intrinsically sound, so far as our position in the international market is concerned, we are in deficit and we are bound to be in deficit for a number of years to come till we become self-sufficient in the matter of food. We have imported food to the value of Rs. 110 crores in the current year and it is estimated that in the six months from January to June we will have further to import grains to the extent of about Rs. 61 crores. Consequently, Sir, we cannot honour our obligations, rising as they are, without either decreasing our imports or increasing our exports, and this does not appear to be possible under the present circumstances of our country. Therefore, Sir, the conclusion is irresistible that the Agreement that has been arrived at by Mr. Narahari Rao and others is not at all in the best interests of the country.

It was argued that "Well, what we could do? The attitude of the U.K. Delegation was unbending." I would certainly like to ask what efforts were made by our representatives to persuade the U.K. Delegation to fall in line with our requirements? We do not know what passed behind the curtain, but we know something from the correspondence that has been placed on the Table, and that is in our hands. The correspondence does not disclose at all that our requirements or the urgency of the whole matter was stressed and pressed upon the U.K. Delegation and consequently it cannot be said that we did our best to secure the best terms.

Then, Sir, I would again invite the attention of the House to other terms obtained by Argentine. The debt of Argentine has been agreed to be liquidated by 31st March, 1949. It has been further agreed that the U.K. Railways in Argentine would be taken over by Argentine in liquidation of that debt. Why should not the British assets and British investments in this country, which at a moderate estimate are expected to be of the value of Rs. 600 crores, be taken in part liquidation of our sterling balances which represent the sacrifices of the teeming millions of this country? I know quite well that Great Britain will not agree to it so easily. Unless and until we and our representatives have the strength to press our claims it cannot be expected that some satisfactory solution of the liquidation of these sterling balances can be arrived at. At the pace we are proceeding and in the way we have agreed to in the last agreement, the liquidation of the sterling balances debt may take no less than 60 to 70 years exclusive of interest on these transactions. Therefore, Sir, I press upon the Government to take a bolder stand when any effort towards a permanent solution of this urgent problem is attempted and as it is said in the papers our Finance Minister will be going to London, Mr. B. Das has said it is not in keeping with the dignity of Free India that he should proceed to London for the purpose. After all it is not the creditor who seeks the debtor, but it should be the debtor who should seek the creditor. With these remarks, Sir, I resume my seat.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Mr. Chairman, altogether 5 different topics were raised in the course of this debate, the question of financial control, the problem of the Sterling Balances, the difficulties of the joint Hindu family, the valient challenge of the Maulana and the woes of Assam. With regard to the challenge of the Maulana, I will straightaway confess my defeat and I would accept that I have no answer.

With regard to the complaint of my Honourable friend from Assam as to why there is not a single Assamese in the Secretariat here, I must honestly confess that just at the moment, I cannot find an explanation, but probably there is one. Assam is called 'Kamarupa' in Sanskrit. Probably the people of Assam are so much enchanted with their own surroundings that except for a few adventurers like my Honourable friend, Mr. Chaudhuri, they do not wish to leave their happy homes and their spots.

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty]

With regard to opium, I may tell my Honourable friend that the Government of India does not make any profit on opium. In answer to a question, I explained the exact position. It has been the recognised policy of the Government of India for many years to keep down the production of opium to the minimum level possible and in any case the Government of India does not stand to gain financially by the cultivation of opium in this country. It is strictly confined for the supply of certain areas where this article is required. I shall now take up the other three points and first I shall take up the problem of economy and financial control.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): May I ask whether the Government of India are not making a profit in the Centrally Administered Areas?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Dealing with the problem of economy I must at the very outset remove a misconception regarding the composition of the work of the Economy Committee that has recently been set up. It is not correct to say that the Economy Committee has not yet started work. The Economy Committee started its work last month. Honourable members must realize that a Committee of this kind cannot sit from day to day or continuously for any period until some very essential material has been prepared by the various Departments concerned. I understand that the Committee had certain preliminary meetings and the questionnaire has been sent out to the various Departments concerned and that it is the intention of the Chairman to sit almost continuously from about the middle of April. And talking about the Chairman, Sir, I must say that in inviting him to take up this position, I was not exercising any patronage that is bestowed in me. In fact if there was any patronage on anybody's side, it was on the side of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai in having accepted my invitation. It is all well and good to say that the Government must follow this procedure and that procedure in selecting members for such posts, but my experience during the last 6 months in the Cabinet has convinced me that our great problem is to find the correct men for the various kinds of work that the Government have in hand. Sir, I was advised to leave alone those men who cannot devote their full time to any public task that has been entrusted to them. I think we are doing less than justice to ourselves when we insinuate that our people are not prepared to undertake the burdens of public work. There are very few countries in the world, Sir, where there is so much readiness and willingness to undertake public work honorarily as there is in India. I think it is a factor about which we must be proud. I am perfectly satisfied that the work of the examination of the problem of economy has been entrusted to very competent hands and that we can confidently look forward to very concrete results flowing from the work of that Committee.

I am very glad to have noted here this afternoon that the House is very much interested in maintaining the rigidity of the financial control exercised by the Ministry of Finance. I welcome that spirit. The warning given by my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar that the Finance Minister should not yield to pressure on any side and relax in any manner the financial control is an advice which I welcome most. Such advice is particularly welcome in the present state of the Government. One of the great dangers of democratic forms of Government is the political influence that might be brought to bear on the Government to do things which may not be in the ultimate interest of the country. In fact even within the last few months considerable pressure was brought to bear upon me in certain cases from various quarters in the matter of giving grants to institutions or to bodies about which I was not satisfied, and I may assure my Honourable friend and this House that up till now I have taken a firm stand on these demands and I propose to maintain that attitude. As I mentioned the other day in the course of a debate I conceive the function of a Minister of Finance as that of one not obstructing expenditure, but helping every Department of Government to plan wisely and to spend wisely and I shall to the best of my ability observe that principle during my tenure of office.

Honourable Members will be interested to get some idea of the kind of financial control that we exercise in the Ministry of Finance. All expenditure can be incurred only when there has been a Budget provision and when there has been a financial sanction by a competent authority. If these two conditions are not satisfied, no individual in this country, however, high he might be can get even one rupee for spending as he likes. Provision in the Budget for various items of expenditure is generally made some time during November or December every year. By that time, the various Ministries would have sent for scrutiny of the Ministry of Finance the proposals that they have in view and which they wish to be included in the Budget for the coming year. We have a large accumulation of such requests and naturally we have to give priority to schemes, keeping in view the possible revenue and expenditure position for the coming year. At the time that the Budget provision is actually made for a scheme, it might have either undergone detailed financial scrutiny by my Ministry or it might be an item of expenditure which is the result of an accepted policy of the Government and in relation to which the actual details of financial expenditure might not have been scrutinised. In the latter case, the expenditure cannot be incurred until after the detailed scrutiny has been made. There is one other check. Over and above the scrutiny made by the Ministry of Finance, certain specified items are placed before the Standing Finance Committee for their examination. In this category comes all new items of expenditure involving either a recurring expenditure of one lakh of rupees and more or a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 5 lakhs and more. Now, these are the various stages that have to be undergone before expenditure is actually incurred and after the expenditure is incurred, the Auditor-General has to examine whether an expenditure has been properly accounted for, whether it has had the proper sanction and whether any fraud has been committed and he brings all these to the notice of the Government and the Legislature in his Audit and Appropriation Report, which Report is subject to the scrutiny of the Public Accounts Committee. That ultimately is a final examination and the last stage in the scrutiny of our public expenditure.

In this connection, I might perhaps answer a point raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. He asked me why the Public Accounts Committee has not yet been constituted. It is a statutory body and during the current session I would be making a motion for the constitution of that Committee. But I must warn the House of the limitations under which that Committee will have to work. Today we have got the Public Accounts Committee Report for the accounts relating to the year 1945-46, because that is the complete account year which has been finished. I would now suggest that the Public Accounts Committee will find very considerable difficulty in examining that account. For one thing, many of the officers who might have to be examined would have gone away to Pakistan. Therefore, the examination of the accounts for 1945-46 by the Public Accounts Committee might have only a theoretical value. But subject to that inevitable limitation I have not the slightest objection to the Public Accounts Committee that will be duly elected during this session undertaking this very task.

At every stage in the expenditure of public funds the Ministry of Finance exercises the most watchful care and scrutiny. In actually sanctioning the detailed expenditure the Finance Ministry sees among other things that the scheme is carried out in the most economical manner without impairing the objective set before the Government when formulating the scheme, that the staff requirements are not overestimated and that they conform to standards which have been stabilised by practice and convention, that the scales of pay

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty]

are in accordance with the sanctioned rates for comparable posts, that contingent expenditure, allowances, honoraria and other charges are estimated with prudence and care, that canons of financial propriety are duly observed and that there is no variation in the scheme as prepared from the sanction and sanctioned by the competent authority.

Sir, when you consider the work of the Ministry of Finance from the point of view of exercising effective control over public expenditure it will be realised that the task that devolves upon this Ministry is of a tremendous magnitude. It is therefore no matter for surprise that the number of high officers in the Ministry of Finance is very much greater than the number of corresponding officers in any other individual Ministry. Our own Ministry of Finance was modelled on the British Treasury, and I have been told by competent authorities that the system of treasury control which we have evolved in India is one of the finest in the world. It will probably interest Honourable Members to get some idea of the mechanism of the British Treasury and the corresponding mechanism of the Ministry of Finance in India. In the British Treasury there are in the first instance the Commissioners of Revenue who are responsible for the budget and the collection of all items of revenue.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Do they correspond to our Board of Revenue?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Yes.

Leaving these alone the British Treasury is divided into a number of divisions, each under the charge of an Under-Secretary. These divisions again are grouped into four groups on a functional basis, each one under the charge of what they call a Third Secretary. Now four Third Secretaries are responsible to three Second Secretaries who correspond to the permanent Under-Secretaries of the other Ministries in the British Government. And over and above all these the Treasury is presided over by a permanent Secretary who is also the head of the civil service. And above all these is the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Now the Chancellor of the Exchequer there has directly to deal only with six officers, namely, the permanent Secretary, two Commissioners of Revenue and the three Under-Secretaries. He has not the departmental routine to attend to which normally falls to the lot of the Finance Minister in this country; and even these Under-Secretaries do not spend much time in the usual departmental routine. And so far as the permanent Secretary is concerned, he has absolutely nothing to do with the departmental routine at all; he is the principal adviser of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on broad questions of policy. As against this what have we got as the set-up of the Finance Ministry here? Under our Ministry we have got a Secretary, one Additional Secretary, three members of the Central Board of Revenue, one Financial Adviser for Defence, one Financial Commissioner for Railways.—making in all seven officers on the top.

5 P.M.

In addition to this we have got seven Joint Secretaries and each of these is attached to a particular Ministry. One Joint Secretary deals with establishment who works with the Finance Ministry alone. But the other six are attached to various Ministries,—one Joint Secretary attached to the States, one for Relief and Rehabilitation, one for Industry and Commerce, one for Communications, one for External Finance and one generally including all the other departments, *viz.*, Food, Agriculture, Works, Mines and Power, Education, Labour, etc. I have altogether got 14 officers including the Secretary. But unfortunately the set-up of the Ministry of Finance is not on scientific lines, with the result that I have to deal directly with many of these Joint Secretaries myself. In any case I have to deal with seven officers, namely, the Secretary, the Additional Secretary, the three Members of the Central Board of Revenue, the Financial Adviser for Defence and the Financial Commissioner for Railways. In addition to these seven officers who have got

direct access to me, under our set-up every one of the Joint Secretaries also has direct access to the Minister.

That is not all. The division of functions in the Ministry is such that even the Secretary is not available to me to advise me on all questions of policy without having to worry myself regarding departmental routine. I have been studying this problem ever since I came to the office and I have in mind a scheme of complete reorganisation more approximately on the British Treasury model. Take for example the Central Board of Revenue; it has got three officers, but they have still to deal with the Secretary. In fact I have broken the convention and for the purpose of expediting the work I have almost made it a practice that the members of the Central Board should have direct access to me keeping only the Secretary informed as to the orders that they have taken from me, so that the Secretary might know the trend of policy.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Therefore the Honourable Minister has increased direct approaches from 14 to 16.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No, altogether it is 14, inclusive of the members of the Central Board of Revenue, who have direct access to me. I am now hoping that we might, for instance, separate the Central Board as an independent revenue section dealing only with revenues and headed by an officer who will have direct access to me and who need not go to the Secretary at all. That will very considerably reduce the work of the Secretary and it will make the work of the Central Board of Revenue more satisfactory also. I have got a scheme of reorganisation in mind on these lines and I am hoping to place this matter before the Cabinet before long.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Minister place it before the Standing Finance Committee before going up to the Cabinet?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Yes, it is my intention to consult the Standing Finance Committee.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Sir, I do not think I have anything more to say on the question of financial control. I think what I have said will give Honourable Members some idea of the set-up of the Ministry of Finance.

Regarding the sterling balances I am glad my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar on second thoughts came to the conclusion that he should not have blamed Mr. Narahari Rao and the officials who took part in the discussions. In fact I should like to take this opportunity to say that whatever decision was arrived at was entirely on my responsibility and I take full responsibility Mr. Narahari Rao and his colleagues have done a very good job of work, and I think the House should express its appreciation of the sincerity and earnestness with which they carried out that task. I have not made it a secret, Sir, that I am not very satisfied at all about the agreement that we concluded. My Honourable friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar accused me of having let down the country. I am sure it was not his intention to level any such accusation against me, but his intention has been to strengthen my hands when I have next to negotiate with the British Government. I shall then tell them: Look at the ferocious attack that Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar made against me! Do you want to throw me again to such wolves to be swallowed?

I hope that the very vigorous speech made by my Honourable friend and others about the sterling balance will strengthen the hands of the delegation that may go to England next. And I may give this assurance also, that if I am going to England to continue these negotiations, I shall see to it that I take with me men with stout hearts, if not stout physiques.

The position is indeed very difficult and almost intolerant. After all, when you come to think of it, it is the unfortunate position in which the creditor today in the modern world finds himself in relation to his debtor.

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty]

The days when the debtor went to the house of the creditor to repay his debt have gone. Now we ourselves, by some of the debt relief Acts that we have passed have demonstrated to the world how the creditor is at the mercy of the debtor today. And in international relationships, that position of the creditor is very much more pitiable than even the position of the private creditor. We must frankly face facts. Unless we are prepared to go to war with England, we have to bring about a settlement by peaceful and amicable means. The one method suggested by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, if he would ponder over it, he will himself find is not a very satisfactory method. He suggested that we might take over the British assets in this country. Well, surely that is not a very satisfactory way of getting back the value for all the sacrifices that we made during the war and about which he rightly emphasized. We are entitled to get from abroad, in return for these sacrifices, those capital goods, which by increasing the wealth of this country would offer some compensation for those sacrifices that we made. He asked again why should we not leave the sterling area. Certainly there is no reason why we should not. But unfortunately we are not in a position to do so yet: because before we decide to leave the sterling area we must see that we have sufficient dollar and other balances and that our balance of trade with the United States becomes more favourable. But in any case, my Honourable friend may rest assured that no one who will have a chance of negotiating these matters with the British Government would let down the country in any manner.

I must ask the pardon of my Honourable friend, Mr. Bhargava, if I am unable to give an answer to him because the time is up and the guillotine will come down.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I wish and hope that you will deal with the question in your usual sympathetic manner and realistic manner.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I will later on tell him what my own idea is of the taxes on the Hindu undivided joint family.

Mr. Speaker: I shall first put to the House the particular demand under discussion and then I shall take up the other demands.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 80,76,000 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 'Ministry of Finance'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Demands Nos. 7, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 50, 51, 55, 74, 77 and 87 have been disposed of. I now take up the other demands and put them in a consolidated form.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper, except in case of heads of Demands Nos. 7, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 50, 51, 55, 74, 77 and 87, 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 corresponding heads of 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. of Debates.*]

DEMAND NO. 1.—CUSTOMS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,97,000 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 'Customs'."

DEMAND NO. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,97,17,000 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 'Central Excise Duties'."

DEMAND NO. 3.—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,72,86,000 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 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

DEMAND NO. 4.—OPIUM

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,81,000 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 'Opium'."

DEMAND NO. 5.—PROVINCIAL EXCISE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,22,000 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 'Provincial Excise'."

DEMAND NO. 6—STAMPS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,36,000 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 'Stamps'."

DEMAND NO. 8.—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS MET FROM REVENUE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,34,000 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 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works met from Revenue'."

DEMAND NO. 9.—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,84,73,000 be granted to to 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 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

DEMAND NO. 11.—CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,09,000 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 'Constituent Assembly'."

DEMAND NO. 12.—CONSTITUTENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,65,000 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 'Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative)'."

DEMAND NO. 15.—MINISTRY OF LAW

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,41,000 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 'Ministry of Law'."

DEMAND NO. 31.—MINISTRY WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,85,000 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 'Ministry Without Portfolio'."

DEMAND NO. 32.—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC., ON ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,73,000 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 other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the Administration of Agency Subjects and Management of Treasuries'."

DEMAND NO 33.—AUDIT.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,88,92,000 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. 34.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,31,000 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 'Administration of Justice'."

DEMAND NO. 35.—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,000 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 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

DEMAND NO 36.—POLICE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,96,000 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 'Police'."

DEMAND NO. 37.—PORTS AND PILOTAGE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,94,000 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 'Ports and Pilotage'."

DEMAND NO. 38.—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,49,000 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 'Lighthouses and Lightships',"

DEMAND NO. 39.—ECCLESIASTICAL

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,53,000 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 'Ecclesiastical'."

DEMAND NO. 40.—TRIBAL AREAS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 62,57,000 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 'Tribal Areas'."

DEMAND NO. 41.—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,08,81,000 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 'External Affairs'."

DEMAND NO. 42.—SURVEY OF INDIA

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 60,67,000 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 'Survey of India'."

DEMAND NO. 43.—BOTANICAL SURVEY

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,66,000 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 'Botanical Survey'."

DEMAND NO. 44.—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,33,000 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 'Zoological Survey'."

DEMAND NO. 45.—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,67,000 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 'Geological Survey'."

DEMAND NO. 46.—MINES

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,65,000 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 'Mines'."

DEMAND NO. 47.—ARCHAEOLOGY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,83,000 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 'Archæology'."

DEMAND NO. 48.—METEOROLOGY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 81,43,000 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 'Meteorology'."

DEMAND NO. 49.—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,03,33,000 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 'Other Scientific Departments'."

DEMAND NO. 52.—PUBLIC HEALTH

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 53,91,000 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 'Public Health'."

DEMAND NO. 53.—AGRICULTURE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,73,08,000 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 'Agriculture'."

DEMAND NO. 54.—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,47,000 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 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

DEMAND NO. 56.—SALT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,40,96,000 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 'Salt'."

DEMAND NO. 57.—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATION SERVICE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 66,05,000 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 'Overseas Communication Service'."

DEMAND NO. 58.—AVIATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,13,98,000 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 'Aviation'."

DEMAND NO. 59.—BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,32,57,000 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 'Broadcasting'."

DEMAND NO. 60.—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,10,000 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 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

DEMAND NO. 61.—CENSUS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,59,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which wil come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Census'."

DEMAND NO 62.—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,30,000 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 'Joint-Stock Companies'."

DEMAND NO. 63.—INDIAN DAIRY DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,56,000 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 'Indian Dairy Department'."

DEMAND NO. 64.—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,43,73,000 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 Departments'."

DEMAND NO. 65.—CURRENCY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,03,50,000 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 'Currency'."

DEMAND NO. 66.—MINT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,14,32,000 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 'Mint'."

DEMAND NO. 67.—CIVIL WORKS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,68,07,000 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 'Civil Works'."

DEMAND NO. 68.—CENTRAL ROAD FUND

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,15,00,000 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, 'Central Road Fund.'"

DEMAND NO. 69.—TERRITORIAL AND POLITICAL PENSIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,40,000 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 'Territorial and Political Pensions'."

DEMAND NO. 70.—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,41,24,000 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 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

DEMAND NO. 71.—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,65,46,000 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 'Stationery and Printing'."

DEMAND NO. 72.—MISCELLANEOUS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,07,72,000 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'."

DEMAND NO. 73.—EXPENDITURE ON REFUGEES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,03,50,000 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 "Expenditure on Refugees'."

DEMAND NO. 75.—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE—ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,80,93,000 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 'Defence Services, Effective—Royal Indian Navy'."

DEMAND NO. 76.—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE—ROYAL INDIAN AIR FORCES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,34,44,000 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 'Defence Services, Effective—Royal Indian Air Forces'."

DEMAND NO. 78—DEFENCE SERVICES, NON-EFFECTIVE CHARGES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,24,67,000 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 'Defence Services, Non-effective Charges'."

DEMAND NO. 79.—GRANTS IN-AID TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,25,00,000 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 'Grants-in-Aid to Provincial Governments'."

DEMAND NO 80.—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 82,000 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 Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

DEMAND NO. 81.—RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,72,35,000 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 'Resettlement and Development'."

DEMAND NO. 82.—CIVIL DEFENCE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,000 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 'Civil Defence'."

DEMAND NO. 83.—DELHI

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,40,77,000 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 'Delhi'."

DEMAND NO. 84.—AJMER-MERWARA

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 62,71,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come ffiin course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

DEMAND NO. 85.—PANTH PIPLODA

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,000 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 'Panth Piploda'."

DEMAND NO. 86.—ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 95,13,000 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 'Andaman and Nicobar Islands'."

DEMAND NO. 88.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON FORESTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,26,000 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 Forests'."

DEMAND NO. 89—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON THE INDIA SECURITY PRESS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,09,000 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 the India Security Press'."

DEMAND NO. 90.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,60,96,000 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 Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND NO. 91.—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—STORES SUSPENSE (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND NO. 92.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,87,60,000 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 Industrial Development'."

DEMAND NO. 93.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,08,84,000 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 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

DEMAND NO. 94.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 69,71,000 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 Broadcasting'."

DEMAND NO. 95.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CURRENCY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,50,000 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 Currency'."

DEMAND NO. 96.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MINTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 65,45,000 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 Mints'."

DEMAND NO. 97—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,23,12,000 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 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

DEMAND NO. 98.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,75,12,000 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 Civil Works'."

DEMAND NO. 99.—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

DEMAND NO. 100.—PAYMENTS TO RETRENCHED PERSONNEL

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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 Retrenched Personnel'."

DEMAND NO. 101.—DEFENCE CAPITAL OUTLAY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,98,76,000 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 'Defence Capital Outlay'."

DEMAND NO. 102.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF STATE TRADING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,97,88,000 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 Schemes of State Trading'."

DEMAND NO. 103.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,33,07,000 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 Development'."

DEMAND NO. 104.—INTEREST-FREE AND INTEREST-BEARING ADVANCES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,82,04,000 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 'Interest-free and Interest-bearing Advances'."

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 17th March, 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Wednesday, 17th 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

ASSEMBLY PLANTS OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN INDIA

800. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the names of Assembly plants of Motor vehicles in India and the retail prices of cars and trucks fixed by them in March 1947 and in January 1948?

(b) Is it a fact that Hindustan Motors Limited have increased the price of Hindustan Ten (original Morris) cars considerably, as compared with other Assembly Plants Companies in India?

(c) Are Government aware of the reasons for the increase in this particular company?

(d) What was the total output of each of the Assembly Plants in India in the year 1947?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (d). Two statements are laid on the table of the House.

(b) The relevant statement gives full information in this respect.

(c) Government are not aware of the reasons as they do not exercise any control over the distribution and sale of motor vehicles.

Statement I

Name of Assembler	No. of cars Assembled	No. of Trucks Assembled	Total number of Cars and Trucks Assembled
1. General Motors India Ltd., Bombay	4,547	4,807	9,354
2. Ford Motor Co. of India Ltd., Bombay	3,283	1,955	5,238
3. Premier Automobiles Ltd., Bombay	1,265	1,798	3,063
4. Motor House (Gujrat) Ltd., Bombay	Nil	349	349
5. Mckenazies, Calcutta	438	509	947
6. Hindustan Motors Ltd., Calcutta	2,418	448	2,866
Total	11, 951	9,866	21,817

Statement II

Description	Retail prices of Cars March 1947	Cars January 1948	Trucks March 1947	Trucks January 1948
1	2	3	4	5
1. M/S GENERAL MOTORS INDIA LIMITED, BOMBAY				
Chevrolet Sedan	8,750	9,195		
Buick 51 Sedan	12,700	13,000		
Buick 71 Sedan	15,150	15,450		
Oldsmobile "76" Series Sedan	10,900	11,250		
Pontiac "26" Series Sedan	10,350	10,930		
Cadillac 6269 Sedan	18,600	19,760		
U. S. Commercials and Trucks.				
3112 115" WB Station Wagon			8,250	8,820
3612 125½" WB Station Wagon			9,350	9,945
3104 115" WB Com. Chassis with Cab & Pick-up Box.			5,750	6,480
3112 115" WB Com. Chassis with Cowl and W/S.			4,850	5,120
3604 125½" WB Truck Chassis with Cab & pick-up.			6,450	7,225
3612 125½" WB Truck Chassis with Cowl & W/S.			5,450	5,845
4112 134½" WB Truck Chassis with Cowl & W/S.			6,325	6,565
4412 160" WB Truck Chassis with Cowl & W/S Light.			7,225	7,425
4403 160" WB Truck Chassis with Cab—Heavy.			8,200	8,625
4412 160" WB Truck Chassis with Cowl & W/S—Heavy.			7,550	7,750
6103 134½" WB Truck Chassis with Cab.			8,550	9,015
6112 134½" WB Truck Chassis with Cowl & W/S.			7,900	8,140
6403 160" WB Truck Chassis with Cab			9,175	9,655
6412 160" WB Truck Chassis with Cowl & W/S.			8,525	8,780
6712 195" WB Bus Chassis with Cowl & W/S.			9,475	9,790
G. M. C.				
ECE-101 115" WB Com. Chassis with Cowl & W/S.			5,040	5,310
ECE-303 160" WB Truck Chassis with Cab.			8,600	9,065
ECE-303 160" WB Truck Chassis with Cowl & W/S.			7,950	8,190
U. K. Passenger-Vauxhall				
HIX 12 HP Saloon	6,745	7,358		
JIB 14 HP Saloon	8,600	9,125		

1	2	3	4	5
Bedford Vans and Trucks				
HC 6 Cwt. Van (In Prime)			5,745	6,356
JC 10-12 Cwt. Van (In Prime)			6,440	7,100
KZ 120" WB Truck Chassis			58,2	6,450
MLZ 143" WB Truck Chassis			7,550	7,750
OLAZ 157" WB Truck Chassis			8,010	8,250
OLBZ 157" WB Truck Chassis			8,600	8,840
OB 174" WB Bus Chassis			9,300	9,600
2. MESSRS. FORD MOTOR COMPANY OF INDIA LTD. BOMBAY.				
Super DeLuxe Fordor	9,275	9,990		
Mercury Town Sedan	10,260	11,375		
Lincoln Sedan	15,560	15,560		
8 h. p. "Anglia" Saloon	5,450	5,610		
10 h. p. "Prefect" Saloon	6,240	6,405		
Super DeLuxe Station Wagon			9,515	9,515
Light delivery			6,435	6,700
114" w.b. Chassis			5,805	5,700
122" w.b. Chassis			6,375	6,375
134" w.b. Heavy Duty Chassis			7,500	7,500
158" w.b. Heavy Duty Chassis			7,770	7,770
176" w.b. Heavy Duty Chassis			8,655	8,655
194" w.b. Bus Chassis			9,445	9,445
8 h.p. 5-Cwt. Van			4,550	4,695
10 h.p. 10 Cwt. Van			6,055	6,055
3. THE PREMIER AUTOMOBILES LTD. BOMBAY.				
Chrysler Newyorker C39N	14,350	16,785		
Chrysler Windsor C38W	12,620	14,365		
Desoto Custom S11C	12,470	14,000		
Desoto Diplomat SP15C	10,430	11,110		
Dodge Custom D24C	11,425	12,945		
Dodge Kingway D25C	10,285	11,400		
Plymouth Special DeLuxe P15C	10,190	11,365		
Dodge Trucks				
WF-36 200" w.b. (6) 34×7			..	9,571
WF-32 160" w.b. (6) 32×6			7,330	7,655
WF-31 135" w.b. (4) 32×6			6,815	7,185
WC-116 166" w.b. (4) 6·00×16			5,255	5,620
Fargo Trucks				
FK4-00 200" w.b. (6) 32×6			..	8,870
FK4-60 160" w.b. (6) 32×6			7,350	7,900
FK4-35 135" w.b. (4) 32×6			6,690	7,985*
FK1-16 116" w.b. (4) 6·00×16			5,295	5,765†
Desto Trucks				
DE4-00 200" w.b. (6) 34×7			..	9,270
DE4-60 160" w.b. (6) 32×6			..	7,850
DE4-35 135" w.b. (2) 32×6 & (4) 34×7			..	7,970
DE1-16 116" (4) 6.50×16			..	5,715

*(2) 32×6 & (4) 34×7 †(4) 6.5 ×

1	2	3	4	5
4. THE MOTOR HOUSE (GUJARAT LTD., BOMBAY				
Kaiser Special	15,100	14,900		
Frazer	15,750	16,500		
Frazer Manhattan	Not Available.	18,200		
Hillman Minx Saloon	7,200	8,615		
Reo 19C Model Truck Chass Low Cowl 165" w.b.			12,000	12,000
Bradford Van			7,150	7,300
Bradford Chassis			5,200	5,200
Bradford Six Seater Utility			7,975	8,050
Bradford Deluxe Utility			Not Available.	9,250
5. MCKENZIES, CALCUTTA.				
Morris				
8 h.p. 2dr. F. H. Saloon	..	6,225		
8 h. p. 2-dr. S. H. Saloon	..	6,350		
8 h. p. 4-dr. F. H. Saloon	..	6,600		
8 h. p. 4-dr. S. H. Saloon	6,675	6,700		
10 h. p. 4-dr. F. H. Saloon	..	..		
10 h. p. 4-dr. S. H. Saloon	..	..		
Wolsely				
8 h. p. Saloon	7,560	7,595		
10 h. p. Saloon	8,720	8,775		
12 h. p. Saloon	10,580	10,650		
14 h. p. Saloon	11,430	11,440		
18 h. p. Saloon	12,220	12,220		
Hudson				
Supper Six Sedan	10,700	12,565		
Commodre 6	11,400	13,265		
M. G.				
'TC' 2-Seater Tourer	...	7,750		
1½ Litre Saloon	...	11,150		
Riley				
1½ Litre 12 h.p. Saloon	...	14,450		
2½ Litre 16 h.p. Saloon	...	17,750		
Morris Commercial				
CV11/30 model 138" WB Chassis			7,500	...
CV11/40 model 138" WB Chassis			7,835	7,835
ECV13/3 model 162" WB Chassis			8,300	...
ECV11/40 model 138" WB Chassis			...	...
10 Cwt. Van (unpainted)			...	8,000
International				
K-1 model 113" w.b. chassis			5,125	6,175
K-2 model 125" w.b. chassis			5,225	6,500
K-3 model 130" w.b. chassis			5,635	...
K-5 model 135" w.b. chassis			7,175	...
K-5 model 159" w.b. chassis			7,375	8,275
KBS-5" 159" w.b. chassis			...	9,500
KBS-6" 158" w.b. chassis			...	12,330
K-5 model 195" w.b. chassis			7,825	..

6. M/S HINDUSTAN MOTORS LTD., CALCUTTA.				
Hindustan 10 Fixed Head	8,195	9,350		
Hindustan 10 Sliding Head	8,345	9,500		
Studebaker 4 Door Champion Deluxe	10,125	12,500		
Studebaker 4 Door Champion Regal Dulyxe.	10,500	12,900		
Studebaker Commander Regal Deluxe	..	14,950		
Studebaker Commander Deluxe	..	14,500		
Studebaker Truck M-16-128"			..	8,975
Studebaker Truck M-16-152"			8,375	9,375
Studebaker Truck M-16-195"			8,950	..

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Subsequently, however, I have been informed that with effect from the 1st April, 1948 the Hindustan Ten will be sold at prices varying from Rs. 7,895 to 8,145 in place of Rs. 9,350 to 9,500.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if Government have inquired into the reasons that were responsible for this sudden fall in the price of the Hindustan Ten?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I said just now, there is no price control and Government cannot interfere with the prices fixed by the company.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government satisfied that the earlier price was really reasonable?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Government did not make any enquiry.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the factory price in America?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have no information as regards the factory price. I tried to obtain the information but could not get it.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if the fall was due to the removal of price control and the previous higher price was the result of price control?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The price control was withdrawn in December 1946. The fall could not be due to that.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: May I know if the Honourable Minister is aware that the price of Studebaker cars (which are also imported by the Hindustan Motors) is now proportionately very very high?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am told the prices have gone down.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Is it true in regard to Studebaker cars also?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have no definite information regarding previous prices.

Mr. Hussain Imam: What were the controlled prices of these two motor cars when the controls were removed?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not think in 1946 there was any Hindustan Ten.

Mr. Hussain Imam: What about Studebaker cars?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have not got the figures here.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Does the Honourable Minister's Ministry exercise any interest in regard to the importation of component parts of Motor vehicles for the Assembly plants for motor car manufacture in this country? If so, to what extent do they help in securing the import licenses?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Government does take an interest in this respect and in fact this view point was taken into consideration in fixing the import licenses this year.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Are these applications for import licenses sponsored by the Industries Department?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They are dealt with by the Commerce Ministry, not the Industries Ministry.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any parts or motor accessories are manufactured in these assembly plants in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: At present a very small proportion but it is expected to increase in the course of 1948.

Shri Ramnarain Singh: Is it not the duty of the Government to keep themselves informed of prices of such articles as cars?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Mr. Kamath.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the statement laid on the table show the prices of Studebaker and Ford cars on these dates respectively?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I think the Ford car figures are included in the statement.

Shri H. V. Kamath: The factory list prices of these two cars in America are Ford Super deluxe V.8 1,279 dollars and Studebaker Champion 1,275 dollars. In India the Studebaker costs about Rs. 3,000 more than the Ford Super deluxe V.8.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is quite possible, because the duty is about 40 per cent. on American cars.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the difference of Rs. 3,000 due to as between the Ford V.8 and Studebaker?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not know what exactly is the reason.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that the difference in price of about Rs. 3,000 goes to swell the unconscionable profits of some bloated capitalist?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: May I know whether any exemption from price control was given by the Government of India to anyone of the importers of cars or assembly manufacturers of cars in this country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That relates to the period when price control was in existence. I cannot say.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: I am talking of the period after 1946 when price control was not in existence. Is there any order passed by the Government of India to the effect that certain firms are exempted from price control in other words can fix any price for motor cars?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If the price control is withdrawn I do not see how Government can say that particular companies will not be allowed to fix their own prices.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Do Government fix a particular percentage of profit on the import price of each commodity and if so, if a particular merchant who imported motor cars was exempted from that order?

Mr. Speaker: Is the question clear to the Honourable Minister?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Let me try to explain the point. It seems that profits of merchants were controlled by allowing them only a certain percentage over their original price. Was there any exemption in respect of restricting such profits with regard to motor cars only?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not think that any such exemption was given.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if the Honourable Minister is aware that the provinces have their own Essential Articles Control Act through which the sale of motor cars is regulated? Is there any uniformity in regard to this?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as provinces are concerned, Madras, U.P., Assam, C.P. and Berar are the provinces which continue the control but that related only to control over distribution and not prices.

REBUILDING OF BAIDYANATHDHAM (DEOGHAR) STATION ON E. I. RAILWAY

801. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that Baidyanathdham (Deoghar) station on the East Indian Railway is important as a centre of pilgrimage?

(b) How many passengers travel to this place per year?

(c) Are Government aware that it is also an important health station?

(d) Are Government aware that several refugees from Noakhali, Comilla, Pabna, and other places have found asylum in this place?

(e) Is it a fact that the transhipment station Jasidih on the main line is only 4 miles from Baidyanathdham?

(f) Do Government, in view of its importance, propose to rebuild this station and bring it on the main line?

(g) Are Government aware that on account of the low platform at this station passengers are put to great inconvenience?

(h) Is it a fact that the representatives of the World Peace Arunachal Mission saw the Railway authorities in this connection?

(i) Do Government propose to reconsider their representations?

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

(b) During the year 1947, 4,31,190 passengers arrived by rail at this station.

(c) This station is considered by some persons to be a health resort.

(d) No statistics in regard to refugees from Noakhali, Comilla, Pabna and other places are maintained by the Railway Administration.

(e) Yes.

(f) There is no such proposal at present.

(g) No such complaints have so far been received from the travelling public.

(h) The Railway Administration have had no such representation.

(i) Does not arise.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that the World Peace Mission has written a letter to the Honourable Minister on the 10th February in this respect, to which the Honourable Minister says that they have received no such representation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member will be good enough to pass on that to me I will enquire whether it has reached us.

STEEL PRODUCTION IN INDIA IN THE YEARS 1943-44 AND 1947-48

802. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the total steel production in India in the years 1943-44 and 1947-48?

(b) What was the total import of foreign steel into India in the year 1938?

(c) What was the highest production in India and in what year was it so?

(d) What are the causes for the fall in production now?

(e) Is it a fact that Government have placed orders with foreign countries for the import of steel and if so what is the quantity, what is the price per ton and when is it due to arrive in India?

(f) For what purposes will this imported steel be used?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Production in 1943 and 1947 was 1,166,204 and 868,580 tons respectively. Figures according to financial years are not available.

(b) 280,400 tons in 1938-39.

(c) 1,166,204 tons in 1943.

(d) The main reason for the fall in production is labour unrest; transport difficulties are a contributing factor.

(e) and (f). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to his Starred Question No. 548 on 2nd March 1948.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of the answer to part (b) may I know from which foreign countries the steel was imported?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Mainly from U.S.A. and U.K.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Was any attempt made to get steel from Russia?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: By what percentage are the prices of the foreign products higher than those of our Indian products?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The foreign price is about Rs. 425 as compared to the Indian price of Rs. 225 per ton.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do we manufacture stainless steel in India at present?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do we manufacture high tensioned steel?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I have got nine questions in my name today and I can put only five questions. If you will permit me, Sir, I would like to treat this question (No. 803) as unstarred. If you give me the right to exercise my discretion I will treat this and three other questions as unstarred, or you may guide me in this respect.

Mr. Speaker: The practice so long has been that all the first five questions have to be put.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: In that case I put the question (No. 803).

CASES DETECTED BY RAILWAY ANTI-CORRUPTION AND WATCH AND WARD DEPARTMENTS

803. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many cases relating to Railway matters have been detected or reported by the Anti-Corruption department during the period from 15th August, 1947 to 31st January, 1948?

(b) What is the function of the Watch and Ward department of the Railways?

(c) How many cases have been reported or detected through this department from 15th August, 1947 to 31st January, 1948?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The required information is given below:

Cases registered	55
Cases into which preliminary enquiries were held.	100

(b) The primary duty of the Watch and Ward Department is to guard property belonging to and also in the custody of the railway from thefts, damage etc. and to prevent trespass into railway premises.

(c) 2074 cases of theft and 1633 cases of trespass were detected by the Watch and Ward Department on the Indian Government Railways during the period referred to. This excludes the figures to be furnished by the Superintendent of Special Police Establishment (Upper) Calcutta in respect of part of the East Indian Railway which have been called for.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: To what articles did these thefts relate, may I know?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am afraid I am not in a position to give the details straightway.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Have any cases been started against senior railway officials?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: A few cases have been started.

Seth Govinddas: Is there any machinery set up to hear any complaints against this watch and ward staff?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Complaints regarding the watch and ward staff as well as other branches of the Railway are received by the Complaints organisation. There is a Central Complaints organisation in the railway administrations.

Seth Govinddas: Is it a fact that in the East Indian Railway there have been complaints regarding the watch and ward staff?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There have been complaints all over regarding the watch and ward staff.

Seth Govinddas: I was especially asking about the East Indian Railway because, as far as my information goes, there have been a lot of complaints on this Railway about the watch and ward staff.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: More than in respect of other Railways?

Seth Govinddas: Yes.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware of that.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: Is it true that the scheme of contracts for loading and unloading is responsible for most of the loss?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should not say it was responsible for most of that.

MANAGEMENT OF GANGA-DARJEELING ROAD IN PURNEA DISTRICT (BIHAR)

804. *Mr. Mohd. Tahir: Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the Ganga-Darjeeling Road in the district of Purnea in Bihar is managed by the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sections of the Ganga—Darjeeling road in the Purnea District fall within the proposed National Highway system for the

maintenance of which the Government of India have provisionally accepted financial responsibility from the 1st of April 1947 subject to ratification of the National Highway scheme. The Provincial Government is acting as the Executive agent in accordance with the general policy of the Government of India with respect to National Highways.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Is this connected with any other National Highways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact, the National Highways system as a whole is inter-connected. From that point of view my answer to the Honourable Member's question is in the affirmative.

Mr. Hussain Imam: May I point out that there is no road connecting this from the Bengal end?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That probably is correct. But I may point out that the devising of an alternative route to connect this national Highway from the Purnea district is now under contemplation and it is very likely that in the near future we should be able to come to a settlement on that point.

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF VEGETABLE GHEE

805. *Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that nickel formate is used in the process of manufacture of vegetable ghee or vanaspati;

(b) whether it is a fact that nickel formate is a deadly poison highly deleterious to the human organism; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take against the production and consumption of vegetable ghee in India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Governments present information is that nickel formate is not directly used in the process of manufacture of Vanaspati. It is first reduced to metallic nickel in colloidal form that is, powdered form before being used as a catalyst. The nickel does not itself take part in the chemical reaction which occurs in hydrogenation, but only affects the pace of chemical reaction and is on completion of the process entirely removed by filtration.

(b) Nickel formate has some poisonous effect. Whether it is highly deleterious to the human organism or not depends upon the quantity assimilated by the human system. But metallic nickel which is the chemical used in the process of manufacture, is, however, not poisonous as it passes out through the human system without being assimilated.

(c) As explained above, nickel is used only as a catalytic agent in the process of hydrogenation. It does not itself take part in the reaction and is completely removed from the product by filtration. In all the samples of Vanaspati analysed by the Principal of the Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Cawnpore, no traces of nickel were found.

The doubts which have arisen in the public mind about the nutritive value of vanaspati do not in any way relate to the use of colloidal metallic nickel as a catalyst. These were in respect of chemical changes which occur in oil due to heating and hydrogenation. A Panel of Scientists was appointed last year to carry on further investigations into the value of vanaspati as food. These investigations are being carried on under the auspices of the Vanaspati Research Planning Committee appointed by the Technical Panel of the Ministry of Food at the following centres:

(1) The All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta.

(2) The Haffkine Institute, Bombay.

(3) The Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor.

