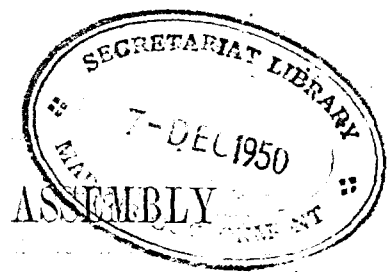


MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES



FIFTH SESSION OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ACT, 1935.

12th to 15th and 19th to 23rd July 1948.

Volume XIII—(Nos. 1-9).

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PERSONNEL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR ARCHIBALD EDWARD NYE, G.C.I.E., K.C.B., K.B.E., M.C.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

1. THE HON. SRI O. P. RAMASWAMY REDDIAR, *Premier.*
2. THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN, *Food Minister.*
3. THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM, *Public Works Minister.*
4. THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI, *Finance Minister.*
5. THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI, *Industries Minister.*
6. THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI, *Local Administration Minister.*
7. THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR, *Education Minister.*
8. THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON, *Agriculture Minister.*
9. THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO, *Land Revenue Minister.*
10. THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY, *Public Health Minister.*
11. THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA, *Rural Development Minister.*
12. THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM, *Firka Development Minister.*

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MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS.

Speaker.

THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI.

Deputy Speaker.

SRIMATHI C. AMMANNA RAJA.

Panel of Chairmen.

1. BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN.
2. MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ.
3. SRI M. A. EASWARAN.
4. SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU.

Secretary to the Assembly.

SRI D. K. V. RAGHAVA VARMA, B.A., B.L.

Assistant Secretary to the Assembly.

SRI T. HANUMANTHAPPA, B.A. (Hons.), B.L.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Serial number and name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
1 Aaron Rao, Alladi	Guntur <i>cum</i> Nellore, Indian Christian.
2 Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib ..	Kurnool, Muhammadan, Rural.
3 Abdul Majid Sahib, M. S., B.A. ...	Chingleput <i>cum</i> South Arcot, Muhammadan, Rural.
4 Ahmad Kutty Sahib, Haji Koyappathody M.	Malappuram, Muhammadan, Rural.
5 Ammanna Raja, Srimathi C. (<i>Deputy Speaker</i>).	Ellore Town, Women, General, Rural.
6 Anandan Nambiar, K.	Railway Trade Union, Labour.
7 Ananthachar, B.	Hospet, General, Rural.
8 Anjalai Ammal, Srimathi ..	Cuddalore, Women, General, Rural.
9 Annamalai Pillai, N.	Tiruvannamalai, General, Rural.
10 Arunachalam, T. S.	Trichinopoly <i>cum</i> Srirangam Towns, General, Urban.
11 Ataullah Sahib, M. S.	Salem <i>cum</i> Coimbatore <i>cum</i> the Nilgiris, Muhammadan, Rural.
12 Avinashilingam Chettiar, The Hon. Sri T. S. (<i>Minister</i>).	Palladam, General, Rural.
13 Bhaktavatsalam, The Hon. Sri M. (<i>Minister</i>).	Tiruvallur, General, Rural.
14 Balakrishnan, S. C.	Palni, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
15 Bapineedu, M., B.Sc. (Cornell), M.Sc. (California).	Ellore, General, Rural.
16 Batchelor, B. W.	European Commerce, The Madras Chamber of Commerce and the Madras Trades Association.
17 Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin, B.A. (Hons.).	Madras City, Women, Muhammadan, Urban.
18 Bhashyam, K.	University.
19 Bhupathiraju Bangarayya, Srimathi.	Bhimavaram, General, Rural.