The Committee has already met twice and final results of the investigations being carried on at the above named centres are expected to be available by the end of 1948. The question of prohibition of hydrogenation or taking other steps in the interests of the public and the agriculturists is under the consideration of Government.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Am I to understand that nickel formate is not used as such but is reduced to colloidal nickel before being used to hydrogenate oils in the manufacture of vanaspati?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That is the answer I gave.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have any attempts been made by scientists by precise weighment before and after the process of hydrogenation to ascertain whether this colloidal nickel is entirely used as a catalyst only or if any part of it is absorbed in the product in the course of the process?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is used only as a catalyst and I have said that it is not absorbed in the product.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that so far as the results of these experiments on rats are concerned, most of the scientists have already come to the conclusion that even if the deleterious effects of vanaspati are not so very noticeable on the first generation of rats, on the second generation of rats they are very noticeable and they have therefore come to the conclusion that it is a very bad item of food?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: One of the research institutes had come to that conclusion.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Is 'catalyst' a parliamentary expression?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Catalyst is a scientific expression. It means an element which affects the rate at which chemical changes take place.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the scientists themselves have come to that view and the so called difference of opinion is only being publicized by the manufacturer concerned, have Government considered the advisability of not allowing any more of these Vanaspathi factories to be started until the scientists have come to a definite view and have given their final advice to the Government?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government will consider the suggestion.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Government aware that a very finely printed pamphlet has been issued by concerns which are engaged in the maufacture of Vanaspati?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware of it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government publish a detailed report about the researches carried on by our scientists as regards Vanaspati or vegetable ghee?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As I have said this matter is being investigated at three institutes. The results will be made known to the Assembly.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that some of our scientists are in the pay of the industrialists and capitalists, and.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member is making suggestions which ought not to be made. Such questions are not permissible in the House. I would request Honourable Members not to derive pleasure in attributing motives and drawing inferences. It does not add to the dignity of the House.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I was only asking whether the suspicion was correct, and it was hardly for pleasure that I put the question.

Mr. Speaker: I may point out to the Honourable Member the rules. The rules strictly prohibit the making of statements which are defamatory or to make allegations, especially when the parties concerned are not here to defend themselves. The dignity of the House requires that information should be called for, in an absolutely judicial and moderate manner, and not in the manner in which the Honourable Member has been putting his questions.

I am going to the next question.

HARIJAN EMPLOYEES IN B. N. RAILWAY WORKSHOPS, KHARAGPUR

806. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total number of employees in the Bengal Nagpur Railway workshops, Kharagpur and the number of Harijans therein?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The total number of employees in the Bengal Nagpur Railway Workshops at Kharagpur is 10,780. Government have no information regarding the number of Harijans employed, as no record has so far been maintained to show separately the number of Harijans.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any ban or any discrimination being shown against Harijans being employed there?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Certainly not.

REGISTRATION OF PUBLISHERS UNDER PAPER CONTROL ECONOMY ORDER 1944

807. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state how publishers were registered under the Paper Control Economy Order of 1944?

(b) Are Government aware that during the last war, many writers and publishers did not register their names and consequently are unable to get the paper quota?

(c) Do Government propose to revise the registration of publishers afresh?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take in order to grant paper quotas to individual writers who want to publish their works?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Any person who at the commencement of the Paper Control (Economy) Order 1944, was carrying on business as a publisher, was eligible for registration under the order, and was required to apply before the 15th July 1944 to the Paper Controller. The Paper Control (Economy) Order 1944 was superseded by the Paper Control (Economy) Order 1945. The basic date, namely, the 12th June 1944 on which a person was required to be a publisher in order to become eligible for paper quota remained unchanged.

(b) There may be cases in which persons eligible to be registered may have failed to apply for registration. In such cases no paper quota is admissible.

(c) and (d). Under the Paper Control (Economy) Order of 1944 and also of 1945 the Central Government can issue and have been issuing special orders in special cases authorising individuals to consume paper. These powers of the Central Government have also been delegated to the Provincial Governments. Government are, however, considering the question of removing control on paper.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact that in the year 1943-44 some of the writers were in prison and therefore they could not get their names registered? In those cases will Government consider getting their names registered for getting paper?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I have said, special permits are being issued in special cases and if such cases are brought to our notice, we shall consider them.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know how long it will take for Government to come to a decision as regards the removal of control?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Very soon.

CENTRES FOR SELECTION OF STAFF TO JUNIOR ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS IN RAILWAYS

808. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number and location of centres for selection of staff to the junior administrative posts in the Railways?

(b) Is there any such centre in Orissa?

(c) If not, what steps do Government propose to take to have such a centre in Orissa?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) By 'junior administrative posts', I presume, the Honourable Member is referring to selection posts in the non-gazetted cadre of Administrative Offices. Selection of non-gazetted staff for promotion to such posts is usually done by duly constituted Selection Boards set up by individual Railway Administrations, and these Selection Boards usually assemble where the Administrative Offices are located.

(b) There is no such centre in Orissa, as there is no Administrative Office in that province.

(c) Government have no intention at present to set up such a centre for any province exclusively.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Do these Selection Boards advertise the vacancies at any time?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This is not initial recruitment. The Selection Boards function with regard to promotions for which no advertisement is called for.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Who makes the initial appointments?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The initial appointments are made in respect of superior appointments by the Federal Public Service Commission, in respect of subordinate appointments by Joint Railway Commissions, and in regard to menials, it is done by the administration.

PROMOTION OF SUBORDINATES TO OFFICERS' CADRE IN B. N. RLY. DURING THE WAR

809. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many upper subordinates were promoted to the officers' cadre in the Bengal Nagpore Railway during the war and are continuing as such now?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Government are informed that on the B. N. Railway 70 upper subordinates were promoted to the Officers' cadre during the war and are continuing as such.

ELECTRIFICATION OF RAILWAY QUARTERS IN MINTO ROAD AREA ALLOTTED TO I. R. C. A.

810. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 52 Railway quarters in the Minto Road area allotted to the I.R.C.A. staff are not electrified and that on that account the colony is not supplied even with street lights;

(b) whether it is a fact that similar types of railway quarters situated in Delhi-Kishenganj are electrified; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what the reasons for not electrifying this area are and whether Government propose to consider the advisability of supplying this colony with electricity?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, it is a fact that the 52 railway quarters for Class III Staff in the Minto Road area are not electrified. An electric street light has, however, been provided.

(b) Yes. Similar types of railway quarters in Delhi-Kishenganj area were electrified as a special case.

(c) The policy is not to electrify quarters of lower grade staff in order to keep down the capital cost and the rent charged for these quarters. The question whether electrification of these quarters in Minto Road Area should be treated as an exception, is now being considered.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister what the increase in rent will be if these quarters are electrified?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot give an answer off hand.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether Government think that these low salaried people are not entitled to electricity?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is no such consideration at all. The idea is simply to keep down the capital cost and consequently the rent charged is as low as possible.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Arising out of the answer to question (b) where it is stated electricity is provided as a special case, may I know what are the special reasons?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We felt there was a very strong demand in that area. The surrounding houses were electrified and we thought we should give these railway quarters also electric connection.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not the case that similar conditions exist in Minto Road area also?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that 10 per cent. of their pay is recovered irrespective of the cost of the bungalow or the quarters that they occupy?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Electricity charges are separately calculated.

INSTALLATION OF MORE TELEPHONES AT RAILWAY ENQUIRY OFFICE, DELHI STATION

811. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the telephone line to the Railway enquiry office at Delhi station is engaged for most of the time?

(b) Do Government propose to have more telephones installed at the enquiry office to facilitate work?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Government are aware of the trouble referred to. This is not necessarily due to the telephone being actually engaged. In some cases it may be due to the line being faulty. A review of the present arrangements is being made in consultation with the Ministry of Communications.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact generally, Sir, that people in charge of the Enquiry Office remove the receiver and put it aside so that they may not have the trouble of hearing and replying to enquiries?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: What I said in my answer was that partly it may be due to causes of that kind, but partly also I think it is quite possibly due to the line being faulty: but I am having the matter enquired into.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Minister aware that it is sometimes quite all right and sometimes it gives the sound that it is engaged. In this case the line cannot be out of order. It is sometimes else which is responsible for it.

Mr. Speaker: It is argument.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Minister aware that very often altogether false information is given by the Enquiry Office?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member will give me specific cases of that kind, I will have it certainly investigated.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the Honourable Minister considered the advisability of posting somebody or other so as to pay a sort of surprise visit and to keep a watch over the way in which this office is working in Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am organizing surprise visits as far as the Delhi area is concerned on such a vast scale that it is difficult to extend it. We are having that particular line of action very seriously in view in all matters that we are considering.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the numerous complaints, will the Honourable Minister consider the desirability of having the telephones at the Delhi Railway station connected with different exchanges, for instance, one from old Delhi and the other from New Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As the Honourable Member is aware there are enquiry offices in four places in Delhi apart from the one at the Old Delhi station, and at present we have a scheme under active consideration for converting the Enquiry Office in Connaught Place into a combined Enquiry, Reservation and Complaints Office.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: The Honourable Minister has not followed my question, Sir. May I know whether he will consider the desirability of having the telephones at the Delhi station connected with different exchanges, so that at one time even if one line fails the other may work?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will take that matter up with my Honourable Colleague.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT FOR THE INDIAN RAILWAYS

812. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Metallurgists and Chemists Committee of the Indian Railway Conference Association submitted recently a comprehensive development scheme to Government as regards scientific and technical research in the running of railways? If so, when was it submitted and is it available to the public?

(b) Have Government taken any action on it and if so, what? If not, why not?

(c) Is it a fact that the above-mentioned Committee has pointed out that as a result of research, there is a possibility of economising the use of coal, ferrous and non-ferrous metal and oils in this country?

(d) Are Government aware that as a result of such research the British Railways have economised the use of coal by six per cent.?

(e) Are Government further aware that up-to-date American Railways also have research and scientific departments attached to them?

(f) If so, are Government contemplating the establishment of similar research department for the Indian Railways and if so, what is the progress made so far in this matter? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) A preliminary and tentative proposal for the establishment of a Central Railway Chemical and Metallurgical Laboratory was put forward by the Metallurgists' and Chemists' Sub-Committee of the Indian Railway Conference Association at their 7th meeting in 1944. These proposals however, deal with only two of the eight main branches envisaged in Government's own proposals for the establishment of a Central Railway Research Organization covering all branches of Railway activities.

The reports of this Sub-Committee as well as other sections of the Indian Railway Conference Association are departmental publications which are not normally published. A copy of it will however be placed in the Library of the House for the information of Honourable Members interested in the subject.

(b) and (f). There has been in existence since 1935 a nucleus research organization as a part of the Central Standards Office for Railways. At present it consists of Civil, Mechanical, Metallurgical and Electrical Research Officers. It primarily deals with railway problems in the field of Civil and Mechanical Engineering and connected Metallurgical and Electrical matters. The Research Officer (Metallurgical and Chemical) was appointed in 1946.

The expansion of the Railway Research Organization into a comprehensive research institute, so as to cover every aspect of railway activity, is being pressed forward as fast as the shortage of technical personnel will permit.

(c) The research so far carried out by and under the direction of the Central Standards Office for Railways has already indicated means for obtaining economies in the use of fuel, ferrous and non-ferrous metals and oils, and steps to effect these economies are being taken.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes.

CAPITAL COST AND ANNUAL RECURRING EXPENDITURE OF FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, DEHRA DUN

813. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state when the posts of the Inspector-General of Forests and the President of the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun were bifurcated?

(b) What is the pay of each post?

(c) What is the total capital cost on buildings, estates, apparatus and other equipments of the Forest Institute at Dehra Dun and what is the annual recurring expenditure?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) On the 1st February, 1945.

(b) Inspector General of Forests Rs. 3,250 p. m.

President, Forest Research Institute and Colleges: Rs. 2,500 in the scale of Rs. 2,500—125—2,750.

(c) A statement showing the particulars required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table of the House.

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE & COLLEGES, DEHRA DUN

Total Capital Cost of buildings, Estate, apparatus and other equipment; Annual Recurring Expenditure

	Research Rs	Colleges Rs
1. Capital cost of buildings	67,64,107	11,94,72
2. Capital cost of Estate	36,43,988	...
3. Capital cost of apparatus, equipment, etc.	18,15,376	3,67,919
4. Annual recurring expenditure on equipment etc. (based on figures for 1946-47).	3,21,500*	1,36,300*
5. Annual recurring expenditure on buildings (1946-47)	1,00,510	16,063

*This expenditure excludes establishment charges (pay, allowances, etc.) which are as follows:—

Research . . . . . Rs 8,21,927
Colleges . . . . . Rs 2,83,128

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What was the reason for the bifurcation of these posts in 1945?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think I might as well give a brief history of this matter. Up to 1926 there were two separate posts, one of Inspector-General of Forests and the other of the President of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges. In 1926 as a measure of economy the two posts were combined. The provinces and the States then found that the Inspector-General of Forests could not go round the country and do his work of inspection as well as carry on the research work at the Institute. At a Conference convened in 1937, the representatives of the States and Provinces suggested that the posts should be bifurcated. The work of the Research Institute increased considerably after 1942 so much so that it was felt that unless the posts were bifurcated the work of neither would be done properly. It was impossible for one officer to go round the country on inspection and at the same time be in charge of the Research Institute. It was, therefore, decided in 1945 to bifurcate the posts.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Sir, in view of the fact that the President of the Forest Research Institute is no more the Inspector-General of Forests, has Government any proposal under consideration to combine his post with that of the Principal of the College at Dehra Dun?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware of any such proposal.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, is this College conducting any degree courses and has its capacity for training students been increased in the past?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That does not arise out of the question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether in view of the separation of the posts, the President of the Research Institute cannot also be made the Principal of the Training College? Why should there be two separate posts?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will go into that question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether the Institute at Dehra Dun issues any pamphlets or other administration reports showing what researches have been made and how the results of such researches have been implemented?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would like to have notice of that question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact, Sir, that for the past 20 long years one of the researches which is being carried on is whether bamboo pulp can be used for manufacture of paper, while everybody knows that bamboo pulp is actually used widely for the manufacture of paper.

Mr. Speaker: That is an expression of opinion.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What I mean to ask is whether the Institute cannot do any research with a view to finding out whether paper can be manufactured from leaves, or some such source?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government will certainly consider that suggestion.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Is 'Forests' not a Provincial subject, Sir?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, it is a Provincial subject, but the Central Government have some inspectorial powers.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Why should the Inspector-General of Forests go about inspecting when it is a provincial subject?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It has been found necessary and useful; as a matter of fact, the provinces themselves have asked for this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know, Sir, whether the Inspector-General of Forests is an Adviser or, whether he is a kind of an inspector who goes about checking up?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: He is available for help and guidance.

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORIES IN INDIA

†814. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total number of Meteorological Observatories in India and the places where they are located?

(b) What is the total capacity of students in the School of Meteorology in Poona?

(c) How many students are refused admission for want of accommodation every year?

(d) Are all the students, who pass out from the school, employed?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) There are different types of observatories maintained by the India Meteorological Department. I lay on the table of the House a †statement giving the details of these observatories and the places at which they are located.

(b), (c) and (d). The Training School in the Meteorological Office in Poona is wholly intended for (i) training persons recruited for service in the India Meteorological Department and (ii) giving periodical refresher courses to the regular meteorological staff. The School is equipped to give training to 25 persons at a time.

DISCONTINUANCE OF SUPPLY OF RATION FROM RAILWAY GRAINSHOPS TO STAFF OF RAILWAY BOARD'S OFFICE

†815. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that permanent and temporary staff of the Railway Board's office are, with effect from 1st March 1948 debarred from taking their rations from the Railway grainshops?

(b) Is it a fact that the staff on deputation to the Board's office have been allowed to draw their rations from the Railway grainshops?

(c) If so, what are the reasons for this distinction?

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

(c) The conditions relating to the permanent and temporary staff in the Railway Board's office and staff from Railways on deputation in the Board's office are different; the staff of the Railway Board's office draw dearness allowance at the higher rates admissible to other Secretariat staff, and staff on deputation from Railways to the Board's office continue to draw the dearness allowance admissible at present to Railway staff *plus* rations from Railway Grainshops.

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

†Not printed in these Debates. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed of D.*

PREVENTION OF PERIODICAL ATTACKS OF PESTS ON COFFEE PLANTS

816. ***Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether any research work is being carried on to prevent periodical attacks of pests on coffee plants especially of the 'Arabica' and 'Robusta' varieties?

(b) Has any attempt been made to study the question first-hand from Brazil?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the question of deputing a senior officer to Brazil for this purpose?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Intensive research on control, eradication and checking of some coffee pests and diseases is being effectively carried out at the Coffee Experiment Station, Balehonnur, Mysore State. The station has been taken over by the Indian Coffee Board, Bangalore, and more staff has recently been appointed as a result of which these and other pests and diseases of both 'Arabica' and 'Robusta' Coffee will be studied more intensively.

(b) The most serious pest of Coffee in Brazil is the coffee berry borer which got introduced into Mysore from Java but has been completely eradicated here. Other important pests and diseases of coffee in India are of minor or no importance in Brazil. Coffee leaf rust and black rot do not occur in that country.

(c) In view of (a) and (b), the question does not arise.

AMOUNT PAID TO PRIVATE COMPANIES FOR PLANES CHARTERED TO CARRY TROOPS AND GOODS TO SRINAGAR

817. ***Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the rate at which planes belonging to private companies were engaged to carry troops and goods to Srinagar;

(b) the total air transport charges for Srinagar during October, November and December 1947;

(c) the all-up weight which the Dakotas engaged for the Srinagar trips carried; and

(d) the corresponding all-up weight for Dakotas in England?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Operating Companies were paid at the following rates for their Dakota aircraft employed on Kashmir operations:

Rs. 5 per mile flown and a detention charge of Rs. 800 per day for the period for which no flying was done due to bad weather, etc.;

(b) The total air transport charges payable for October, November and December, 1947, are Rs. 7,20,800, Rs. 31,42,200 and Rs. 11,00,000, respectively.

(c) As a special case, in view of the nature of the operations, the Dakotas engaged on Kashmir operations were permitted to fly with a maximum all-up weight of 26,000 lbs. instead of the normal 25,000 lbs. permitted by their Certificates of Airworthiness.

(d) The all-up weight permitted for Dakotas in England is 28,000 lbs.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: While the all-up weight permitted for Dakotas in England is 28,000 lbs. why is it fixed at 25,000 lbs. in India and even in an emergency it is not permitted to exceed 26,000 lbs.?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Well, Sir, that is the limit fixed by the Manufacturers of Dakotas, because in a hot country like India the

engines are liable to become warm; even if one engine fails the plane will be able to carry the stipulated weight. The Honourable Member will appreciate that while accidents are frequent in England, in India they are few and far between.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is Government aware, Sir, that while Dakota No. 2, which has only a seating capacity of only 14, were permitted to carry as many as 35 during the Burma operations, these planes were not allowed to carry more than the prescribed number while we were attacked by raiders on the one side?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Sir, these rules are not applicable to military operations and it was suggested to the Defence Department that they can carry as many men as they liked.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact, Sir, that these Dakota planes were refused permission to carry petrol tins, while it is a usual practice during military operations to carry such tins?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I think the Honourable Member is not correct. Of course, petrol was being carried during the war and it is carried even now. Whether it was carried in tins or in some other containers, I am not aware.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, the proportion of the cost of the Dakotas which has been paid as rent?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am not in a position to supply that information.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Were the pilots and the crews given special allowances by the Government?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Not by Government, but some of the companies paid special allowances, I think.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: What were the rates of these allowances?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am not aware of it, because they were paid by the companies.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Arising out of the reply given by the Honourable Minister, may I know, how do the climatic conditions of India affect the engines of the Dakotas during the winter season?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether the capacity of 21 of these planes was fixed by the same officer who arranged for the disposal of 18 serviceable Dakotas as scrap?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am not aware of it; but I know that this specification is in accordance with international rules.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: What is the total cost incurred, Sir, by way of rent?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: About Rs. 50 lakhs.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Instead of hiring these planes, what attempt was made by the Honourable Minister's Department to set right or fit properly those 80 Dakotas which have been found to be air-worthy?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Well, Sir, I hope the Honourable Member is aware that the Civil Aviation Department does not own or possess any Dakotas. They simply license the private Companies. Those 80 Dakotas were taken over by the Defence Department, and if any were left over them they were to be handed over to the private Companies if required.

Mr. Hussain Imam: May I know the name of the Technical Adviser who fixed this weight?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: As I said just now, this weight was originally fixed by the manufacturing Company and then adopted by the International Air Board.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But that is only for ordinary purposes, not for emergency purposes?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That is for the Defence Department to decide. If they take over these planes then they can load them with any weight.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Officer in charge of testing or saying that a plane is air-worthy, a European—a Britisher?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes, he is a Britisher, and I think everyone will acknowledge that his licensing has been so effective that there have been very few accidents in this country.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If there is no flying there will be no accidents.

AMBICA AIR LINES PLANES FOR MINISTERS

818. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have engaged any plane of the Ambica Airlines on a contract basis for the convenience of Ministers;

(b) if so, what are the terms of the contract; and

(c) the total number of trips made by the plane on official business in January, 1948 with their destinations?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (b). An arrangement has been made with Ambica Airlines under which the company are to maintain at New Delhi 2 Expeditor twin-engaged aircrafts for the use of the Honourable Ministers and senior officers of the Government of India. The company are guaranteed a minimum of 90 hours flying every month in respect of each aircraft. Payment for flying is to be made at the rate of Rs. 3 per mile.

(c) 14 return trips from Delhi—two to Allahabad, three to Lucknow, five to Lahore, two to Loharu, one to Rupar and one to Calcutta.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Instead of hiring planes from time to time from the Ambica Airlines or from other lines, why should not the Government purchase some planes for the use of the Ministers and keep them here for use of Government?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That is being arranged.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Therefore this contract with Ambica Airlines has been given up or terminated?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: No; as soon as we get our own planes it will be terminated.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government propose to purchase one plane for each Minister just like a car?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That is not the scheme.

CONCESSIONS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES ON STATE RAILWAYS

†819. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what privileges and concessions are enjoyed by railway employees while travelling in trains?

(b) Are these privileges and concessions uniform on all State Railways?

(c) If not, do Government propose to consider the advisability of making such privileges and concessions uniform on all State Railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The privileges and concessions are: (i) A limited number of free passes and of Privilege Ticket Orders enabling tickets being purchased at 1/3rd of the ordinary rate, (ii) Meals at concessional rates.

(b) and (c). Passes and P.T.Os. allowed to railway employees are already on a uniform scale. Concessions in regard to cost of meals vary. The Government do not consider it necessary to enforce uniformity in this matter.

ABOLITION OF TRAVELLING CONCESSIONS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

†820. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a note entitled "A Railway Anomaly" published on page 4 of the *Free Press Journal* of Bombay, dated the 1st March, 1948, regarding the abolition of privileges and concessions enjoyed by State railway employees while travelling by rail?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

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

(b) A reduction in pass concessions to gazetted staff has very recently been affected. The Government are averse to an entire abolition of these concessions.

PLYING OF FERRY STEAMERS BY SCINDIA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY ON WESTERN COAST

821. *Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the Scindia Steam Navigation Company ply ferry steamers from Bombay to Goa on the Western Coast?

(b) Do the said Steam Navigation Company send ferry steamers to Shrivardhan, Harnai, Dabhol and Ratnagiri?

(c) What is the distance of Harnai, Dabhol and Ratnagiri from Bombay?

(d) What is the steamer-fare to Shrivardhan, Harnai, Dabhol and Ratnagiri from Bombay?

(e) What is the principle on which the said Steam Navigation Company have fixed these fares?

(f) Is it a fact that there is a special Steamer service for Harnai and Dabhol only?

(g) Are Government aware that passengers for Harnai have to pay almost the same fare, as the passengers for Ratnagiri?

(h) If so, do Government propose to make inquiries into the matter and have the steamer-fares fixed according to the distance that passengers have to travel?

(i) Is the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, the only Steamer Company that ply ferry service between Bombay and Ratnagiri?

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

(j) How many Steamer Companies were plying such services between these ports prior to 1938?

(k) What were the fares for these ports when there were steamers of other Steam Navigation Companies?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Commerce. I understand the question has been put down on the list of business for 22nd March 1948 when the Honourable Minister of Commerce will reply to it.

EXPORT OF HAND-WOVEN GOODS SPECIALLY USED BY MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

822. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) what facilities and arrangements are being provided to enable handloom weavers and merchants and co-operative societies dealing in hand-woven goods, specially used by Moslems and of special designs for which there used to be customary demand in places now situated in Pakistan:

(b) whether Government are issuing any licences to enable such exports to customary places of demand and if so, on what basis;

(c) whether Government are aware that the weaving industry is suffering from the accumulating stocks of cloth, produced for such exports; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to help the handloom weavers in this regard?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) to (d). Government have received several representations stating that there are accumulations of handloom cloth for which in the past the customary market has been in areas now included in Pakistan, and asking for permission to move such cloth. Government will consider allowing reasonable quantities of such cloth to move to Pakistan.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Will it be in addition to the quotas?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir.

FUNCTIONS, SET-UP AND ANNUAL EXPENDITURE OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

823. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the purpose, the functions and the present set-up of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research?

(b) What is the annual expenditure incurred by Government on account of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research since its inception?

(c) What are the amounts paid during the above period to the Provinces and States through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research by way of grants and subventions for the implementation of various schemes?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research was constituted as the result of a recommendation of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. Its primary function was to promote, guide and co-ordinate agricultural research throughout India.

The Council is a Registered Society and consists of two parts, *viz.* executive and advisory. The Governing Body is the executive side and is vested with the management of all the affairs and funds of the Council. The other part is the Advisory Board. This Board is responsible for examining all proposals in connection with the scientific objects of the Council and it advises the Governing Body in regard to them. The Advisory Board is assisted in the work of scrutinising the schemes by various scientific and commodity committees. There is also a Standing Finance Committee of the Council to examine financial aspects of the schemes. *Ad hoc* committees are also

appointed from time to time for considering specific problems relating to agricultural research.

(b) and (c). The following statements are laid on the table:

(i) Statement showing the annual expenditure incurred by Government on the maintenance of the Secretariat of the Council from its inception.

(ii) Statement showing grants made to the Council by the Government of India for carrying out specific research work.

(iii) Statement showing the proceeds from Agricultural Produce Cess so far received by the Council.

(iv) Statement showing amounts paid so far to the Provinces and States by the Council by way of grants and subventions for the implementation of various research schemes.

Statement showing the annual expenditure incurred by Government on the maintenance of the Secretariat of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, since its inception.

Year	Amount
1929-30 (1st June 29 to 31st March 1930)	1,40,500
1930-31	2,54,600
1931-32	2,25,400
1932-33	1,95,000
1933-34	2,21,400
1934-35	2,27,400
1935-36	2,75,700
1936-37	3,11,200
1937-38	3,44,100
1938-39	3,44,900
1939-40	3,29,100
1940-41	2,41,300
1941-42	3,18,800
1942-43	3,18,500
1943-44	2,70,700
1944-45	3,37,000
1945-46	3,91,700
1946-47	4,51,800
1947-48	3,76,900

Statement showing Grants made by Government of India for carrying out specific research work on behalf by the Council

Year	Total Amount.
1929-30	14,99,996 0 0
1930-31	15,00,000 0 0
1931-32	5,00,000 0 0
1932-33	5,00,000 0 0
1933-34	6,50,000 0 0
1934-35	8,26,000 0 0
1935-36	9,50,000 0 0
1936-37	30,11,476 0 0
1937-38	12,29,000 0 0
1938-39	10,51,194 10 3
1939-40	8,95,407 10 0
1940-41	4,80,000 0 0
1941-42	4,50,000 0 0
1942-43	6,33,790 14 11
1943-44	14,91,600 0 0
1944-45	17,47,446 0 0
1945-46	15,06,590 0 0
1946-47	8,76,750 0 0
1947-48 (upto date 5th March 1948)	3,26,819 0 0
Grand Total	201,26,070 3 2

Statement showing the proceeds from Agricultural Produce Cess so far received year by year.

Year	Amount
1940-41	8,28,274 0 0
1941-42	14,47,965 10 0
1942-43	13,19,559 4 4
1943-44	11,71,574 0 9
1944-45	16,02,320 3 10
1945-46	20,41,182 3 8
1946-47	19,06,760 0 0
1947-48	*4,98,476 1 0
Grand Total	108,16,111 7 7

*Receipts upto the quarter ending 31st March, 1947. Payment for the remaining 3 Qrs. *viz.* Quarter ending 30th June, 1947, 30th September, 1947 and 31st December, 1947 not received utill now.

Statement showing amounts paid from June 1929 to date, to the Provinces and States by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research by way of grants and subvention for the implementation of various schemes

Year	Amount
1929-30	1,440 0 4
1930-31	3,04,968 7 4
1931-32	3,62,661 2 4
1932-33	5,81,178 3 1
1933-34	8,29,558 13 2
1934-35	11,14,547 13 1
1935-36	14,92,008 10 6
1936-37	14,37,063 13 10
1937-38	14,62,813 9 5
1938-39	14,38,099 8 10
1939-40	13,14,413 12 3
1940-41	12,93,693 4 2
1941-42	14,37,657 15 1
1942-43	11,35,677 12 4
1943-44	15,82,259 8 4
1944-45	18,18,609 6 0
1945-46	17,70,720 10 9
1946-47	11,86,304 3 6
1947-48* (upto date)	37,363 2 6
Grand Total	206,61,039 2 6

*Full bulk of the grants for the current financial year have still to be paid. In several cases demands for grants have not yet been received; those received are under scrutiny.

Seth Govinddas: Is there any proposal for the appointment of some Provincial Committees under this Committee to go into the questions of Provincial agriculture?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is no proposal at present. But this suggestion was made on an earlier occasion and will be considered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government any sort of a scheme for appointing two or three scientists in India to enquire into the working of this I.C.A.R. once in every two or three years, with a view to improve its efficiency and its work, and also to make further suggestions for improvement?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government have no such proposal, but Government will welcome from any source proposals for making the institution still more useful; but the suggestion that every two or three years there should be an examination into its working is not a proper way of doing these things.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact Sir, that the I.C.A.R., has complained rightly that its annual income of Rs. 5 lakhs is not adequate?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That is true.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government any proposal to increase its sources of income so that it can have better resources to finance these schemes?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: These matters are under the consideration of Government.

STRENGTH OF TECHNICAL STAFF-OFFICERS AND OTHERS EMPLOYED IN INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

824. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what the strength of the technical staff-officers and others separately—employed in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is?

(b) What are their qualifications and how much experience in research work has each one of them?

(c) What branches or subjects in agriculture have they specialised in?

(d) What portion of the staff is permanent and what portion temporary?

(e) Do Government propose to make the temporary Research staff permanent and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (c). A †statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

(d) and (e). According to its constitution, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is precluded from having any permanent posts under it on its Research (non-Government) side. The posts have therefore to be continued on a temporary basis, in view of the constitution.

PERIODICAL TOURING BY MEMBERS OF TECHNICAL STAFF OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

825. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether any members of the technical staff of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research are making periodical tours to examine the site, the working, or implementation of the various schemes in the Provinces and States for which grants have been given through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research? If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes. Members of the technical staff of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research undertook in all 19 tours in 1945, *33* in 1946, *17* in 1947 and 2 upto February, 1948. Government propose to consider steps to intensify the tour programme of the technical staff in the present and coming years.

AMALGAMATION OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, PUSA

826. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what is the relation between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa?

(b) Is there any proposal to amalgamate the two?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of re-organising the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on the model of the Bureau of Plant Industry in the United States of America or the Imperial Agricultural Bureau in the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The relation between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute is that the technical programme of research work undertaken by the latter and its annual report are scrutinised by the Council which is responsible for the co-ordination of agricultural research activities at the Centre as well as in the provinces and the States. The administrative control of the Institute is vested in the Ministry of Agriculture. The Director of the Institute is a member of the Council and its Advisory Board and generally the Heads of the various Divisions of the Institute take an active part in the Scientific Committees of the Council and help to scrutinize schemes financed by the Council, their programmes and reports.

(b) No.

(c) The reorganisation of the Ministry of Agriculture is now under consideration. Government do propose to consider the possibilities of further improvements based on the experience of agricultural research organisations of United States of America and United Kingdom being introduced in connection with the functioning of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister what need there is any longer for a separate Indian Agricultural Research Institute when there is already an Indian Council of Agricultural Research directly under the Government of India and maintained by it?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The functions of the two are entirely different. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is to guide, promote and co-ordinate research work in agriculture all over the country, in the Provinces and the States. It is a kind of advising, guiding and co-ordinating body. The Agricultural Research Institute located in Delhi is one of the many centres of research work in the country, and therefore the functions of the two organisations are entirely different.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that in the Indian Agricultural Institute or Pusa Institute as we call it research is being carried on in various matters, and if that is so, is there not duplication in having another Indian Council of Agricultural Research?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is no duplication. As I have explained, the functions and activities of the two are entirely different. One is a co-ordinating body, organising research at numerous centres of the country, at Universities, at the Provincial agricultural farms and so many centres. This particular Institute which is located in Delhi is one of those numerous centres and therefore the functions of the two cannot be combined.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that many of the Provincial Governments have complained that the capacity of the Pusa Institute is not large enough to take all the research scholars whom the Provincial Governments wish to send there?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware of any such specific complaint, but I can thoroughly understand that with the expanding need of trained staff and more research work there is bound to be need for expanding the present Institute.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: And is it not a fact that even with the present equipment, staff and laboratories and so on there is still some possibility for the increase in the number of scholars who can be trained here?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Quite possibly so. As I have said, the condition of things in India is far behind many other countries and there is need for more and more expansion of this type of activity.

†Not printed in these Debates. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed of D.*

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES AT PATNA FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES

827. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many Government quarters are there in Bihar circle for different grades of Government servants of the Posts and Telegraphs Department at the Headquarters at Patna?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India had acquired a plot of land from the Government of Bihar for the construction of quarters more than ten years ago?

(c) Is it a fact that about 10 years ago, Government had a scheme to allot the lands acquired for quarters to the employees on equitable basis and advance loans also to them for the construction of buildings?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government of India dropped this scheme and surrendered the lands so acquired to the Government of Bihar?

(e) Do Government propose to re-acquire these lands and allot them to their employees and advance loans for construction of houses?

(f) Is there any other scheme with the Government for providing quarters to the clerical staff at Patna and if so, what is the reason for the delay in the execution of such schemes?

(g) Is it a fact that the existing clerical quarters are not electrified?

(h) If the reply to part (g) above be in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take to expedite the electrification of these quarters?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) (i) For gazetted officers entitled to rent-free quarters as condition of service—5.

(ii) For non-gazetted staff entitled to rent-free quarters as condition of service—31.

(iii) For gazetted officers not entitled to rent-free quarters—7.

(iv) For non-gazetted staff not entitled to rent-free quarters—71.

(b), (c), (d) and (e). Information is not readily available. Enquiries are being made and the Honourable Member will be given the details in due course.

(f) Yes, the Postmaster-General has been negotiating with the Provincial Government for allotment of a suitable plot of land but that Government have not yet been able to find any. At the instance of the Standing Finance Committee, it has been decided to curtail the programme for the construction of residential quarters.

(g) Some are electrified while others are not.

(h) An estimate for electrification of the unelectrified quarters has already been sanctioned by the Postmaster-General and the work is expected to be taken in hand soon. The Electric Supply Company are finding difficulty in getting stores for their portion of the work.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Arising out of the answer that some quarters are electrified and some are not, may I know if this is due to want of electricity, or due to the inability of the Company to supply electricity, or due to what other difficulties?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I have just said that the electrification of those quarters has already been sanctioned and work is to be taken in hand soon. The difficulty is that the Company is encountering difficulty in obtaining the stores required, but every attempt is being made to expedite it.

COMPENSATION TO GOVERNMENT OF EASTERN PAKISTAN FOR USE AND MAINTENANCE OF TELEGRAPH WIRES AND CABLES

828. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Indian Dominion has to pay to the Government of Eastern Pakistan a huge sum of money per diem as compensation for the use and maintenance of telegraph wires and cables now under the jurisdiction of Eastern Pakistan?

(b) Is it a fact that the Indian Dominion decided to construct a telegraph line of its own between Gauhati and Patna to avoid this recurring expenditure?

(c) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what is the actual amount of compensation per day agreed upon?

(d) Is it a fact that the construction of the said line has been completed and is fit for operation? If so, why has it not been brought under operation?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (c). The Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department has rented upto 31st March, 1948, circuits between Calcutta and Gauhati from Pakistan for carrying telegraph and telephone traffic. For traffic sent by other routes transit charges are paid for each telegram and trunk call according to international practice. Information about total amounts due has not yet become available. A statement is laid on the table of the House showing the details of the payments that are required to be made.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(d) The line has been brought into operation and it is now carrying most of the traffic. Additional carrier circuits are being provided between Patna and Calcutta to carry the remaining traffic. This work is expected to be completed by the end of March, 1948.

Statement

Showing payment that have to be made by India to Pakistan for the transmission of Telegrams and Telephone trunk calls by circuits owned by the latter.

1 Approximate rent for telegraph and telephone circuits on the Calcutta-Gauhati Route for the period 1-12-47 to 31-3-48. . . . . Rs. 52,000

2 Transit charges in telegrams transitted by other routes :—

Other than Press —

	EXPESS Rs.	A.	P.	ORDINARY Rs.	A.	P.
For the first 8 words	1	2	0	0	9	0
Each Additional word	0	2	0	0	1	6
Press—						
For the first 40 words	1	0	0	0	8	0
Each additional 4 words	0	2	0	0	1	0

Trainsit charges on ordinary telephone trunk calls for a unit period of 3 minutes transitted by other routes ,—

			Rs.	A.	P.
By the route	Darsana	—Lalmonirhat	2	6	0
Do.	,,	—Karimganj	3	0	0
Do.	,,	—Agartala	2	2	0
Do.	,,	—Haldbari	2	8	0
Do.	Lalmirhat	—Haldibari	0	12	0

			Rs.	A.	P.
By the route	Bholaganj	—Karimgane	0	12	0
Do.	Lalmonirhat	—Agartala	2	6	0
Do.	Haldibari	— Karimganj	3	0	0
Do.		—„Agartala	2	14	0
Do.	Karimganj	—Agartala	1	8	0
Do.	Lalmonirhat	—Saidpur	1	2	0

These charges are correspondingly increased or decreased according as the call is urgent at half rate or one-third rate. A surcharge of 40 per cent is levied in addition.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government, Sir, demand a similar payment from the Pakistan Government for their use of our telegraph wires between East and West Pakistan?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That is true.

OPENING OF PUBLIC TELEPHONE CALL OFFICE AT SONEPUR RAILWAY STATION

829. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a cable junction near the Sonepur Railway Junction on the Oudh Tirhut Railway on the other side of the Ganga?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to open a Government public Telephone Call Office on the Sonepur Railway Station premises, to avoid inconvenience to the public?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is being examined.

REBATE BY PETROL COMPANIES FOR PETROL PURCHASES ON GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT

†**830. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to refer to the answer given to my starred question No. 151 asked on 7th February, 1948, and state whether it is a fact that a rebate of annas two per gallon, is allowed to petrol dealers by the petrol companies?

(b) What rebate, allowance or commission is allowed by the company to Government for petrol purchased on Government account?

(c) What is the period of long term agreement with the B.O.C. or other Oil Companies?

(d) Is there any concession in price in the long term agreement?

(e) What is the price per gallon of petrol purchased by Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The amount of annas two per gallon represents the commission paid by oil companies to their dealers for their services. It is not a rebate.

(b) In the case of petrol supplied to Government from pumps the companies charge the same price as to the public. In regard to petrol supplied to Government F.O.R. Main Ports and ex-upcountry depots a rebate is allowed by the companies to allow for economy secured by bulk purchase.

(c) The agreements with the B.O.C. and other oil companies are for an indefinite period.

(d) As stated in reply to (b) above, Government receive a certain rebate in price for supplies F.O.R. Main Ports and ex-upcountry depots.

(e) The prices are less than the market prices; publication of the actual prices may prejudice future contracts.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF LOWEST TENDERS FOR SUPPLY OF PAINTS

†**831. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to refer to the answer to the supplementary question raised on my starred question No. 546 asked on the 2nd March, 1948, and state if the prices quoted by Messrs. Murarka Paint and Varnish Works Ltd., and Messrs. East India Paint & Chemical Works Ltd., both of Calcutta, were not the lowest, why the lowest tender was not accepted?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The prices quoted by Messrs. Murarka Paint and Varnish Works Limited, and Messrs. East India Paint and Chemical Works Limited, both of Calcutta, were not the lowest. The lowest tender was not accepted on account of an adverse confidential report. The matter is now under investigation.

CONSTRUCTION OF AN OVERBRIDGE AT LEVEL CROSSING NEAR CUDDALORE NEW TOWN RAILWAY STATION ON S. I. RAILWAY

‡**832. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government propose to construct an overbridge at the level crossing near the Cuddalore New Town Railway Station on the South Indian Railway?

(b) Are Government aware that vehicles have often to stop for more than ¾ of an hour between 10-30 A. M. and 11-30 A. M. at this railway crossing owing to the lack of an alternate route?

(c) Have any representations been made by the public of Cuddalore New Town regarding this?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No.

(b) No, the maximum period of closure of level crossing against road traffic for train operation is only about ten minutes at a time.

(c) Yes, representations have been received. An overbridge at the site of the level crossing is not considered essential; at any rate, its provision at the cost of Railway is not justified.

REDUCTION IN PRICES OF LEAD AND TIN

‡**833. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the present prices of lead and tin per ton in India?

(b) Wherefrom do Government buy these commodities and why are the prices 60 per cent. above the world level?

(c) Are Government aware that many small industries are unable to compete with the foreign manufacturers in our own markets due to the high prices of these commodities?

(d) Have there been any negotiations with the countries which supply these commodities to get the prices reduced?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The current Indian market quotation for lead is Rs. 1,320 per ton. Government issue rate for tin is Rs. 8,340 per ton.

(b) Government buys lead from the local Indian Market and from foreign suppliers, and tin from Malaya, Belgium, Siam and China. Indian prices are comparable with world prices and are not 60 per cent. above the world price level.

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

(d) No, Sir. India buys these commodities at international rates.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.
‡Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

PROGRESS MADE IN THE FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION

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

(a) what progress, if any, has so far been made in the Five Year plan to increase the food production laid down by the then Minister of Food in the month of January, 1947; and

(b) whether the whole or any part of the cereal deficit of 4·5 million tons has been made up?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Five years plan to increase food production aimed at an additional annual production of about 32 lakh tons. A target of nine lakh tons of additional foodgrains had been planned for 1947-48 for all provinces except East Punjab and West Bengal. The agricultural year commenced in June, 1947 and will not be completed till June, 1948 whereafter the provincial reports on the various schemes to be executed may give an accurate idea as to the extent of progress achieved. It can, however, be stated generally that considering the difficult position of supplies required for carrying out most of the schemes, namely steel, iron, coal, machinery, manures the results for the current year are not likely to be upto original expectations

(b) What proportion of the cereal deficit is wiped off as a result of the various schemes taken up in the provinces will be known when the provincial governments' reports are received after June, 1948. The cereal deficit of 4·5 million tons has been calculated on the theoretic basis of 16 ounces per head for producers and 12 ounces per head for the rest of the population.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that this plan was prepared without any relation to the price level that is to be maintained to induce peasants to grow more and more food crops?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the policy or the programme of the Government, Sir, to develop their food production plan without assuring the peasants remunerative price level?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter would require very careful consideration.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AUTHENTICATED SCHEDULES OF AUTHORISED EXPENDITURES—RAILWAYS

(i) *Supplementary Expenditure from 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948.*

(ii) *Expenditure for 1948-49.*

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): I beg to lay on the table, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 35 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947—

(i) an authenticated schedule of authorised supplementary expenditure for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948 in respect of the Indian Government Railways;

(ii) an authenticated schedule of authorised expenditure for the year 1948-49 in respect of the Indian Government Railways.

In pursuance of the provisions of Section 36 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) order, 1947 read with Sub-Section (1) of Section 35 thereof I, Louis Francis Albert Victor Nicholas Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Governor General of India do hereby authenticate by my signature the following schedule of authorised supplementary expenditure for the period from the 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948 namely:—

SCHEDULE

(Amount in thousands of rupees)

Heads of Expenditure	Supplementary sum required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenue	Supplementary grant made by the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative)	Total
Interest charges	16,58	...	16,58
14-A.—Withdrawal from Reserve	...	2,53,67	2,53,67

MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA,
Governor General of India

NEW DELHI;
The 29th February, 1948

In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (1) of Section 35 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947, I, Louis Francis Albert Victor Nicholas Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Governor-General of India, do hereby authenticate by my signature the following schedule of expenditure from the revenues of the Dominion in respect of the Indian Government Railways for the year 1948-49, namely :—

SCHEDULE

Heads of expenditure	Amount (in thousands of Rupees) Voted	Charged	Total
1. Railway Board—Revenue.	32,25	..	32,25
2. Audit—Revenue	17,84	..	17,84
3. Miscellaneous Expenditure Revenue	42,00	..	42,00
4. Working Expenses—Administration—Revenue	18,98,43	..	18,98,43
5. Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance—Revenue.	41,94,44	..	41,94,44
6. Working Expenses—Operating Staff—Revenue	25,29,13	..	25,20,13
7. Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)—Revenue	20,77,78	..	20,77,78
8. Working Expenses—Operation other than Staff and Fuel—Revenue.	7,93,87	..	7,93,87
9. Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses—Revenue.	32,30,37	..	32,30,37
10. Payments to Indian States and Companies—Revenue.	1,52,99	..	1,52,99
11. Working Expenses—Appropriation to Depreciation Fund—Revenue.	11,18,41	..	11,18,41
13. Appropriation to Betterment Fund—Revenue	83,62	..	83,62
14. Appropriation to Reserve—Revenue	4,50,00	..	4,50,00
15. Construction of New Lines—Capital and Depreciation Fund.	3,32,00	..	3,32,00
16. Open Line Works—Additions—Capital and Betterment Fund.	19,12,00	..	19,12,00
17. Open Line Works—Replacements—Capital Betterment Fund and Depreciation Fund.	30,65,80	..	30,65,80
18. Capital Outlay on Vizagapatam Port	19,30	..	19,30
Interest Charges	..	22,52,81	22,52,81

NEW DELHI;
The 29th February, 1948.

MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA,
Governor General of India.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the first day of April, 1948, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri K. Santhanam, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, Mr. Hussain Imam, Shri Bikramlal Sondhi, Shri Khurshed Lal, Shri Biswanath Das, Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Mr. R. K. Sidhva, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before the 22nd March, 1948, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the first day of April, 1948, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri K. Santhanam, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, Mr. Hussain Imam, Shri Bikramlal Sondhi, Shri Khurshed Lal, Shri Biswanath Das, Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Mr. R. K. Sidhva, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before the 22nd March, 1948, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

With reference to this motion, I must state to the House that I am allotting two days, today and tomorrow; and at 5 P.M. tomorrow, I shall put the motion to the vote of the House. I propose to call upon the Finance Minister to reply at 4 O'clock tomorrow. Will that suit him, or will he require more time?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That will depend upon the nature of the discussion. Probably I will not require the whole of the one hour, but I will let you know tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: As regards the time limit on speeches, I find that there is a very formidable list that has been handed over to me. So I propose to allot ten minutes to each speaker. In exceptional cases I may extend it to 15 minutes, but under no circumstances for a period of time beyond 15 minutes.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Ten minutes is no use.

Mr. Speaker: Then members should not have a desire to speak so much.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): I want this to be an exception to the general rule that in general discussions on Bills there ought to be no time limit. I do not want this to be a precedent with respect to any other Bill inasmuch as a large number of members are here, because whatever you say, Sir, becomes a precedent.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): May I say that I entirely concur with Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. I think the discussion should not be limited. We may be sure that members will be reasonable in speaking on the motion, but it is quite possible that a large number of speakers may not be able to take part in the debate. That is one of the ordinary incidents of a debate. I think it is better to allow a member to speak at some length on such a motion if he has anything to say rather than try to increase the number of speakers by limiting the time allotted to each member.

Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): The task is much more easy. There are two occasions on which Honourable Members can speak on the Finance Bill, one at the time when it is being referred to the Select Committee and the other when it comes back from the Select Committee. This is a self-denying ordinance, so that those who will speak now will not speak at the latter stage. Thus, we have ample time and ample number of speakers too. It is for the House to exercise either of the two choices.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): The practice in this House has been that on this Bill Members are allowed to speak on any matter which touches the Departments under the control of the Government of India. The question of relevancy did not arise so far as the Finance Bill is concerned because the whole Government was under review. There was no time limit. I do not know whether you, Sir, or the House want to set a new procedure

under the new set-up. I find that the rules have been amended and you have taken power to put a time-limit on speeches. Generally in this House so far there has been no time limit set on Bills. Apart from the general rule, I am confining my remarks only to the discussion on the Finance Bill. Here we had the greatest latitude so far as speaking on this Bill is concerned, under the well known principle that grievances have to come before supplies. This is a supply Bill and we should be allowed to ventilate all our grievances.

I do not know at what stage you are going to allow free discussion, at this stage or at the next stage, but here you have already set a time-limit of two days. Therefore, the old practice is not being followed. I should very much urge that the old practice should continue in spite of the fact that we have our own Government now; today the Congress is in office, tomorrow some other part may be there. This opportunity that we enjoyed of discussing the whole administration should be allowed to continue; that is my submission.

Mr. Speaker: I see two different points, but practically covering the same ground, have been raised. I entirely concur that so far as legislation goes, there should be absolutely no time-limit: the restriction on debate should only be avoidance of irrelevancy and repetition. I entirely concur in that view. But I prescribed the time limit from another point of view. Even in this Bill, I would not insist upon what I have said and would leave it entirely to the Honourable Members to take their own time. I have always, as the Honourable Members know, insisted that speeches should be thorough, studied and the debate should be judged not from the number of speeches, but from the quality of speeches made. I have always, so far as I am concerned, tried to set myself against the idea of limiting speeches to ten minutes and 15 minutes, but I have found that the House itself desires that a large number of their members should be permitted to speak, and the only alternative is therefore to accept the time-limit. Even when time-limit was placed—I do not know whether Honourable Members noticed it—during discussions on demands for grants, 10 and 15 minutes were prescribed, I have allowed the Honourable Members to go to the length of 25 minutes, when I found that a particular good point was being made by a member. So, that explains my attitude towards the character of the debate which I would like to encourage. I do not wish to set any precedent which will mean that Honourable Members will not get any opportunity of fully stating before the House, what they feel.

Then, under the new rule referred to by Mr. Ishaq Seth, the President is given the power to prescribe a time limit throughout the various stages of the financial proposals. This time, we tried to introduce a new experiment and what I am saying today is also a part of the experiment; it need not necessarily be treated as a final and fixed precedent for future guidance. Up to now, Honourable Members know that we used to discuss demands for grants and the cut motions, not in respect of each of the departments of Government; but some concrete cut motions in respect of certain departments used to be taken up. That aspect is also important to remember because, in place of the usual five or six days, eight days have been allotted this time to enable the House to cover all the departments. As to whether that experiment has been satisfactory or otherwise is a different matter; personally I should be inclined to think that it has not been very satisfactory. But that is a matter of individual opinion. Honourable Members are now getting two days and they will be getting two days more. That means that, for the whole of the budget there have been two days for general discussion, eight days for demands for grants and cut motions, two days for this stage of the Bill and two further days when the Bill comes back from the Select Committee. That, in all, makes 14 days which is a sufficiently long time. During all these 14 days the administration has been under examination and criticism in one form or another. I can still imagine that there may be some points left out which have not been covered by discussion during the last ten days. Considered from this point of view, the

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question of relevancy in the scope of discussion raised by Mr. Ishaq Seth also requires some little consideration by the House. We have criticised each and every department and if we do not wish to have a repetition of the points urged or of what has been stated, naturally the scope of the discussion here will have to be restricted and the discussion will be more on the particular issues raised by the Bill rather than on the general administration. I am not going to rule that any criticism on the general administration will be irrelevant, but I am afraid it is more likely to be repetition of what has been stated during the last eight days. I myself cannot claim to remember all that the Honourable Members have said in the last eight days; it will be very difficult for me to say that something is a repetition though I may remember certain points. But that limitation has to be placed and therefore I said that Honourable Members will do well to focus attention on the specific proposals made in this Bill rather than go on the other principle, that members have a right to criticise everything because they have a right to refuse supplies. I am merely mentioning a point of view which Honourable Members should take into consideration if the debate is to be an effective one and has to carry about it a reality. Remembering these things in mind, Honourable Members may address themselves, and if it is the desire that there should be no time limit, I have no objection.

12 NOON

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We may say that generally all members who speak should not exceed ten minutes, but I do not want it to be a rule from the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: As I said, nothing is a precedent, because we are in a new set-up. We are trying an experiment in discussing financial proposals and budgets and it will be readjusted next year, and we shall change it as occasion demands. So, instead of saying that the time limit will be ten minutes which may be extended to fifteen minutes. I shall say that Honourable Members should take good care to see that they finish their speeches in about ten minutes and may, if necessary, extend them to 15 minutes, but the Chair will not necessarily call upon them to stop, unless they are repeating something or going into irrelevant matters. I have also stated my views about relevancy, that although Honourable Members have liberty to discuss the entire administration—it was said that even the Moon can be discussed here—still they should not go to that extent of relevancy and discuss matters beyond the scope of the Bill which is before the House.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, I will request you to clear up a few points for me. The first is whether the rule prohibiting members whose names have been proposed for the Select Committee from taking part in the debate will apply to the present case also. Secondly, I submit that in the new set-up when we are a Union Dominion, every part of that Union, *i.e.* every province, should have an opportunity of ventilating its grievances. Thirdly, if you go only by the quality of the speeches many members like myself will have no opportunity of speaking. Fourthly, if you object to repetition, I will submit that hammering is in many cases necessary and it is one of the parliamentary methods of achieving success.

Mr. Speaker: With regard to repetitions I made it clear that I do not remember everything that has been said, and some repetitions are inevitable. I do not agree about hammering, but that is a different matter. As regards the convention—I will not call it rule—which I wish Honourable Members to set up that members whose names are proposed for the Select Committee should not ordinarily take the time of the House by expressing their views—the word 'ordinarily' is to be noted—so far as this Bill is concerned, I can see the force of the view that they may have something to say, not with a view to give their own views but with a view to invite criticisms on the views which they hold. But that also should be as much restricted as possible and

members should leave time for other people to give their views, which can be discussed better in the Select Committee. The Select Committee members are already there, but their abstaining from participation in the debate is not a hard and fast rule. Honourable Members will remember that, the other day in certain circumstances, I permitted Shrimati Durgabai to speak, in spite of her name being, on the Select Committee. So there is no hard and fast rule; but I would not try to encourage the "hammering".

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Is not the Honourable the Finance Minister going to make a speech?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: My speech was made when I presented the budget.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Then again, the Bill is before the House.

Mr. Speaker: He has made the proposals and the Bill is before the House.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): I consider it a rare privilege and good fortune that I should be able to participate in the debate of the first Swaraj Finance Bill. Twenty-four years ago, the Finance Minister and myself, and half a dozen of our friends who are still in this House, entered this House with the dream of Swaraj. I feel the benevolent presence of the late Vitthalbhai Patel, who smiles at us from that painting of his. Pandit Motilal Nehru is not here. He is no more in this world. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya is not here. Quaid-e-Azam Jinnah, who fought with us for Swaraj on the floor of this House has forsaken India and gone to another country under another nationality. But still my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister, with whom I took the oath in 1924 on the same day, is here to represent the spirit of the past 24 years and to take us into the new spirit of free India, where public finances will be so controlled that it is worked not with a capitalistic structure but with the idea of benefiting the teeming millions in this country.

Sir, I would characterise the Budget and the Finance Bill as to be based on a benevolent capitalistic structure. I do not say this to blame my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister. He has taken charge only six months ago and he has to face the problems and legacies of past regimes over which he had no control, nor did we, the people of India, have had any control. Under those circumstances he has brought forward a Finance Bill which carries on and provides some Rs. 150 crores of capital for heavy industries, based on a capitalistic structure of national economy. He has had no time so far to adjust the national economy, that the basis of the Finance Bill, the basis of the demands for grants, should be for the benefit of the teeming millions and not for the benefit of a few servicemen of the Government of India or the towns-people of this country.

Sir, in a few months we will pass the Sovereign Democratic Constitution, and I do hope that the second Finance Budget which my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister will introduce, will conform to the needs of the teeming millions and will be framed with an idea of social security to all, and not to preserve and continue the old traditional capitalistic structure of the public finances of India

Sir, I missed in his budget speech and in the discussions so far carried on in this House any enlightenment as to how that national economy should be attained. There was the capitalist suggestion that rupees ten thousand crores should be spent on heavy industrialization, so that the country will manufacture and produce more of its needs and the working classes, which number some 68 lakhs to-day, may be doubled or tribled. That is not the Gandhian economy, the principles of which were enunciated from Wardha,—from Sevagram. The Congress Ministries in the provinces and at the Centre have not had time to read and study them and to give effect to them. That great man

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is no more with us. We, his followers and his faithful lieutenants of Sevagram are here and it is a matter of congratulation that they have decided to form this "Sarvodaya Samaj" through which all the elements of the activities that were carried out by the followers of Gandhiji, will be carried out under the aegis of the "Sarvodaya Samaj".

The Provincial Ministries have not done much for the cottage industries. I find the new constitution that we are framing is a centralized constitution. All power is concentrated in the President of India. Why not centralize cottage industries development and mass beneficial development in the Centre also? It is no use our Ministers saying that the provinces are doing it. The provinces have done very little. In the provinces, the Congress Ministries came into power in 1936. But they have done nothing to raise the economic standard of the people, whose earning capacity though it has gone up from two annas to four annas or more is due mainly to the abnormal conditions of the second war whereby the cost of living has gone up and the standard of wages has also gone up. So that aspect should be looked upon by my friends, and I do hope that I will be alive at the next budget discussion and I do hope that my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister, will bring his comprehensive proposals, so that the budget is framed not to benefit the town dwellers but the teeming millions of the country and that the Government will fully back the activities of the "Sarvodaya Samaj".

I will leave this subject, but I must add that nothing pleased me more this morning than the press news that the Gandhi Seva Sangh will be revived. It was with the greatest sorrow that I learnt in 1936 that Gandhiji had then decided to dissolve the Gandhi Seva Sangh, as he had no faith in his disciples. The last meeting was held in Delang, District Puri in Orissa, in my province. We never thought it would be the end of the Gandhi Seva Sangh. The ideals of Gandhiji were tested during the last great war and in the end Gandhiji has triumphed and today he has passed into the Avatar. He is the eleventh Avatar of the Hindu incarnation and his ideology today is reflected and revered all over the world. I am thankful that the old faithful followers of Mahatmaji have revived the Gandhi Seva Sangh.

I wish to say one word to every member of the Ministry. I find that they have been a little impatient at the criticisms that have been made. I will quote a sentence from one great English writer, and I do hope that any criticism that may be levelled at the Finance Minister or any other Minister, they will take it that it is done with a desire to help and with a desire to lift them up from the old standard of administration to the new standard of administration which we are dreaming, feeling and sensing that India must carry on to exist as a free and great country.

The quotation is from J. B. Priestley.

"We should behave towards our country as women behave towards men they love. A loving wife will do anything for her husband except stop criticising and trying to improve him. We should cast the same affectionate but sharp glance at our country. We should love it, but also insist upon telling it all its faults. The noisy, empty 'Patriot' not the critic, is the dangerous citizen."

If we pass any criticism on our Government it is because of that love, that watchful attention and that proud love which we have for our country.

What will be the taxation structure of India? Will it be so based as to maintain the bureaucratic establishment and structure that we are having at present. I congratulate my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam for his excellent speech yesterday on Economy. Will the structure have some purpose or objective? My Honourable friend the Finance Minister has inherited the

taxation structure from his predecessor Sir George Schuster. The latter had to maintain the British rule and to that end was the taxation structure based. Though parts of the taxation structure have been softened and indirect taxation reduced, my Honourable friend has fallen into the error again and has introduced the excise duty on tea, which is nothing but an indirect tax. Milk is not available. The food of the poor man has very little nutrition in it. I take this occasion to congratulate my Honourable friend the Maharaja of Parlakimedi for the very thoughtful speech he made on this subject. Today the Finance Minister by raising the excise duty by two annas a pound on tea is taking away the poor man's little comfort. Today the poor man does not get his opium which in my childhood was selling at eight annas a tola but now it sells at rupees four a tola. A pice worth of opium is very helpful to the hard-worked tired peasant and labourer. The Englishman in his benign way used to say that Indians were opium addicts but it was the Englishman that taught this country to drink more and more liquor, so that the Bombay mill worker spends all his hard-earned money from the mills on drink and starves his wife and children at home. I do hope that the select committee will abolish the excise duty on tea. I suggest an alternative proposal. Enhance the export duty on tea.

As to coffee it is not a poor man's drink. It is comparatively a middle class drink and it is so in Madras. (Interruption). My friend Mr. Ayyangar knows his Madras well. I know in Travancore and Cochin they do not drink coffee, at any rate the poor man does not. My friend can enlighten the select committee when it meets.

I was very happy when I found that my Honourable friend has raised the excise duty on cigarettes and cigars. From 1932 to 1934 on every occasion I went on hammering for the levy of excise duty on cigarettes. Unfortunately Governor-Generals controlled tobacco factories in those days. Executive Councillors' sons and Viceroy's sons became the salaried employees of Crerars, Wills, etc. How can a British Governor-General levy an excise duty on cigarettes manufactured by Britishers in India! In congratulate my Honourable friend and I am glad I have lived to see the day when excise duty is levied on cigarettes and cigars. If the excise duty on tea is abolished whatever deficit there may be can be made up by the additional export duty on tea and an additional excise duty on cigarettes and cigars.

Luxury goods also should be taxed. My Honourable friend has not touched them. Through the Hydari Mission in 1945 we imported 60 crores worth of luxury goods and the Government of India was committed to the import of 200 crores worth of luxury goods from the U. K. It is high time that my Honourable friend stops the infiltration of luxury goods into India and doubles the import duty that there is at present.

I welcome the reference of the Finance Bill to Select Committee. I wish my Honourable friend the Finance Minister had accepted my suggestion in the November session that the House should have an Estimates Committee. If not, let the whole House go into select committee when the demands for grants are presented. Now nobody discussed the demands for grants, we discussed only the policy. There are many items of expenditure which if closely examined, item by item and sub-head by sub-head, will never have been allowed by members of this House. I hope the Finance Minister and the Select Committee will examine the question whether when the next Budget is presented, as soon as the general discussion is over the House should go into a Committee, if an Estimates Committee cannot be appointed in line with the

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British practice. Thereby the demands for grants will be better controlled as also the general finance will be better controlled.

I congratulate the Finance Minister for what he said last evening on stricter control of finances. He is trying to revise the method of work of the Finance Department for stricter financial control. Our criticism or observations are not directed against any Minister but are meant with the object of assisting them with our limited knowledge and understanding. Let my Honourable friend take his own time and consider whether the next year's budget including the railway budget cannot be examined by an estimates committee. If it cannot be done, then the House should resolve itself into a committee and examine the demands for grants just as the House sits in select committee on the Finance Bill.

I again congratulate my Honourable friend that it has been his rare good fortune today to introduce the first Finance Bill of Free India. I hope he will bring his next Finance Bill and Budget more into line with the spirit of what the teeming millions of India require and not continue the old capitalistic structure of the Government.

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regret I was unable to be present in this House on the occasion of the general debate of the Budget, owing to a sudden mishap to my eyes which are none too strong even ordinarily. Even now I am not allowed by doctor's orders to read or write though I fear I cannot describe myself as a model patient who will be strictly obedient to the doctor's orders. I would also crave your indulgence for submitting that I have not claimed the indulgence of the House or inflicted myself upon it too often; so that if, today, in availing myself of this opportunity I do trespass, ever so slightly, on the time-limit you have been pleased to indicate, I trust I shall have your indulgence and that of the House extended to me.

Sir, without further preamble I would like to assure the House that I mean to take up only what seem to me to be the three most important issues that are involved in the Budget and the Finance Bill based upon it—I mean the constitutional aspect of budgetting, the problem of public economy, and the prospects of social reconstruction that I hope will be evolved out of the Budget provisions we are making now and may make hereafter.

As regards the constitutional procedure, Sir, a good deal was said in the discussion that preceded the opening of this debate a few minutes ago. I do not wish to go over the same ground as far as I can help it. But I would like the attention of your good self and the House to be drawn to certain facts regarding the conditions under which we have to work, the procedure by which we work, and the objectives we wish to attain by means of the discussion of the Budget and of the Finance Bill based thereon

Sir, as regards the conditions under which we work, I would like to point out that though we are now in Free India with the elimination of foreign rule and the Imperialist exploitation, we do not seem yet to have changed the outlook or opinion or mould of thought of those who have the administrative reins of our country in their hands. The other day, Sir, a strong complaint was made by my Honourable friend Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena regarding the utterly unchanged attitude of the secretariat and particularly the most distinguished members of it like the old stalwarts of the Indian Civil Service. In the past they were neither Indian, nor civil, nor had service. Also, it is said they are now Indian and they are generally civil. But I wonder whether they have still acquired the outlook of a public servant that should be expected in a free country governed for the people, by the people and through the people.

Sir, even if one does not underline and endorse every statement made by my Honourable friend Mr. Saksena I do feel that the conditions, the general traditions, which have prevailed in the past when this country was governed for the benefit of another, still seem to continue, as is illustrated by the present discussion. May I point out that though we are technically supposed to have received, and are in exercise of, full responsibility—that is to say, it is this House which now passes the entire Budget; there are no non-voted items—we still have the same restriction and the same difficulty of time-limit that was prescribed in the past. Our numbers have increased; our responsibilities have increased; and yet the period—may I say the opportunity—allowed for putting forward the views and the outlook of the people for whom this Government is functioning, is denied. We may not be all as competent, all as well-informed, all as efficient as the officers of the Finance Department. I admit that we may not have their insight, their detailed knowledge, and may not possess the data on which the figures or the proposals are based. But I think that even the Finance Department with all its wisdom and with all its information needs to have a new outlook which is the outlook of the people, that the Finance Minister with all his consummate capacity may not be able alone to provide.

It is said that the main difference between the products of the Cambridge and the Oxford Universities is that while the Oxford man goes about believing that the entire world belongs to himself, the Cambridge man does not care a hang as to whom the world belongs. Here we have, if I am not mistaken, two brilliant and illustrious specimens of those two ancient foundations—the Honourable Minister for Railways and the Honourable Minister for Finance. I hope I am not exactly saying it in a respective order but I am saying it in the most respectful sense. Certainly the Honourable the Finance Minister appears to me the most consummate and the most illustrious example of the alumnus of that home, the obstinate home, of lost causes which is represented in individualistic economy and capitalistic enterprise. As such I fear I would not perhaps be able to fully appreciate, and congratulate him on, all the proposals that are embodied in this Bill.

The procedure also that the Finance Minister was pleased to lay yesterday with regard to the discussion, preparation and presentation of this Budget was, if I may say so in all respect, more designed from the point of view of the Minister's convenience and the Minister's control rather than of the association of this House, the association of the chosen representatives of the people, in the consideration and passing of the Budget. I repeat we may not have all the cleverness, all the information and all the knowledge that the Finance Minister may have, but we would like most respectfully to bring it to his notice that after all the guardian of public economy and the trustee of public purse is this House and it is this House and the representatives of the people here who should have a fuller say, I submit a greater opportunity, for discussing, for analysing the proposals and for bringing their own sentiments even if they are not quite relevant or quite well-informed as those of others. As such may I appeal to you, Sir, to pass it on to the powers that be that the procedure for the time allotted—I am not talking of the time allotted to me but to the whole House—for discussing the Budget running into Rs. 250 crores and more, should be much more than is vouchsafed to us. I do not see why this House should not imitate, under the most imitative guidance of the Finance Minister, the practice of the House of Commons in this regard which, I think, is allowed a much longer time for discussing the Budget than the present conditions in this House permit. I have already said that I have no desire to repeat myself on an issue like this. It has been placed before you by other Members and you yourself, Sir, have been pleased to show your own appreciation of the points submitted to you. I trust therefore that this appeal will not be utterly unattended to.

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I pass on to the second point on which I wish to address my remarks to the House hereafter. That relates to the problem of public economy. Will you bear with me, Sir, if I say that economy does not consist merely in *ad hoc* retrenchment or *ad hoc* cuts in expenditure? I regret I have not been able to read the Budget carefully. I believe that the Finance Minister has been pleased to include an *ad hoc* cut of Rs. 2½ crores which I think amounts to one per cent of the total expenditure included. Such *ad hoc* cuts, I submit in all respect, are not really what we mean by public economy, what we mean by real economy in the public expenditure or the revenues collected to meet that expenditure. Economy if it is to be real must be, as the Honourable the Finance Minister himself was pleased to state, in encouraging wise expenditure and not in curtailing or reducing it just blindly or indiscriminately as such an *ad hoc* cut would suggest. In fact, if it was not improper to say so, it seems to be a bridle to the House to silence criticism and just to earn bouquets for himself by saying ' I have also made some economy in public expenditure'.

The economy which I would ask for is not confined to mere retrenchment by cutting out the posts of a few poor clerks here and there and at the same time recruiting some much more highly paid officers whose hours of work and terms of duty and other conditions of service are almost unknown to us. Sir, I also am aware that a Retrenchment Committee has been appointed and the Honourable the Finance Minister was yesterday pleased to say that he has found the best available people to staff such a committee. I agree with him. I have no quarrel with the personnel: but here again I would point out in all humility that the true purpose of such a committee as a mark of public economy is to associate this House rather than outside official experts or advisers. A committee of this House may not be possessed of all the knowledge and information that is necessary for wisely retrenching and efficiently carrying on public administration: but even then, in view of the constitutional position that we occupy, in view of the responsibility as guardians of the public purse and trustees of public expenditure that we carry, we should have prior rights to be associated with such a body rather than these official experts who should be assessors, should be our guides, and supply to us all data and information, and not dictate to us the economies that they think it proper to make. I submit, Sir, that the view point of the ordinary official is not the same as the view point which ought to commend itself to this House, and as such we should not be handicapped as I am afraid we would be by being presented with a report of the so-called experts which Government will first consider and, if they so please, place before this House or indirectly include in their budget proposals next year. I submit in all respect that the true purpose of retrenchment would mean that this country should have not merely nominal theoretical freedom from foreign exploitation, but true government of the people, for the people and through the people, as has been the ideal of true democracy all over the world. If this country is to be governed by a brown bureaucracy in place of the white bureaucracy which governed us so far, then I would have no quarrel with this kind of attitude, but if this country is to be truly governed in the real democratic spirit, then I submit that however expensive it may be, its chosen representatives are the first, and I submit the only people who should be in a position to say where and how and why cuts in expenditure or increases in expenditure shall be made, and no one else. These others may advise, may guide and may help, but they are not the people who should dictate to us what economy and what retrenchment shall be made.

Lastly, Sir, I would offer a few observations on what I consider to be the prospects of social reconstruction as apparent with great difficulty in the proposals of the present budget and the Finance Bill. I have been hoping

for a new age, I have been hoping for a new order once the incubus of foreign domination and imperialist exploitation had been removed from this country. I am afraid those of us who joined in such a hope must feel a sad disappointment. We are aware, Sir, that there have been great difficulties, unexpected emergencies, and all the energies and enthusiasm of the governing authority have been taxed to the fullest to meet those emergencies. But while one makes full allowance for this, while one is fully sensible of the difficulties of government, one seeks in vain in this budget—at least I speak for myself in this instance—for any symptom or sign of a new outlook, of a new intention, to rebuild, from the very foundation if necessary, the social system and the public order in this country. I suggest that it is high time that we shed traditional views and old-fashioned ideas, and begin to have some more trust and confidence, some more faith in the future of our people.

I have not much time to refer to many items which were mentioned yesterday and are included also in the budget, with regard, for instance, to our membership of the sterling area, with regard, for instance, to our problem of the sterling balances on which some observations were made by the Honourable the Finance Minister yesterday and with which I very much regret to say I cannot find myself in full agreement. Our membership of the sterling area, our problem of the sterling balances, is suggested by him to be necessary at least for the time being, if not otherwise, at least in our own interests. I regret I am not able to see that the interest of this country lies in being continually tied down to the apron strings of a foreign authority which has been removed, I am glad, from this country, at least in name. What is the threat that is held out to us? What is the idea that is suggested, for example, in opposition to the suggestion made in this House that we might freeze or take over the capital assets of the British? The House was told yesterday that we want to import capital goods. Of course we do, but do we want to import that against these sterling balances? Are we allowed anything from these sterling balances of the size that we require for the import of capital goods received to reconstruct our national economy and expand industrial enterprise in this country? I cannot see any sign of that. If we are to take over and nationalize so and so, and utilise them for the payment of the imports that we need, then I could have understood, but by simply saying that we need capital goods and imply as though we cannot take over British goods, I cannot understand the logic of it unless it be that we must not take any step that would alienate the goodwill and sympathy of the British.

Well, Sir, we have had sufficient experience of the nature and character of this goodwill. I for one have had the misfortune of studying the past perhaps over a century and a half of the British connection with this country, especially in its financial aspect, in some detail, with some minuteness. Some members of this House perhaps will remember the occasion when the Congress appointed a Select Committee on the foreign delegation of this country in 1931. I had the honour to be one of the members of that committee and I recall the report that we had made, which obtained so much importance that I am free now to say that the English authorities were themselves willing to say (I am speaking of 1931) that if only the Indian people did not insist upon going to an international tribunal for settling these dues, the British Government of that time would take over the sterling debt then owed to India and leave India to meet her rupee debt. The British Government had taken the hint from the growing consciousness of the injustice done to the Indian people those days and they have therefore taken every precaution to say that all the sterling debt of the Government of India has been either paid off or repatriated, as they call it, and now we the creditors are told, and by our own Finance Minister, that the conditions in the world are so changed that the creditor must go to the debtor and that the debtor must not come to the creditor.

[Prof. K. T. Shah]

If that is the condition, then I would rather wipe off those credits than agree to making a settlement, which is a clear and dead loss to this country, even without self-respect being secured or safeguarded in our interests. It is much better to face this dead loss, and call it a loss, also call it the bankruptcy of the British Government, than to say we shall agree to any compromise which is indistinguishable from rank national insolvency on the part of the British Government. There can be no suggestion therefore of any financial settlement with the British Government on any basis other than either full payment or complete acknowledgment of absolute insolvency so that from the other markets of the world also the British should be excluded so long as they do not pay their dues. Unless I see it is founded on some such basis, I for one would not be a willing party to any such settlement.

I know that the British are unable to pay; I know it fully well. But is that a reason why we should shut our eyes and agree to any settlement that would be foisted upon us after having robbed and looted us for 150 years? Is it any reason why we should forget that even for suppressing the so-called Mutiny they charged us for the troops they sent to this country, and made a beginning of the Public Debt of this country for getting this country enslaved for 90 and odd years thereafter? Is it any reason that we should forget that in all the wars outside the Empire that we fought for them—wars in Africa, wars in China, wars inside Europe and outside Europe—we carried our own burden, and yet we should now be told, for the hard goods and services which we sold to them in their hour of need, at controlled prices, at specially low prices which a Parliamentary Committee itself said was low as compared to the prices which we ourselves paid, that "Because our condition being what it is, you should agree to a scaling down or reduction"?

I do not think it is the intention of the Honourable the Finance Minister to agree to any such arrangement which may be proposed on such lines as these. Even if we are deferring payment, we should accept postponement rather than an agreement which would amount to a scaling down. But lest I should be misunderstood in any way, I would repeat that rather than any such humiliating and injurious agreement we would face straightaway a complete loss of this and assume in fact, as we have got in name, a true independence and begin to test our own credit in foreign markets rather than be tied down to the apronstrings for all eternity of the British Empire. Our credit in foreign markets is still high. We have never approached directly the world market to see what strength we have, what belief we have in the potentiality of the enormous resources we claim to possess. Sir, in this connection let me also add a note of warning that our going to the foreign market for demanding credit from abroad would also be very much conditioned according to the faith which we have in our own potentialities. When you pass such Bills as the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill and offer to your own investors a guarantee not only of the repayment of principal and interest but also a premium on being acquired, then the world would be justified in demanding whether you have any faith in your own credit, in your own country, with your own investor, sufficient to demand from the world reasonable terms for advancing to you the wherewithal with which to rebuild your national economy. I say, Sir, these are conditions which give me no hope of reasonable prospects of social reconstruction and I trust the advent of the free, independent India, of which we have all been so proud, will not be marred by a period, short or long, of a new tyranny, a new oppression, new unemployment, new distress which I fear is threatening in many quarters if we do not take heed in time.

I have done, Sir, and once more I express to you my thanks for your indulgence.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to certain matters which I think are essential for the development and progress of Free India. Before doing so, I should like to say that the country and the House are fully aware and fully appreciate the tremendous ordeal that our national leaders have had to face ever since they have taken over the reins of office. I do not think that there is any desire to minimise or to belittle the difficulties they have had to face. Even if power had come, in what would have been normal times or normal circumstances, we would have had to build almost from scratch and the implementation of schemes of nation-building to banish poverty, want, ignorance and ill-health would have been a task in itself of a herculean nature. Therefore, Sir, when I make a few remarks it is with a full understanding and realisation of the difficulties that the Government have to face.

I should, first of all, like to call attention to one factor which I think we should all recognize today: a balanced Budget does not necessarily mean a good Budget. I think those days are over when economists considered it to be so. Some of the orthodox financial theories have been exploded due to the trend of world events. Studying the 1st budget of Free India we see on the one side the tremendous emergency expenditure on Defence and on the refugee rehabilitation, and then find that inspite of this, Expenditure over Income is not so disproportionate, I do not think that this in itself is a matter for congratulation. If we analyse the matter more fully, we find that it is done at the cost of the most basic of nation-building services—at the cost of education, of health, of rural and agricultural development. It may be said that Health and Education are Provincial subjects, but I do not think that we can dismiss these matters so very easily and so very lightly. The other day the Honourable the Education Minister pointed out in this House how low was the proportion of expenditure on Education provided for in the Budget and he said it was ·04 per cent. It is the same in the case of Health and I am sure the Honourable the Minister of Health would bear me out, when I say that amount provided in the budget in health is totally inadequate to the needs. Yesterday the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture gave us very telling figures in regard to agricultural development, how apart from agricultural countries even countries which were not mainly agricultural spent far more in proportion on this item than did India even now. I would like to illustrate from Education, about which I have greater knowledge. The Sargent Scheme of Education which has, in its essentialities been accepted by the last Education Conference in January did envisage that half at least of the money expended should be met from the Centre. That Scheme was drawn up by its authors under different circumstances and we naturally thought at that time that it might take 40 years to implement it in its entirety. But now we have a National State and there is no reason why we should not cut down that period to a considerable degree. But how can we even start doing so if in this first Budget, adequate provision is not made towards this service?

Even if we take any one aspect, say basic education, adult education or technical education, it all hinges during the first five years on the training of teachers and having an adequate number of training centres for teachers and the pay and status of teachers. I know that Provincial Governments are making some efforts towards this, but unless they get considerably more help from the Centre I do not think they can deal adequately with the matter.

I do feel that in the long run the money that is expended on these essential services—even if it means a Budget which is to a large extent uncovered—will in the long run more than pay itself not only in terms of human welfare but even in the narrower connotation of money itself. The other day the Honourable the Prime Minister in this House stated that today production must be our main

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concern. We also have development schemes before us; how can we really implement them successfully until we have the trained personnel? And where are we to get the trained personnel if we do not make a proper move towards the expansion of health and education on a widespread basis.

Sir, I have not very much more time at my disposal. So I shall turn to another aspect, namely, the question of the economic policy of the Government. I welcome the statement made a month or so ago by the Honourable the Prime Minister that Government would soon announce their industrial policy. We do believe that we have to be practical realists and that we cannot have full speed nationalisation at the moment and that the question of production is by far the most important one to consider. Even if we want to have an equitable distribution so that a minimum of welfare is given to every man we have to first increase the national dividend. I feel and there are many in this country who feel that the lack of a well defined and clear-cut economic policy has led to what, in common parlance, may be called "a swing over to the right" in recent months. I will be more specific, Sir. I shall give a few examples both in regard to legislation and other more intangible things.

First of all, Sir, we have passed the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill. This corporation subsidises industrial development through private enterprise. At the present stage of our development, that is necessary enough, but I can see no reason why the Government should have had to share the most effective power—financial power—with the capitalists in this matter. This point has been discussed in the past at great length in the House; so I shall not dilate on it but I think it is wholly undesirable. Then, Sir, what is a new venture, or almost tantamount to one, is the question of compulsory third-party insurance. I do not see, Sir, why the profits of this should have been left for the Insurance Magnates to reap and why it should not have been taken up as venture by the State so that the profits might have accrued to the benefit of the country. Again, the question of the Shipping Corporation which is going to be set up is exercising the minds of many. I hope, Sir, in regard to that the Government will keep complete control and will not share this power with the business interests concerned.

Sir, to turn to a different aspect, a more intangible thing, a good deal of emphasis has been laid on the deflections of labour which has been held as the cause of the falling standards of production. Sir, I will not deny that there are disruptive influences at work, whose interests are not in this country and who do not really care for the welfare of the labourer or the common man but only for their own ideology. Granted this, Sir, inspite of it, when we look around are we not aware that the conditions of labour are still so bad that it is really not possible to expect that the working class should be a responsible and responsive one, that it is not possible for them even to understand what their duties are, unless we give them much greater amenities? When we turn to the other side, we find that equal emphasis is not laid on the duties of the employer or the capitalist. Here, the question of profit comes uppermost. Why should it be, Sir, that this element of the population who have—at least, I should think, they have—a modicum of education, who have not to think of their daily bread, why should they merely think in terms of profits? Why should they not co-operate in the joint endeavour to increase production in this country from a national point of view? Sir, I have spoken on this point before in the House and I do not wish to elaborate it, but I do think that it is time that the capitalists or certain elements of them, should be made to realise that they too have a duty and a responsibility in the interests of the country.

Then, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Minister has considerably reduced the business profits tax, so that capital may not be shy and business enterprises may come forward to help in increasing production. Even so we find that there are complaints. There are some who want the whole pound of flesh. I do hope, Sir, that the Honourable the Finance Minister having brought in this relief in taxation, will get the result that he anticipated or which he announced as a reason for this measure.

Sir, before I end, there is one more point that I would like to make. In the provisions of the Finance Bill, as one of the Honourable Members has pointed out, there is the new excise duty on tea and coffee the incidence of which of course falls on the consumer. One Honourable Member suggested that tea was a poor man's drink and should be exempted but not Coffee. But I think this tea and coffee equally are consumed, these days, by the poor middle classes and the villagers also, who will feel the burden of this Tax. I think, Sir, it would have been much better if the duty had been put on alcoholic beverages instead, at least until such time as prohibition is brought in as an excise duty and also by raising the import duty on foreign liquor.

Then, Sir, in regard to foodstuffs, the import duties on all foodstuffs should, I think, be taken off, because even if there are foodstuffs such as tinned goods, chocolates and so on which meet the demands of the richer elements, it does to that extent take away the pressure on the essential foodstuffs of the common man.

I should like to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Minister for having removed the duty on betel nuts and raised the duty on motor cars and cigarettes, but I do wish that he had included other luxury articles such as cosmetics and many other items. Now, Sir, I am quite aware that the law of diminishing returns does operate in regard to taxes and that you cannot tax goods over a certain level without that leading to lesser returns or at least not increasing the returns. I think that this matter should be thoroughly investigated. I think the Honourable the Finance Minister should have a body of men to look into it properly, so that all luxury articles imported, with the exception of foodstuffs should be taxed to the highest capacity, so as to bring in a return that will be commensurate with the tax.

I have tried, Sir, to take as little time as possible and so the House will forgive me if I have not been able to develop my points more fully. Let me end by expressing the hope that the Honourable the Finance Minister will take these suggestions into serious consideration when the Select Committee meets, and before the Bill comes back to this House.

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. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I must tender an apology to you for having projected myself into your notice this morning. Well, my name was not in the list, a fact which I learnt later. Being rather new to the ways.....

Mr. Speaker: I might make the position clear. The list is given just by way of suggestions; it is not binding on me.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: I know the Speaker is resourceful enough to get over all troubles; otherwise he would not be the Speaker.

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At this the first debate under the new system of Government, self-Government, I may call it one is rather nervous like the crew of a ship which is launched anew into the waters as to what the fate will be of this Ship of State which has been launched on the high seas of time and circumstances. We all remember the fateful destiny of Titanic which in its very first voyage was ship-wrecked by impact with an ice-berg. Even so we have our shoals and storms ahead and one does not know whether one is destined to strike on a rock here or an ice-berg there. But this is no wild apprehension or conscious exaggeration because in the very first six months or even earlier of our assuming power we were subjected to great trials, I had almost said, tribulations. The design of the Pakistan Government obviously to bring to trouble this country from Kashmir in the north and Hyderabad in the south, Junagadh in the West and Tripura in the east was in time frustrated. But we have not got over our difficulties. The time is not yet when we can say that we can declare a bill of health, but no ship can sail upon the high seas unless its prow and keel are well balanced, the keel ballast is adequate and the crew is sound and obedient and the machinery is also perfect.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Like the Jala Usha.