Serial number and name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
69 Krishnaswami Vandiar, A. ..	Kumbakonam, General, Rural.
70 Kulasekara Doss, K. :. .	Tindivanam, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
71 Kumarakrishna Yachendra Bahadur Varu of Venkatagiri, Sri Sarvagna.	Northern Central, Landholders.
72 Kumaran, M.	Chirakkal, General, Rural.
73 Kumaraswami, Garembella . .	Chicacole, General, Rural.
74 Kumaraswami Raja, P. S. . .	Srivilliputtur, General, Rural.
75 Kunhi Kammaran Nambiar, K. T.	West Coast, Landholders.
76 Kuppuswami Nayudu, A. . .	Conjeevaram, General, Rural.
77 Kuppuswami, R.	Textile Workers' Non-Union Labour.
78 Kurmayya, The Hon. Sri V. (Minister).	Bander, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
79 Kuttimalu Amma, Srimathi A. V.	Tellicherry cum Calicut, Women, General, Urban.
80 Lakshmanaswamy, Pandu . .	Amalapuram, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
81 Lakshmi Ammal, Srimathi K. . .	Dindigul, Women, General, Rural.
82 Lakshmi Ammal, Srimathi V. . .	Shermadevi, General, Rural.
83 Lakshmipathi, Srimathi R. . .	Madras City, Women, General, Urban.
84 Leonard, D. G.	European Commerce, The Madras Chamber of Commerce and the Madras Trades Association.
85 Linga Raju, K.	Rajahmundry, General, Rural.
86 Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib, B.A., B.L.	West Godavari cum Kistna, Muhammadan, Rural.
87 Mahin Sohamnad Sahib . .	Puttur, Muhammadan, Rural.
88 Mallayya, U., Padmanabha . .	Mangalore, General, Rural.
89 Vacant	Vizagapatam cum East Godavari, Dock and Factory Labour, Labour.
90 Manickam, R. S.	Sattur, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).

Serial number and name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
91 Marimuthu, M.	Tanjore, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
92 Mohamed Rafeeudin Ahmad Ansari Sahib.	Nellore, Muhammadan, Rural.
93 Moideen Kutty Sahib, P. K. . .	Palghat, Muhammadan, Rural.
94 Moses Wilson, John	Northern Circars, Indian Christian.
95 Mohamed Abdul Salam Sahib . .	Guntur, Muhammadan, Rural.
96 Mohammad Ismail Sahib, Haji, B.A., B.L.	Bellary, Muhammadan, Rural.
97 Muhammad Anwar Sahib, N. . .	North Arcot, Muhammadan, Rural.
98 Vacant	Tinnevely, Muhammadan, Rural.
99 Muhammad Ibrahim Sahib, M. A.	Tanjore, Muhammadan, Rural.
100 Muhammad Ibrahim Sahib, V. S.	Trichinopoly, Muhammadan, Rural.
101 Muhammad Ismail Sahib . .	Vizagapatam cum East Godavari, Muhammadan, Rural.
102 Muhammad Ismail Sahib, M. . . (Leader of the Opposition).	Madras City, Muhammadan, Urban.
103 Muhammad Raza Khan Sahib . .	Chittoor, Muhammadan, Rural.
104 Muniswami Pillay, V. I. . .	Tirukkoyilur, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
105 Murthi, B. S.	Cocanada, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
106 Muthuramalinga Tevar, U. . .	Ramnad, General, Rural.
107 Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad, Kumararaja Sir.	The Nattukottai Nagarthars' Association.
108 Nachiappa Gounder, K. A. . .	Omalur, General, Rural.
109 Nadhamuni Reddi, R. . . .	Madanapalle, General, Rural.
110 Nagappa, S.	Kurnool, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
111 Nagaraja Ayyangar, N. . . .	Namakkal, General, Rural.
112 Nagaraja Manigar, S. . . .	Hosur, General, Rural.
113 Nageswara Rao, Meduri . .	Guntur, General, Rural.
114 Nagayya, S.	Cuddapah, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).

Serial number and name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
115 Narasimharaju, P. L.	Vizianagram, General, Rural.
116 Narasimha Rao, Guntur	Madras City, North, General, Urban.
117 Narayana Reddi, K. B.	Rajampet, General, Rural.
118 Natesan Chettiyar, M. G.	Dharmapuri, General, Rural.
119 Natesan, P.	Southern India Chamber of Commerce.
120 Pais, L. C.	West Coast, Indian Christian.
121 Palaniswamy Gounder, V. C.	Coimbatore, General, Rural.
122 Pallam Raju, M.	Cocanada, General, Rural.
123 Paramananda Rayar, S.	Chidambaram, General, Rural.
124 Parameswaran, B., B.A.	Chingleput, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
125 Parisutha Nadar, A. Y. S.	Tanjore <i>cum</i> Madura <i>cum</i> Ramnad, Indian Christian.
126 Pattabiramaiah, M. S.	Dindigul, General, Rural.
127 Pattabhiraman, T. S.	Tiruchengode, General, Rural.
128 Paliya Kudumbar, S. K.	Koilpatti, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
129 Periyaswami, M. P.	Namakkal, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
130 Perumalla Nayudu	Kandukur, General, Rural.
131 Pillalamarri Venkateswarlu	West Godavari <i>cum</i> Kistna <i>cum</i> Guntur, Factory Labour, Labour.
132 Pocker Sahib, B.	Calicut <i>cum</i> Cannanore, Tellicherry Towns, Muhammadan, Urban.
133 Ponnambala Gounder	Trichinopoly, General, Rural.
134 Ponnuswami Gounder, V.	Tiruppattur (North Arcot), General, Rural.
135 Ponnuswami Mudaliyar, A.	South Arcot <i>cum</i> Trichinopoly <i>cum</i> Salem <i>cum</i> Coimbatore, Indian Christian.
136 Prakasam, T.	Madras City, South Central, General, Urban.