Dr. B. Pattabhai Sitaramayya: The Jala Usha has neither a boiler nor an engine. It is an empty barrel that has been thrown into the sea. Even so it was a spectacular occurrence. I shall have occasion to describe it later, because it gave us an opportunity to witness and examine and study one of the beauty spots of nature, a first-class strategic centre, a naval base, a ship-building yard and a great trade centre of the future which will command the South East Asia area.

Then, Sir, we know we have discussed the crew last time when we discussed the Cabinet. We tried to understand what difficulties there were in the organization. If I may revert to it for a moment without repeating what I said last time let me say a word as to what is the position of the budget debate on this occasion. Among those who listened to the debate this morning there were two minister one gentleman and one lady, representing the Cabinet and this evening there is only one gentleman.

An Honourable Member: What about Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram?

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: I am still not reconciled to Mr. Jairamdas having become a Minister. He is an old comrade and colleague of ours and that he is even now.

But I wonder whether the Cabinet has understood the present position. In former years when the Budget was being debated with great interest all the members of the Executive Council were either present or were represented by their subordinates namely, the Secretaries of the Departments. But to-day the Secretariat block is empty, the Cabinet block is almost empty and we depend only upon the shorthand-writers to take notice of our grievances and they may not be published for months. I really cannot understand things. We have not got the first report of the first day of the Legislative Assembly's proceedings up till now and it is four months since we began and if at this rate the publication of the report of today's Legislative proceedings were to be delayed, what will happen four months hence? Nobody will know what has been said on the budget day. This reminds me of the Local Fund Audit accounts which were always placed before the Municipal Council two and half years after they had been presented to the Government and then we had to answer the faults, the drawbacks and the shortcomings of those who had left the Council and perhaps some of whom who were responsible for the faults and follies enumerated therein. I

want to tell the Government straightaway that they are not thinking of the changes that have taken place in this Government. They must be represented here either in person or by their deputy ministers or at least by their Secretaries or in the last resort, by their chowkidars. This is an insult to this House and this Government which affects to be a popular Government does not seem to be aware of the elementary duties and responsibilities that have devolved upon them. They have become bureacrats; we will not tolerate it. I do not know whether our remarks will reach these gentlemen. It is no use wasting our energy, foregoing all our tastes and tendencies. Why should we waste our time and energy here if we have any in addressing empty benches of the cabinet.

Then, Sir, with this preliminary remark, I would proceed to examine the machinery of Government. What is this machinery? It is full of toothed wheels, belts, prime movers, bearings and what not. Is all this machinery sound? We had occasion to examine last time when we were examining the position of the Cabinet, whether after all the machinery was sound and we had occasion to scrutinize the position of the Secretariat and of the relation of the Secretariat to the Cabinet. If the Cabinet is the prime mover of the engine, then the Secretariat becomes the whole machinery of the ship. This Secretariat has to be overhauled. I was telling a Madras Minister the other day at Vizagapatam that each paper had to pass through three ministers, at any rate and each Ministry had to put in, its six office notes before it could go up to the top level and when I pleaded for the curtailment of these six notes, he said: "No matter. In our province there are 21 notes." This kind of thing must be completely reorganized. Office work must be quickened and efficiency must be ensured and we must get out of the rut all the wheels which have stuck in the mud.

Then the country is divided into states and provinces. In these states there was nobody to look after public ideal till recently, but fortunately through the dash and dynamic energy of the Minister of States a miracle has been achieved which would not have been possible at other times.

In my younger days in the study of Roman History in the Intermediate class, 52 years ago, I remember that something was said about Julius Caesar: *Vini Vidi Vici*. Even so, Sardar Patel went, saw and he conquered. In this very conquest there is something surprising and exhilarating. It would have been much happier to recite if it had been possible to consult the representatives of the people at some stage or other, but it is good that even without such consultations, things have been done and done fairly well, almost very well, I should say, except for small shortcomings and drawbacks here and there. For instance I have a telegram here from Sitamau which says that Kushalganj people are anxious to join the Malwa Union and not to be drawn into Rajasthan. Again when this threat of merger or union is flourished before these States the States rulers are simply rushing to promise responsible government. Bikaner has advanced it from two years to one year and from one year to the 1st April, thanks to the dangers ahead. Patiala has not moved at all and the Maharaja of Patiala has not even sent an elected representative to this House although he had promised in the Negotiating Committee that both his members should be elected representatives. But both his members were nominated and when an election petition was filed he quietly withdrew both and sent only his nominee and left in the lurch the rights of the people who have not been able to send a representative to this House as yet. Today he is in a hurry to give responsible government lest he should be united or merged in some larger body. Mandi has been keeping quiet all these years; suddenly he has awakened himself to a sense of responsibility and has offered responsible government. Rampur where the Muslim and Hindu population is fifty-fifty has not been either backward or forward; he has been standing still and is now coming forward with an offer of responsible government. In Datia a funny thing has happened. Fourteen days ago he promised an interim government with four Praja Mandal

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ministers. Today I have got a copy of his order in which he has gone back to one Praja Mandal Minister and four reactionary Ministers. He had attended a conference at Nowgong at which the Princes had met. Mayurbhanj suddenly offered responsible government six days before Sardar Patel's arrival at Cuttack and having failed to attend the Conference he simply said, "I have given responsible government, I need not bother about the Orissa Union." Kapurthala is now hard put to it, to know what to do. He does not want to mix with the Punjab States or any other States. He is surrounded by the districts of the Punjab and he has to merge with Jullunder and two or three other districts. He lives 120 miles away from Nabha, Sungrur and Patiala; he is now hurrying up in order to give responsible government which the people are not willing to take. What a wonderful change has taken place! The Princes are keen on giving responsible government but the people do not want it. (*An Honourable Member*: "Why"). The reason is that responsible government is like a tall man who is six feet and four inches high and wants to swim in a tub; he cannot even get a dip in the tub of his feet, much less get a bath. Therefore the people now realise that responsible government for small States with inadequate revenues cannot answer the demands of modern democracy and it will be only a mockery.

Sir, I leave the States there; I am not going to trouble you with Hyderabad which must have been dealt with in detail by my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil. I am sorry I was not present here to sponsor the cut motion which stood in my name, because when I went to Vizagapatam the plane in which the Prime Minister went broke down and therefore he took our plane and we were left behind. And with great difficulty we managed to carry ourselves here last night.

Now speaking of Vizagapatam, I am glad I went there, though I am sorry I have missed two days' debates. It is a magnificent place; it is a beauty-spot of nature. It is a place brimful of resources. One begins to wonder why it is that this British Government, unimaginative as it has been all these years, did not have the vision to see that they could develop the most magnificent naval base and shipbuilding yard there. It was left to Scindia's to organise their shipbuilding yard in 1921 and they have made rapid progress; and yet it is only the first ship that has been launched and that also without a boiler or engine. I went up to the top of the hill 1,200 ft. high in a jeep and from there the view is magnificent. There are two rocks (with a smaller rock in between) on either side of which there is a creek and these creeks are the harbours and about 30 ships can be accommodated there at present. They are protected by the rocks and there are 15 square miles of area part of which can be dug up; and the low level spaces around can be filled up with the sand and they can be made into the most fertile soil or a whole city can be built there. I want the Central Government to take charge of that as a scheme under its direct control instead of leaving it to the municipality which is half starved for funds for even protecting the town against the onrush of the sea. What is happening is that in order to prevent the backwaters which form the harbour from being covered up with sand they sank two big ships and so the breakwaters have caused the sea to rush into this angle and the town is being invaded and eroded and a wall is being built with cement and sea sand. I have never known an engineer using sea sand for construction work. Sea sand will not stand the weather; only river sand must be used. However, that also is a matter which must be looked into by the Central Government.

An amazing piece of information came to me as to what is happening there. The Government of India had taken some hundreds of acres of land for the harbour. They used up a certain portion of the land for the harbour and let

out the remaining land to the cultivators. I am told they have taken two thousand acres. This land has become zamindari land under the proprietorship of the Government of India, and whereas the ryots had been charged by the landowners hitherto only Rs. 5-8 to 10-8 according as the land was dry or wet, now the Government of India having stepped into the position of zamindars are charging Rs. 36 per acre. What a shame and what a scandal; Who is responsible for this folly in the Government of India? Who on earth can demand Rs. 36 per acre where the former revenue was only Rs. 5-8 to Rs. 10-8? I cannot understand it; they have lost their sense of justice or it may be their heads. This must be looked into at once. All these 200 or 300 ryots came to me and said "look this is the performance of the Government of India!" While the Zamindari Abolition Bill is being enacted in the province and the zamindars are being disestablished the Government of India is enacting itself into a zamindari and perpetrating this kind of proprietory right.

Sir, while thinking of the ships there, one point occurred to me, whether it would not be possible to construct wooden ships on a larger scale and give up these iron ships. The longevity of the iron ship is only one-third or one-fourth of the longevity of the wooden ship. The wooden ships of old went over to London harbour and Liverpool harbour; and when in 1853, the first wooden ship visited the London harbour, the London merchants began to wonder what would happen to their shipbuilding industry and their commerce and shipping trade if the Indian native ships were there in their harbour safe and sound with their luggage and passengers. Today, I wonder whether it would not be possible to put up machinery into wooden ships. It is a point that I presented to Mr. Bhabha for his consideration and he said he would consider it but I now see that he has resigned. The moment a Cabinet Minister starts to gain experience he resigns; that is one other way in which responsible government works. What happens is that the longevity of an iron ship is 10 or 20 years at the most; ten years is the average; the longevity of a wooden ship is fifty years. A gun-shot in the wooden ship is simply lodged there; in an iron ship it simply splits it in two. However, I should not pretend to be an engineer, but I just mention these things for the sake of drawing the attention of Government. Mr. Bhabha in the course of his reply on the 10th instant said that in buying ships they will exercise all possible survey and inspection. Perhaps he does not know that when a fishing trawler was ordered by the Madras Government, they addressed the Central Government who again addressed the Secretary of State. He wrote to the Naval Ministry who sent an old cruiser which came here and it was found that there was no fishing rig upon it. She was put to sea and it was found that the tubes of the boilers were rotten and rusted. They had to repair them but could not get substitutes in India nor were there repairers here. So they had to send it to Colombo but the ship was not able to go there and they wanted another ship to transport it. So in buying ships from England we must be very careful about what we do.

Sir, your bell tells me that I must finish soon. So I will just read the notes of what I wanted to say.

Railways:—The railway budget should not be separate. There is necessity for it to be amalgamated with the General Budget.

Guide-ways: There is such a thing as Guide-ways which have been recently discovered in which there is an earth-way. On that there is a central platform running all along which is cemented. The motor car which runs upon it has two clamps projecting on to either side of the platform so that it cannot deviate to the right or left. You can put up the guideways anywhere and you can multiply your traffic by this.

The bugs have to be expelled from the railway carriages. Cocanada Station must be brought on the main line. Masulipatam must be given a double line to serve the metre gauge as well as the broad gauge. The food arrangements for

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railway third class passengers must be improved by means of a corridor arrangement in the train itself. The railway quarters at Kharagpur are not fit for pigs to live in. They must be demolished at once and reconstructed..

There are 24 railway tourist company contractors and twenty one out of them are Europeans.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): On a point of order. Are we discussing the railway budget?

Mr. Speaker: No, not the Railway Budget but the railway administration, in so far as it affects the general administration.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: There are only three Indian Companies: one in Bombay, one in Madras and one operating in Delhi. With regard to the railway goods which should be recovered from Pakistan, I may say that goods worth 8½ crores are to be recovered, out of which only 10½ lakhs of goods have been recovered, and this after the Engineer in charge had gone to Pakistan seven times. Every time he was told: "My dear fellow, do not stay here any longer. If you want to save your life, you had better go back."

There are five Paicroes cameras each costing Rs. 1½ lakhs. Three of them are at the Headquarters and two are on the N. W. F. railway and they have to be accounted for.

Food: On the question of food it is necessary to work out a balanced diet. But even a balanced diet cannot be secured unless you have a balanced cultivation. In my part of the country lots of land have been brought under Virginia tobacco cultivation, and unless you pass a rule that no man can cultivate tobacco on more than one-tenth of his land and grows on the rest maize and millet, you cannot improve your food position. The food problem will be simple to solve if only you stop the cultivation of tobacco.

Communication: I am very glad to hear that Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai has already told us that he is arranging to have post offices in every village. With regard to the delivery of telegrams, I sometimes get the telegraph man coming to me with a packet of 10 to 20 telegrams with pencil written numbers on the receipt slip. It takes me more than ten minutes to look for my number and at the end often times my number is not there. Please attach a receipt to each telegraphic envelope and then we are done with it in a moment.

With regard to the telephone, you know all about the love talks one hears. Often when I wanted to talk to Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai I heard a love talk going on.

Relief and Rehabilitation: The Minister has stated in his speech the other day that if people wanted more from the Ministry they must look to a magician and not to a Minister. Now we know the difference between the two. We know that the Ministers are magicians because a man plus imagination, sound commonsense, quick wit, comprehensive vision, firm decision makes the magician. That is all. If you want to plead that you are not a magician, it means that I must deprive you of these qualities.

Law: The system of asking the Law Minister to preside over all the Committees is harassing to him. It is very troublesome. You must have a substitute for him.

I understand that the Hindu Law of Inheritance is in the offing. I want you to remember that the Hindu law is a composite law. A Hindu's property is inherited by all the sons, including the son in the womb according to the Mithakhasra School. This is pure socialism which goes into the very fabric of Hindu society. Therefore, please remember, when you upset this law of inheritance you are upsetting the laws of a society which have been in existence all these times.

I understand, Sir, that certain papers were destroyed by the British Government before they left this country. I want the ministry to consider what papers were destroyed. At least the subordinate offices know and these people must be compelled to state what papers have been destroyed. I would have given you a nice story of how a District Superintendent of Police of Balasore destroyed all the papers and ran away 24 miles on hearing some loud explosions nearby. He was an Englishman. The Indian Collector came later and asked what was the matter. He was told that the D. S. P. feared that the Japanese were coming and landing near Balasore. He then sent a cyclist to explore the situation. There was a zamindari nearby performing his daughter's marriage with eclat. The collector said "We wonder where is this fellow?" This fellow was sitting crouching in a corner of a hut with a *dhotie* on at a distance of 24 miles! Poor man! That was the fear in the European of the Japanese.

Defence: I want to bring it to the notice of the Minister that no oath of loyalty to the Government was administered in the Ordnance Department throughout the country. This may be enquired into.

Commerce: This is a counrry whose Commerce consists of fraud developed into a fine art. If I could tell you how fraud has been interwoven into each department of trade—from the milk supply to the hospital, to the paddy sale in the market—it would take me a long time but it would be interesting and instructive.

Then there is the question of the 7½ per cent rebate to England which I have read about in the Budget speech. This reminds us of the Chamberlain days. We must efface all traces of connection with Britain by dropping all thoughts of Imperial preference.

You cannot simply think of nurturing those things any longer. After all when you want to train people in a new psychology, remember that everything counts and nothing can be overlooked. That crown over there and this rebate here must go.

Regarding export and import, I was glad to hear from Honourable Mr. Bhabha that he had drawn up a scheme. As he is not here I am not going to waste my time and yours.

As regards foreign trade, all this must be bottlenecked in the Central Government and there must be no such private trade.

Yarn control seems to be still there. I remember Honourable Mr. Bhabha said: "at a none too distant a date there will be no controls." I will say that there should be no controls even now and here. Yarn control should be abolished.

Industries: I would like the Industries Member to spend Rs. 5 crores upon hand spun yarn production.

With regard to Salt, the exceedingly fine orders recently communicated to me have not been communicated to the people at whose instance I had addressed the Industries Ministry.

Education: As regards education, it is the same thing. You must give up your old ways. I want you to terminate Sunday as a holiday. This is a legacy of the British. Sunday was declared a holiday on March 7th, 321 A.D. by Constantine and we should not go back to those days. Let us have Friday or some other day.

The art treasures in London must be got back. These are the Kohinoor, the gates of Somnath, Baji Row's elephant and the Peacock throne. The Kohinoor diamond though cut to pieces must be brought back to India from the diadem of the British sovereign.

[Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya]

We must also get back the Gates of Somnath spoliated by Mohd. Ghazni. I am told however that the Gates taken by him were false ones and not the real Gates. If so the real ones must now be secured.

The other day I made a reference and the speaker pulled me up when I spoke of Baji Rao's elephant. It was alive in 1916 in the London Zoo. An elephant usually lives for 150 to 200 years. That is its longevity. So it may still be there. Its period of gestation is two years and not nine months like ours. Then there is also the Peacock throne.

With regard to spinning I want Government to make each officer spin for half an hour before commencing work. Then you would have mountains of cloth.

I want the Education Minister to go to Daurala a place nine miles from Meerut which is 37 miles from here where through the munificence of a Punjab benefactor, and Lala Shri Ram, who gave four lacs of rupees a scientific school has been started where the best kind of Chemical analysis is done by boys not beyond 14 and who know not a word of English. I was there, Dr. P. C. Ghosh was there and also Mr. Shankar Rao Deo was with me. We went about inspecting and found that these boys were able to analyse complex organic and inorganic salts and explain the process. That is the way in which you must manufacture the manufacturers—not merely manufacture goods. You must bring into existence a number of manufacturers by giving them scientific education and instilling into them a passion for creating or producing new things.

3. P. M.

There is one Social Service college in Bombay, the Tata Institute. I am prepared to make a present of ten lakhs worth of buildings and estate fetching an annual income of 10 to 15,000 at Masulipatam, which is called the Andhra Kalasala, either to the Central Government or any other government provided you started a social service college. When I offered it to the Andhra university they said that our income was not sufficient for one month's salaries of the staff. That is the scale upon which they are drawing salaries.

The other day H. E. Sri Rajagopalachari spoke of conscription for education and wanted that every young man should be told off to do one year's teaching work. I was saying something like that for ten years. No student should be admitted into the intermediate class unless it is certified that he has converted 250 illiterates into literates, no student should be admitted to the B.A. class unless he has produced 500 literates, and no student to the B.L. class unless he has produced 1,000 literates. Ultimately when the degree is to be conferred he has to fulfil a certain quota.

In the field of Archaeology much has to be done. Officers posted to each circle must be those whose mother tongue is the regional language. I am glad that Music colleges are being started. I hope the Maulana Saheb will be pleased to start Painting colleges in order to revive the Rajput, Moghul and various other schools of painting, as also revivify the Bengali and the South Indian schools of painting. Above all, crafts are the need of the country and they are the surest index of a country's civilisation, not its machinery, nor its mills. It is through the crafts and arts that a country's living artistic knowledge and skill survive. Railway bridges are the same all over, the iron girders are the same but the shawl that is printed by you is quite different from the Shawl that is printed elsewhere.

With regard to adult education it is very necessary to prevent people from idling their time under the trees in the villages. Dr. Shacht, who was the Financial head of the Reich Bank, when he came to India in 1938 and left its shores said that if he had any power over this country he would shoot every idle man under a tree. Sir, I must leave the rest of my speech to a newspaper article.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Sir, I would be the last person to break the convention which you wish to establish, *viz.*, that members of the select committee should not participate in the first discussion, and the only reason why I am standing up today is that I would be unable to serve on that select committee as I will be out of Delhi on those days.

Mr. Speaker, I would not take up the time of the House in a sort of roving commission. I would concentrate on one or two points. By the way I would like to mention the fact on which comment was made by the previous speaker Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya about the Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation. The work which he has just put in at Lahore calls for thankfulness on the part of both the Governments. If all the Ministers would work in the same spirit in which he has been working, the friction between India and Pakistan, would be much less and I welcome this action of his and I hope it will succeed.

In the first place I would invite the attention of the House to the fact that the bulk of our budget papers is much smaller than the bulk of the provincial papers. All of us who are habituated to look at the provincial budget would realise how much more information is given in the provinces, and how little is given here at the Centre. Now that responsible government is established it is only fair that the bulk of the papers should increase. Information much greater than is at present available should be made available. But that is an improvement which can only take place gradually. I am not condemning the Finance Department but I am only drawing the attention of Government to what should be the order of things.

I should like to know the Government's opinion on a subject which is very pertinent. What is to be the position of Indian states as far as the incidence of Income Tax is concerned? As far as the customs revenue from Indian State-owned ports are concerned are they to remain the private property of those States or are they going to be pooled in the resources of the Indian Union? I submit that it should be pooled. There is no reason why they should remain the private property of the States. They are being placed in a position much higher than that of our units, the provinces. The provinces cannot make their own people exempt from these things—incometax, corporation tax and excise duty. There is no reason why the States should not be brought under all these duties and taxes. I mean all the acceding States. As far as the states which have merged with the Indian provinces are concerned, the question does not arise. They become part and parcel of the province but I am against the system which has been started in some places of merging the states and creating a unit which is to all intents and purposes only a glorified and a bigger state. As Dr. Pattabhi said it is not a very healthy improvement. The improvement as it should be is the Orissa and the Southern Bombay provincial model.

The Food Minister referred to decontrols and said that the policy of the Government has been towards progressive increase in decontrol and remove all controls. In spite of that in the U.P. salt is still controlled, an article of necessity in food, which is not controlled in other places is being controlled in the U.P. I am told that that is a fact. I would invite the attention of the Minister to inquire into it and if possible to remove it.

There is a small item of information which I solicit from the Honourable the Finance Minister. Looking at the financial papers of this week I found that in the week ending the 5th March the expenditure of the Government of the Union has been of the order of 39 crores. This came to me somewhat as a surprise and the basis on which I came to this conclusion is the statement of accounts of the Reserve Bank, which shows that in the week ending the 5th March 1948 the Government balances have fallen from 266 crores to 249 crores,

[Mr. Hussain Imam]

a reduction of 17·43 crores in the government balances. In the Issue department the Treasury bills which have been renewed have been of the order of 22 crores. Is this some printing mistake or something else? I have looked into the figures of the past 14 months and in none of them have I found an issue of treasury bills of that order in any one week. The security which matured *i.e.* issued on the 5th December amounted to 5:79 crores, which means that 16 crores new money came in by means of issue of treasury bills. The ordinary income of the Government is of the order of 4 to 5 crores a week. So I come to the conclusion that some 39 crores have been spent. No doubt about 12 to 15 crores is covered by the grant to the provinces, which is usually made early in March or late in February. This still leaves some 28 crores to be accounted for.

As far as the Finance Department is concerned we have been told by the Finance Minister that after making all adjustments, giving relief to different people and different kinds of concessions, the deficit was of the order of 28·81 crores. It is to meet that deficit that he has proposed the additional taxation which forms part of the Finance Bill. My own contention is that he has been too cautious, that his deficit is not of that order and that he is trying either to cover up some expenses which are not mentioned or is working for a surplus budget for the next year. My own position is that the nine crores of the deficit could safely be charged to the capital head representing the interest on the loans which would be owned by Pakistan. There is no justification for us to pay interest from revenue on an item which is not owned by the Government of India. It is altogether wrong budgeting to charge to the revenue this nine crores. This should have been transferred to the capital budget and thereby your deficit will be reduced by that amount.

Secondly, we were making a provision of five crores for reduction and avoidance of debts on the unified India. Now that Pakistan is separated and a part of our indebtedness is being transferred to that country, that provisions could also be reduced by, say, a crore of rupees.

Shri B. Das: Our unproductive debt is four times what it was before the war. It is 700 or 800 crores.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Then I worked up whether the statement which the Honourable the Food Minister made to us yesterday—and I think the Honourable the Finance Minister also stated about it—that is, about the reduction in the prices of foreign food, has been taken into account when the budget papers were prepared. I doubt if the full extent of the reduction in this food subsidy has been taken into account. That also means some reduction in our deficit.

Another very big item which he has left as a safety valve is the tax income from inter-Dominion trade, I mean in the trade between Pakistan and India. That means that really his deficit is not more than a third of what he has stated it to be. I therefore ask that this reduction in our net deficits should be shared by the rich and the poor alike. In the first place I want that the increase of the tabacco duty—the hookah tobacco duty—should not be featured in the budget. When you have removed the bigger tax on salt which was giving us Rs. 9 crores, there is no justification even for continuing the old duty on tobacco, let alon for increasing it by 50 per cent. The former duty was 6 annas per lb. and it has been increased to 9 annas per lb.

There is another item though the benefit will go to the rich. I am very sorry to suggest it because I do not want to benefit the capitalist if I can avoid it. But the needs require that the devil must be given its due. The present position is that even after the Finance Minister has introduced his budget the share markets have not looked up; they are stagnant and lifeless. You want investment for industry and you are not prepared to take it up on the lines of nationalisation; so you have to pamper to the capitalists. There are only two ways open. Either you must please the capitalists and give them satisfaction according to their desire or you must take it up on the lines of nationalisation. If you are going to leave it to private capital to expand and increase industry you should give them the concession which will satisfy them. Sir, I refer to the Business Profits Tax. It was condemned so much last year and even after the close of the year it has been condemned so much by the business community that nothing will satisfy them except its abolition, lock, stock and barrel. I know it will mean a loss of Rs. 10 crores. But that is necessary and that is the price which you have to pay if you want industrial expansion to take place in this country. I am not advocating it, but I am only giving two alternatives. If you want their help you must satisfy them; without satisfying them you will not be able to achieve your object. But if you don't want to satisfy them the other alternative is to start the things on a nationalised basis. In the end I should like to ask the Honourable the Finance Minister whether he is prepared to consult the industrialists before he brings forward his final proposals and do something to satisfy them. Sir, I am not wedded to any particular method. I want that there should be an increase in capital investment. And for that purpose it is necessary, being a National Government, that we should work in consultation with them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Why not give away the Government to the business people?

Mr. Hussain Imam: Last year when the budget was introduced the industrialists were consulted and it was in consultation with them that the Business Profits Tax was fixed at 16 2/3 per cent. It was only to satisfy them that all the changes in the provisions were brought in. I know that the Congress is strong enough. It can ride rough shod, you take an unwilling horse to the water but you cannot make him drink. As you know, I am not an advocate of the capitalists. I am only saying that if you wish to have industrial prosperity and capital investment, these people must be satisfied. And if they are prepared to do something on that line I for one would not grudge giving them this thing because it is necessary in the ultimate interests of India that we must have industrial expansion. Expansion and greater production are our keynotes and in that connection the Honourable the Transport Minister is greatly responsible because he is concerned with the movement of every thing. Now, the accumulation of coal at the pit-heads is much greater than has been the case in the last 20 years I should think. There has never been such an accumulation in the pit-heads as there is today. Pakistan is trying to get coal from England. Cannot it get the coal which is lying at the pit-heads even from the Calcutta port? The Honourable Minister once stated that he was considering the question of increasing the railway freights in order to relieve the congestion. At the moment it is cheaper to bring coal from the collieries to Bombay by rail than by sea. That is primarily responsible for the congestion that exists today. Our railway rates are lower than the sea rates. Unless there is an equilibrium between the two there will be a congestion and the carrying of coal to long distances dislocates much of the traffic. The ordinary procedure, as it used to be before the war was, for all this coal, to be transported by ships. Today we are reversing the process. We have a greater demand for food movement and other movements. Nevertheless because of its cheapness the railway draws more custom. We do not want more custom. The customs are available in other sources, in more profitable and more paying sources which at the same time will relieve our difficulties to a greater extent. I therefore request the Transport Minister to reconsider the position and do something tangible which will make it possible for the movements to take place, because without movement no production can take place.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must first of all thank you for giving me an opportunity to take part in this debate today. This morning you told the House that it was better that members of the Select Committee do not speak on this particular Bill. But I know your indulgence is perhaps due to the fact that I have not taken part in any of the debates in this House this time. Once more I thank you for your indulgence and I appreciate it very much.

Our country has been passing through great and troubled times and this Budget has come in after the country had gone through distressing and—what one might really call—colossally difficult times. All the same the people expected that the first Budget of Free India would give a little more relief to the masses of people in this country.

I know that during the budget discussion, every speaker started by congratulating the Honourable Finance Minister and the congratulation always was because, they said, it was a balanced budget. I do not know if that alone was a reason for the congratulations. I would like the Finance Minister first of all to understand that the criticism that I am making today is not merely for the sake of fault-finding and it is not also for the sake of saying something in criticism. The criticisms that I have to make are due to the fact that I feel certain measures have been included in the budget which are bound to react against the interests of the poor people of this country. For so many years the leaders who are today holding the reins of the government have been working for the independence of this country, and what exactly did they mean by independence? They meant that they were going to give a fair deal to the millions in this country. Independence did not mean that a few rich people will be more comfortable than they were before, that they will have a little more than they had before. Independence meant independence for the poor, downtrodden people of our country. We thought there would be more security for them. We thought there would be less poverty, we thought they would be given better education, and we thought they would be given better health facilities. I do not see in this particular budget that these principles have been quite adhered to. I know the difficulties that the Finance Minister was faced with, and I also know—for which I do congratulate him—that he certainly has brought a certain amount of feeling of security as far as financial matters are concerned in the minds of people. I know a great number of people were thinking that India must be absolutely on the brink of bankruptcy and I think he has made them feel more comforted and less disturbed over that particular thing and they do feel today that there is security as far as finances are concerned.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are just one or two matters with regard to taxes that I would like to speak about today. First and foremost I would like to say a word about the increased tax on vegetable oil. I need not tell the Finance Minister that every Indian household uses oil for cooking. There is not a single person in this country who does not use oil as a medium of cooking, and if that is going to be taxed, and fairly heavily from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150, I think that is going to hit the poor people very much indeed—more than that, I should say that it would hit the middle classes and the lower middle classes much more seriously perhaps than the working classes. I say this because generally in the middle class and lower middle class families, there is only one earning member in the family and he usually has to keep a very large family going, and one can imagine how much such a commodity as vegetable-oil would be used in such a large household. And today the price of ghee has gone simply sky-rocketing, and it is not possible for anyone who is not really very well-to-do to buy ghee at all. So many people who used to use ghee before have had to change over to vegetable oil. Vegetable oil today is used

not only as vegetable oil for cooking, but the ghee we buy from the bazaar, has got a large quantity of vegetable oil in it. There is one thing I would refuse to call vegetable oil and that is vegetable ghee, which gives it a wrong meaning altogether. But I do feel that if the existing tax on vegetable oil is raised, so many other commodities also will go up in price. Now coconut oil gingelly oil and groundnut oil also are being sold at prohibitive rates. So it is not possible to change over to any of those other oils, and the Finance Minister, I am sure, knows that those people who are used only to ghee cannot take to cocoanut oil and those who are used to using cocoanut oil cannot take to gingelly oil: but they all find satisfaction and it is also to their taste when they use vegetable oil.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Vanaspati?

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Yes. I do not quite agree with the criticisms that were made this morning about the vegetable produce called Vanaspati and Dalda. I feel from personal experience as well as from the research that has been made in this vegetable produce, there has been enough evidence to show there are no harmful effects from this vegetable oil at all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Question.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: I feel that if such a very useful commodity which is being used in every household today is highly taxed, it is going to react very hardly on the middle and lower middle class families.

Then the other excise duty is that imposed on coffee and tea. I will take up coffee first because I think those people who drink coffee will suffer much more than those who have the tea habit. There are many reasons. One is that one lb of coffee powder makes only about 40 cups of coffee while one lb of tea makes 140 cups, and besides that, coffee means more milk and more sugar. Tea can be taken with a drop of milk and with very little sugar: and the result of such an excise duty will be that the price of milk and the price of sugar and the price of other commodities will also go up; and I find that in every way with regard to these particular needs, the poor middle class and lower middle class people are very heavily taxed. The Finance Minister has seen that coffee has already gone up in price, and especially in Madras, where most of the coffee is drunk. Today in the South, on account of the introduction of prohibition, I find that many more people are going in for coffee than they used to do before. They should have something which is a stimulant as well as something that is pleasant to drink, and I feel that the Tamil people of the Madras Presidency will never take to tea as they had taken to coffee. It is quite true that in Travancore and Malabar they take less coffee than tea, and the only reason for that is that it is not because they do not like coffee but it is because they do not have the necessary amount of milk as in the east coast of South India, and also they find it difficult to buy milk and sugar. That is the real reason for them not drinking so much coffee. When our Government is committed to look after the interests of the poor people, are these taxes to be imposed on them, which is going to make life very difficult for the middle class families?

These are only a few things in the budget which will tax them very heavily. They have so many other things to buy and every commodity will go up in price in the same way as coffee and tea—matches, oil and kerosene oil, and everything else. The Finance Minister surely knows well enough that he should try and tax luxury articles that come from abroad. Cigarettes—yes, by all means you can tax, because I feel that a cigarette smoker will smoke whether cigarettes are expensive or not, because I have seen that with my own eyes. A box of cigarettes which used to Cost Rs. 2/8/0, I saw a friend of mine buying in Connaught Place for Rs. 4/12/0. He knew that he wanted cigarettes and he had to get it. There is also this question of higher taxation

[Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan]

being imposed on foreign liquor. The Finance Minister yesterday told us that it is already highly taxed; but that does not matter. It can be taxed still higher. Surely we need money and we can get this money out of the articles used mainly by the rich. During the war I do know of many people who used to buy a bottle of whisky—I think it is called Scotch Whisky—at Rs. 75 or Rs. 100 a bottle. This I know for a fact. It only shows that the rich people do not mind paying exorbitant prices so long as they can get the article. I, therefore, feel that even if we tax foreign liquor still more heavily, the Finance Minister will get a good income from that source, because people who are habituated to these costly and luxurious drinks will continue to buy them, cost what it may.

Then there are lots of foodstuffs of different varieties which come from foreign countries. Surely, they can also be taxed. My Honourable friend, Mrs. Renuka Ray, this morning mentioned the instance of chocolates. I would also like to mention chocolates, English biscuits and English sweets, which can be taxed more than they are done today. Besides these articles of food there are also textiles. I am sure foreign textiles can be taxed still more. I am not a financial pundit by any means and I do not know anything about high finance, but I do know that there are things that can be taxed without touching the poor man's pocket. Of course, India needs more money today. But for what purpose? For nation-building purposes. But for nation-building you must have the personnel and you cannot have people with empty stomach who will be capable of doing anything towards nation-building. I am sure the Finance Minister will appreciate the fact that I am saying this not in a spirit of fault-finding, but as constructive criticism, and that he will look into this matter before the Finance Bill is put through, so that he can give more relief to the under-privileged person. The money that he will get by taxing the rich can be spent on education, health and such other matters which will improve the condition of this country.

Dr. P. K. Sen (Bihar: General): Sir, the subject on which I wish to offer some criticism of the budget before this House suffers from no risk of being a repetition. In fact, in all these days of debate, there has been not a whisper on that subject and even in the torrential eloquence of my Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya it found no place. The subject, Sir, on which I wish to criticise the budget is that of prison reform and penal reform as a whole.

There is no indication whatsoever under the head 'Jails and Convict Settlements'', which come under the Minister of Home Affairs, of any reform or any constructive measure contemplated. In these days when every fudamental principle that underlies social conduct is under going thorough examination and is being re-oriented we have the right to expect in the budget some indication of measures of prison reform. Now, it may be said that this is a Provincial subject, and, therefore, it can find no place here. But the same can be said, as it has been said, of 'Health' of 'Education' and of various other subjects which really pertain to the provinces. Here as in those subjects there are certain measures that can only be properly initiated and maintained by the Centre. It would be waste of money and waste of resources and beyond the competence (I mean financially) of the Provincial Governments to maintain institutions of that kind all over India. I shall presently refer to those institutions and those reformative measures which have been long over-due.

So far as the average man is concerned, he has absolutely no conception whatsoever of what goes on inside a prison, except that there are a number of people there who have transgressed social laws and for their anti-social conduct they have been imprisoned and segregated from the rest of humanity to expiate their offence. But that is not so in regard to this House. There never

was an opportunity for any man, I believe, to plead for penal and prison reform before an august Assembly such as this where about 80 per cent. of the Honourable Members know the prison inside out. They know everything that goes on inside a prison and there is nothing that will come as new to them. I should like to rely upon their sympathy, their active sympathy, in regard to the reforms that I indicate as being possible only from the Centre.

First of all the question arises whether this segregation or separation in the prison is at all successful for the purpose for which it is resorted to. The social organism is a living organism. As soon as the social organism finds that there is a germ which spells death or disaster to the system, like every other living organism, it has the faculty of expelling it from the system or controlling it. Now, in the case of imprisonment, it is thought that these people have been segregated from society and therefore the contamination that was apprehended has been prevented for ever. But that is not so. As a matter of fact, there are thousands that go in every day as new offenders and there are thousands who come out every day having served their term. Therefore, there is a constant 'commerce' going on between the prison and the society outside. It is this 'commerce' that is constantly going on that must necessarily contaminate society in the long run. If, therefore, the person has changed his mentality by reason of the intelligent, kind and sympathetic treatment, or, if I may say so, psychological treatment that he has received inside the prison, then he comes back to society as a worthy citizen who can contribute his share to the social welfare. But if inside the prison he has suffered from unkindness, from harsh treatment, from apathy, and also the evil associations there, and if he has all the time been harbouring ill-feeling against all social institutions, all social laws, and he feels that he himself is being victimised by them, then on his return from prison he is a menace to society and there is no end of expenditure because he may have to be kept as the guest of the State in the prison over and over again.

For this reason in all civilized countries there are measures that are being taken expressly with the purpose of reforming the man, of making a citizen of him, before he can be released from the prison. But what is the state of affairs in our own country? If I may say so, it is out-dated, mediaeval and barbarous. In India there is absolutely none of those measures that have been adopted in other civilized countries. We find that there is no classification of a scientific character, no psychological classification. Everywhere we find there are child offenders, adolescent offenders, women offenders, mentally deficient offenders, habituals or casuals or occasionals and also under-trials—all kept separately under different treatment, according to their respective requirements. As a matter of fact, at the present moment the psychological classification of prisoners is the very first item. I have been to all the prisons, practically all the main prisons of this country and of various other countries and to my great regret I find that this country is conspicuous by its lack of any scientific psychological classification of prisoners.

Then, again, the question arises as to how these people are to be treated, first of all before conviction, then after conviction in the prison, and then, again, after release. There are these three separate stages and for the treatment of these separate stages the probation system has now become a well-established institution. The Probation Officers are cultured men from the Universities, they get a decent pay, they are men marked by public-spirit and the desire for social welfare and, in number, they form a host by themselves. These people are distributed under a particular organisation to different fields of activity—some to prisoners who have not as yet been convicted but are in detention prior to conviction, some to those who are already in incarceration, some to those who are already released but who yet want guidance and help, constructive friendship as it is called, for the purpose of leading them through the trials and temptations of life. This probation system must be introduced and Probation Officers have got to be trained.

[Dr. P. K. Sen]

Then let us consider the jailors, the warders, the wordresses. It is not their fault, they have been trained under a different system altogether; they have been trained under the system which regards punishment as a retribution for the crime; or, if the retribution theory is dead as it should be at least on the basis of the deterrent theory, that punishment is meant for deterring a man from committing the offence again and his neighbour from committing the offence also. The warder or the jailor, indeed the whole staff of the prison have been so trained from a long time past that they cannot be blamed for the manner in which they conduct their own work. That is why I submit that the only way in which prison reforms can come about in this country is for the Centre to take the initiative and to start a Central Institute of Training for training of Probation Officers, Parole Officers, Warders, Jailors, Wardresses and all those people who are concerned in the administration of jails, and also in the looking after of released prisoners.

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

Sir, I may be allowed a few more minutes for the purpose of showing how legislation also comes into the picture. It is not only these institutional measures which must be started from the Centre, but there are certain legislative measures which are indispensable and which can only be started from the Centre. Take for instance the idea of indeterminate sentence which has been acted upon, which is now law in America and upon which the whole structure of the Elmira Reformatory stands. The idea is this, that if a man is convicted and sentenced the sentence will not be for a particular, specific period. The manner in which this law is carried out is that the convicted person knows only that he has been found guilty and convicted and he is then sent on straight to the Elmira Reformatory or some other of the reformatories which have been started on the same principle. There, as soon as he takes admission, he is told by the head of the Reformatory that his destiny is in his own hands, that if he really can change his mentality, then—and then at once—he will be released; but if he does not change his mentality then he will have to be there for the specified term which is indicated in the code as the punishment for that particular offence. It often happens that the staff and the persons who are in charge, by their sympathy, their constructive friendship and by the aid which they always give psychologically to the forlorn man, help him so substantially that in the course of twelve or fourteen months he shows definite signs of a change of mentality and then he is released under conditions of modified freedom not absolutely unconditionally. There are people about him who watch him and give him all the necessary help in order that he may steer his way through the world. In this way, this indeterminate sentence as a piece of legislation has turned out a wonderful success in America. In 1910 at the Washington International Congress of Prisons, this received the sanction of the Congress which laid down a Resolution that indeterminate sentence must be adopted at least in certain classes of offenders. In 1925, as great an authority as Lord Cave expressed himself strongly in favour of adopting indeterminate sentence as a method for prison reform and penal reform. The time therefore, I submit, has come when this country should without more delay start measures of reform, whether institutional or legislative, which tend to give the prisoner a chance to become a citizen again and thereby give the State an opportunity of really welcoming the man from the prison as a worthy citizen. If there is absolutely nothing in the Budget which can even foreshadow any reform of this character, I think it is the right of this House to declare that it shall be done before the supplies can be voted.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity you have given me to take part in the discussion today. I support the motion brought forward by my old friend the Honourable Mr. Chetty and I congratulate him on the great honour and opportunity he has got

to submit the first Finance Bill of free India to this House for the consideration of the representatives of this country.

Today, Sir, at the outset when some discussion was going on as to how that nobody should be allowed to talk of the moon. Well, I entirely agree much time should be allowed to every speaker, the Speaker was right to say with the remark "Nobody should be allowed to talk of the moon", but the Governments of today throughout the world are so covetous of power that they may extend their influence to the moon and may try to control the moonlight. In that very case, Sir, I think the whole House will agree with me and you also, Sir, will agree with me that the moon has to be talked about in this House.

Sir, I am not going to repeat what Dr. Pattabhi has said about the attitude of the Cabinet members towards the business of this House, but I tell you, Sir, that I entirely agree with every word that has fallen from his lips. Besides, I am glad that several members of this House have given out their minds on the way in which the Administration is being conducted these days. I congratulate them, Sir, and my heartiest congratulation goes to my friend Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena, who has given a very good picture of the unchanged and unchanging and unchangeable attitude of the Imperial Secretariat in Delhi.

Sir, three things have begun to trouble very much the minds of every one of us,—the principle of taxation, the expenditure and the method of Administration. My friend Mr. Chetty might have spoken a number of times when the Budget was brought forward by the British member of the Cabinet here. He must have spoken against the prineiple of indirect taxation. Sir, everybody must be informed, he must know what he has to pay to the Government for his protection or otherwise. This indirect taxation, Sir, is the method of a pickpocket and a thief. I do not know if the House realises that a friend like Mr. Chetty is behaving towards the tax-payer like a pickpocket.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai (Minister for Communications): And he is a friend of yours!

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: People do not know what they are paying. They do not know that they are being taxed in a roundabout manner.

Next, Sir, as regards expenditure, as I have said before, I am glad that people are giving out their mind. It may be taken here and there that Congress members themselves criticise the Government. Well, this is not criticising the Government. We are old Congress workers. We are the persons who have brought about the very existence of this Government. We cannot criticise the Government. We have to support the Government and support it in every case. But with what, Sir? We can support the Government with what we have. We can support the Government with what is best in us, and that best is the Truth. Sir, we must bring home to our Ministers what we know of the Administration, what we understand of the Government, what we feel about the administration of the Government and also what we hear of the Government, and that in a serious and sincere manner and for the good of the Government and all concerned. We cannot do otherwise, Sir.

As regards expenditure, everybody knows—I think the whole world knows —that the people of India are very generous. Sir, when we go to any merchant or any businessman for subscription and donation we can realise lakhs and lakhs and even crores. They give us without any hesitation, without any unwillingness on their part but they do not pay anything to the Government in the same way. My Honourable friend Mr. Chetty has brought this Bill for authority to realise the money. Before this he has brought another enactment into his armoury to pursue tax evaders. Now, Sir, I would call upon my Honourable friend Mr. Chetty and the whole Cabinet of the country to go

[Shri Ramnarayan Singh]

into the psychological background of this matter. Why do the people give lakhs and lakhs in donation and yet why do they evade payment of the taxes to the Government? The background is this. They think that what they give in donation to the Congress leaders and others is money well spent. And why they are unwilling to pay anything to the Government is because they know that money given to the Government is ill spent. It is not properly spent. What has my friend Mr. Chetty done? He has distributed the money among so many Departments, and what will be done in the Departments? The Departmental people will sit together and distribute the money among themselves. Why, Sir, is money paid to the Government? Money is paid to the Government to be returned to the people by way of service and for nothing else. The salary of public servants in the country must be in keeping with the average income and standard of the people of the country. Sir, the people of the country are so very poor that their average annual income is sixty-four rupees per head in the country—there are different views on this point but we know that the country is poor and we know that these salaries have been established by a foreign Government, whose purpose was to loot the country and to share the booty with their supporters. Sir, we have said times without number in this very House and outside it that the salary settled in this country for the public servants is not a salary but a share in the loot. Sir, I am extremely sorry that the Britishers have gone but what they have established is still being pursued in this country when we have got our own Government. I know, Sir, that those friends of ours who are in the Government they have sacrificed all for the good of the country; they are not

4 P.M avaricious and they do not want money, but I do not understand why they are allowing that old system to continue. This high salary must go. It was right that the Congress people decided at Karachi that the highest salary in the country must not be above Rs. 500.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Karachi has become Pakistan.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: My Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar says that Karachi has gone to Pakistan. My other Economist friend will say that prices have gone very high. All right, make it double, make it treble, but what is this Rs. 4,000, 6,000 a month? What is this? Is it proper? Sir, even Rs. 500 is enough and is quite enough for a family in a poor country like India. I do not think, even one per cent. of the people in this country get as a monthly income more than Rs. 500. In my part of the country, Sir, I know there are people who do not know what corn is for nine months in the year. In this country I think there are more than 90 per cent. of the people who do not know what two meals a day are, and in this very country the public servants be paid Rs. 5,000 or 6,000 a month is scandalous and this thing should be stopped as soon as possible.

As regards the method of administration, my Honourable friend, Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena, has given a very good picture. I say now 16 members of our party have formed the Government. They want to help and serve the country, but with what? They must have a machinery to help the people, but, Sir, I am a cultivator and I grow sugar-cane. In the process of growing sugar-cane, we have one kind of implement and when we crush the sugar-cane, we have another kind of implement. The crushing machine cannot be used in the place of the producing machine. Sir, we know the machinery which has been established in this country was established here to suppress the people, to crush the people and at the best to govern the people. This governing machinery cannot be used as a serving machine. I ask my countrymen, I ask those people who have formed the Government that if they want to serve the people, they have to create a machine to serve the people. This machinery cannot be used. I have said several times and I say it now that this machinery has gone beyond the stage of repair; like a dilapidated house it cannot be repaired. Sir, the condition of the country and the position of my friends, the ministers, reminds me of a story. There was a king and the king was approached by a beggar.

Mr. Chairman: The honourable member has taken too much time.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: One minute more and I will have done.

The beggar approached the king for alms. The king in goodness and out of generosity gave the beggar a huge mad elephant. The moment the beggar heard of this, he was beside himself with joy that he got an elephant, but when he got possession of it, the poor fellow did not know what to do with the elephant, how to feed it, how to utilize it and how to protect himself from it. Sir, I tell you, this is exactly the position of my ministers. They are in the position of poor beggars, and here the machinery of the Government they have got is the huge mad elephant of the story. They have to know, they have to realize this position and if they do not realize, then I think they will fail. It pains me and I think it must be paining a lot of my friends here that ministers come forward and have the courage to give certificates to their Secretaries and Under Secretaries that so and so is a good fellow; he is honest, etc. I want in future at least these friends will save us from this painful duty to hear them talking of their secretariat staff in such terms. I tell them, Sir, that when I hear a word of praise from them about their secretaries and their staff, I feel that they are lost to the country.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava (Ajmer-Merwara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the budget and the budgetary proposals incorporated in the Finance Bill have been under fire on the floor of this House and throughout the country during the last fortnight. So far as the merits of the proposals are concerned, Sir, so much has been said on the floor of this House and outside that it is rather difficult to make any remarks without risk of repetition. The speech delivered by the Honourable the Finance Minister is remarkable for its lucidity of expression and clarity of thought and for one reason at least, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Minister deserves our congratulations and that is that he has given a masterly and analytical survey of the financial position of this country, after it had undergone a great strain due to its partition.

Now, Sir, we have to judge the merits of these proposals in the background of the events that had taken place and those events are undoubtedly of an extraordinary character. Keeping these things in view it must be admitted that the budget proposals are on the whole fair. Still they have left an impression upon my mind and I should like to summarise it in one sentence. These budget proposals give substantial relief to industrialists and capitalists; they place a very heavy burden on the lower middle classes and give no relief to the poor. During the course of discussion here and in the press outside many suggestions have been made for revision of these proposals, and I am sure the Select Committee which is going to scrutinise this measure threadbare will make appropriate changes so as to amend them in such a way as to relieve the lower middle classes who have been most hard-hit. Coffee, tea, cigarettes, tobacco, vegetable oil.—excise duties on all these articles naturally place a heavy burden upon the lower middle classes, and I am sure the Honourable the Finance Minister will see his way to give substantial relief to them.

Then there is another burden on the lower middle classes and that is the lowest exemption limit on income tax *viz.*, Rs. 2,500. I submit that in view of the fact that prices have gone up by 309 per cent. it is only reasonable that the exemption limit should be raised to at least Rs. 3,500.

[Pandit Mukat Bihari Lal Bhargava]

Then, Sir, I will draw the attention of the House to a very important criticism that has been levelled against the budgetary proposals, for which I feel there is ample justification; and that is that there is no principle and policy and planned economy underlying these proposals. They at first sight present a stereotyped repetition of what we have been seeing during the British regime. There is not the slightest effort to fit these proposals with the changed condition of the country and the Congress which is represented in the Government today stands by certain pledges which it made to the electorate, and any budget sponsored by the Congress Government must be judged by the one test, *viz.*, as to how far it satisfies the promises made to the electorate. There is no attempt in these budget proposals to tackle the problem of illiteracy, and of poverty and disease which have confronted this country for centuries. Is there any attempt made in this budget to free the teeming millions from the oppression and exploitation to which they have been subjected at the hands of zamindars, landlords and moneylenders and the princely order? Judged by these criteria the conclusion is irresistible that no such attempts have been made. Of course it may be said that this budget makes a provision of no less than 89 crores of rupees towards development programme in the country; it provides for 30 crores as grants to provinces, 34 crores as loans to provincial Governments and 25 crores for central development schemes. But the question is, where is the guarantee? Has the Finance Minister taken precautions to see that every pie of this money will be spent for improving and ameliorating the lot of the people who are the real sufferers? I submit there is none. And it is not possible also because until and unless a country-wide programme is devised for improving and ameliorating the lot of the suffering masses there cannot be the least guarantee as to the utilisation of whatever little money we may be able to spare in the name of such improvement. At present there is no such programme before the country. I would humbly request Government to call a conference of all the Ministers at the centre and of the provinces and they should draw up a programme for 5 or 10 years with a definite target that illiteracy, poverty and disease should be wiped out from the face of this country in this period. After such a programme has been devised, it is then to be decided what money has to be allotted to each province for carrying on with this programme. The revenue sources of each province are different. There are certain small provinces like Assam and Orissa or centrally administered provinces like Ajmer which have very slender resources; and because they have not enough resources there is no reason why the people there should remain uneducated and disease-ridden and should not be pulled up to the level of other better placed people in this country.

Then after this programme is framed and the money needed by each province determined, we have to see to what extent this can be met from the provincial revenues and to what extent it can be done by the central revenues. After the programme is made and carefully examined and scrutinised by experts, there should be a country-wide drive to wipe out illiteracy, poverty, disease and such other things. It is only such a planned programme that can take us in a definite period to the attainment of our goal, and without the realisation of this goal of wiping out illiteracy and poverty the Congress cannot be true to the masses whom it claims to represent.

My further suggestion is that after such programme has been devised the practice of putting forward a yearly budget either at the centre or in the provinces should be given up; there should be a five-yearly budget in both the centre as well as the provinces. At the end of each financial year we

should review the work done in the light of the proposals that had been approved, and after taking the accounts of the past year we should read just our figures and programmes accordingly. After the lapse of five years we should see how far we have succeeded in reaching the ideal we set before us in the first year. Therefore my submission is that there must be imagination, vision, drive, and determination to tackle these problems and by tackling these problems we will be able to pull up that down trodden man to the level we desire and for which we have given our pledge to the people.

Then, Sir, I would with your permission, within the couple of minutes available to me, cursorily refer to certain problems of my province. During the session, on several occasions questions have been put to the Honourable the Minister of Finance as to what step this Government does contemplate to take to introduce prohibition in centrally administered areas of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg, etc. I do not want the usual answer, which I submit is quite vague and indefinite. This Government has accepted the policy of prohibition. This reiteration from the floor of the House was not necessary. The Congress Government cannot say that it is not committed to the policy of prohibition. Prohibition has been in the forefront of the Congress programme from 1919. A big province like Madras is going to be made dry within a very short time. How can the centre say that this programme of prohibition can wait for some time here when the Congress Government is in power. I therefore respectfully draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Minister to implement this programme of prohibition in the centrally administered areas as early as possible, because then alone can they be a model for other provinces to follow, and if the Central Government fails there is no hope as to what will happen in the future in the other provinces.

I will again draw attention to a very important matter which concerns my province of Ajmer-Merwara. There, Sir, what is called the Istimrardari system is the worst form of Zamindari existing in any part of the country. The masses and peasants have been subject to an age-long exploitation of various kinds at the hands of their feudal chiefs, who not only enjoy economic rights but are also enjoying super-legal rights under the law, under the archaic piece of regulation known as Regulation II of 1877. The peasants there have not the slightest security over tenure. They can be ejected at the sweet will of the feudal landlords, though for generations they might have cultivated and improved the lands by the sweat of their brow.

Now, Sir, there was a serious agitation in 1932-33 for the non-payment of rent and it was suppressed with ruthless might of the Government then existing, because the Government as represented in my province by the Chief Commissioner has always been hand in gloves with the Istimrardars. From 1935 a lukewarm effort was made to improve the lot of these people by making changes in the enactment. The Dela Fogue Committee was appointed. One Mr. Irwin, an experienced civilian from the Central Provinces was sent to make an enquiry into the lot of these people. He submitted a report and also gave a draft legislation for enactment. It was in the year 1937. That draft legislation was kept as a secret and was thrown into cold storage and with great effort it could be got produced on the table of this House during the last session of the Legislature.

Now, Sir, a special officer was sent by the Government of India who enquired into the system and submitted a draft legislation. The draft was received by the Government about a year back. But still it has not been found possible to enact that tenancy law. I submit that the Congress Government stands committed to the liquidation of the Zamindari or Istimrardari systems which is the worst form of zamindari and even if this liquidation

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does not take place forthwith, at least some relief must be awarded in whatever way possible to the masses. The Advisory Council of the Chief Commissioner has passed a resolution that if no regular law is passed, at least by the enactment of an ordinance some relief may be given. The agrarian trouble is brewing and yet there is no sign of any relief. I submit that this is in a nutshell the condition of this neglected centrally administered province of Ajmer-Merwara.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): Sir, when the Britishers were ruling here, every year that the Budget was introduced there used to be cut motions and speeches on supply and demand. When in 1946 the last British Finance Member, on introducing the budget said that he was the last British Finance Member and his was the first and last speech upon the finance Budget, indicated thereby that the British were preparing to transfer power to us. While introducing the budget at the threshold of transfer of power to us, he left behind, in his words, the following legacies: poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment and under-employment. Of all these, he said the most formidable was poverty.

Further on he said that all the means of production had been worked to their limit and there was no means of producing more in the country and thereby increasing the wealth of the country, without the capital goods which we can get only from foreign countries. This is the legacy which in the words of the last Finance Minister, the British Government has transferred to us and with this legacy we had started our administration. The administrative machinery is the same which was administering under the British rule. We do not know with what approach they were administering then which has brought about this result. The same process of allotting money to a particular department and then taking account of it at the end of the year was in process and there used to be criticism over each and every expenditure and also the taxes which were being imposed. But the result, as the last British Finance Member said, was as I stated before. Now we are administering with the same machinery and the same process is in vogue. We have taken power in our hands for the last seven months. Let us see whether there is any sign of any improvement on any score, so that after a year and a half when we transfer this power to the people who will come through proper elections according to the constitution prepared by us, they will see as to what improvement we have made during the course of two years or whatever may be the period during which we administer this country.

In the last eight days there have been discussions on the working of the various departments and the Ministers replies are there. From what we have heard from the Ministers in reply to all the criticisms which have been made I do not find any improvement in the method of administration. There is a great talk of planning and policy and appointing of committees as was before. It is not very difficult to make out a policy or draw up a plan. Give it to Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya and he will give us a plan within a week which will be very beneficial to the development of our country in all its aspects. . . .

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Bachelors' wives and maid's children are well brought up!

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: But the main thing is how that policy or plan is administered. Some plan or policy is already there. We should see whether these have been administered properly or not. I shall take in short each department.

First of all I shall take agriculture. There was a campaign called the Grow More Food Campaign and it appears from the speech of the Minister for Agriculture that this has not been successful, rather it has been a failure and the reasons for this that have been placed before us are that sufficient iron, cement and tractors were not available. I beg to enquire from the Honourable Minister in charge of Agriculture whether it was not possible to bring about more production of food without these things. I submit that it was possible. Our Finance Minister while introducing the Budget said that the two great bottlenecks in producing more and increasing the wealth of our country were want of capital goods and transport facilities. But to me it appears that there is a greater bottleneck, which is the present machinery of administration. We should enquire from the present machinery as to what has been the causes of their failure under the British Government? They will find that it is the system of administration which was meant for different purposes. If the present machinery would have taken into its head to produce more food, at least I can say of Bihar that even without these tractors, full supply of cement, iron and other things, there would have been at least 20 per cent. more production of food, if only the persons who are in charge of it had been alert and had supplied the ordinary needs of the cultivators. When I went to Bihar I learnt that people could not cultivate their land, because they had no seeds. When they approached the Director of Agriculture he referred them to his Assistant Director and so on the process went and they did not get anything. I have nothing to say so far as the long term programme is concerned but if we confine ourselves to the present and see to the immediate needs of the cultivators such as of supplying them the necessary ploughs, even of the old type, proper seeds, slight diversion of River and Bandh here and there for irrigation and preservation of manures and such other things as are available here, there will be an increase of at least 20 per cent. more food grains. If you will enquire most of the lands have given poor yield because of wants of these things. If the landlords and the Director of Agriculture take the slightest interest, I am saying so from my personal knowledge of the cultivators if they enquired of their demands and just supplied them with whatever they required I am sure there will be at least 20 per cent. increase in the production of foodgrains in most parts of Bihar.

The other day when the discussion was going on food policy my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam suggested that we should declare prizes for the cultivators, so that they can have some incentive and some temptation for producing more in the same acreage all over and show better results. I have myself got such things done *i.e.* by distributing proper seeds and arranging for some irrigation here and there on a very small scale. The production went up by 20 to 25 per cent., to whomsoever among the cultivators the facilities were given. We gave some prizes to these people. This was a great incentive to them to produce more. But, as I said, the machinery is such that it does not try to meet the demands and requirements of the people. They move only on files and that too slowly. Even if you go to the Ministers they think that it is too small a matter. We are expecting tractors; we are expecting big canals; we are expecting big dams; and then there will be more and more production. In this hope we remain. We do not utilise the little resources which we have actually got in our hand. Similarly I wanted to speak on all the items, of all the Departments—Industry, Commerce, Health, Communications, Defence, Works, Mines and Power, which are concerned with the building problem etc., but there has already been a warning bell and I have no time. If we just confine ourselves to the materials which we have got at our disposal and if we only take it into our head to utilise them, much can be done. In regard to Commerce there was the discussion as to how they have mis-managed it. During the last six months it has been our own Government. I want to know from the Government as

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to why we could not do this thing, why we could not give proper licences to the proper persons and for proper things. This too has not been done properly. I want to know from the Government as to why we are not utilising the resources at our command and why we are not taking steps to drive away corruption, nepotism and other evils and the habit of the administration to work in the old-fashioned way, the object of which was not to attain any particular object but simply to pass the days without caring as to what comes out of it.

I shall just read out to you, Sir, the reply given by my Honourable friend the Finance Minister in reply to a question regarding the realisation of super-tax etc., from shareholders of sterling and dollar companies:

"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.''

In reply to another question he stated:

"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".

I do not know how the Honourable the Minister for Finance says that the present law is ineffective in realizing the taxes from dollar and sterling companies. I am not a lawyer, but from what I have read of the Income-tax law as it exists today, if this thing has been supplied to him by his Secretaries, I think they are making a mistake. The present law is quite effective and we can realize under it all our taxes from the shareholders as well as from the companies, as has been provided in the law. This law was introduced when the British Government was ruling and I do not know why our Secretaries have now come with a proposal to do away with it. I propose to move an amendment on this point and then I shall try to explain to the House that this is quite effective and the Secretaries have made a mistake in saying that it is absolutely ineffective. The reason why I brought in this matter now is to show that the Secretaries are working in a red-tapism and irresponsible way and not going into the facts. Sir, with these words I conclude.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Sidhva, I hope the Honourable Member is aware of the convention and he will make a useful contribution.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, we have won our freedom. But the man in the street asks where is the freedom for him and he rigthly asks so. Why does he say so? Because his economic condition is the same as it was before. The Honourable the Finance Minister while replying to the debate stated that if we want to improve the condition of the masses we ought to look upon to the Provinces. He is quite right. If we want to ameliorate the condition of the masses it is the Provinces which have to look to it. On the one hand we say that the Centre should be a strong Government and on the other we cannot shirk our responsibility by merely stating that the Centre should be strong and leaving it to the Provinces to do what they think is best. The Finance Minister also said that he would like to call a Conference of the Ministers of the Provinces to look into this matter. I was very glad to hear about that. But I want to make a suggestion in regard to this matter. What is the cause of the condition of the masses in the villages? Unless you improve the condition of the villagers you are not going to bring prosperity and happiness to the villagers. How will you bring it about? Today the system of local bodies is most wretched. The relations between the local

bodies and the Provincial Governments are not very happy. Everybody wants power and centralisation, but they do not want to give the local bodies the power to function themselves for the betterment of the people. What has come about today, Sir? We are so sorry to learn this morning that the Calcutta Corporation has been suspended. The matter has reached that stage when one of the biggest Corporations has been suspended. Why is it? It is because the relations between the local bodies and the Provincial Governments have never been cordial. Their financial adjustments have been very very bad. The electricity tax which should go to the local bodies the Provincial Government takes upon itself. The entertainment tax which should go to the local body the Provincial Government takes. The luxury tax which must go to the local bodies the Provincial Government takes. Not a share of it is given to the local bodies. Even now in regard to street lighting the Provincial Government taxes the local bodies. It is with great fight that the Madras Government exempted the local bodies from the street lighting. All other governments did not exempt. They levied their taxes. The taxes are not equitably distriubted by provinces. Similarly is the case with Sanitary Committees and Notified Committees. If they have no money, how will they function? How can they ameliorate the condition of the villagers? The Honourable the Finance Minister may not be in charge of them, but you cannot state that you want to be strong at the Centre and at the same time ignore the villagers, the condition of the villagers. The villagers look to you at the Centre as to how they are going to be prosperous. You have to set aside some money directly for them, or you should call upon the provinces that they must set aside. In the constitution-making, Sir, in the Concurrent List I made a suggestion. Nobody looks to it. We are preaching outside that we want to ameliorate the condition of the villagers, but when we come to brass tacks, nobody looks to it. I am glad the Honourable the Finance Minister says he is going to call a conference of Ministers, but what are the proposals? What is he going to do? That is worrying the villages. That is worrying the average man in the street. He must find the money, he must set aside a certain amount of money. Even the previous bureaucratic government set aside one crore of rupees for the uplift of the villages, doubtless a very small sum, but I am only just giving an example. But today that condition does not exist. There is no question of one crore of rupees. The Honourable the Finance Minister is giving relief to industrialists for greater production. I agree with him that we must have larger production: but I do not know whether the industrialists will really produce more and benefit the state, or whether they will pocket to themselves the benefit. That is my experience in the past. In the sugar industry, no sooner the sugar control was lifted the benefit went to them. That is our experience. While I am entirely with him for larger production, he has not taken any precautions for seeing that the benefit goes to the people. While we are out for encouraging production to the utmost extent, I am not in favour of giving relief to industrialists. That is the main point on which I am harping about. As far as finances are concerned, on control matters, Sir, I am a firm believer in controls, at least as far as the food control is concerned. But when I saw that nobody could control our national government was ridiculed. I felt that the best course was for the control on cloth should go, and the Honourable the Finance Minister at the last session said that if we could not improve control, control must go: and the Honourable Minister for Industries and Supplies made another statement in his reply to me that if the efficacy of control is lacking, we must make an effort to improve control. The Ministry are of two views—One Honourable Minister says that control must go, another says it must be improved. Whatever that may be, the control on cloth has gone and we are glad that cloth has come in the market. Sugar also has come in the market,

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva]

I am glad about it, although the prices have not gone down to the control rate, but sugar is available: and one good thing is that 25 per cent. levy has been made on cloth. Now, Sir, why should steel be controlled, I cannot understand. It is not going to affect the poor man, and today in replying the Honourable the Minister for Industries stated that the price of the foreign steel and iron he is going to import is costing Rs. 200 more than the price of our steel. I am making a suggestion to the Honourable the Finance Minister. Let him make a levy of the same amount to equalize the price to the foreign price of our Indian article. It will bring in 10 crores of rupees. It is not going to affect the poor man. Then 10 crores of rupees be set aside for the uplift of the masses, directly giving the amount to sanitary committees, to local bodies, to the Notified Area Committees and small industries.

Shri Bikramlal Sondhi (East Punjab: General): How will it affect industries?

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: It will not affect in any way industries.

Shri Bikramlal Sondhi: Building?

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Building is not going to be affected. Only ten per cent. of the rods are going to be utilised for building material. Let me tell you 80 per cent. of the steel which is manufactured goes for fabricated goods. These fabricated articles are uncontrolled and advantage of same goes mostly to European firms. In the past only Europeans wanted control and 80 per cent. of the quotas went to Europeans. Only 10 per cent. goes for building materials. I may tell my friend that it is not going to affect building materials at all. Therefore, Sir, if the Finance Minister seriously considers this matter, I would say 'Here is an offer to him of 10 crores of rupees'. I would ask him to think and ponder over this matter, that the relations of the local bodies and the provincial governments as far as finances are concerned, must be made very very sound if you are out to improve the condition of the villages. If you are out to improve the conditions of the industrialists only, if you are out to look to the interests of the upper class people, very well, then there is nothing to be said about it. If you are here to decrease customs duties here and there, if you are here to decrease the excise duties here and there, give relief in income-tax here and there, that is a different matter. That matters very little to the average man in the street who asks today "Where is his freedom". "He asks where is the freedom that you have won for me and for which you have been advocating?" That is the thing, Sir, that is really worrying us and that ought to worry the Honourable the Finance Minister. Finance is the key for everything, and I am sure if he were to apply his mind to these matters, he will really bring about real happiness, real prosperity in the country. The Congress, while preaching from thousands of platforms stated "When we achieve freedom, we shall bring happiness and prosperity to every villager". I know, Sir, that the conditions under which we are working, the Government is working, are not very smooth. I really appreciate under what conditions the Government are working. I do not dismiss that from my mind. I am not merely criticizing them for the purpose of criticism. I do realise all this, but at the same time some beginning has to be made. I do not share the view of my friend Professor K. T. Shah on the question of the sterling balances. I agree with him on many matters. But when he said "The British Government are not prepared to pay today, you be firm, and if they are not going to pay, forego them." I entirely disagree with him. Why forego? What for should we forego, I cannot understand. The money is ours. We must get, every pie of it. I do not want to forego one pie of that money.

Prof. K. T. Shah: On a point of personal explanation. I did not say 'forego unconditionally'. I wanted the British Government to proclaim itself as thankless, faithless, shameless, bankrupt, and insolvent all over the world with whom none should trade.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Whatever that may be, Sir, I remember his saying so. You may proclaim them shameless. With all that, I want my money; P. M. that is my point. Proclaim them shameless people, but I will not leave my money, I want my money back. It is my earned money, we will see that they pay. Why should not they pay? We will make them pay through the nose; we will pull them by the nose and say, "Give us our money". Why do you take them as shameless?—they are already shameless people.

Therefore, Sir, in the name of the poor people, my humble submission to the Honourable the Finance Minister is this: I am not only speaking for myself, we here all feel that we have to do something for these people, and I have stated you cannot do anything good to the villagers unless you improve their financial position. That is my point. If you leave it to Provinces, they won't do anything. Somebody has to do something; if you leave it to Provinces, if you say they will do it, nobody will do it. The Centre wants to be strong—we have stated we want to be strong; I am for the Centre to be strengthened. Then, be strong, provide money, set aside money, and make the villages happy.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 18th March, 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Thursday, 18th March, 1948

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at 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 Baldeo Swarup (Eastern Rajputana States Group).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS

DISTINCTION IN ALLOTMENT OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS.

835. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the policy of Government in the allotment of houses to Government servants?

(b) Is it a fact that a distinction is made in their allocation between Government servants paid from military estimates and those paid from the civil budget in Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta?

(c) Is it a fact that the Armed Forces Headquarters staff having the same qualifications as those on the Civil side are not entitled to the same class of accommodation?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Provision of accommodation by Government is not a condition of service under Government, but as a matter of policy in normal times the Government of India used to provide approximately 50 per cent. of their employees with accommodation in Delhi. Owing to the abnormal conditions prevailing at present it has only been possible for them to meet not more than 20 per cent. of the demand. A set of the allotment rules governing the allotment of accommodation in Delhi is placed in the Library of the Legislature.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of answer to part (a), is there any priority or precedence list for allotment?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: There is no precedence list, except that in the case of Secretaries of Departments, allotment is made out of turn.

RESTRICTION ON ENTRY OF BRITISH NATIONALS OF SOUTH AFRICA DOMICILE

836. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any restrictions in regard to the entry of British nationals into India who, for sometime, have been domiciled in any other colonial country such as South Africa;

(b) whether any applications have been made to Government for permits of entry in cases where South African domicile was involved and if so, the number of cases, if any, in which such permits were granted; and

(c) whether Government are aware of complaints among foreign engineering personnel arriving in India regarding the time involved in the issue of permit and consequent inconvenience caused to them, their families and their employees, and if so, how many specific cases have been brought to the notice of Government and the action, if any, taken by Government to obviate the delay in the issue of permits for entry?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) There is no restriction on the entry into India of British subjects other than those domiciled in South Africa. Under the Reciprocity (South Africa) Rules, 1944, generally speaking a person not being of Indian origin who is domiciled in South Africa has been declared a 'prohibited immigrant'.

(b) 98 applications have so far been received of which 88 have been allowed.

(c) Only one case has come to the notice of Government. In this case there is doubt as to the domicile of the person concerned, and detailed enquiries have had to be instituted. If any other cases of delay are brought to my notice, I will gladly have them investigated, for I am anxious that no needless delay should take place in these matters.

IMPORT OF BURMA AND IRANIAN CRUDE PETROLEUM AND ESTABLISHMENT OF REFINERIES IN INDIAN PORTS.

837. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that large quantities of crude petroleum from Burma and Iranian oil fields are available for sale?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take steps to import and refine crude petrol by establishing refineries in some ports in India?

(c) Are Government aware that refinery machinery is available for disposal in Burma?

(d) What steps do Government intend to take to explore the possibilities of this enterprise?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) As far as Burma oil fields are concerned, crude petroleum in large quantities is not available for sale.

As far as Iranian Oil fields are concerned, Government have no information.

(b) The question of importing and refining crude petroleum by establishing Refineries in India is already receiving Government's consideration.

(c) As far as Government are aware Refinery machinery is not available for disposal from Burma.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have we got enough staff to run these refineries or have we to import experts and advisers from abroad?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: We have neither the refining machinery nor the expert Advisers here at present.

DEATH SENTENCE BY DUTCH TRIBUNAL TO SIX MEMBERS OF INDIAN VOLUNTEER BRIGADE IN INDONESIA.

838. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Dutch Tribunal have sentenced to death six members of the Indian Volunteer Brigade working in Indonesia on or about the first week of February 1948?

(b) If so, what are the offences for which they have been sentenced to death?

(c) Has the Indonesian Youth Federation represented the matter to Government or any other organisation in India?

(d) Is it a fact that this sentence violates International laws?

(e) Do Government propose to represent to the Dutch Government to suspend the execution of the death sentence, pending investigation?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No.

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

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable the Prime Minister's answer to part (a) was 'No'. May I enquire if the allegation is entirely incorrect and whether he has personally looked into this matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I may assure the Honourable Member that we enquired into the matter. We have been informed by our representative there that no Indian has been involved. Some Indonesians were involved and they were sentenced.

SHORTAGE OF DIESEL OIL IN INDIA AND CONSUMPTION DURING 1938-47.

839. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of diesel oil consumed in India during the years between 1938-39 and 1946-47;

(b) the total quantity of diesel oil which was available in India in the year 1947, the quantity that was available for supply to the public in that year and the quantity that is expected to be available during the year 1948;

(c) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of diesel oil in India and if so, since when this shortage has been felt; and

(d) what effect this shortage had on the industrial and agricultural projects sponsored by the Government of India as also on private enterprises and what steps Government have taken or contemplate to take to meet this shortage?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The consumption figures for 1938 and 1947 are not available. The figures for the other years are as follows:

	Light Diesel Oil	High Speed Diesel Oil
	Tons.	Tons
1939	289,265	9,391
1940	287,119	8,796
1941	341,881	11,510
1942	374,485	17,426
1943	292,488	35,045
1944	329,251	74,676
1945	429,932	149,535
1946	379,546	50,569
TOTAL	2,723,967	356,978

(b) The total quantity available in undivided India in 1947 was 462,067 tons approximately Light Diesel Oil and 62,560 tons approximately High Speed Diesel Oil were made available to the public.

The quantities available for the whole of 1948 is not yet known; on the basis of actual availability for the 1st quarter of 1948, they should be as follows for the Indian Union:

265,360 tons Light Diesel Oil.

80,000 tons High Speed Diesel Oil.

(c) Yes. The shortage became very pronounced from the beginning of this year.

(d) This shortage of Light Diesel Oil and in particular High Speed Diesel oil is bound to have serious effects on the private enterprises as well as on the industrial and agricultural projects sponsored by Government. The possibility of imposing control over consumption is being examined with a view to safeguarding the interests of essential consumers. Government are also taking steps to establish direct contact with the suppliers of Oil outside India and those who are responsible for the allotment of Petroleum Products to this country in order to obtain increased supplies for the remainder of the year.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask, Sir, in view of the scare that seems to exist in certain industries with respect to supplies of Diesel oil for purposes of production is the Government likely to arrive at a decision in regard to supplies of Diesel oil at an early date?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That will be so.

ACUTE SHORTAGE OF DIESEL OIL IN AJMER-MERWARA.

840. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the quantity of diesel oil allotted to Ajmer-Merwara during the years between 1943-44 and 1946-47?

(b) Are Government aware that owing to the acute shortage of diesel oil, there has been repeated breakdown of public street lighting in the towns of Ajmer and Beawar during the last two years?

(c) What steps have Government taken or propose to take to avoid the repetition of such breakdown in future?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) 1943—68 Gallons.

1944—Nil

1945—Figures not available.

1946—5,280 gallons.

1947—4,067 gallons.

(b) Government are not aware.

(c) High Speed Diesel Oil is in very short supply at present. Nevertheless Government have allotted a high priority to the requirements of Diesel Power Houses in the country and distribution of available supplies of High Speed Diesel Oil would be made to the essential public utility concerns as equitably as possible.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S OFFICES AT SIMLA AND CALCUTTA.

841. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the offices of the Government of India functioning at Simla and Calcutta;

(b) the number of Gazetted and Non-gazetted officers and subordinate staff employed in these offices;

(c) whether all the offices in these two places are housed in rented buildings or Government buildings; and

(d) if they are in rented houses, what the total rent paid is?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a), (b), (c) and (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the principle governing the scattering of these offices all over the country? Is it one of decentralisation of offices though not of Administration?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Two things are responsible for this. Firstly, what has happened in the past, and secondly, the needs of the present.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What are the permanent offices at Simla at present?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I shall lay the information on the table in due course.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: No, Sir. At least we must know what are the permanent offices now at Simla.

Mr. Speaker: He has already answered the question. He wants to collect the information and will pass it on to the Honourable Member in due course.

INDIAN NATIONALS IN IRAN.

842. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the total population of Indian Nationals in Iran?

(b) How many of them are engaged in trade?

(c) Is it a fact that by the promulgation of a recent order of the Iranian Government, Indian Nationals have been debarred from trading in Iran?

(d) Is it a fact that a large number of Indians in Iran carrying on import trade have invested very large sums in that country?

(e) If so, have Government any information regarding the total capital of Indians invested in Iran in trade?

(f) Have the Government of India drawn the attention of the Iranian Government through their Ambassador to this matter and if so, with what results?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Approximately 500.

(b) Complete information on this point is not available but there are about 100 Indian firms engaged in import business.

(c) The Iranian Government propose to pass a law with a view to curtailing the trading activities of all foreigners in Iran. If the Bill which has been introduced in the Iran Legislature is passed the Indians in Iran will be affected like other foreigners.

(d) and (e). While no information on the amounts invested by Indians in Iran is available, the investments must be substantial as Indians have been in business there for a number of years.

(f) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have protested to the Government of Iran both through the Iranian Embassy in Delhi and through our Ambassador. The Iranian Government have been asked to exempt the Indian traders in Iran from the provisions of the proposed Bill. Their reply is awaited.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of answer to part (c) do Government propose to take any reciprocal or retaliatory action against the Iranians in our country?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That is a question to be considered when the time arises for it.

CONFISCATION AND AUCTION OF PROPERTY OF UTTAM CHAND MALHOTRA OF KABUL BY AFGHAN GOVERNMENT.

843. *Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that property and cash, worth about Rs. 1,50,000 belonging to Uttam Chand Malhotra of Kabul were confiscated by the Afghan Government in 1941-42;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said property and cash were auctioned by the Afghan Government at a very low price and that only Rs. 12,000 were paid to Uttam Chand Malhotra;

(c) what are the reasons for the aforesaid action taken by the Afghan Government; and

(d) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what action the Government of India propose to take for the recovery of the confiscated property from the Afghan Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c). The Government of India's information is that Mr. Uttam Chand's property in Kabul was locked and sealed in his presence by the Afghan authorities in 1942 when he was deported. Later this property was sold by the Afghan Government as persons nominated by Mr. Uttam Chand in Kabul for the disposal of the property declined to act for him. It is understood that the Afghan Government paid him a sum of Rs. 12,800, Indian currency, in full settlement. Government are not in a position to assess the value of his property, for which it is understood he claimed about Rs. 62,000 Indian currency.

(d) The Government of India, as I told the House on November 15th, 1946, do not regard it as practicable to compensate Indians for alleged losses suffered in foreign countries.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is Government aware, Sir, that this Uttam Chand Malhotra is the person who gave shelter to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his dramatic flight from India into Europe?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Government have seen press reports to that effect.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact, Sir, that his property was confiscated by the Afghan Government for the alleged offence of having given shelter to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose during his flight?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have no information on that point.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government take steps to enquire into this matter, whether it is a fact or not?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member must remember that there is a foreign Government dealing with a foreigner in their country. They have stated that they sealed this property in his presence, etc., and then they gave a certain compensation. This Government cannot bring it before a tribunal to find out what the right compensation is. It is very difficult for us to intervene except privately to see that no injustice is done.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government please try to ascertain whether the Afghan Government took this action against him at the instance of the British Legation in Kabul?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Government is going to do no such thing.

PAKISTAN'S OBSTRUCTIONS IN TRANSPORT OF MACHINERY AND COMMERCIAL GOODS IMPORTED INTO KARACHI BY INDIAN NATIONALS.

844. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the terms of agreement entered into between India and Pakistan in respect of transport to India of machinery and commercial goods already imported into Karachi,

(i) by persons who have migrated from Pakistan to India, and

(ii) by dealers and merchants in India?

(b) Are Government aware that such machinery and goods even though imported for supply to customers in India under definite contracts are not being allowed to be transported to India, nor has any compensation therefor been paid by the Government of Pakistan?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take in this connection?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) There is no agreement now in force between the two Dominions to regulate the transport of goods of the classes referred to by the Honourable Member, as the decision reached by the Partition Council that the two Governments should maintain the *status quo* regarding all matters affecting trade and movement of goods terminated on the 29th February, 1948.

(b) and (c). Numerous representations have been received to this effect and on a reference being made to the Pakistan Government, the Government of India have been assured that no restrictions are being placed on the transport of goods genuinely intended for the Dominion of India or in transit to ports in India. The position, however, is very unsatisfactory, and it is proposed to discuss these and allied matters shortly at Inter-Dominion level.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Was not this question discussed last week by our Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation when he was discussing with the Honourable Minister of Pakistan in Lahore?

Mr. Speaker: Does it relate to rehabilitation question?

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether this was one of the questions discussed?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think that arises out of this question.

AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN FOR EXCHANGE OF SPINDLES WITH INDIAN COAL

845. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether any agreement has been made or is proposed to be made with Japan for the purchase of spindles in exchange for coal, and if so, what is the number of such spindles?

(b) How are these spindles proposed to be distributed?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for 29th March, 1948, when the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply will answer it.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN ABDUCTED FROM JAMMU AND KASHMIR

846. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of women and children abducted from Jammu and Kashmir by raiders upto the end of February, 1948;

(b) the number of such women and children recovered from Pakistan so far; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of such abducted women have been sold in Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No definite figures are available.

(b) 484 women and 495 children have so far been recovered from Pakistan.

(c) Allegations to this effect have been made, but the Government of Pakistan have denied them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the latest position, Sir, in the light of the talks that the two Ministers had had recently at Lahore in regard to this particular matter?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The latest position in terms of figures?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Figures apart, Sir, they had had discussion and negotiation also and they issued a statement. May we know whether the Government expect better response from the Pakistan Government, and if so, in what direction or to what extent.

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

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Government aware that many of the abducted women that have been recovered from Western Pakistan have on their cheeks the Pakistan tattoo?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am not aware of any such thing, but enquiries will be made.

DECLARATION AS INDIAN NATIONALS OF HINDUS AND SIKHS FROM PAKISTAN LIVING ABROAD

†847. ***Shri P. Kunhiraman** (on behalf of **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao**): (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether facilities have been given to the Hindu and Sikh nationals who were previously nationals in the present Pakistan territory, but were residents outside India and were doing business, to declare themselves as nationals of the Indian Union?

(b) Is the Indian Union looking after the interests of the Pakistan nationals in countries in which Pakistan has no direct diplomatic representation?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The question of nationality or citizenship is rather vague at present. It will finally be determined by the provisions of the new Constitution, and Government will no doubt set up suitable machinery at the appropriate time to enable persons now resident in overseas countries, who qualify for Indian citizenship to declare their option in favour of such citizenship. In the meantime instructions have been issued to the overseas representatives of the Government of India to give all assistance to any Indian who seeks it, even if he was born in any territory which is now included in Pakistan.

(b) The Government of Pakistan are at present represented in countries where they have no direct representation of their own by the diplomatic representatives of the Government of the United Kingdom.

REALISATION OF MONEY FROM PAKISTAN NATIONALS DUE UNDER DECREE TO INDIAN FIRMS AND NATIONALS

†848. ***Shri P. Kunhiraman** (on behalf of **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state what arrangements are being made to realise money from Pakistan nationals which is due under decree to private individuals and firms in the Indian Union?

(b) Do Government propose to give an estimate of the amount due to the nationals of the Indian Union under this head?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Where the decretal amounts have already been deposited in the courts they become evacuee property and come within the scope of the discussions which have been and will be held with the Government of Pakistan; otherwise they will be treated as decrees of foreign courts and the normal procedure of foreign decrees will apply in their cases.

(b) No estimate of the amount due is available.

†Taken up in the Second round. Printed Serially in these Debates.

AVAILABILITY OF WORKING ACCOUNTS OF ALLIANZ UND STUTTGARTER INSURANCE BANK LIMITED TO POLICY HOLDERS

849. ***Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an undertaking was given to the policy-holders of the Allianz Und Stuttgarter Insurance Bank Limited by Government that the company was being managed solely in the interests of the policy holders and that accounts of the working of each year shall be made available to them within six months of the expiry of that year?

(b) Have any such accounts been prepared and sent to the policy-holders? If so, in what years? If there have been defaults in sending the accounts, what is the reason for these and what action have Government taken against the defaulting party?

(c) What was the total annual income of the company in the years 1939, 1945 and 1947 respectively and what were the annual working expenses of the company in those years and what fees including honorarium were received by Fergusson & Company during those years?

(d) What action, if any, do Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of the policy-holders?

(e) Have Government ascertained whether the company is being managed in the real interests of the policy holders and have any representatives of the policy-holders, elected by them, been associated with the management of the Company?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) No, Sir; no such undertakings were given to the policy-holders of the 'Allianz'. The management of the Company however was taken over by Government with a view to safeguarding to best extent possible the interests of the policy-holders, due regard being had to Government's obligations to the vested enemy firm and no effort is being spared to achieve that purpose.