Serial number and name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
137 Raghavan, K. *	Malappuram, General Rural (Scheduled Castes)
138 Raghava Menon, R.	Palghat, General, Rural.
139 Raghavayya, V.	Nellore, General, Rural.
140 Rajagurunatha Chettiyar, Zamin-dar of Elampalli.	Southern Central Landholders.
141 Rajamannar Chetty, G.	Madras City, North Central, General, Urban.
142 Rajaram Naidu, K.	Tirumangalam, General, Rural.
143 Ramachandra Rao, Dr. D. S.	Madras <i>cum</i> Chingleput, Indian Christian.
144 Ramamurthy, Rokkam	Tekkali, General, Rural.
145 Ramanujalu Reddiyar, R.	Cheyyar, General, Rural.
146 Ramaswami Mudaliyar, V. M.	Vellore, General, Rural.
147 Ramiah, N. P.	Musiri, General, Rural.
148 Rangaswami Reddy, N.	Mayavaram, General, Rural.
149 Ramaswami, D. V.	Vizagapatam, General, Rural.
150 Vacant	Trichinopoly, General, Rural.
151 Rayappa, A.	Gooty, General, Rural.
152 Sahajananda, A. S.	Chidambaram, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
153 Sami Goundar, S. K.	Gobichettipalayam, General, Rural.
154 Samuel, Dr. M. J.	Central Districts, Indian Christian.
155 Sangam Naidu, Palavalasa	Palakonda, General, Rural.
156 Sanjeeva Reddi, Neelam	Anantapur, General, Rural.
157 Sankarasubrahmanya Mudaliyar, V. S.	Tinnevely <i>cum</i> Palamcottah Towns, General, Urban.
158 Sanyasi Rao, Geddam	Sarvasiddhi, General, Rural.
159 Satyanarayana Raju, Alluri	Narasapur, General, Rural.
160 Satyanarayana Raju, Bhupati- raju.	Viravalli, General, Rural.
161 Seetharamaswami, Gona	Bobbili, General, Rural.
162 Seethi Sahib, K. M.	Malappuram, Muham-madan, Rural.
163 Shah Alam Khan Savoi Sahib.	Cuddapah, Muhammadan, Rural.

Serial number and name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
164 Shanmugam, K.	Gudur, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
165 Shammuga Rajeswara Sethupathi of Ramnad, Raja Sri R.	Southern Landholders.
166 Shetty, The Hon. Sri A. B. (Minister).	Coondapoor, General, Rural.
167 Sitamahalakshammamma, Srimathi Vallabhaneni.	Bandar, General, Rural.
168 Sitarama Reddi, The Hon. Sri H. (Minister).	Bellary, General, Rural.
169 Sivashanmukham Pillai, The Hon. Sri J. (Speaker).	Madras City, South Central, General, Urban (Scheduled Castes).
170 Srinivasa Padayachi, P. R. . . .	Tirukkoyilur, General, Rural.
171 Srinivasa Rao, W. S.	Ranipet, General, Rural.
172 Subbanna Gounder, K. K. . . .	Gobichettipalayam, General, Rural.
173 Subbaraman, N. M. R.	Madura Town, General, Urban.
174 Subbarao, Kallur	Penukonda, General, Rural.
175 Subbiah, P.	Ongole, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
176 Subba Iyer, R.	Chingleput, General, Rural.
177 Subbarayan, Dr. P.	Dharapuram, General, Rural.
178 Subrahmanya Ayyar, Dr. S., M.B.B.S.	Tiruppattur (Ramnad), General, Rural.
179 Subrahmanyam, A.	Salem, General, Rural.
180 Subrahmanyam, K.	Coimbatore Town, General, Urban.
181 Sumangalamma, Srimathi Allum.	Bellary, Women, General, Rural.
182 Surayya, Kollipara	Bezwada, General, Rural.
183 The Yuvarajah of Pithapur Raja- rao Venkata Mahipathi Ganga- dhara Rama Rao Bahadur.	Northern Landholders I.
184 Swaminathan, R. V.	Sivaganga, General, Rural.
185 Vacant	Ramnad, Muhammadan, Rural.
186 Thangavelu, R.	Tiruvannamalai, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
187 Tatachari, T. K. T. N. R. . . .	Chandragiri, General, Rural.