(b) (i) and (ii). The accounts were prepared for each of the years from 1939 to 1946. For 1939 and 1940, the full accounts were sent in 1942 to those policy-holders who asked for them; for subsequent years, short summaries were sent to all policy-holders—For 1941 and 1942, they were sent in 1943 for 1943 in 1944 and for 1944-46 in 1948. Full accounts for even these years are sent to those who ask for them.

(iii) There have been no defaults, though some delays have occurred mainly due to the time needed by the company for furnishing the accounts and in getting them printed. Occasionally circulation of accounts has also had to be held up, if there were points in them which required further investigation.

(iv) Does not arise.

(c) (i) The total income of the 'Allianz' for the years 1939 and 1945 was Rs. 15.24,153 and Rs. 10,84,880, respectively. The expenses of management of the company during the years 1939 and 1945 were Rs. 6,75,668 and Rs. 66,926 respectively. The accounts for the year 1947 are not yet due.

(ii) Messrs. Fergusons' remuneration was fixed in October, 1940 at Rs. 2,500 p.m. with effect from September, 1939 (apart from an initial lump sum grant of Rs. 5,000 for the extra work involved in the beginning) but it has been gradually reduced and since April, 1945 it is Rs. 1,000 p.m.

(d) Consultations are proceeding with some private companies to explore whether a suitable transfer of the business could be effected.

(e) Government are satisfied that the present arrangements in regard to the company adequately safeguard the real interests of the policy-holders. Though not elected by the policy-holders, a representative of the policy-holders is associated with the management of the company since 1943 and is

on the Board constituted to assist and advise Government in important matters of policy arising in connection with the conduct of business of the company.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Did the policy governing the management of the Allianz Und Stuttgarter Insurance Bank apply uniformly to all German property of this category or was it a special case?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am not aware of the position with regard to a general policy.

REFUGEES FROM WEST PUNJAB SENT TO ORISSA

850. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state what is the number of refugees sent to Orissa from West Punjab?

(b) Have the Government of India placed any funds at the disposal of the Government of Orissa, for the rehabilitation of these refugees?

(c) If so, what is the amount?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No refugees have so far been sent from West Punjab to Orissa. Owing to the influx of refugees in Delhi, and to the shortage of accommodation, Government have decided that any more refugees coming to Delhi, will be sent out to refugee camps in Orissa.

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

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: What is the basis on which the refugees are being sent out to the different provinces?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The basis is accommodation.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the refugees going to Orissa be permanently settled?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It may be possible to settle some of them permanently in Orissa.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: What is the number of refugees in the United Provinces now?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I cannot answer without notice.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will they be settled in agriculture or in industry?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: In both, Sir.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: Is it the policy of Government to scatter Punjabis all over India?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the standard of living of these people be on a par with that of local people or will it be higher?

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of opinion.

IMMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS IN KENYA AND OTHER COLONIES IN EAST AFRICA

851. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what is the position with regard to immigration restrictions in Kenya and other colonies in East Africa?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of initiating negotiations with the Governments of those countries and the colonial office, in view of India's interests in those countries?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me on the 18th November, 1947 to starred question No. 47 by Pandit H. N. Kunzru. The Bills were considered by a Joint Select Committee of the Legislatures of the four British East African territories and passed by the Committee with some minor changes. They have since been passed into law.

(b) I am not quite clear as to what negotiations the Honourable Member has in mind. We made representations to the United Kingdom Government objecting to the principle underlying the proposed Immigration Bills and communicating our detailed comments on the clauses of the Bills. The United Kingdom Government have not agreed with our view that the Bills are objectionable in principle and, as regards our detailed criticisms, have taken the stand that these are for the Legislative Council of each territory and that the United Kingdom Government cannot properly interfere with the consideration of the points by the Legislative Councils. The United Kingdom Government, however, communicated our comments to the East African Governments. We have now made it clear to the United Kingdom Government that we cannot acquiesce in a legislation which adversely affects the rights and interests of our nationals abroad. In the meantime, we shall carefully watch the manner in which the new law is administered.

Seth Govinddas: Is it a fact that even those Indians who had been trading in East Africa and returned here during the war are prevented from going back there?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There are certain difficulties in the way; I do not know if they are definitely prevented from going back. If my honourable friend will bring any particular case to our notice we shall find out.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that there is supposed to be a common citizenship as between all these various countries within the British Commonwealth, have Government suggested the advisability of holding a round table conference between the East African Government, the Government of India and the British Government, in order to arrive at a more satisfactory solution than what is there in the Immigration Acts?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I was not aware of the fact that there are common citizenship provisions in all these territories. As for the suggestion that there should be a round table conference, I do not quite know what it could lead to, because the three Governments have considered it repeatedly. We sent a delegation to East Africa headed by Raja Maharaj Singh; they considered it. So the matter has been discussed at length. The difficulty is that the United Kingdom Government lays the burden on the legislatures of the East African Government. These are limited legislatures—they are not exactly popular legislatures—and they decide as they think fit.

RENEWAL OF SATYAGRAH CAMPAIGN BY INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

852. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the satyagraha campaign renewed by Indians in South Africa?

(b) If so, what steps do the Government of India propose to take to safeguard the interests of Indians in South Africa?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) We are watching carefully the developments in South Africa and will consider at the appropriate time what action we should take.

Seth Govinddas: When I raised this question last I referred to a complaint about prison conditions in South Africa and the Honourable Minister promised me that he would inquire into the matter. Has the inquiry been made? If so, what are the prison conditions there now?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We did inquire into this matter; I am sorry I have not got the exact reply here with me, but my recollection is that the prison conditions were not good, though there was nothing special to which we could draw their attention except the fact that we wanted them to be improved.

Seth Govinddas: Has the Prime Minister received any information as to whether they have improved since then?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member must remember that it is very difficult for one Government to discuss such matters with another Government on the other side, specially when they have no diplomatic relations with us at the time. These are things which can be informally discussed; we cannot call upon the South African Government to do this and that to certain persons whom they have convicted or arrested.

Prof N. G. Ranga: Are any periodical reports being sent to the U.N.O. Secretariat as regards the position of Indians in South Africa, after the last Resolution?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No report has been sent by the Government of India after that Resolution.

Prof N. G. Ranga: Have Government received any report as to the latest position of Indians in South Africa from one of their leaders who has reached Delhi recently?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We have received no reports. I do not know which leader the Honourable Member refers to, but we receive reports regularly from various leaders of the Indian community there and from a representative of ours who is still there who used to belong to the High Commissioner's office.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact that Mr. Sorabjee Rustamjee has recently come to Delhi from South Africa? Has he submitted a report as to the position of Indians there now?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: He is not a recent arrival; he has been here a long time. Of course, we have discussed this matter with him repeatedly; he has not given us any written report.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of the persistent jingoism and stand-pat policy of Field-Marshal Smuts and his Government, do our Government contemplate any fresh demarche on a high international level?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: To whom?

Shri H. V. Kamath: To the U.N.O.?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Considering that we have had discussions and decisions by the U.N.O. in the last general session, I do not know what a fresh demarche at present would lead to.

EXCHANGE OF HIGH COMMISSIONERS BETWEEN INDIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

853. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is proposed to exchange High Commissioners between India and South Africa?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The post of Indian High Commissioner in the Union of South Africa is still vacant and there is no intention of filling it for the present. South Africa has not proposed the appointment of a High Commissioner in India.

AMENDMENT IN AMERICAN IMMIGRATION AND NATURALISATION LAWS AND ENTRY AND NATURALISATION OF INDIANS IN U. S. A.

854. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of the United States of America amended the American Immigration and Naturalization Laws to remove racial discrimination against Indians and if so, when; and

(b) the number of Indians who since the amendment.

(i) sought entry into the United States of America;

(ii) gained such admission;

(iii) sought naturalization; and

(iv) gained naturalization?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes. On the 2nd July, 1946.

(b) (i). The current demand for immigration visas, registered with the United States Government, stands at 445 from persons residing or domiciled in India and 397 from persons of Indian descent residing outside India.

(ii) Immigration visas granted during the period from the 1st July, 1946 to the 30th June, 1947 to persons residing in India numbered 123 and to those residing outside, but of Indian descent, 62.

(iii) It is regretted that figures of applications for naturalization received by the United States Government from Indians are not available.

(iv) During the year 1947, United States of America fiscal year, *i.e.*, 1st July, 1946 to 30th June 1947 naturalization was granted to 22 persons of Indian descent of whom 16 were born in India and 6 outside India.

In all these answers 'India' means pre-partition India and includes Pakistan. Separate figures for the Union of India alone are not available.

INDIANS WORKING IN SECRETARIAT OF U. N. O.

†**855. *Shri P. Kunhiraman** (on behalf of **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao**): (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of Indians working in the Secretariat of the United Nations Organisation?

(b) Have Government made any representations to get more Indians employed in the United Nations Organisation establishments?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what is the result of the representations?

(d) What is the normal channel of recruitment of these personnel?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The total number of Indians working in the United Nations is 17.

(b) The inadequate representation of Indians in the United Nations Secretariat has frequently been brought to the notice of the Secretary General by the Government of India, by leaders of the Delegations to the Assembly Sessions and by our Permanent Delegation. Our representatives in relevant Committees of the United Nations have constantly pressed the claim of Indians for a larger share of appointments in the United Nations and will continue to do so.

(c) As a result of these representations the number of persons appointed by the United Nations has increased from 11 on 31st August, 1947 to 17 in February, 1948.

†Taken up in the Second Round. Printed serially in these Debates.

(d) The Bureau of Personnel of the United Nations directly invites applications from candidates. Suitable candidates are borne, on the Register of the United Nations and are offered appointments as and when vacancies occur. The higher appointments are made by the Secretary-General or the Assistant Secretaries General. The Federal Public Service Commission (India), forwards applications from exceptionally well-qualified candidates—other applicants being advised to approach the United Nations Organisation directly.

Sri T. T. Krisnamachari: May I know whether the Prime Minister is aware of the fact that some of the Indians who are already on the staff of the United Nations Organisations want to come back or are already on their way back?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I know one or two cases like that. I do not know whether it is a general exodus.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if there is any reason for it? Is it because that these people are not treated properly or are there any other causes for their wanting to come back?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I think on the whole, it must be due partly to domestic reasons, possibly they think that the emoluments are not sufficient and life in the United States is rather expensive or may be that they are interested in some other kind of work in India, which they want to take up.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government received any representations from these people in regard to any complaints, if they have any?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No. They are engaged directly by the U.N.O.: the Government of India does not come into the picture at all, except as an organisation looking on in a friendly way and encouraging them. There is no question of their complaining to us.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many of these 11 Indians had been previously employed in the League of Nations Office?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the number of Indians working at present commensurate with our financial contribution to the U.N.O.?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I should think not.

Shri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that Mr. T. A. Raman who was carrying on active propaganda against the interests of India during the war under the British Government, is now in the employ of the U.N.O.? Are Government taking any steps to see that such men are not entertained by the U.N.O. office?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I believe that is a fact. It is not quite clear to me how the Government of India can interfere with the previous appointments of the U.N.O.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the relationship between the Government of India and the U.N.O. in regard to the employment of Indians on the staff of the U.N.O.? Is it not the generally agreed policy of the U.N.O. to appoint only those Indians who are acceptable to the Government of India and who are recommended by the Federal Public Service Commission or the Government of India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, normally the U.N.O. ask for the opinion of the Government of India or the Federal Public Service Commission but that is only a courtesy. They appoint them completely directly.

Seth Govinddas: As far as Mr. Raman is concerned did the Government of India, after our freedom, represent to the U.N.O. about the anti-Indian propaganda which this gentleman was carrying on previously and have they heard anything in this respect from the U.N.O.?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as I know no such reference was made.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister kindly make a reference in this regard inasmuch as we hear repeatedly many complaints against this Mr. Raman that he was carrying on anti-Indian propaganda?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I should like to consider this matter. It is not quite clear to me how we can interfere in the internal organisation of the U.N.O. and ask them to deal with a person whom they had appointed previously.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: As regards the employment of Indians in the U.N.O. may I know if there is any kind of arrangement or understanding to employ a minimum number of people from different countries in the United Nations Organisation?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no such arrangement or understandings. Normally speaking each country should have its proper and adequate share. What that is depends on many factors and as the U.N.O. is constituted, in every sense it is predominantly, if I may say so, American and European, so that the Asian element gets less representation than it ought to by virtue of population or other reasons.

PROPOSALS FOR A GOOD WILL AND FACT FINDING MISSION FOR INDO-CHINA.

856. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the External Department of the All India Congress Committee has suggested the desirability of sending out a Good Will and Fact Finding Mission to Indo-China?

(b) If so, what action have Government taken so far or propose to take in the matter, and when?

(c) Have the Indo-China Indian Association also requested the Government of India to facilitate the sending of such a Mission to Indo-China and to accord recognition therefor?

(d) If so, do Government propose to encourage such a Mission by giving them necessary credentials?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) The All India Congress Committee have been informed that the Government of India do not feel that an official mission can be sent at the present time.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government have instructed their representative in Indo-China to extend all possible assistance and courtesies to the non-official delegation headed by Mr. Nadimuthu Pillai which left India for Saigon on the 22nd February.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have they received any report from their delegation as to what they have been able to do? **

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot answer that question without making further enquiries.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the status of our Representative in Indo-China: is he an Ambassador or a Charge'de'Affaires?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Well, neither. I regret I cannot give his exact designation off-hand; I think he is more or less of the status of a Minister.

REMOVAL OF BAN ON REMITTANCES BY INDIANS TO INDO-CHINA.

857. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the answer to S. Q. No. 55 asked on the 18th November, 1947, relating to the removal of the ban on remittances by Indians in Indo-China and state what steps have since been taken to implement the assurance given therein?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India is giving earnest consideration to the matter. A decision is likely to be taken in the near future.

DEBT SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND FRANCE.

858. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions were held between the Secretary-General of the Ministry of External Affairs and the French Ambassador recently regarding the Debt Settlement Agreement between India and France; and

(b) whether Government propose to make a statement regarding the result of the discussion?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) There have been no discussions recently between the Secretary-General of the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations and the French Ambassador on the Debt Settlement Agreement between India and France.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to question No. 766, and the answer given to it on March 15, by the Honourable the Finance Minister on behalf of the Honourable the Commerce Minister.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable the Prime Minister whether any steps are being taken to withhold any portion of the assets of Indo-China nationals in this country to the tune of Rs. 45 lakhs for payment to Indian nationals who have got their assets in Indo-China?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No such steps are being taken. Any such action on our part at the present moment would only lead to further conflict and not to any kind of settlement.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister negotiate with the Government of Indo-China with a view to getting released at least 50 per cent. of the assets of the nationals of Indo-China against 15 or 20 times such assets held by our nationals in Indo-China.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: As a matter of fact, some kind of an agreement was arrived at between the Government of India and the Government of France. But it was subject to the other debt settlement. It is the debt settlement that has held matters up. I believe the Finance Minister said something to the effect two or three days ago in this House that they hoped to have the debt settlement completed soon.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that for the last ten years the assets of Indian nationals in Indo-China have been more or less frozen and Indians have been allowed to send to this country only very small amounts of money?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I think that is a correct description of what has happened.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable the Finance Minister the other day said that Indians will be allowed a transfer of Rs. 200 per head. As this is a meagre amount, will the Honourable the Prime Minister use his good offices to get a transfer of say, Rs. 10 or 20 lakhs out of the Indo-Chinese nationals assets of nearly Rs. 40 lakhs in India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We shall very gladly use our good offices. But the Honourable Member must remember that conditions in Indo-China are very disturbed and far from being stable. The French Government is also involved in considerable internal difficulties. So, it is not easy to proceed with negotiations rapidly. Delays occur, but we shall do our best to minimise them. In fact, on one or two occasions our representative in Saigon has come here and we are continuously in touch with him.

REQUEST BY NATIONAL CONGRESS, GOA TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO INTERVENE FOR THEIR ELEMENTARY CIVIL LIBERTIES

859. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a Press statement of the Executive Committee of the National Congress, Goa, published in the month of March 1948 calling on the Union Government to intervene on behalf of the Goan people, who are struggling for their elementary civil liberties?

(b) Are Government aware that the Goan Patriots, Messrs. Tristoo Braganza Cunha, Purshottam Kokodar, Laxmimankant Bembro, Dr. Ramhegdo and Dr. J. A. Loyala are still in distant Portuguese Penal Settlements serving long sentences of eight and nine years?

(c) Is it a fact that six new regiments of African troops have already arrived and 4,000 European troops are on their way to Goa?

(d) Is it also a fact that the frontiers of Goa are being fortified with new roads while armoured units are continually patrolling there?

(e) If the answers to parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) above are in the affirmative, do Government propose to take up the matter with the Government of Portugal in response to the appeal of the Executive of the National Congress of Goa?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government have seen a Press statement to this effect.

(b) Government have been informed that the individuals mentioned are serving sentences in the Portuguese Penal Settlements of Portuguese Guinea.

(c) and (d). Government have received no report to this effect.

(e) I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member to my answer given on 11th February, 1948, to starred question No. 246 by Honourable Member Shri V. C. Kesava Rao.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of the Government to allow foreign countries to remain in possession of some parts of India, and if the answer to my question is in the negative, do Government propose to ask the Portuguese Government to quit Goa?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not the policy of the Government of India to approve of the continuance of foreign settlements in India; but the steps to be taken have to be in accordance with international etiquette and diplomatic procedure.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any widespread repression at present of the Goanese peoples' movement for freedom and self-determination?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable member may be right.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any widespread repression?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Do Government propose to ascertain the wishes of the people of Goa as to whether they want to remain under the Portuguese Government or whether they want to come into the Indian Union?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think I should allow that question.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: In view of what the Honourable the Prime Minister has said that he wants to ascertain the.....

Mr. Speaker: What he wants to know is whether Government propose to ascertain the wishes of the people of Goa, by means of a plebiscite or otherwise, as to whether they would like to be under the Portuguese or join the Indian Union?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India do stand for the ascertainment of the wishes of the people in all matters of this kind, but they cannot in the nature of things hold a plebiscite in Goa.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many Indian nationals are imprisoned in Goa at present.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have no idea at all at present.

BILL IN IRAN PARLIAMENT FOR DEBARRING FOREIGNERS FROM HOLDING IMPORT LICENCES

860. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that a Bill is being introduced in the Iran Parliament debarring foreigners from holding import licences?

(b) If so, what steps are being taken to safeguard the interests of the Indian traders in Iran?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member may kindly refer to my answer to question No. 842 today.

TREATY BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND U. K.

861. *Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the nature and scope of the treaty which is being negotiated with the Government of the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Government of India are not negotiating any treaty with the United Kingdom Government.

CAPTURE OF RAJAORI BY RAIDERS IN KASHMIR AND PLIGHT OF NON-MUSLIMS

862. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state when Rajaori (Jammu and Kashmir State) fell into the hands of the raiders?

(b) What was its population and how many persons are estimated to have escaped from the town before it was captured by the raiders?

(c) Are Government in a position to make any statement about the safety of the non-Muslims who could not escape from the town?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) 13th November, 1947.

(b) According to the 1941 census the population of Rampur Rajaori was 2,449. There may have been refugees also in the town. Government have no information of the number that escaped from the town before it was captured by the raiders. It is however apprehended that the casualties in the town were very heavy.

(c) It is regretted that Government have no information in the matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is this place still in possession of raiders; how far is it from Srinagar?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir. It is in their possession. I do not know how far it is from Srinagar, but it is nearer to Jammu than to Srinagar.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How far is it from Jammu?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot say.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Have any efforts been made by Government to get into contact with the people who escaped from the town and to find out how many people were massacred and what is the condition of the people who are still in the town?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not quite understand the Honourable Member's question. The Kashmir Government is continuously in touch with those who have come out, the refugees, etc. They also try to get information about the other people who have been unable to escape. That has been done and the Kashmir Government is doing it. But we have not exact information about each town separately. In Jammu City, there are a large number of people who have come from those areas which were attacked by the raiders.

RELIEF AND EVACUATION OF PERSONS IN PLACES UNDER RAIDERS CONTROL IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

863. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be please to state whether arrangements are being made by the Government of India or the Government of Jammu and Kashmir State through the Red Cross Society, for the relief and evacuation of any class of persons in places under the control of the raiders, like Muzaffarabad, Ali Beg, and Pulandri (Poonch)?

(b) If so, has a similar arrangement been made in regard to Rajaori?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government have been making every effort to provide relief for and evacuation of the refugees in places like Ali Beg, Muzaffarabad and Pulandri (Poonch), which are under the control of the raiders. The good offices of the International Red Cross and The Friends Service Unit have been used for the purpose. It is hoped that in the near future, the refugees from some of the camps might be brought to Lahore and from there to India.

(b) Government have no information of the existence of any refugee camp at Rajaori It is possible that some of the refugees from Rajaori might be now in the camps at Ali Beg and other places.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it possible for Government to send relief through the International Red Cross to the people in Rajaori?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We have been using the International Red Cross for this purpose. But thus far, as much as I know, the question of sending relief to Rajaori has not arisen. We have not heard of any special need for relief for Rajaori proper.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Have Government not made enquiries on the subject and come to that conclusion, or have their resources prevented them from doing so?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It has nothing to do with resources. I am speaking subject to reference again to the facts. But the main places where we have been asked to send relief have not, I think, included Rajaori.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Will the Government of India ask the Government of Kashmir whether it is desirable to send relief to Rajaori also?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Certainly.

EVICTION OF REFUGEES IN DELHI FROM MUSLIM HOUSES OCCUPIED AFTER DUE NEGOTIATIONS

864. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Muslims of Delhi have been prohibited from letting their houses to any one on rent;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Department of the Custodian of Evacuees' Property is evicting even such refugees who have occupied the houses after due negotiations with the Muslim landlords and entering into a legal contract with them;

(c) whether Government are aware that this action of the Department of the Custodian of Evacuees' Property is causing discontent among quite a large number of refugees; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to look into the matter?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Yes. Under the law, evacuee property, including tenancies and leases held by evacuees, vests in the Custodian of Evacuee Property. The mere fact that the tenant or the lessee has become an evacuee does not entitle the landlord to terminate the tenancy or the lease. Leases given by an evacuee or by a person in anticipation of his being an evacuee on or after the 15th August 1947, is not valid unless it is confirmed by the Custodian of Evacuee Property. Eviction of such tenants or lessees who have been given possession of evacuee property by or on behalf of the landlord is, therefore, an unavoidable steps. Government are not aware that such eviction is causing discontent among a large number of refugees. On the contrary, such evictions appear to have the general support of the public inasmuch as they discourage the tendency on the part of some landlords to charge large and illegal premia to intending tenants.

(d) Government do not consider that any action is called for.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: Are Government aware that after evictin an occupant, the Custodian of Evacuee Property does not give possession to the landlord, although the landlord lives in the Indian Union and has made a request for its return to him?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The position under the Evacuee Property Act is that any right, whether under a tenancy or a lease, which formerly vested in an evacuee, vests in the Custodian, and nobody, whether he is a landlord or any other person, can deal with it except with the permission of the Custodian.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: With regard to the reply given to part (a), may I know whether it is not a fact that despite there being no legal bar in actual practice people cannot get houses of Muslims on rent?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The question was whether the Muslims of Delhi have been prohibited from letting their houses to any one on rent?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: But the fact is that they cannot do so?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: So far as the position after the 15th August is concerned, it is governed by the provisions of the Act under which the evacuee property is governed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware of the fact that quite a considerable amount of discontent has come to prevail among these evacuees because of the difficulties they experience in getting an interview with the Custodian of Evacuee Property?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: How does that arise from this?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: It does, as the Honourable Minister's reply to part (a) does not refer to Muslim evacuees' property but refers to property still held by Muslims.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The position is that if it does not refer to evacuee property, the ban is not operative!

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is not it a fact that the police is helping people in ejecting non-Muslim refugees from such houses as have been taken on rent by them from Muslim owners of property?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is quite true, if they have taken the lease after the 15th August either from the landlord or from the evacuee.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: My honourable friend is confusing the word 'evacuee' with 'refugee'. Let me therefore make myself clear and ask whether it is not a fact that some refugees from Pakistan had occupied some of the houses which belonged to Muslims who were not evacuees. These latter are the owners of the property rented out to the refugees and now they are being turned out with the help of the police?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I shall look into it.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: May I know when the property is vacant and is in possession of the Custodian, and the owner of the property is here and he wants possession, why does not the Custodian give back the property to him when it is vacant and no one is in possession of it and the landlord is present?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: When the possession was left there was a right with the man who left the possession and the man being an evacuee all his rights vest in the Custodian of Evacuee Property.

Mr. Tajamul Hosain: But why not give it back when he applies for it and the property is vacant? What is the reason for detaining it?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: You see, if the property, remains vacant, the question whether the property belonging to a Muhammadan, or the property which was in possession of a Muhammadan, is to be left to non-Muslims, is one involving bigger issues, and I would rather request the Honourable Member to put down a question to that effect and the Honourable the Prime Minister will answer.

Dr. P. S Deshmukh: Is the Government aware that in the town of Delhi there are certain areas which are more or less Pakistan areas and that this is the impression of many people?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: If it is an impression, I may have another impression!

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Does the Honourable Member know that a certain person had paid advance rent for the property in a Muslim area, and that after having paid about Rs. 3,000 as advance rent that person, was not permitted to go inside the house by the people in the mohalla?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am not aware of any such thing, but if the Honourable Member wants me to go into it, he should supply me with details.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is not it a fact that the Custodian of Evacuee Property has set up a machinery to go into the applications for restoration of evacuees' property and cases are considered on merits and some of the Muslim evacuees' properties have been restored?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is so.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, in discussing the Government's financial policy at various times some very extraordinary suggestions have been made by Honourable Members in this House. One lady member in this House who has apparently an inexhaustible wardrobe, in a previous session, suggested that the Honourable the Finance Minister should convert himself into a housewife and manage the affairs of the State like a woman. I do not know whether he has seriously considered if the suggestion is feasible. The other day there was a suggestion from the Honourable Member, Mr. Lal Mohan Pati, that the budget itself should be considered as an old wife in a new *saree*. Again yesterday, another Honourable Member, a very experienced veteran, Mr. B. Das, made another and a very cheerful suggestion. It was that the members of the House should convert themselves into so many wives of the Honourable Minister and then abuse him in an affectionate manner. They would famininise everything. I do not know whether the Honourable Minister has considered the feasibility of these suggestions. If these are really feasible the Honourable Minister will find it extremely inconvenient to be troubled by so many wives in addition to his beloved good old wife.

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U.P.: Muslim): Would it not lead to many complications?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: It would. The Honourable Finance Minister himself said, that in his old age, he would be happy only with his old wife in a new *saree*. Others would be unwelcome. If Mr. Das's suggestion could be given effect to the Honourable Minister would be troubled with so many wives and then most Honourable Members themselves would not think it very convenient to go through the sex transformation.

With regard to the various tax proposals, the two taxes on tea and coffee attracted some attention. I believe that the taxes are not much. Tea and coffee lie somewhere between a luxury and a necessity. There are many men who take dozens of cups of tea and coffee every day. For their comfort I should suggest that in paying this tax, they will have the patriotic satisfaction that for every cup of tea or coffee that they take, they contribute to help to bridge the gulf in difficult national budget.

The Honourable the Finance Minister has swept away the distinction between earned and unearned incomes. In fact it is the custom in fixing the exemption limit to treat them differently. The exemption limit with regard to earned income should be more because everyone should be encouraged to earn as much as possible by his labour. Obviously the same limit should not apply to unearned income. These are some of the general comments which I should like to make.

With regard to the suggestion that luxuries should be highly taxed it is obviously open to this objection that we may go too far, thereby reducing consumption and reducing the proceeds of this tax. There is one tax which should be further considered and it is the tax on motor cars. The enhancement is particularly small. In fact it is a somewhat half-hearted gesture to the general public that taxes on motor cars have been increased. But the increase is insignificant. The users of motor cars are really well to do people and they can bear the extra taxation. I think the tax on this head should be substantially increased.

With regard to the financial situation in the country we are really facing ourselves with uncertainties. There is the capitalist to consider. There is again labour which has its votaries in the House and outside. There is again the consumer who has no friends. But I believe we cannot consider them separately as if they are hostile to one another. The capitalist is as much a necessity for the country as labour and the consumer. If we had capitalists

alone they could not work in the absence of labour. If we had labour alone they would not have the necessary initiative and capital and the necessary drive to work with. And if we had no consumer, these two will have nothing to quarrel about. I believe a real balance between the three elements should be a paramount consideration. In fact our taxation policy has caused a great amount of uncertainty in investing circles. Contrary to expectations expressed in the House, shares are falling in price and investors are looking at the prospect with a considerable amount of nervousness. I believe that if this state of things goes on and is allowed to have its full play, the situation will further deteriorate and the loan policy of the Government may be seriously jeopardised. I should think that the disclosure of government policy with regard to industries is long overdue. This sort of nervousness and uncertainty in investing circles should not be allowed to continue. Some definite announcement should be made indicating clearly and specifically the Government's industrial policy. It should be stated now and here what are the specific industries which the Government wants to nationalise, at what rate, with what speed and in what priorities. The Government is faced with difficult situations from every side. There are capitalists who are definitely the main driving force behind the Government. There are again labour forces which are equally hard in driving their bargains. In the midst of these competing forces the consumers are the only persons who suffer. The middle classes, of all peoples, really suffer the most. This atmosphere of uncertainty should therefore be removed at once. As I have submitted, the policy of the Government should be clearly stated and there is no point in further delaying the matter. It should be clearly enunciated. The markets which are the backbone of our economic structure should be stabilised and should not be allowed to drift. I think a clear enunciation of policy is really overdue and should not be delayed any further.

With regard to the officers of the Government, they have received a great deal of attention in the House. It is felt, perhaps with some justification, that the officers are countless in number and are multiplying fast. The Ministers are really overworked, and that gives these officers some amount of control over the policy of the Government. It was suggested yesterday by an Honourable Member in the House that the Government officials as a whole may be compared to a mad elephant on which the Ministers are expected to ride. They are afraid of the mad elephant and the cost of feeding it is again prohibitive. There is a great point made that our services are unweildy and are too highly paid. A very large proportion of the receipts of the Government of India goes to maintain this mad elephant. I submit that the economy drive should be taken in hand with real enthusiasm. Economy Committees have a notorious habit of wandering from their object. They effect minor economies in one direction but encourage big expenditures in other directions. In the long run, Economy Committees turn out to be white elephants. I submit that the present Economy Committee which has been appointed should be encouraged to effect real cuts. Our public servants are really too highly paid. Some of them are paid far above the Ministers. I think our services should be manned by persons who go there not to make huge profits but to serve the country. It is in a spirit of service that they should enter Government jobs. Economy in this direction is overdue. Though it may be felt unpleasantly by some, the promised economy drive should be pushed through irrespective of all opposition or internal resistance. We should put the nation before our public servants. Public servants are only a means to an end; they are not an end in themselves. There is considerable scope for heavy cuts, I submit, without any danger to efficiency. There are lots of young men, educated and competent, who are without employment. If Government officials think that they cannot serve their country except on high salaries, I think it is time they should go.

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With regard to the promotions of these officers they sometimes proceed in an automatic manner. I may compare the promotions of Government officials with the progress of third-class passengers in some big railway booking offices. There are enclosures where the passengers get in and they have to proceed, not on their merits but due to vacancies in the front and pressure from behind. Promotions in Government service proceed somewhat in a similar fashion. There is vacuum created at the top due to deaths, resignations, dismissals and other causes, and there is pressure from the lower ranks behind and from the new entrants. Officers proceed in spite of themselves by the double operation of the vacuum in front and the pressure from behind. I submit that the promotions of officers should be on real merit. But then, Sir, there is the other danger of allowing free scope to merit. That would, in the name of merit in many cases, give rise to favouritism and nepotism. In these circumstances promotions should be very carefully considered by Honourable Ministers. Then again, among officers in the several departments, there are many misfits. It was only the other day that I pointed out to the House that many ex-teachers and professors have been appointed to the Information Department, and in the All India Radio, subjects to which they are in general foreign. I said that more journalists should be introduced into these departments. In the Foreign Legations, Information Officers should be journalists, but I find that the point was missed by the press. I was reported as having complained against too many 'lawyers' in these departments. I really complained against persons who are educational officers placed in wrong places. I have nothing against them personally, and I submit there is ample scope for them in spheres for which they are particularly suited. The whole matter of appointments to the Government services, promotions and other such things should be carefully reviewed. There is real room for drastic cuts in all the departments. I submit that the cuts should be really substantial and the situation should be faced once and for all and with some courage though it may be unpleasant: but the safety and the good of the country require this situation to be faced. These are the considerations to be looked into. In spite of these criticisms, I submit that, on the whole, the budget is a highly workmanlike practical document. We must, in criticizing the Government, recognize the enormous difficulties with which they are faced. The Kashmir troubles which have come upon us as an inevitable commitment, is a costly affair, though cost can be no consideration to us. The flag of India has been committed and the entire business should be carried through. Then again there is the enormous, costly refugee problem. Here also cost can be no consideration. Then there are the security measures and there is the food situation. All these things have created and will create big gaps in our economy. In these circumstances the extreme caution with which the Honourable Minister has proceeded is marvellous and commendable. I submit that the economy cuts should be proceeded with with the same heroism as the Honourable Minister has already shown in reducing as well as imposing taxes here and there. With these few words, Sir, I submit that the Honourable Minister should consider all these issues and manage our finances with a strong hand in the direction of taxation on the one hand and real substantial and effective economy on the other.

12 NOON

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, it is rather difficult for persons like myself who have been in the past on the other side of the fence and whose political education has been largely evolved by criticizing the Government, to change our role: but in the peculiar situation in which we are placed, one is at a loss to know what one could do in order to influence and guide Government policy in the transitional stages, and I wonder whether we should not adopt the Bentham tradition of using Legislative Assemblies as a place for educating the public. It is true, Sir, that ultimately what is said here may not reach the public, with an indifferent press service that we have in this country and aided by the All-India Radio whose inefficiency is only matched by its abject sycophancy. Nevertheless I feel that we could serve the country only in this direction and I propose now to say something on the general background of this Budget. We have had for about eleven days discussions focussed on particular aspects of the administration, and you, Sir, with your characteristic courtesy pointed out that we non-officials did not make very many points in our charges. As one of them I plead guilty to the charge, but, Sir, even at the risk of being guilty as a fallacy of tuquoque I would like to ask whether the Government has done better. I was in the House, Sir, when practically every Member of the Government spoke with one exception, namely when the Minister for Commerce spoke, when extra legislative activities prevented me from being here. I was here right through and what did we hear from them? Vague generalizations interspersed with spasms of optimism, sometimes pathetic confessions of helplessness, and in sum, nothing at all. Sir, I am sorry to see that my Honourable friend the Food Minister is not here. In fact what I propose to say now partly relates to him. I would like to take up first the economic survey that was made by my Honourable Friend the Finance Minister in his Budget speech and examine it in the light of the realities of the situation, and my friend the Honourable the Food Minister's department's policy has a large share of responsibility in this particular matter.

An Honourable Member: He has come.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, with the metaphysical background that every Hindu has, the analytical capacity that he has on that account my friend the Honourable the Finance Minister has proved himself to be an extremely clever diagnostician. His diagnosis of the evils that afflict us is remarkable, and if I may borrow the words of my friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmed, even marvellous. But that is only part of the whole business, and not even half of it. The real point is whether he has been able to effect a cure. I would say this in fairness to him that he has perhaps provided a palliative, or to be more charitable, a mild sedative: but the trouble is still there and no amount of acute diagnosis of the position is by itself going to help us to get rid of it. I would like to draw the attention of the House to certain assumptions which the Honourable the Finance Minister has made in his Budget speech. He says that inflation continues to be there, that the sources of supply of foods needed are deficient, that there is a rising trend in prices, and that admittedly wages chase prices. Well, in the light of this back ground what did we hear from the Honourable the Food Minister the other day? I am sorry I was not able to participate in the debate, but I felt that the 40 minute speech made by him was extremely inadequate. He expended a large portion of his time explaining a charge made against his department by my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhva in regard to something that happened about the Andamans. I am quite prepared to dismiss it as being unimportant. I am prepared to admit that for the reason of the background that the Andamans has where convicts were residing in the past, if we have to exploit the wealth there we probably have to resort to obtaining the help of people whose morality is not particularly their strong point. But that is by the way—and I am aware that my Honourable Friend is not responsible for that.

But let me take the food position. My honourable friend was telling us of some thousands tons of foodgrains here, some more thousands of tons elsewhere which were now available. It was a recital of the aid that adventitious circumstances here and there have furnished him. And we are all right on that account. Are we in a position when we can feel optimistic! It was not only that; he said we must carry the psychology, the psychology

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of optimism, right through to the people who would be ultimately affected. Sir, we in India have for centuries past lived in hope—we feel that while there is life there is hope; and people who have always been accustomed to live on marginal levels of subsistence can afford further diminution in those levels and still continue to live; and we have been accustomed to live on less than the marginal level. So, optimism need not necessarily be injected into the common man in the villages, which my Honourable Friend wants as he will survive even without it.

He took up the case of Madras; he cited some inquiry or request from the Premier of Madras that if he, the Madras Premier, is given Rs. 3 crores every year, in a few years Madras would become the land of milk and honey. May I ask him, Sir, is the position in Madras or anywhere in this country so good as to feel that we can be optimistic and besides pass on some portion of the optimism to the masses? Will the Honourable Minister tell us about it in some opportunity that might be provided for him? I understand that the Secretariat officials who had accompanied him to Madras had a conference with the Secretariat officials in Madras and as a result of that conference they were able to feel the optimism that my Honourable Friend radiated here the other day had no justification.

Sir, that is only by the way. What I now feel is this, that our food position is demonstrably bad, production is poor, and prices are rising. My Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru the other day asked the Food Minister whether he was aware of the complaint made by a responsible Minister in Bombay, whether prices in Bombay and other parts were rocketing. Well, what is the answer? How is my honourable friend the Finance Minister going to carry on for the rest of the year, and how is he to frame his Budget for the next year with things as they are today? But I have heard yesterday another bit of news equally disconcerting; the complement to food is cloth, the prices of cloth in Bombay are simply rocketing sky high and nobody seems to be able to control it. I certainly sympathise with my Honourable Friend the Finance Minister if he has to improvise a Budget in a de-controlled economy, in a de-controlled economy which has been beset for years by inflation, and where the inflationary trends are as active as ever and are if anything gathering added momentum. Sir, that I think is the test by which we should feel that we are in for a happy time or not, and if that test reveals that things are not quite good but nevertheless we will have to carry on, well, we will carry on, we have been carrying on for 150 years under the misrule of the British Government, we have been the plaything of power politics and the consequently economic iniquities that countries like ours have had to suffer, and we will undoubtedly carry on—I have no doubt that we will carry on.

Sir, in this connection I wish my Honourable friend the Finance Minister had made even a passing reference to the Commodity Prices Board that was set up by the previous Government and which has now been disbanded. We cannot say that we have been altogether not warned of the consequences of our action in the matter of controls. It may be that the members of the Commodity Prices Board rather laid undue emphasis on certain aspects of the situation. But I feel that the Report which has now been released—a secret document written in April 1947 which has now been released—is as true today as it was true at the time it was written. I am not making a plea for the re-establishment of controls, but I do wish to recall the assurance given to us by our venerable President of the Congress, Babu Rajendra Prasad, that the Government would carefully watch the situation and if need be controls will be re-imposed again. And that is what has been said by the Bombay Minister, I believe. If Ministers in Madras feel differently, I will only say this: my Minister from Madras who came here before de-control was decided on,

came fully control-minded and he went back de-control minded. And I feel sure that the opinion of a person who is able to change his mind merely because of the climate of opinion in New Delhi and not because of the facts of the situation, is worthless. It may be, Sir, that I as a Madrasi cannot altogether disclaim responsibility for the doings of Ministers in Madras, it may even be that I was the potter's wheel which created the clay idols which are now Ministers there. But I would say that my honourable friend the Food Minister cannot accept the vague reports that the Madras situation the Utopian ideas of improving the agricultural economy of Madras, but only face the facts, and facts which I believe have been squarely faced by the Secretariat officials that he had taken with him when he went to Madras.

Sir, in the light of all that I have said I would like to know if my Honourable friend the Finance Minister, at the end of the discussion today, will tell us what he is going to do to curb inflation and check the rise in prices or pay wages to any particular level. I am not in a position to suggest remedies, because I have not got at my disposal the mechanism for the purpose of accurately studying the situation. In fact, we have not been given the position as it exists today, of index prices and related figures. Actually the latest document on this subject that I could get is the Reserve Bank bulletin of January 1948. The budget explanatory memorandum contains details of the past, of the dead past, of the past which has become out of date even the Reserve Bank Bulletin is two months old and is of absolutely no use to us to judge the situation as it stands today. So, Sir, I would expect my Honourable friend to tell us something as to how he is going to curb inflation.

Sir, my Honourable friend said in his budget that we would have to borrow 150 crores or even more. Yes, it is quite all right, we should borrow. After all, in an economy like ours where we are thinking of vast schemes of expansion, we have necessarily to depend on borrowed capital for our purposes. But every businessman now says that the market is bad and Government cannot get any money for their borrowing programme; my friend on my left says you cannot get any money in Madras or in Bombay or in any share market. I want to know what my Honourable friend has to say in regard to borrowing policy in the light of all this. Sir, I would like to say this. If we find that business interests, capitalists, people who have hoarded money and have evaded taxes, are not going to treat this Government with the courtesy that it is entitled to—I am merely voicing a challenge that my Honourable friend has himself put forward the other day—I would suggest to Honourable friends that in order to curb inflation, if necessary to give it a deflationary trend to our economy he should resort to the only weapon that is vouchsafed to any Finance Minister in such circumstances, namely capital levy. The Capital Gains Tax is not adequate. If vested interests would not come out with their money to help the Government now, if they will create an artificial scarcity in the money market, the only way in which my Honourable Friend can really meet the situation is to embark on a policy of capital levy if necessary spread over a period of years. It may be that this type of capital levy is unorthodox, but I do feel that it is an idea worth consideration and one which will have a better effect in stabilising the market as it is today.

Sir, the time at my disposal is not very much and I would like to mention a few words in regard to certain other aspects of the Budget. But before doing so, I would like to ask my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister, what he has done in regard to small savings. He did mention something about it before and I know that it is a matter that was engaging his attention, but there are no details before us except a bare minimum provision in the demands for grants a more or less token provision. What has happened is that the organisation that has been set up during war-time, inefficient as it was even at its inception is now practically moribund. The schemes that

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were formulated then have practically fallen into disuse except, I think, one scheme covering 12½ years' certificates. I think, Sir, this is a very important matter. In fact, it has happened that a certain class of people not accustomed to receiving in the past money incomes which are substantial are now getting such incomes; there are few things available on which they can spend the surplus they now have and what happens is that those people take their family out on a Sunday, get into a bus, go round aimlessly and ultimately end up in a cinema, probably buy tickets of a value much higher than they would otherwise choose to pay for, and the money is frittered away in this manner. How to tap this money at a time when we are not providing them with goods on which they could spend it, on useful consumable goods, is a thing which will have to be studied afresh and a new mechanism devised. I know that the Provincial Governments have got some organisation still alive. But in cases like Madras I find that the official organisation which existed has now been practically disbanded and some non-official organisation has or is to replace it. I do hope, Sir, that my Honourable friend will take early opportunity to summon a Conference of the Finance Ministers of the various Provinces and along with his colleagues in the Cabinet who are in a position to advise him, devise a scheme of National Savings which will be effective.

Sir, the one mistake in regard to the past attempts which I would like to point out is. We ask a person that if he is willing to invest in National Savings a certain sum after a certain number of years, say 5 years, 7 years or 10 years, we shall pay him back the principal amount invested and something more. Whatever may be the cumulative interest, whether it is free of income tax or with income-tax, that is not the factor which affects the small investor psychologically. What he wants is something in return to be paid to him periodically for whatever he has invested, however small the return might be. And in this connection, I would also like to emphasise another factor that has a bearing on this question. You cannot encourage savers to put money into Government securities and Government loans if you deduct the tax at source. That is the chief difficulty for a small investor. If you have an adequate list of people who invest in Government securities, you can always tax the income they get from Government and there is no need to deduct the tax before paying out the interest. If a man has Rs. 1,000 and invests it in Government securities; why should you deduct from the Rs. 30 or so that is due to him by way of interest the maximum rate of tax and ask him to apply for a refund thereafter. One of the factors that deters people from investing into this particular form of savings is this habit of deducting the tax at the source. I hope my Honourable friend will find some administrative way of getting over this difficulty, so that not only a small investor will be induced to invest more and more in Government loans by being saved the difficulty of having to apply for a refund of the tax deducted on the interest due to him.

Sir, one or two matters in regard to taxation I would like to mention before I sit down. In regard to the tobacco tax, I would like to ask the Honourable Minister whether it is really administratively worth while to tax the lower grades like snuff, chewing tobacco, hookah tobacco and the like and more especially uncured tobacco and in that process have an organisation which has to reach the grower. The present scheme is framed in such a manner that you start your control from the grower. You have an army of staff. The administrative cost involved is probably out of all proportion to the earnings that you get from this class of tobacco and you are psychologically making certain types of people tax-conscious, which is perhaps not wise. In any event I would like my Honourable friend to examine this particular point.

The second point in regard to tobacco taxation which I would like to say a few words upon is this. There are manufacturers who export, who have places where tobacco is cured,—regular factories—, who have certain facilities for bonding and obtaining of quittances at various stages. There are also non-manufacturer traders. In their case, the present restrictions in regard to bonding, obtaining quittance for purposes of transport and so on are very difficult. I think the complaints made by these people to the Central Board of Revenue have not been adequately dealt with and investigation on a higher level is certainly warranted.

Sir, another new commodity on which an export tax is to be levied is manganese ore. I may tell the House that people in Madras are interested in this particular thing. The export duty is a specific duty of Rs. 20 per ton. I am sure my Honourable Friend the Finance Minister is aware that there are various grades of manganese. The ore content of manganese in various places is different and even in the same place you get various grades of manganese. What would happen as a result of the specific duty is that manganese with the higher ore content will go out of the country. The demand for export will be for the higher quality ore. The inferior quality ore will remain with us. Not that I say that an *ad valorem* duty will serve the purpose, because in that case Government will be cheated of its revenue. We do not know what will be the price that these people get from foreign countries. In any event, a gradation will perhaps be of some use in order to prevent lower quality ore sticking to this country and only the best going out.

Then, Sir, before I sit down I would like to say a few words on the Income-Tax Administration. On the question of the attitude of the Income-Tax Department towards the Joint Hindu family, my Honourable friend Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava had much to say. I am approaching the problem from a totally different angle. My Honourable friend Thakurdas Bhargava said that the Joint Hindu family has been badly hit, in that it has got to pay more than it would if the individuals comprising were treated separately and therefore it should get some relief. I shall not ask the Honourable Minister to give any relief so far as the Joint Hindu family is concerned, but I would like him to examine the law as it stands at present. Hindu law as it is at present provides that a member of a Joint Hindu family can divide very easily, but so far as his relationship to the Income-Tax Department is concerned, only an order by an Income-Tax Officer under Section 25(a) recognising that there has been a division will mean that there has been a division. How could any law, however complex, be contrary to the personal law of the people concerned. Secondly, what is the real point involved? I do not see any particularly important point involved. In fact, Sir, I have been accustomed to deal with this question in this House in previous years and my own feeling is that the somewhat vague fears of Hindu dividing and then coming back together again which worked in the minds of a former Chairman of the Central Board of Revenue was responsible for continuation of this particular inequity. It is true, Sir, that formerly the Joint Hindu family got some benefits from the Tax administration. At the present moment the only benefit that a Joint Hindu family get is that in regard to rebates on insurance premia. If all the members of the Joint Hindu family insure to such an extent that they have to pay a premium of Rs. 12,000 a year, they will get a rebate of tax for that amount as against the maximum of Rs. 6,000 in the case of an individual. That is a benefit which will perhaps accrue to a few hundred of very rich people. Otherwise, the law as it stands need not recognise a Joint Hindu family at all. If it does not so recognise it there is nothing wrong. The Government do not lose much money. All that the Government gain is undue complication of the tax Administration, more appeals and a lot of hardship to people.

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which is entirely unnecessary. My own feeling that Section 25(a) must be radically altered and in fact, I think Government need not recognise the existence of the Joint Hindu family at all so far as income-tax purposes are concerned.

One other matter in regard to the Income-Tax Administration which I would like to mention is this. We have an intermediate scheme of appellate Assistant Commissioners between the Income-Tax Officer and the Income-Tax Tribunal. I might tell my Honourable friend that it will save the assessee the trouble of having to go before two courts, it will save the Government some money, if you abolish the scheme of Appellate Assistant Commissioners altogethter. What really happens is this. An Appellate Assistant Commissioner today is an Administrative Assistant Commissioner tomorrow and he looks to becoming a Commissioner of Income-Tax the day after and so has got to be in the good graces of the Central Board of Revenue and the old type of government officials who man the top ranks of the Income-Tax Department are very very chary of ruining their prospects. The net result is that the Income-Tax Officer who makes the assessment appears before the Appellate Assistant Commissioner and also indicates that before finalising the assessment he had got the Okay on the action that he was taking, from the Administrative Assistant Commissioner or perhaps from the Commissioner himself and in the result the assessee gets no justice at all, and nothing is done in the matter by the Appellate Assistant Commissioner. In fact it would be worth while finding out the percentage of appeals decided by such courts in favour of the appellant. If you want to retain this particular link in the scheme of appeals. I suggest that the recruitment of the appellate Assistant Commissioner should be made on the same basis as the diversion in the past days of Indian Civil Service people from the Executive side to the Judicial benches. Make them judicial officers, give them a chance of promotion in the same cadre by making possible for them to be promoted to the Income-tax tribunal and put them incharge of Law Department under which the Income-tax Tribunal now works. Then there should be some reason or justification for keeping this costly machinery going otherwise scrap it. I do not suppose the people will be worse off for it.

In regard to salt administration and which is not really the Department of the Honourable the Finance Minister, I have something to say. I cannot understand why the decision was taken to transfer salt from Finance Department to the Department of Industry and Supply. Well, possibly, if you examine the question logically, salt being an extractive industry, it should go to the Department of Works, Mines and Power. But it is not a case of logic; it is really a case of administrative convenience. In the past the Finance Department have had an organization right through India and which has been controlling to some extent the production of this particular article. And all of a sudden it is being transferred to a Department which has to create for its administration an all-India organization. My Honourable friend, the Honourable Minister for Industries and Supplies has got to learn what salt is, how it is manufactured, how the Department should be administered, what should be the profit to the producers and distributors and the net result is that in an economy that is controlled for the purpose of taxation, you take away the tax; the economy gets de-controlled; the people do not get the benefit of your abolishing the tax and the Central Government loses 9 crores of rupees and the administration goes to pieces. Why should the Government or perhaps the Honourable the Finance Minister fight shy of his Department handling the salt, particularly when he said the other day that he is thinking of dividing his Department into two? Well then why not have a more efficient Revenue section which will have a country-wide administrative organization to run this

salt business? I think, Sir, it is time that this salt business comes back to this Finance Department.

Secondly, Sir, there was some investigation made in regard to the future control of salt when the taxation was eliminated. There was a proposal of supplying better salt than has been supplied today. I think Mr. Greenfield was drafting a scheme for working this particular industry. What has happened to it? Where has it gone. Why don't the Government do something about it quickly when people are suffering? With a new Department incharge where everybody from the clerk, superintendent, Assistant Secretary, Joint Secretary to the Secretary upwards and the Minister has to study the whole thing anew and the people suffering in consequence, my own feeling is that the Government should reconsider the position and transfer it to the Finance Department, particularly in view of the fact that my Honourable friend proposes to bifurcate his Ministry into two, a Finance Ministry and a Revenue Ministry and the latter will be able to carry on this work much better than any other Ministry in the Government of India.

Sir, I have one word to say about Government participation in business. In my view it is a very serious matter. I asked my Honourable friend the Minister for Communications the other day whether he has examined the position of Government in relation to the company, the Air India International, in which the Government is going to invest a crore of rupees in the first instance and several crores thereafter. I am not objecting to the scheme as it is. Let me assure the House that I have not asked that it ought to be nationalised or anything like that. I am merely objecting to the method of approach to the problem. It is this. If the Government subscribe a crore or 2 crores or 3 crores they are in the same position as any other shareholder in any company. So far as your contract with the Managing agents is concerned and special terms it might contain it is a side issue; it would not save you in the event of the company going into liquidation. I think it would be a wholesome principle to be adopted by the Government in the case of any corporation in which they are investing a substantial sum of money I think that is going to be one of the schemes by which the Government proposes to participate in industries in future—let us have a statutory corporation. We have enacted in this House two Bills in regard to two Corporations of this nature. The House is familiar with it; the draughtsmen are now familiar with the intricacies of this particular legislation; let us have a similar statutory corporation for Air India International.

Sir, another matter relating to this is question of Government participation in the capital scheme of joint stock companies. That is the proposed corporation to exploit the North Andaman's forest. I am not particularly enamoured of it and if I am asked to sanction an investment of 130 or 140 lakhs, I would perhaps refuse. But if the Government are intent on going through with it let it do it in the same way as they did for the Industrial Finance Corporation or the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation; let us have a statutory corporation; by all means give the proposition as much as they want; give them extra remuneration; let them take their own portion of the dividends; do all that you like, but let the Government be placed in a position where they will not be in the same position as a shareholder under a company registered under the Indian Companies Act.

An Honourable Member: What did you do in the Select Committee?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : I am not supposed to tell my Honourable friend what we have done in committee except to say that all that is necessary has been done. In my view it will be a useful after-thought even if it is such if I ask my Honourable friend to re-consider one question now.

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Another matter on which I would like to dwell for a moment is the need for Government to consider the question of social insurance. We have got the Workmen's Insurance Scheme or Employees Insurance Scheme which is going to come before the House for consideration shortly, but I do think that my Honourable friend would be doing bare justice if he could devise the scheme of old age pensions for the poor and needy. These people need assistance badly in these days of rising prices. Take notice of them and do something for them. After all, when you can balance the budget, you can impose more taxation—I personally shall not object it if you also do something to show that you are doing something to eliminate suffering amongst the needy. We have here and now to concentrate our minds in this question and discuss a scheme of comprehensive social insurance and when we do so we had better begin with the old age pensions. That is my last suggestion and I hope the Honourable the Finance Minister will give some consideration to these points and vouchsafe to us a reply which will be, if not wholly at any rate partially, satisfactory.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): Mr. Speaker, we meet today under the shadow of President Truman's address to the United States Congress on foreign policy. President Truman has said that the situation in Europe is critical and in order to deal with it he has recommended three measures to Congress. Two of these are the introduction of compulsory military training and conscription. The third, though not of a military character, is no less important. It refers to the recovery programme for Western Europe which is to be carried out with the help of the United States. At a time like this we cannot confine our attention to the discussion of questions relating to economy and taxation. We have to think of all those wider issues that will arise in an international crisis which it appears from the character of President Truman's address might overtake us before long. We hope that the world will not be involved soon in a catastrophe of the kind which practically destroyed civilization a few years ago; but we have to be prepared for all eventualities and we have to recognise that the ability of free nations to maintain their freedom will depend not merely on their armed forces but on the existence of well organized farms and factories capable of producing all those goods which we shall vitally need in a crisis. It is obviously necessary, therefore, that we should turn our attention to the main problem of mobilising the productive resources of the country. My Honourable friend's taxation measures are designed to produce a surplus. But what we have to see is that though financially we may be solvent our economy as a whole is a deficit economy. The most important fact which the Finance Minister's speech has disclosed is that we are spending more than we earn. This makes it a matter of urgent importance that we should make every effort to increase our production in every direction. My Honourable friend the Finance Minister referred in his speech to the cost of foodgrains imported from abroad, which amounts to about 110 crores. What we have to recognise in this connection is that the total quantity of foodgrains that we are trying to import now is practically the same as we imported from Burma before the war. It is therefore not an increase in the quantity of imported food but an increase in its price that has created difficulties for us. But that is not the whole of the problem that we have to deal with. It is necessary that we should increase our food production; but what is equally necessary is this we should increase our exports. My Honourable friend has referred to that in his budget speech, but so briefly that it does not convey to the House the information that our exports, though their value has increased considerably because of the rise in prices, have quantitatively gone down. I have with me figures relating to the export of raw cotton, raw jute, jute manufactures, manufactured tobacco, oil-seeds and oil-cakes relating to the years 1937-38 to 1939-40

and the years 1944-45 and 1945-46. Now compared to the average of what I may call the three pre-war years, the export in the year 1945-46 was considerably less; taking the total exports they had been reduced by nearly 50 per cent by the year 1945-46. Take for instance oil-seeds. We exported before the war about a million tons, but in 1945-46 we exported only 414,000 tons. The export of jute manufactures and raw cotton also has been considerably reduced. I know that oil-seeds are being increasingly utilised in this country and that raw cotton too is needed for our textile mills. But in view of the urgent need for foreign exchange we have to consider what steps should be taken to increase the production of those raw materials which are in great demand abroad. It may be said that this will interfere with the increased production of food; it need not do so if we have a comprehensive plan for promoting balanced agricultural production, which will take account both of our internal needs and our urgent and vital need for foreign exchange. Unless we have such a plan before us we shall continue to drift as we are doing now. I pleaded for this a little over a year ago in the Council of State; my Resolution was accepted by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, but I do not know whether any steps have been taken to bring about that balanced agricultural production for which I pleaded.

Sir, before I pass on from this subject I will only observe that I am aware that the restrictions which were placed on the export of cotton have recently been lightened. I believe that the export quota of raw cotton has been increased from about 750,000 bales in 1946-47 to about a million bales for 1947-48. But considering the fact that the purpose for which the restriction was imposed, *viz.*, the encouragement of food production, has not been achieved, is it not necessary that Government should reconsider their position and take active steps to promote the export of cotton consistently with our own needs in this country?

Now I shall say a few words with regard to increased industrial production. We know that Government look upon this problem as one of the most important problems which must be solved at an early date. We know also the serious difficulties in connection with the maintenance of law and order and the relief and rehabilitation of refugees which they have been faced with during the last 8 months. The House will undoubtedly sympathise with them in the position in which they find themselves and co-operate with them to the utmost of its capacity to enable them to devise measures for preserving internal peace and for creating those conditions which are essential to our economic development. Nevertheless, Sir, I am bound to say that the Industrial Conference, which was held in December last, has produced very disappointing results. We expected that it would place before the country a three year, or four year, or five year plan of production, laying down targets for the production of those commodities which are of a basic character. But unfortunately, it has, broadly speaking, only passed such resolutions as we have been but too familiar with during the last 10 or 15 years. I know, Sir, that the proceedings of the Industrial Conference include the reports of a large number of panels, each panel dealing with a particular interest. But I confess that the method that has been followed so far does not seem to me to promise quick or lasting results. I think, Sir, that we should, in our endeavour to provide ourselves with all the goods needed for our national existence, take a leaf out of the book of the Western European countries, many of which have been devastated by the war. They have devised a practical plan developing their economy with the help of the United States. They have not only taken steps to repair their ravaged economy but they have also plans for its development. The European recovery programme does not deal with a large number of items. It aims at increasing the output of coal, crude steel, electricity, cereals and basic foods, and developing the oil refining capacity, inland transport facilities and merchant

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fleets of the countries concerned in the four years 1948-51 according to prescribed targets. If we want to develop ourselves quickly, we must take this plan as a model. If devastated Europe finds it possible to follow this programme and to increase the output of essential commodities appreciably in four years, there is no reason why we, who are in much better economic position, should not be able to achieve the same result. It may be said that the European countries have a supporter in the United States of America. But, Sir, have we ever tried to obtain the help of the United States for our needs? We shall undoubtedly need machinery, equipment, raw materials and financial resources in order to bring about our industrial expansion. But have we tried to get our requirements from abroad, and particularly from the United States of America? We can well realize that the capacity of the United States of America to help the other nations is not un-limited. But this is all the more reason why we should be stir ourselves immediately and ask the help of the United States for our betterment. We occupy a crucial position in Southern Asia. It is obvious therefore that our development is true to the maintenance of peace, not merely in this sector of the world but probably in a very large part of the world. I think, therefore, Sir, that we should take advantage of the Marshall Plan to ask the United States to extend its help to us as generously as it has agreed to do to the Western European countries—I mean England, France and the Eastern European countries.

Sir, I shall now turn to those questions of economy and taxation with which alone I would have dealt today had we been living in normal times. I know, Sir, that the Finance Minister has appointed an Economy Committee. But I should like to know whether the Economy Committee has held any meetings since it was appointed. The matter with which it will have to deal is an important one. We need every pie in order to increase our resources. The House is therefore vitally interested in the work of this Committee. But I understand that one of the members of this Committee has resigned. I should like to know why he has resigned, and what steps Government have taken to replace him. I am sure that my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister, knows that the House is deeply concerned about the work of this Committee, and that there is an uneasy feeling on all sides that the Committee may not be able to function actively or to submit reports quickly enough for the consideration of the Government and this House.

Another point which I should like to bring to the attention of my Honourable friend, is this: The other day he mentioned that though he expected the recommendations of the Economy Committee to be far-reaching, he had provisionally provided for a reduction of about Rs. 2½ crores in expenditure. I have no doubt that my Honourable friend did this with the best of intentions but I understand that the various departments regard this sum as a target to aim at. It would be most unfortunate if a department thought that it was not called upon to deal energetically with the question of economy merely because my Honourable friend the Minister has taken the low figure of 2½ crores as representating the minimum savings that he could easily look for in the year 1948-49. I hope he will make it clear that he wants to go much further and that he will not allow any department to proceed on the assumption that if superficial economies were introduced the Finance Department would be satisfied.

The next question that I should like to bring to the notice of my Honourable friend is this. We have known for years that the payment of income-tax is being evaded in no small measure by those classes from which a large yield can be expected. Some measures have been taken in the past to prevent this evasion but at a time like this when my Honourable friend has proposed a number of new taxes it is necessary that he should see what special efforts

should be made to increase our income from this source. People who are competent to judge the extent of the loss think that it amounts to several crores. If this money were to come into the coffers of the Government it would greatly increase the resources of the State at a time when we urgently require funds to develop the country in every direction.

Coming to the taxation measures I should like to refer to the reduction in the super-tax or rather the proposal of the Honourable Minister to raise the income limits which will attract the maximum rates of super-tax. He has placed earned and unearned income on the same level. He is treating them both in the same way. So far as unearned income is concerned he has, in regard to the highest rates of super-tax, placed it in the same position in which I believe it was in the year 1945-46. That shows perhaps my Honourable friend is thinking of increasing in a year or two the maximum of earned income which will attract the highest rates of super-tax to the old figure of 5 lakhs. If this is his intention, I see no reason why at the present stage he should not continue to make some difference between treatment of earned and unearned income.

As regards the other taxes I shall again say what I said during the budget debate, namely that they are such as to fall largely on the poor man. When my Honourable friend brought forward his taxation measures we were under the impression that there would be a deficit in the budget but for these measures but he has himself admitted that he will have a surplus of 25 crores at least at the end of the year. Is there any reason for him then to keep intact his scheme of taxation? May he not consistently with the canons of prudent taxation and his legitimate desire to check inflationary tendencies revise his proposals in such a way as to reduce the burden on the poor man? I will not give any instances in this connection, because some other Honourable members have spoken about this matter. Besides I am a member of the Select Committee to which the Finance Bill has been referred. I shall place my point of view more fully before the Finance Minister and the Committee but I thought it necessary to draw his attention and the attention of the House to the change in the financial conditions since the budget was presented and the need for so arranging our taxation measures that the poor man may feel the weight of taxation as little as possible.

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 H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the enactment of the last Finance Bill freedom has come to us but not as an unmixed blessing. It has been marred by two tragedies of calamitous proportions which have befallen us, namely, the vivisection of our motherland with all its unhappy concomitants and the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi with all its unforeseeable consequences. The Finance Bill of 1948 has been born amidst shocks and storms, amidst undeclared wars and amids rumours and rumblings of new wars. The front page of today's papers is all plastered with preparations for a new war. I feel that unless the *atma shakti* of man triumphs over the atom bomb we will be in the thick of a new war ere long. The other day we were assured by the Honourable the Prime Minister that we adhere to the policy of an independent and neutral policy in foreign affairs. I hope and pray to God that we will be able to adhere to this independent neutral policy. But our policy will be put to the test very soon. Firstly, the other day, after the inauguration of the Western Union, Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Minister of Britain, declared that all the resources of the Commonwealth would be thrown into the Western Union against the Eastern power bloc, that is, the

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Russian power bloc. Secondly, you very well know, Sir, that India, in pursuance of the decision of the U.N.O., has nominated Czechoslovakia as our candidate for the Kashmir Commission. Now perhaps the question will arise whether we should stick to this decision or not. Either way we are heading for difficulty. If we seek to continue to have Czechoslovakia as our candidate for the Kashmir Commission we annoy the American power bloc. If we change our candidate for the Kashmir Commission from Czechoslovakia to some other country, then we anger the Eastern power bloc. Thus the day is not far off when we will have perhaps to take not an independent neutral line but some definite and positive line involving a departure from our present policy. Considering all the developments of the last few days—and every day that passes brings the war nearer—I would appeal to the Honourable the Prime Minister who, I regret, is not present in the House now, to let the House go into Committee before this session comes to a close in order to debate and reconsider our entire foreign policy, its pros and cons, and also our defence policy because at the present time these two must be co-ordinated with each other and they must go together. I urge upon the Government to allot a day before we disperse when we can meet in camera to discuss and review the entire situation and to arrive at a new policy, if necessary, for India on foreign affairs and the co-related problems of defence.

Misfortunes, as I said, have come to us and to the world not singly but in battalions and keeping these in view I consider that the performance of my gallant and Honourable friend the Finance Minister deserves very sympathetic appreciation. He began his speech with a very touching homage to Mahatma Gandhi and concluded it also with the immortal prayer 'Lead kindly Light'—which in our Sanskrit is *Tamaso ma Jyotir Gamaya*. There is a saying, Sir, attributed to Jesus Christ which is full of spiritual truth. Christ said, or is reported to have said, "Not he who sayeth Lord, Lord, but he who doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven will enter the Kingdom of Heavan". In the light of this I would like to find out how much of these Budget proposals are devoted to the uplift of the common man—of '*daridranarayan*' for whom Mahatma Gandhi lived his blessed life and whom he had always in mind every moment of his waking life.

The striking features of this Budget are firstly the relief given to the rich and the burden laid on the poor. As regards the poor, if my Honourable friend the Finance Minister would not mind the expression, I woud say that he has indulged in a little bodyline-bowling against the poor while as regards the rich, he has resorted to hit-and-miss methods. He has tried to hit them, but he has not really hit them but missed. I would say in short that the Budget is a Budget of expedients, of shifts and devices, a Budget that refuses to squarely face the realities of the present situation and especially the need for rigorous economy in our administration and taxation of profits of industry and of the rich. I have already said that the war is looming large on the horizon. The reasons given by the Finance Minister for reducing the level of taxation on profits of business and industry are that there is no need for them at present and that perhaps there would not be sufficient incentive to production otherwise. But with all the burden on the rich and the industralists during wartime who can say that industry really did suffer and that maximum production was not attained? Now war is round the corner again. I do not see any reason why, just with the hope of increasing production, you should remove this taxation on industry which will bring more money to the exchequer and which will enable us to improve our defence preparations.

Then I would come to the depressing feature of the Budget, and that is the unsatisfactory state of our export trade and the colossal expenditure on imports of food. Taking the second first, I would say that if war really comes nearer

home we would be hard put to it to import foodstuffs from abroad. It is high time therefore we made up our minds to be self-sufficient in food, and if necessary, as the Food Minister said the other day in a Conference, we should try to encourage ideas of dietetic reform. Instead of depending too much on cereals, wheat and rice, we may ask our people to have recourse more to bananas, fish and eggs. There is a story in the *Mahabharata*. There was a famine in a certain part of India. There was a venerable *Muni*—he was a young boy at the time and later on became a *Muni*, the *Saraswata Muni*. When all the *Rishis* fled from the place because of famine he lived on what his mother, Saraswati, provided for him—that is, plenty of fish. For twelve years he lived merely on fish. After the famine, when the other *Munis* came he became their teacher because he had courage enough to stick to the spot and had lived by eating fish and nothing else. I would therefore suggest that if necessary we must go in for dietetic reform and depend less on cereals and more on what our own country can produce.

Then, as regards the need for reduction of expenditure, my friends Mr. Santhanam and Mr. Saksena have dealt in great detail with the scope that exists for considerable economy in our expenditure. We are spending so much on the Ecclesiastical Department. We were told the other day by the Defence Minister that all these grants for this Department would be stopped at the end of March. But I find in the Budget proposals that the Ecclesiastical Department grant is still there. I do not know why it is there.

In the Budget proposals, on page 15 of the Minister's speech, we come to an item. In addition to Rs. 75 crores given to Pakistan out of the cash balances of the undivided Government which has already been agreed to, there is mention of another Rs. 6 crores to Pakistan to meet expenditure on ordnance factories. I am reminded of what America did in pre-war days. They supplied scrap iron to Japan out of which the Japanese manufactured guns, rifles and ammunition. I pray to God that our loan to Pakistan would not result in an equally dangerous or menacing consequence.

As regards our export trade I would suggest that we have not explored sufficiently the foreign markets, especially the Middle East and also South East Asia. While I am on this subject I might as well say that while we are exploring our markets in the Middle East and South East Asia we must try our hand at building this regional bloc of South East Asia and the Middle East. It is time the Indian Government entered into a non-aggression pact with all the south-east and middle-eastern countries so that we can all act together in the event of war, and keep at least Asia off the war path and away from the storm and stress of war. It is quite feasible Sir, and if our Government and the Foreign Minister take this up in right earnest and try to arrive at a mutual aid pact, at a non-aggression pact with the South-East Asian countries and the Middle Eastern countries, it will keep Asia out of the war zone and at the same time it will increase our export trade with the Asiatic countries. Asia must move as one solid unit. An Asian Conference was held last year, but so far no tangible results have come out of that conference. My friend Mr. Shiva Rao, who is one of the Secretaries of the Asian organization would perhaps tell us some day what is the up-shot of this organization, in what direction we are moving at present, and how far political, military and economic alliances among ourselves are progressing.

Then, Sir, as regards relief to the poor—of course my friends have said that the tax on tea and coffee must go. I say, Sir, that we could have raised some more revenue by taxing luxury articles such as wines and spirits. I do not know if artificial silk is taxed enough at the present time. I am told that precious gems, diamonds, coming from abroad are not taxed heavily. That is another source of revenue. All these could have raised more money and gone

[Shri H. V. Kamath].

to give some relief to the poor, especially as regards tea and coffee which need not have been taxed. I would like *beedis* to be eliminated from the taxation scheme. But I would like cigars to be taxed. I hope my friend the Finance Minister wil not mind his cigars being taxed more heavily than cigarettes.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): It is taxed.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I want it taxed more heavily. And when milady nicotina is taxed, Bacchus also might be taxed more heavily than at present I would like our *beedis* and cycle tyres to be taken out of the taxation scheme, and snuff also should be left out, because, Sir, it is admitted on all hands—by doctors and others,—that snuff has got medicinal properties. It keeps off common cold and catarrh. I do not use snuff myself, but my friends here who do will testify to this.

Then there are two other items which my two lady friends here suggested, and coming as it does from them, they merit the earnest consideration of the Honourable the Finance Minister. One was, as Mrs. Ray suggested, a tax on cosmetics. I think comestics have become a vertitable craze now, and to a certain extent, if my honourable women friends do not mind my saying this, they very often mar the looks of our women who are, I think, attractive enough without them. It is high time we imposed a prohibitive tax on cosmetics, rouge and lip-stick which are at times laid on so thick that the women's looks become absolutely gaudy and repulsive. (*An Honourable Member*: That is the opinion of a bachelor.) Then a tax on marriages, which was suggested by my friend Begum Aizaz Rasul. I would only suggest, while approving of it, that a part of it may be earmarked for the benefit of bachelors and spinsters who have been deprived by a cruel fate of the conviviilities of domestic life.

In the end I would say this, that I would have liked to see a broad statesmanlike overall plan emerging out of the Budget proposals, and I hope that the Planning Commission which is mentioned would be created very soon to plan without delay not merely for peace but also for war.

I would further like that we should earmark at least a crore of rupees, if not more, for Harijan Uplift, about which we adopted a resolution in this very House, and Government accepted during the last session that we should spend some money specially for Harijan uplift. I would request the Honourable the Finance Minister to indicate how much money will be available for this.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member's time is over. I have already given him 4 minutes more than the allotted time.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With these few words, I commend my suggestion to the Honourable the Finance Minister's consideration.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, The Honourable the Finance Minister has moved for the reference of his Finance Bill to the Select Committee. The Select Committee will meet in a day or two to discuss the various financial proposals. I would like to speak a few words generally for the members of the Select Committee to bear in mind while they will have the opportunity of scrutinizing these proposals. The budget that has been presented is a balanced budget undoubtedly. Budgets are proposed and passed, but this particular budget that has been placed before us has not created much of enthusiasm in the rural areas of this country. There is an impression all over the rural areas that the rural economy of this country is being very sadly neglected. While there is an all round attempt to develop the country industrially within as short a period as possible, the intrinsic rural economy of the country is very much neglected. In the rural areas just after the war was over, we have been seeing signs of unemployment. The other day in the course of answers to questions, information was given by an Honourable Minister that there was accumulation of hand-loom cloth for which there

demand from Pakistan and other countries, and suitable arrangements will have to be made for export purposes. In the rural areas I have been seeing that all the rural industries are gradually dying out. No serious attempt is being made to bring them to life and there is a feeling of helplessness and hopelessness, if I may say so, in the minds of people living in the rural areas.

In the Budget we see astronomical figures on the credit side and also on the expenditure side, but these big, astronomical figures do not mean much to the rural people until and unless their economic condition is up lifted. Taking for instance the question of food, for a very long time past in the city areas, particularly in a City like Calcutta, people have to depend on only four chhataks of rice or wheat per day just to keep their body alive. This state of affairs has continued for a very long time; it cannot be allowed to go on any further like this. What attempt has been made by way of the 'Grow More Food' campaign has produced little or no result. To the contrary we find that intensive production in the agricultural fields which could have been effected has been very sadly neglected. I would cite one instance. In Bengal there is a very large area where potato is grown. Bengal is deficit in food. The Province wanted to have potato seeds from the Centre; due to the want of co-ordination between the Centre and the Provinces, the cultivators, though they had their fields ready for sowing potato seeds, though they had at considerable expenditure manured their fields, they could not get the seeds for the purpose; the Central Government was approached but the Central Government could not give an adequate supply. The Provincial Government wanted to have some seeds imported from Burma, even for that purpose the import licence was not given to the Province and as a result potato that could have been grown was not grown and the conditions of the cultivators have gone from bad to worse.

We have been seeing that little or no emphasis is being placed on rural economic development. There is an atmosphere of war looming large before us; who knows when the war will break out? We do not know whether the various capital goods that we have been expecting from America and other countries would come or not and how long it will take nobody knows. This is the time when attention should be devoted very earnestly and seriously to the development of rural industries in this country. I ask what is the necessity of allowing these right royal motor cars to be imported to this country and to be used by the big capitalists? Where small motor cars can do, why should big motor cars be allowed to come in? There is an overall shortage of petrol in this country—we do not produce more than 7 per cent of the petrol that we require; but much of the petrol that we have is being consumed unnecessarily by the luxury motor cars, and particularly the big variety motor cars, that we import from outside in very large number.

In the rural areas the silk industry of this country is languishing and dying out. The Government has paid little attention to this industry in the rural areas. Permits have been given for importing artificial silk from outside countries like Italy; artificial silk from those countries is coming and competing very severly with our silk industry in the rural areas and the people who live by that industry are gradually becoming unemployed. In the rural areas artisans have not got sufficient work today; weavers are not provided with adequate quantities of yarn with which they can weave their cloth and find a living. In the rural areas the people who ply their *ghani* do not get sufficient quantity of seeds to press oil and earn a living of their own. Fortunately, for us the duty on salt has been abolished but no attempt is being made to help the people in developing the business of manufacturing salt on the sea-coasts of India. How long we will be neglecting the villages we do not know; and if the village crafts and the village industries are neglected like this there is a great disaster for this country. During the last war we had our saddest experience and it is high time that that experience should make us wise.

[Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay]

I do not want to speak much on other matters but about the new proposals for taxation I have got one word to say. I consider it very unhappy that the Finance Minister has taken it into his head to impose a duty on cycle tyres. Cycles are the cheapest conveyance that is used generally by the student folk and by the poor middle class people. Has the Finance Minister exhausted all other sources of taxing the people and ultimately finding no other course open forced to turn his attention towards his poor middle class people who somehow or other manage to enjoy this cheap conveyance. Every day when we come to the Assembly and go away from the Assembly we see a long line of cyclists, mostly petty clerks, coming from distant areas to attend their offices or going back. Every day we find quite a large number of students going in a procession of cycles to read in the schools and colleges. They are the set of people who, after taking a heavy meal, just to economise a few minutes of their time; take the advantage of the cheapest method of conveyance and push their way with utmost labour to their offices and schools and colleges. I would request the Honourable the Finance Minister to keep this picture in view. However good the Budget might be, however balanced it might be, if really the small conveniences of the people are taxed, it will create a very bad impression in the country.

Next, I would like to say that the Finance Minister has suggested no relief in the matter of inland postal rates. I suggest that the gap between the rate of a postcard and an envelope is too great, there should be an intermediate postage—say, one anna for envelopes not weighing more than half a tola. It might be that people want that all that they write on post-cards should not be seen by others; it might be that people would like to write a few sentences on some secret matters and the total weight of the letter will not be more than half a tola. It will be a great relief if the Finance Minister could introduce one anna envelopes in the inland postage. Really it will go a long way to create a good impression in the minds of the people. In the rural areas, the people are really very ill served by the Postal Services. There are quite a large number of villages where no postal deliveries are made at all even once a week. If the postal peon cares to come, he delivers the letters or if he so likes, he hands over the letters to some other intermediaries. Whether the letters reach the addressees or not he does not care. There is a good deal of darkness and ignorance in the rural areas and if we want to raise the people from the grips of darkness and ignorance, the facility of the cheap postal service is of the utmost importance.

3 P. M.

In this matter, Sir, I would like to suggest to the Finance Minister that he should kindly consider the necessity of lowering the rate of book-post. If the book-post rate is lowered, it will help the rural people in getting printed matters cheap. It will help them in the matter of getting newspapers; it will help them in the matter of getting literatures, which will directly assist them in removing their ignorance and darkness.

With these words, Sir, I would request the Honourable the Finance Minister to apply his mind with the utmost diligence to the task of giving relief to the poor people in the rural areas, not to impose the proposed tax on cycle tyres and also give effect to the other suggestions that I have made.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C.P. and Berar: Muslim): Sir, I have already spoken on the General Budget and I will not take much time of the House in my discussion regarding the financial proposals. The test of the financial proposals lies in whether they are acceptable to the common man or not. In my opinion, in the whole of the financial proposals,—if read through very carefully—there is no relief given to the poor man or the common man-in-the-street. What is the difference then between the Budgets that were presented before 1945 and the Budget now presented by the Finance Minister of a National Government? There is no change in the system of taxation. There is no change in the principle of taxation. The indirect taxation crushing the poor is there. In the Budget of 1946-47 an attempt was made to take away the unearned income of the industrialists and the capitalists. In this Budget introduced as it is in the time of the National Government, an attempt is made to undo what was done in the previous Budget. And why? Has any reason been given as to why this has been done? The only reason that has been assigned in the General Budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Minister is that he wants to give an incentive to the industry. That means, without giving an incentive to the industry, in the form of a pound of flesh—they are not going to work the industries of the country to the maximum. If that is the condition of the capitalists who have amassed enormous wealth in the times of the war, then are we going to encourage them more and more to the detriment of the poor man? The Honourable the Finance Minister gave practically no reason to prove that the production has fallen owing to the last Budget proposals, except saying that the expert opinion in the country showed that the Budget proposals of 1946-47 were detrimental to the industry.

Another remark which the Honourable the Finance Minister made, Sir, was that he likes the old wife in a new sari. Well, the old wife in a new sari, to the husband, is the same. She may deceive the outsider but not the husband who knows her very well. Therefore, it will be seen that the old policy of the Government— the capitalist policy—continues. What change has been brought about in the National Government's regime? Has the system of taxation been changed?

The most important matter, Sir, is the production of food in this country. I was absent when the Minister in charge of Food and Agriculture spoke on this subject. I was very sorry to read from the papers that it was stated that we have to be optimistic. Of course, there is one parallel to it. When England was losing everywhere in the battlefields, there was V for Victory on their tongues, which really succeeded in the end. If that is the kind of optimism which the Honourable Food Minister is advocating, I can understand it. But what is the position today? Today, there is a fall in production, there are no means to grow more food, there is no mechanisation of agriculture, and yet we are asked to be very optimistic. Well, optimism cannot feed our bellies. More food will have to be produced and what are the means or resources at our disposal, that is the main point to be discussed and adopted. The Minister in charge has not laid down any policy by which we can grow more food. The Budget proposals do not disclose that any considerable amount is to be spent on agriculture in the current year. There is famine in Madras, and indeed famines are common in India. The stores of grain that the agriculturists used to possess have been taken away in times of war, and if unluckily there is war or famine in this country, there is no knowing what the hardships will be on the people of this country. It is an accepted fact that we have to beg for our supplies. In case of blockade of this country, where are we to beg our supplies from? The first and primary duty of this Government is to launch on a very large scale production of food and mobilise all our resources to that end. Except giving an incentive to industry and capital, the Finance Minister has done nothing. No heed has been paid to the production of food; nothing is being done to the improvement of the condition of the poor. Petty luxuries of the poor have been taxed. The necessaries of life of the poor people have been taxed. No attempt has been made to remove the disparity regarding the standard of living of the rich and the poor. Why? We have been giving promises to the people always that the standard of life of the poor people will be raised, and the disparity between the rich and poor people will be removed. On the contrary, we find that the disparity is allowed to remain.

Sir, my submission is that with the fiscal policy the future of our country is very dark. There is neither any hope of more production of food nor there

[Kazi Syed Karimuddin]

is any hope of any expansion of industry because as one of the Honourable Members of this House has said that it is very uncertain whether the capital goods from America and other countries will come.

Some Honourable Member of the House has said that the provisions of income-tax regarding the Hindu joint family are oppressive. I do realize that it is so, but there is another aspect of those provisions which I want to bring to the notice of the Finance Minister and the Government. In the case of the Muslims, there is no joint Hindu family system. It is an accepted principle of law that they are tenants in common. They have got separate interests in the property that is inherited by them either from a mother, father or anybody else. The policy that is adopted by the Income-tax Department is that unless there is partnership limited or registered, no relief is given to the various members of the Muslim family. If they have separate interests and if they are tenants in common, there is no reason to believe that it is a joint family. Therefore, the Government should bring the necessary legislation in order to remove this.

Lastly, I make an earnest appeal to the Finance Minister that the taxes on coffee, tea, kerosene oil and vegetable products should be removed. It is no surprise that the budget is welcomed in the Press. The Press is in the hands of the capitalists in this country, there is no doubt. In all provinces there is a very great agitation among the poor classes that the budget does not help them at all: on the contrary it taxes the very necessaries of life and the petty luxuries which the poor people enjoyed.

Another thing that I wish to say about is the policy regarding the post-war development schemes. The form of contribution by the Centre to the provinces is very uncertain. If the budget of the C. P. and Berar is studied, it will be seen that in connection with the post-war development scheme, only five tractors are being purchased? Because they are uncertain of the help or contribution that is to be given by the Centre, because the Honourable the Finance Minister has said in his budget speech that the contribution that is to be made from Centre is contingent upon two conditions. The result is that even in the provinces agriculture is being neglected, because they have not got sufficient funds at their disposal to have a large-scale production of food. Under these circumstances, my submission is that the future is very dark and the Government of India should look to these problems and should try to improve the situation.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Mr. Speaker, in the course of the debate yesterday the Honourable Mr. P. K. Sen referred to penal reforms. He stated that no provision has been made in this connection and he also doubted the present jail system as something unmodern, retributive and considerably backward. In the first place, the subject is a provincial subject. In the Centrally administered areas, there are no Central jails, in Delhi, there is a district jail, but for the purpose of administration, it was part and parcel of the Punjab Jail system. Now the whole political set-up had changed and the Government of India considered that it is time when this whole problem should be thought out once and for all. It has been decided that a Central Jail for the purpose of keeping prisoners convicted in the Centrally administered areas should be established. As regards the other matter that the Government of India has not been sufficiently alive to this problem, I want to bring to the notice of the House that it is not so. In the year 1919 a Committee was appointed: that Committee made certain recommendations and laid down certain principles. Those principles have been guiding the present reforms not only in the Centrally administered areas to the extent possible, but they have been guiding the jail administrations in the various provinces. The main principle laid down was this: "There is a very general agreement that crime is an anti-social act and that it is the task of the present administration so to deal with the offender that he, and others may be deterred from the commission of such acts in future. It is also generally admitted by modern authorities that the aim of the present administration should, however, be to effect such a reformation in the character of the criminal as will fit him again to take his place in society and become a good citizen." A number of recommendations have been implemented in the course of last 25 years by the various provincial administrations. Classifications of prisoners such as habitual and non-habitual, the youthful offender, the juvenile offender—all those have now a definite place in the jail administration of every province.

The three categories in to which this problem can be divided are: (a) Treatment before imprisonment (b) during imprisonment and (c) after the person is released. In so far as the first category is concerned, Sir, you will find in most of the provincial administrations provision has been made that juveniles should not be immediately imprisoned, but they should be kept in Borstal institutions and very often under the supervision of the probation officers. That is to prevent young and youthful offenders coming in contact with the habitual and be lost forever to the society. So far as the second category is concerned, that is, while the prisoner is actually undergoing imprisonment, certain reformatory influences have already been working in the administrations of the various provinces, such as education (ordinary and moral), the nature of the task, a liberal system of revision, a liberal system of interviews and facilities for correspondence with the relatives. Then, a system of releasing a person while he is actually undergoing imprisonment on parole and furlough, and in some provinces a system of what is called ticket-on-leave, that is, letting a prisoner out provisionally for the unexpired portion of his sentence on condition that he behaves well. As regards the third—after-care—treatment innumerable private bodies have been doing this useful work, and attempts are being made in the various provinces to coordinate these efforts, so that the prisoner after his release does not find himself out of tune with the general life of the community. That he should be well received, that he should be found some employment that the society should welcome him back are matters which are now well appreciated by the society at large. The general feeling in the matter is that crime has got to be treated and not to be punished; and if that is so, the punishment must be more related to the person than to the act or the crime or the nature of the crime itself. From this point of view in certain provinces psychiatrists have been appointed with a view to examine the criminal, to go carefully through his antecedents and to study the background so as to understand exactly why he committed the crime. I may inform the House that a Committee on jail reforms was appointed by the Government of Bombay very recently and I was one of the members: the recommendations made by that Committee have been of a far-reaching character and if implemented I have no doubt that prison system in the Bombay Presidency will be up to the standard which obtains in western countries. It is proposed by the Government of India that all that the provinces have done individually and as a result of coordination will be taken into consideration. Although it is a provincial subject the practice so far has been to call periodic conferences of Home Ministers and of Inspectors-General of Prisons and from time to time coordinate and secure a sort of uniformity with respect to this. That also will be done. But if it is the object of my Honourable friend that the whole thing should be centrally administered; it is not possible within the framework of the present constitution. All that I can promise at this stage is, as I have said, that it is proposed to have a central jail and to work out experiments on modern lines and—to sum up—not to punish the crime but to treat it as an antisocial act; to reclaim the citizen and re-educate him and fit him once more into the society.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay: General): Sir, I would judge this budget from the point whether the financial proposals as they are set out

[Shri Khandubhai K. Desai]

before us give us an indication or a gesture towards the socio-economic development of the country to which we all aspire. I should like to know from Government whether in framing the budget they have got in view the development of our country towards a stage which does not admit of any exploitation, whether social or economic; and whether these financial proposals, which are the first of their kind in the new set-up, give us an indication about the goal which I have just stated; whether Government are fulfilling the declaration which they have made from time to time that they are anxious and earnest to implement the ideal which Mahatmaji placed before this country,—the ideal of Sharvodaya which does not admit of any exploitation whatever, and gives full opportunity to the individual for his development all-round. Let us judge the financial proposals from this point of view judging the budget from this stand-point, it is not only negative, but it works the other way about. Sir, I must admit that on the day the Finance Minister presented his budget I along with others thought it was a good budget because the implications of the budget and the new taxation and the relief that has been given were all presented in such a way and against such a background that for the time being we were taken in. But when I scrutinise the budget I find that big business, industrialists and rich people have been given relief. But do they require relief? Surely they do not require any relief whatever. And in order to give that relief certain taxes have been introduced in these financial proposals which are really a burden on the poor man and the common man. His tea has been taxed, his coffee has been taxed, his life's little luxury tobacco has been taxed, in order to give relief to those who do not require it. It has been stated that in order to step up production some impetus and encouragement should be given. With crores of rupees at their disposal is an impetus still necessary? However an impetus has been given. But I think Government do realise that 5 per cent. of the people of this country who are engaged in business, industry and commerce are not going to step up production. If an impetus and encouragement is necessary for stepping up production which is the crying need of the country, 95 per cent. of the people should have been given that impetus. If it be said that they have not been ignored, I can only say—to use a mild expression—that Government cannot afford to be indifferent to this 95 per cent. of the people who are the real masters of the land. What are the proposals before us? An abatement has been allowed in the last year's budget in the case of business of 1 lakh which has been now raised to 2 lakhs; in the case of individuals it has been raised from 1 lakh and 20 thousand to 3½ lakhs. Is this a step towards bridging the wide gap that exists between the lowest and the highest income? Whatever one may have to say against the last budget proposals—and businessmen have said a lot against them—it has at least one merit that it had made an attempt to bridge the gulf between the rich people and the poor and the State has been able to share a considerable amount of money which the rich earned over and above 1 lakh and 20 thousand. This process has been reversed in this budget.

Then, Sir, it has been said that social services require to be developed and therefore some encouragement should be given to the right people to be free with charities. Let us see what the proposals are. The proposals are that if some rich men or corporations are gracious and generous enough to make a charity Government shall pay 14 annas out of every rupee that is given in charity. I suggest to the Finance Minister that if we want to develop the social services of the country he may impose a levy of only 5 per cent. for social services and it will bring him easily an income of 15 crores of rupees. A few days ago in reply to a question as to how many people are paying income-tax on incomes above a lakh of rupees, he stated that there are about 2994 income tax payers. I presume corporations are included in it and their income is

173 crores. So if a beginning is made by imposing a special levy for social purposes it will easily bring in even from these people an income of 8·5 crores of rupees. Instead of doing that some other method has been found out, that they will be exempted. Government will be paying roughly 14 annas out of every rupee given by these friends in charity, and they will be considered to be very charitable at the cost and consequence of the national treasury. The country will be obliged to them and Government will get all the criticisms. Why not take specially the 5 per cent I am suggesting and let Government take all the credit for social services which it can administer? There is one aspect which has been ignored. There is the recent tax of Rs. 4½ crores on the poor people of the country. That is the share which our friend, the Honourable the Finance Minister has shared with the railways. When the fares were increased, it was increased in view of the fact that there was going to be a deficit. But then there was a surplus. So he comes forward and says that he will share it and it is done: and Rs. 4·5 crores is also an invisible tax in the next year's budget. That point need not be ignored.

I next come to the relief that has been given to the extent of Rs. 6½ crores to the people who least deserve it. But the relief to the people who deserve it is not given with the same generosity. The exemption limit of the income-tax payer has been very gracefully increased from 1,500 to 2,500. But, Sir, taking into consideration the cost of living index today, the exemption is only up to Rs. 800, whereas before the war it was Rs. 2,000. So if at least the middleclass people are going to be really brought under exemption, the 1,500 limit should be raised to 4,500 and the tax for the next 3,500 should be six pies in the rupee instead of one anna as proposed. If that is done, I am quite sure that this will give encouragement to production.

In this connection I would like to say that three months back a resolution was unanimously passed calling for an industrial truce and we left Delhi thinking that now production would be stepped up. At that time it was stated definitely in the resolution that every man in the street should feel that the country is his and the production belongs to him and they must exert themselves to increase production, and that profits, income and dividends shall be controlled: and I thought then, as all thought that probably the next budget will bring in proposals to control all this. What have we found? We have found that instead of controlling the dividends, profits or interest, they have been increased with a view to give an impetus to the rich while the man in the street has been ignored.

There was another proposal that housing, which is a crying need of the urban population, will also get encouragement. I expected, as every one of us expected, that a housing levy would have been imposed on the industrial magnates and on the commercial magnates, so that the housing problem would become a reality and not an abstract thing and about which we have been talking for the last one year. But it has not been done. In respect of these things, Sir, I can say a large section of the working class is anxious to assist the country, and to help production. They would like to help in the production. Let them play their part. Let hindrance not come in the way of their participation in stepping up production. However nothing has been done in the budget towards this end.

There is one other thing which I would like respectfully to bring to the notice of this House. The excise duty now appears to have been taken as a fruitful source of revenue to the Central Government and it will go on increasing. The excise duty is really an indirect tax on the consumer, who is generally the poor man, and I should think that the excise duty should be left to the provinces, or if for simplification the excise duty is going to be a part of Central revenue, a large amount from the excise duty should be given

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Achint Ram: (East Punjab: General): Honourable Speaker, I thank you for anording me an opportunity to say something. I have to tell you one or two things. The first matter relates to the Budget. When I read the Honourable the Finance Minister's speech on the Budget, an idea came to my mind. The Honourable Minister said:

"I rise today 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."

Sir, I tried to read all the 104 demands in the light of the above sentences, and tried to discover whether there was any of these 104 demands which are in consonance with these words. Besides this, I came here only seven days ago and about 100 or 150 members have spoken on the Budget. I was watching whether any speech was delivered which was in keeping with those words or not. I was afraid I may not speak irrelevant. I could not find any thing in what the Honourable Minister himself said which was in consonance with what he said above. When I was asked to speak I said I had no desire to do so. I was again asked to speak but I felt no necessity even then. But when I was asked a third time to speak I thought I may not speak irrelevant, because what was to be said has already been said by members who have already spoken before me. The Finance Minister himself has said and I also ask what kind of Budget would Mahatma Gandhi have prepared had he been the Finance Minister himself today? Is there any such demand among these demands which may be in accord with the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi? In India, we had Mahatma Gandhi and other great personalities each of whom has contributed his share for the liberation of the country. Mahatma Gandhi's contribution was 'Non-violence'. But does any demand out of these 104 demands provide for non-violence? Half of the Budget provisions are for violence and defence. Rs. 157 crores are provided in the Budget for violent defence of the country. In view of the circumstances, I think it was necessary that there ought to have been provision for non-violence also in the Budget. Mahatma Gandhi carried on non-violent movement for 25 years; and by means of the same non-violence he set the country free. But in this Budget not even a penny has been provided for non-violence, *i.e.*, to defend the country on non-violent lines. In the present circumstances of the country, perhaps it was not considered proper to provide any amount for this purpose in the Budget. But it ought to have been tried as an experiment to see that, had it been provided for non-violent defence of the country, it would not have been a useless expenditure.

What is happening in the country at present? Troops have been sent to Kashmir, and they are fighting there. Do you see who are the fighting parties? On one side there is army of 30 crores Indians, and on the other there is an army of 20 lakh Afridis. Though this fight has been going on for the last five months, yet without result so far. It is like the fight between an elephant, and an ant. Though I know that defeat is bad, yet a belated victory is as bad as a defeat. It is stated that we could not finish the war due to cold. But the cold should affect the Afridis as well. They have no aeroplanes which you have. I know that in spite of these difficulties we will succeed and I agree with the Honourable Minister for Defence who has stated that we will push back the raiders, and that we shall surely win. Crores of rupees have been provided for other expenses and you could have as well provided at least 1½ crores rupees for county's defence on non-violent lines. If in America,

and other countries a large provision of money for research in Atomic Energy is possible to be made in the Budget, can you not provide anything for research in non-violence in this country also?

When 25 years ago, Mahatma Gandhi started his fight on non-violent lines, who knew that we will succeed? At that time many people treated this matter as a joke. There is no doubt that in this fight started by Mahatma Gandhi other personages also, such as, Shrijut Gokhale, Mahatma Tilak and others also took part. But, Mahatmaji proved that he succeeded in this fight through his non-violent methods. It is true, that you cannot adopt this method for outside defence. But, you can adopt this method to meet the situation arising inside the country. In our country, we have differences between Hindus and Sikhs, Jats and non-Jats, Sikhs and Muslims, Rajputs and non-Rajputs, still you have not provided for non-violence, in the Budget. I am sure that to keep these elements under control, non-violence alone will succeed and that is why I suggest the policy of non-violence to be followed for the internal defence of the country, and propose that provision must be made in the Budget for the estab'ishment of non-violence defence Force and non-violence Research Institute. I leave it to you to make provision for this. I thought that I should move the proposal. It is up to you now to provide for this in the Budget, and to see whether funds can be made available for it. Besides this I would like to state that whatever you are doing for the country's defence you should bear in mind also that you have provided only Rs. 150 crores for this in your Budget, whereas other countries might allot millions of rupees for the same. Rs. 150 crores will not do. It has been stated today that clouds of war are hanging over the whole world. You may, therefore yourself estimate what amount of money other countries may have provided for their defence. 150 crores cannot bring you victory. Your policy alone can make you successful. It is a fact that the policy which made Turkey and Ireland successful during the First World War the same policy can make you also successful. The amount that you have provided for defence would not serve your purpose, but your policy alone would save you. I would like to say that if today a world war is declared, would you then announce that you would not like to fight? Now, in closing this subject I want to say a few words about refugees.

Rs. 30 crores has been provided for the well-being of refugees, and I want to tell the Honourable the Finance Minister that he has very kindly allotted Rs. 30 crores out of Rs. 250 crores for refugees. But, I would say that this amount is very insufficient. You might be aware that people who have come from Lahore have left there property worth several crores. You will ask from what source such a huge amount should be provided for them? I would say in reply that the power which divided the country and which drove out 40 lakhs of men, women and children from that place, the same power alone will provide this sum. Those people who have a number of houses and have more than 150 acres of land, and who are factory owners, and have bungalows should make up this shortage. You have stated that Rs. 5,000 should be given to the refugees but I do not understand what it means? I know that if their women have been insulted it cannot be set right, or if their men folks have been killed they cannot be brought back to life, but you can provide more money for their relief, and you should levy a refugee cess of fifty crores to help the refugees.

[At this stage, Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shri K. Santhanam (one of the Panel of Chairmen.]

Shri N. Madhava Rau (Eastern States Group I): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill as usual refers to tax reliefs on the one hand and tax burdens on the other. To my mind the tax reliefs appear to be of a more or less routine character and certainly did not deserve the very serious criticisms to which they were subjected on the ground that they were favourable to the capitalist and there-

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core necessarily burdensome to the poor. Looking into the matter in an objective way I feel that they are generally the kind of reliefs that had to be given, not for the benefit of the industrialist or of the capitalist, but for the purpose of helping the economic recovery of the country and encouraging the flow of investment funds into business and industry. It is well known that during the last few years numerous applications for capital issues have been sanctioned. But very few of them have been really availed of. Many schemes which were promoted or at least advertised, and for which capital was sanctioned, have never proceeded beyond the stage of issuing prospectuses. Some of the ventures were so speculative that in any case they had no chance of materialising. Those which were more promising could not proceed for the reason that capital was shy. The same thing has happened with regard to existing industries. Some of the prudent managements had accumulated considerable amounts as reserve funds, but owing to the uncertainties with regard to income-tax and taxation policy generally these reserve funds have not been readily utilised for the purpose of replacements and expansion. It is therefore a very necessary first step that confidence should be restored among the industrialists so that the more reputable among them who now feel shy of new ventures may be induced to undertake the industrial development of the country which has now had something like a paralysis. It is a matter for unmixed gratification that the excise duty on betelnuts has been withdrawn. This was a duty which should never have been levied. The difficulties in collecting this duty and the fact that its incidence would fall on a vulnerable class of skilled agriculturists were all pointed out at the beginning by the Governments in Southern India. But a *priori* ideas of taxation and a false analogy between betelnuts on the one hand and coffee and tea on the other accounted for the imposition of an uncalled for duty. The removal of this duty will, I am sure, be welcomed as an act of justice not too long delayed.

In dealing with this Bill Members of the Assembly have naturally devoted greater attention to the method of spending revenues than the method of raising revenues. Here the complaint has been made that an unduly large proportion of the revenue is devoted to defence or to services which do not directly benefit the poor either in the rural or in the urban areas. I am afraid this criticism is not altogether just. It has got to be remembered that the Central Government are not the only government functioning in the land. Their functions are defined. There are the Provincial Governments. It is the function of the Provincial Governments to look after most of the nation-building departments, and they are in a position to develop these departments much more economically and much more efficiently than the Central Government. It would not be an exaggeration to say that to produce a given result, where a Provincial Government would spend Rs. 5 or a State Government would spend Rs. 3 the Government of India would easily spend Rs. 10. That is because their ideas of doing things are big. They cannot proceed without large and expensive secretariats. Their machinery is ponderous. They are not in touch with realities in many cases. Therefore it often happens that in this field, and in several other fields of governmental activity, the Provincial Governments are in a far better position to undertake tasks which we now expect the Central Government to undertake. Naturally the Provinces would expect a strengthening of their financial resources and this is a matter which has got to be given very serious attention.

Like the rest of our planning, our taxation policy too has been something of an improvisation. At present nobody knows what are going to be the future duties or functions and the future resources of the Centre as against the provinces. For the time being it is a matter only, as I said, of improvisation. The gap between revenue and expenditure, the deficit.

is not really so small as it was made out to be. A sum of 15 crores to be spent on the acquisition of lands and construction of buildings by the Defence Department is charged to the Capital Budget. Civil works amounting to 11 crores are another item in the Capital Budget. Then again 30 crores, to be given as provincial subvention for development, also figures in the Capital Budget. To get a full measure of the gap between revenue receipts and expenditure, we should turn to the figures on page 38 of the Memorandum which show that the total interest bearing obligations not covered by assets will stand at 775·19 crores at the end of 1947/48 and 864·29 crores at the end of 1948/49—In other words the un-productive or dead weight debt will have increased by some 89 crores in the course of the budget year. It is therefore clear that there is not a very large amount that the Finance Minister could give for social services and nation-building activities. On the other hand it is very necessary for the future financial stability of the country and the economic progress of the nation that every care should be taken that budgetary equilibrium should be restored as far as possible. The small amount of 5 crores that is being devoted for the retirement or avoidance of public debt has got to be increased several fold. To some extent the difficulties of the country are due to the war: in other respects they have perhaps avoidably been enhanced by domestic upheavals. Regarding the division of assets and liabilities between India and Pakistan, the facts and figures disclosed in the budget are by no means reassuring. Seeing that the assets, as they depend on the cashing in of sterling balances, may have to be written down, perhaps drastically, one wonders whether the arrangement has been altogether fair to the Indian people. When the public mind was agitated some time ago over the much discussed affair of 55 crores which Pakistan claimed, one of the Ministers of India was reported—*I do not know how far accurately or otherwise*—to have said 'We are spending money like water, let Pakistan have the 55 crores'. Well, Pakistan did have the 55 crores without uttering a word of thanks. But it was not good business. In concluding my remarks I would say that the difficulties that are facing us are still very great, much greater than would appear from the Budget, and one thing that has got to be done is to avoid the temptation that leads to over-centralization, over-government and over-spending.

Shri Yudhishthir Misra (Eastern States Group): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had tabled a cut motion to discuss the policy of the Government of India with regard to the administration of the Orissa and Chhatisgarh States, but due to lack of time, I had not the opportunity to speak on that cut motion. I take this opportunity to make a few observations regarding the present administration of the Orissa and Chhatisgarh States. Sir, the Orissa and Chhatisgarh group of States have joined the contiguous provinces of Orissa and the C.P., and the administrative responsibility of these states has been assumed by the respective governments. Now, Sir, it has been declared by the States Ministry that the states policy of the Indian Government has almost reached fulfilment by a process of bloodless revolution, but, Sir, I would submit that it has brought about no change whatsoever as far as the condition of the people is concerned. We wanted feudal aristocracy to go: but we did not welcome provincial civil servants aristocracy. Sir we wanted the Rulers to go lock, stock and barrel, but in the name of bloodless revolution, the Rulers have been allowed to enjoy privileges and they have transferred state properties and squandered the treasury, and granted untimely pensions to various officers before handing over charge to the respective provinces. Now, Sir, at the same time the voices of the people have been choked. The other day, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya observed that the opinion of the people has not been taken when the merger was done. On the day the agreement was executed by the Rulers of the Orissa states at Cuttack in the month of December, the members of the Regional Council, and also the

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workers were present in large numbers, but they were never consulted and their view on the merger question was not taken. Rather they were dubbed as dacoits. Now, Sir, at present instead of Rulers' raj, there is the raj of administrators; the lower grade services are not secure, and in some respects civil liberties have been suppressed. A few days ago—in the last month—a colleague of mine in the Orissa state was arrested on the allegation that he was implicated in R.S.S. activities. But, Sir, from my own experience I know that he had taken no part in any such activities, but in the name of anti-communal drive, the active elements of the different fighting organizations have been arrested. But while this is going on in the states, the princes and the palace cliques and the loyalist politicians have retained their share of power, and the condition of the people has not been raised to any appreciable extent. Now, Sir, on behalf of the people of the states, we want the withdrawal of all measures which go to suppress their civil liberties, and at the same time want to safeguard the interests of the people of the states and also establish local autonomy and self-government for the people of the states.

Sir, certain Advisory Committees have been set up in every state and an Advisory Assembly has also been set up—with no power; they will consider and advise on such matters as will be referred to them by the various Administrators or by the respective Provincial Governments. I would like to submit that full responsibility to the greatest extent possible should be invested in the States Assembly.

Now, Sir, about the General Budget I want to say a few words before I resume my seat. As I studied the Budget proposals, the impression that was produced on me was that we are being gradually and firmly drawn into the grip of Anglo-American imperialism in the economic sphere. Also, in the name of relief to the industries the pockets of big business have been made heavy and there is an increasing burden on the lower classes in the shape of various taxes. On the other hand there is a tendency on the part of big business to depend more and more on British and American capital. Sir, British Imperialism has prevented the import of any new machinery to start new industries. Britain and America possess the monopoly of capital goods but the Indian big business are now hemmed in on all sides by the backwardness and colonial limitations. They were counting on our Sterling Balances for the large scale import of capital goods without any difficulty about securing foreign exchange, but the British and American imperialists have joined hands to repudiate the major part of this Sterling debt and forced India to agree to it, for the sake of paltry-concessions, or the release of a small part of the debt. Sir, the British of course never intend to pay back the Sterling Balances in full but are now releasing a part of it as a weapon to secure a new economic bargains. As was pointed out yesterday by Prof. K. T. Shah, we have to take a bold stand on this question.

Sir, to come out of this vicious circle, it is necessary for India that the monopolists must be deprived of their unlimited control and the main and basic industries must be nationalised. Conditions must be created to enable the workers to participate in the management of industries. It will lead to an increase in the production of consumer goods. Further, the grip of the monopolists on land and food must be broken; it is the monopoly on land and food that enables the land lords to control the food market. Therefore, this land-lordism must be abolished on an all-India basis. It may be said that this is a question for the Provinces to solve; but I would request the Government of India and draw their attention to the fact that there should be an all-India plan to abolish this land-lordism and save the people from its

tyranny. It is only then that State aid to agriculture will ensure an increase in agricultural production and food-grains will become available. If we are self-sufficient in other respects, we can make trade agreements with other countries and import capital goods.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the debate during the last two days has naturally covered a very wide field and I might, if I may, congratulate the House on the level of the debate. A good deal of impatience was in evidence at the fact that Honourable Members did not find the main structure of this Budget very different from the Budget of the previous years. It was asked: How has Independence brought a change in the life of the common man? How has this Budget benefited the rural masses? Where is the socio-economic programme in this Budget?

I fully sympathise with this point of view, but, Sir, when I was listening to criticism of this kind I was reminded of a story prevalent in my part of the country. In almost every village there is a banyan tree under the shade of which is installed the elephant-headed God Ganesha, the God of Wisdom. And there is a belief amongst the women-folk in my part of the country that a barren woman would beget a child if she went round this banyan tree every morning and worshipped the God. An innocent woman who was barren for many years went round three times the tree once and then touched her belly to see if there was a child. Sir, we got our freedom on the 15th of August, 1947, and I might be pardoned if on the 15th of February 1948 I was not able to conceive and much less bring forth a child to the liking of all of us.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): But the capitalist woman became *enceinte* even in the first round!

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The capitalist woman in this case, Sir, thought that she had a child, but it ended in an abortion!

I think my Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi really struck the right note when he said that in this Budget he saw evidence of the nervousness of the crew on the first voyage of a ship. I think that sums up beautifully the position of this Government. This great ship of State was handed over to us on the 15th of August in mid-ocean. The Captain that took charge of the ship is one trusted and beloved of the Nation; he can be relied upon to steer this ship safely to the next port at any rate in spite of the storm that overtook the ship within the first few days. He entrusted to me the task of looking after the worn-out engine of the ship and he had commanded me to keep it in good order and use the limited fuel at my disposal with prudence and care until the ship reached the next port and we had some time to look round about, overhaul the ship and re-fuel it. I think, Sir, I have, to the best of my ability, carried out this responsibility in this sense.

I frankly admit that I was not attempting to present a Budget which will embody all those great ambitions and dreams that every one of us cherishes. I had to make my proposals on the basis of the existing economic structure. What the future of that structure will be, I am not in a position to say. Some Honourable Members very rightly demanded that it is high time that the Government should, in clear language, enunciate its economic and industrial policy. That matter is now engaging the most earnest attention of the Cabinet and I am hoping that within the next few weeks the Government will publish a considered statement on industrial and economic policy. When we have that picture clear in our mind, it will then be for the Government as a whole and the Finance Minister in particular so to adjust his Budget, his whole financial structure, that the objective will be achieved, and achieved without bringing about any violent shake-up of the existing system.

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty].

I take it for granted, Sir, that there are not many in this House who would like to build a new economic order by completely demolishing the existing structure of society. If there are those who believe in that method of approach, then I can respectfully say that I am not equal to the task. But I think I am right in assuming that whatever might be the objective of our economic policy, our implementation of that policy should be in gradual stages, suited to the needs of the country, so that the change-over to the new order may be brought about by peaceful and non-violent methods. After all, the greater part of the world is even today functioning on a system of economy which really took concrete shape since the Industrial Revolution of the early 19th century. Excepting the Soviet, I am not aware of any Government in either of the hemispheres which has built up the new economic order by completely demolishing the old. In England, with a socialist Government not merely in office but in power, it has not yet been found possible to bring about any radical changes in the economic system of that country.

Now, Sir, explanation is not far too seek. The Soviet system is the result of the teachings of Karl Marx and Angels. When Karl Marx initiated his philosophy of the economic society and social justice, he saw around him an industrial age just in its birth, full of exploitation of the weaker sections of society. He naturally came to the conclusion that social justice can be established only by demolishing that class. But we have made considerable progress in the technique and mechanism of economics since the days of Karl Marx. Karl Marx and his followers were not aware of the mechanism of control; they were not aware of the technique of taxation; they had not the slightest conception of the operation of anti-trust laws and labour legislation. And with our advanced knowledge of these four fields, socialist countries like the United Kingdom have come to realise that it is possible to build the new order of economics on the existing basis, with suitable adjustments.

After all, what is it that was fundamentally wrong with that economy which we always call the 'capitalist economy'? That economy was based on free enterprise with freedom to exploit the masses. The economic doctrine prevalent in Europe in those days was the doctrine of *laissez faire*. The State considered itself purely as a Police State, not concerned with the economic welfare of the people at large and the fond hope was entertained by the economists and statesmen of that age that if only you allowed the free laws of competition, supply and demand to operate, all economic and social forces will naturally find their adjustment. But that policy did not succeed.

The inheritance that we have from the British is really a Police State. In the last 150 years, the main pre-occupation of the British rulers in India was to keep internal peace and to protect the country, as far as possible, from external danger and to exploit the economic resources of the country only in so far as it was a complement to their own economy. It was within the last twenty years that, due to considerable pressure of public opinion in the country, the Government of India applied their mind to the problem of the State taking a hand in the economic and social development of the people of this country. In essence, therefore, we inherited on the 15th of August a predominantly Police State, with the economic system based more or less on the outdated capitalistic notions of economy.

Sir, I very respectfully submit that a change in such a system, a change in the mechanism of such a State cannot be brought about within a few months by a new Government. As I said, Honourable Members must really, to do justice themselves and to this Government, give some little time, so that we might have a clearer conception of what the goal of our economic and social policy is going to be and how we are going to achieve that goal.

My Honourable friend, Prof. Shah, very rightly remarked that he does not find in this Budget any evidence of all those great schemes of social insurance. He is perfectly right. This Bill does not contain any such evidence. I will not be satisfied, Sir, with any Budget of the National Government of this country in the future unless I find in it ample provision for social insurance, unemployment insurance, health insurance and old age pension. I am free to confess that I am not in a position even to make a beginning in this direction in this year and I doubt very much whether we would be in a position to begin even in the next two or three years. The entire resources of the Central Government were devised in the Constitution Act of 1935 on the basis of a certain conception of the functions of the Central Government and those functions were still understood to be more or less Police functions. It was on that basis that certain definite sources of revenue were allocated to the Centre and certain other sources were allocated to the provinces. If a radical change is to be brought about in the sphere of activity of the Central Government, then the whole system of the allocation of sources of revenue between the Centre and the provinces will have to be re-examined and re-studied; we are likely to commit a great blunder in this quest for a Central Government strong enough to shoulder directly the responsibility for the welfare of the masses of this country. After all, it should not be forgotten that our Constitution is not a unitary Constitution and from the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly, I find it is not the intention of the Constitution-makers to frame a unitary constitution for this country. We are aiming at a federal system of constitution and in such a federal constitution it is an inevitable corollary that direct schemes of welfare must necessarily be undertaken by the units and not by the Centre. The Centre must be strong and my Honourable friend, Mr. Sidhva rightly asked: "what is the meaning of your being a strong Central Government, if you are not in a position to help the rural masses". Sir, the strength of the Central Government is not to be judged by the ability of that Government to directly influence the every-day life of the rural masses. The Central Government should be strong in the sense that it should be able to defend the country, that it should have ample resources to discharge that obligation. The Central Government must be strong in the sense that it should have an overall control in planning the economy of the country. Those are the two matters in which the Central Government should be strong. The Central Government should again be strong in the sense that it must have the real and effective voice in controlling the financial structure of the country, so that the provinces directly or through the Centre get adequate resources for meeting their obligations. According to my conception of a strong Central Government, these are the methods in which the strength of the Centre must lie. I therefore with this conception of the functions and duties of the Central Government naturally thought that in the first National Budget, I must create those conditions which will keep up the economy of the country unimpaired, which will practically keep up the present system of economy until it is substituted by something different. A number of Honourable Members levelled a charge against me that I have given relief in an undue measure to the richer classes. Sir, my proposals for reducing the limits of super-tax and the various other measures for reducing the burden of indirect tax are not to be considered as measures of taxation relief at all. My proposals in these matters were intended to redress the great mistake that was done in the last annual budget. I have no hesitation in saying that whatever might be the motive of my predecessor, who presented that budget, its result has been most disastrous on the economy of our country and until I was sure in my own mind that I had undone that mischief and restored the confidence in the markets, I would not have laid the foundations on a proper footing our future economy. I think I have; and the evidence is already in sight, the share markets went down as soon as my

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty]

budget proposals were published and since then people have begun to have a better appreciation of the implications of my proposals and the market has now rallied and has now become steady. In fact, I am not in the least sorry that I did not create a bullish tendency in the share market on the eve of my budget. I consider a spectacular budget as an evil; a budget should not be spectacular; it should be prosaic; it should be solid; it should be cold; and I for my part was not in the least worried at the news I received on the 28th night that the share market reacted very unfavourably on my budget. Every spectacular fall or rise in the share market means suffering and loss to the thousands and tens of thousands of the poor and middle-class investors. Until we remove this cancer of speculation in our country, we are not going to create conditions of safety for the middle-class investors. In fact the next task to which I am going to apply my mind is to present to this House a comprehensive Bill which will put a stop to this evil. My taxation proposals, therefore, should be studied from this angle; there is no use applying to it a standard which I frankly confess I did not have in my mind.

With regard to my proposals for indirect taxation, there again, I plead that the proposals that I have made cannot be considered to be an undue burden on any class in the context of the existing state of affairs. After all it is a hard fact that for a long time to come, until the whole nature of our economy changes, the Central Government will have to depend a great deal on Excises. Whether we like it or not, it is a hard fact. As our industrial development advances, as we increase our import duties step by step, the revenue from Customs must decrease year after year and the only source from which we can make good that loss is by levy of Excise duties on home-made articles. Honourable Members seem to be under the impression that indirect taxation is a peculiar device of a capitalistic mentality. But may I remind them, Sir, that in Soviet Russia practically the whole scheme of taxation is indirect. The greatest source of revenue to the Soviet Government is what they call the turn-over tax, a tax directly levied on the sale of commodities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): But the workers there have complete control over production and distribution and there is no private enterprise.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The workers in India also might have complete control over production and distribution. But it does not take away the essential fact that in Soviet Russia the system of taxation is predominently an indirect system of taxation. So far as the function of workers in our economy is concerned, there cannot by any difference between Professor Ranga and myself. I am prepared to go the whole hog of it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Let us have economic self-government.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I put it to him. Sir, are the labour troubles today due to the fact that labour is asked to work in an economy of private enterprise? Well, if this is so, how do you explain the attitude of the labour in this country?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Because the State is capitalist-controlled.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: In any case today the labour trouble in India is not predominently due to the fact that they are asked to work in a capitalistic economy. In fact the demand made on the employer is at its maximum in the case of those enterprises which are owned and controlled by the State. It is not therefore fair to infer from the existing state of affairs that if only you transfer private enterprise to State ownership and State enterprise all these labour troubles will vanish. I submit, Sir, that we must do everything that lies in our power to make labour realise that it is an effective partner in the productive and distributive system of this country. At the same time so long as we are working on the basis of the present economic structure we must also ensure that free flow of money into investments that can come only by creating a surplus and therefore a surplus of capital in industry. And my justification for the changes in the super-tax structure and the reduction in the business profits tax is that I feel that but for these measures you will not have that free flow of investment which will create capital that will produce the surplus. I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more on this general aspect of the question.

My Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru did a great service in calling our attention to the fact that today we meet under the shadow of the message of President Truman in the American Congress. I hope Honourable Members will realise the implications of that message. It might mean that we might have to have a re-orientation of our entire outlook in economics, in politics and in international relationship. We were banking on receiving capital goods specially from the United States for our reconstruction programme. What are going to be the implications of the President's message? If the United States of America has to switch over to a semi-wartime economy all hopes of our getting the capital goods is gone. At such a time for us to rush on, without being clear in our own mind as to what the future is going to be and what should be the steps that must lead us to that future, will be a matter of the deepest and gravest concern.

Sir, a great many individual points were made in the course of the debate. I will first take the joint Hindu family so that I might not miss it at the end of my time. A joint Hindu family is recognised as an entity for the purpose of our income-tax law. It is inevitable so long as the Joint Hindu family is not merely a social but a legal entity in our country. I fully concede that the joint Hindu family should be treated somewhat differently from the individual. In fact this is one of the problems that I am remitting to the Income-tax Investigation Commission for their examination. That Commission—Honourable Members might remember—has been constituted not merely for the purpose of making investigations about tax-evaders but for advising us on the revision of our income-tax law. There are a great many ways in which effective relief might be given to the joint Hindu family. For instance, in the case of an individual or an undivided family the exemption allowed is only for Rs. 1,500. I think it will be perfectly justifiable to argue that an exemption of Rs. 1,500 in the case of a joint Hindu family should be given for every adult coparcener. I am also prepared to concede that the limit of the super-tax exemption should be higher for the Hindu undivided family than for the individual. These are matters which we will certainly take up for examination. My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari drew my attention to the difficulties that the Hindu family has to encounter with the income-tax authorities in cases of partition. He is perfectly right in his complaint; such complaints have been brought to my notice even as a private citizen. I myself in my Hindu family narrowly escaped the teasings of the income-tax officers in that way. The point of the complaint is this. When a Hindu undivided family produces evidence before the income-tax Officer that the members have become divided in status, the Income-Tax Officer again goes into the question whether actually the fact of partition has been established. I have now asked the Central Board of Revenue to give clear instructions to the Income-tax Officers that if a Hindu family produces any evidence about separation in status

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which will be admissible in a law-court, the Income-Tax Officers also must admit that evidence without any further consideration. The way in which section 25 has been applied to the great harassment of members of the Hindu family will, I hope, not occur in future.

My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari again asked why the Salt Department should have been transferred to the Industry and Supply Ministry. The Department of Salt was part of the Central Board of Revenue because the main interest of Government in salt was only the revenue; Government did not in the least care whether really salt in sufficient quantities was available to the people or not. Now that the salt duty has been abolished it will be an anomaly to retain the Salt Department in a section of the Finance Ministry which is purely concerned with the task of collecting revenue. The problem of salt supply in our country has now become rather serious on account of the loss of some of our resources in Pakistan. Government have now taken on hand the question of the manufacture of salt on a large scale. In fact if you compare the *per capita* consumption of salt in this country with other countries you will find that it is a very small quantity indeed. We have to increase our output of salt enormously, and in connection with our heavy chemical industries again the question of the manufacture of salt will assume very important proportions. Obviously if it is conceded that there is need for building up a gigantic salt industry in this country, that should be looked after by a department which interests itself in industrial development. It is with that object in view that we have transferred the administration of the Salt Department to the Ministry of Industry and Supply. In fact even before that transfer was made the question of setting up a semi-autonomous Salt Board, somewhat on the lines of the Railway Board, was under the consideration of Government; and a member of the Central Board of Revenue was specially deputed to give a report on that question. We have passed on that report to the Ministry of Industry and Supply; and I am hoping that before long that Ministry will set up a really effective salt board which will build up our salt industry on a really worthy and adequate scale.

Some observations were made on the question of economy, and more specially my lump-sum cut of 2½ crores which I indicated in my budget speech. My Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru asked whether this 2½ crores was intended to be a target. I had explained even in my budget speech that it was not intended in any manner to be a target at all. Why I imposed that lump-sum cut was because I wanted the problem of economy to be tackled immediately by each department before the report of the Economy Committee is available. I am hoping that the Economy Committee's report will be available to us at a very early date; and it is my earnest desire that economies on a very substantial scale should be effected in the departments of the Government of India. Here again I have got serious difficulties. One of the problems of economy and retrenchment is the retrenchment of the surplus staff in various departments. In some of the departments thousands of people were recruited purely for war-time work. That work has now ceased and there is not the slightest justification for this Government to pay these men the money of the taxpayer as salaries. And yet, when I am engaged in this unpleasant, but inevitable task, I get deputations led by Honourable Members of this House, threatening me with dire consequences if I do not listen to them.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Then, why go on increasing unemployment?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That is the indication of the various conflicting problems we have to deal with. Today is the 18th. It is the dead-line date on which something disastrous may happen to me if I do not stop all this retrenchment. I do not want to mention the very threatening letters that I get anonymously on this subject.

There was a reference in the discussions in the last two days about the sterling balances. My Honourable friend, Prof. K. T. Shah was quite vehement on this subject. In fact, Sir, I share that spirit to some extent myself. It is certainly very annoying to say the least that you should be told by your debtor that you should act according to his dictation: that you should receive payment according to his convenience. He wants you to feel that he is really doing you an obligation when he thinks of repayment. But unfortunately that is the position in which we find ourselves. But I may give this categorical assurance, that I will not be a party to any scaling down of the sterling balances.

As I mentioned in a press conference soon after the first agreement was made, the sterling balances are not an inter-governmental debt. It is not a debt which the U. K. Government owes to the Government of India. The sterling balance represents the deposit which the Reserve Bank of India has made with the Bank of England, and we have been told, sir, and the world has been taught to believe that the Bank of England is an eternal rock, and if there is any default in the payment of these sterling balances, it means the bankruptcy of the Bank of England. In fact, the bankruptcy of the Bank of England, I think, would be a greater ignominy than the bankruptcy of the British Government itself. I feel confident that those in charge of the Bank of England, with all their sensitiveness about their reputation for solidity and solvency, will ever think of asking us to scale down these sterling balances.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The economist has done it!

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That does not matter. The economist is not the Bank of England. Therefore, I would suggest to Honourable Members that we need not import any idea of scaling down in our discussions with representatives of the British Government. I have taken it for granted that no question of scaling down arises at all.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): What about scaling up!

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: My Honourable friend, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari also asked me to say what was my view with regard to the small savings schemes. It is true that the small savings scheme is now moribund. To some extent it is an inevitable aftermath of the post-war conditions. I am trying, however, to put life into it. I am now devising a scheme of saving certificates which I hope will be more attractive to the small investor than the certificates that have so far been issued. I am recognizing the entire machinery of the small savings scheme and I am hoping that within the next three or four weeks I will be able to announce that scheme. The success of that scheme will depend entirely on the Co-operation of the Provincial Governments, and I might remind Honourable Members that each of us in his own way can contribute very substantially to the success of that scheme.

Speaking of small savings schemes, I must remind the House that all our schemes of development and expansion very largely depend upon the success of our future loan programmes. The budget of a modern Government, as I mentioned the other day, is not to be judged purely from the revenue and expenditure budget, but from the capital budget. It is comparatively easy to balance your budget or to produce a surplus. But as my Honourable friend, Pandit Kunzru said, it is only when your economy is balanced that you can get satisfaction in the balanced nature of your budget. In fact we attach so much importance to produce a balanced budget because in its turn

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty]

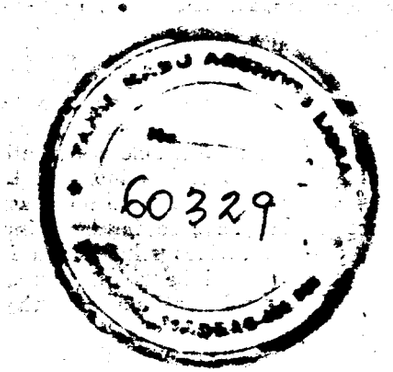
it is an instrument to create a balanced economy and to cure a deficit economy. It was because I was so anxious to prepare the ground for rectifying the unbalance in our economy that I was so anxious to balance the budget. Having done that, I am hoping that the investor in this country will respond. In future the Indian investor must realize that in subscribing for Government loans, he is not merely investing his money with a view to earn some interest but he is doing a patriotic duty to his own National Government. If only our middle-class investors take this view of Government loans, I, Sir, will not in the least be worried about any bullying or black-mailing attitude of any operators in the share market. After all, when you raise 150 or 200 crores, the greater part of it must come from people who are not professional speculators, but who are interested in investing their money in some safe security. And if only our people will realize their duties and responsibilities in this matter and co-operate in the Government borrowing programme, I look forward to a period when we might have laid the foundations on which we can build the economy about which we dream.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the first day of April, 1948, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri K. Santhanam, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, Mr. Hossain Imam, Shri Bikram Lal Sondhi, Shri Khurshed Lal, Shri Biswanath Das, Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Mr. R. K. Sidhva, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before the 22nd 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 Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 19th March, 1948.


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தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக்காப்பக நூலகம்,
எழும்பூர், சென்னை-600 008.

தவணைத்தாள்.

சே எண் : ப. எண் :

வழங்கிய நாள். (1)	திரும்பிய நாள். (2)	வழங்கிய நாள். (1)	திரும்பிய நாள். (2)
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