Serial number and name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
188 Thiagoo Voikkarar	Mannargudi, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
189 Thompson, A. E.	European Commerce, The Madras Chamber of Com- merce and the Madras Trades Association.
190 Thyagaraja Pillai, M. D. . . .	Negapatam, General, Rural.
191 Thyagaraja Sholagar, G. . . .	Tanjore, General, Rural.
192 Vaidyanada Ayyar, A.	Melur, General, Rural.
193 Varadachari, K.	Tiruttani, General, Rural.
194 Varadachari, N. S.	Madras City, South, General, Urban.
195 Vedaratnam Pillai, A.	Mannargudi, General, Rural.
196 Veeranna Padal, Kankipatti . .	Backward Areas and Tribes.
197 Veeraraghaviah, Nukala . . .	Bezwada, General, Rural.
198 Velayudapani, P. M.	Ranipet, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
199 Veluchamy Gounder, P. S. . . .	Periyakulam, General, Rural.
200 Venkanna, Gottumukkala . . .	Ellore, General, Rural (Scheduled Castes).
201 Venkatachalam Pillai, B. . . .	Ariyahur, General, Rural.
202 Venkatanarayana, Pyndah . . .	Cocanada Town, General, Urban.
203 Venkatanarayana Reddi, B. . .	Gudur, General, Rural.
204 Venkataratnam, B.	Rajahmundry, General, Rural.
205 Venkata Reddi, Gopavaram . . .	Nandyal, General, Rural.
206 Venkatarreddi, Reddivari . . .	Chittoor, General, Rural.
207 Venkatarama Ayyar, Amma- pet P.	Tanjore cum Kumbakonam Town, General, Urban.
208 Venkataraju, M.	Ongole, General, Rural.
209 Venkata Rao, The Hon. Sri Kala (Minister).	Amalapuram, General, Rural.
210 Venkata Subbayya, Nivarthi . .	Kurnool, General, Rural.
211 Viswanatham, T.	Vizagapatam Town, General, Urban.
212 Zamindar of Mirzapuram (Sri Meka Venkataramiah Appa Rao Bahadur).	Northern Landholders II.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935.

Monday, the 12th July 1948.

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

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

I.—CONDOLENCE RESOLUTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER:—“ I regret to inform the House of the death of the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Prohibition, on 15th June 1948, Sri P. Ratnavelu Thevar, Member, Trichinopoly General Constituency, on 10th June 1948 and M. R. P. Syed Muhammad Sahib Bahadur, Member for the Ramnad Muhammadan Rural Constituency, on 23rd June 1948 and wish to express our sense of sorrow at the loss that we have sustained by their death.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“ Sir, I move that—
‘ this House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas on 15th June 1948 and conveys its sense of sympathy to the members of his bereaved family.’

“ Sir, it is indeed very difficult to speak about a Colleague who had been intimately connected with the Government for the last several months and who took a keen interest in the work which was entrusted to him. As a matter of fact, my own feeling is that he took to his work so very seriously and overdid his work as it were, that ultimately he succumbed in the hospital after a brief illness. The departments that were entrusted to him were also taxing and troublesome—the Department of Transport, the Department of Housing and also the question of Prohibition was there. In regard to all these departments he had to devote much of his time and energy in seeing that they worked to the fullest satisfaction of the public. For instance, Sir, the housing problem was so acute in the Province that what was thought of by his predecessor had to be implemented by him by organizing so many co-operative societies. Of course, there were so many obstacles in the way and yet he had to give a drive to the department to see that several societies were organized to tackle this question of

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

[12th July 1948]

housing. Nothing could be done overnight to construct several houses under these co-operative societies but all the preliminaries had to be gone through and the necessary sanction of the Government and the departments concerned had to be obtained to keep the societies going and to take up the task that was entrusted to them.

"Sir, the transport question also was there and what was an idea previously had to be drawn up into a scheme and the scheme had to be implemented in first nationalizing the entire transport service in the City. That was not an easy task. The question of organizing workshops, the question of organizing the routes and all other matters connected with the entire nationalization had to be taken up by him and he did it and to-day we see that the entire City transport has been nationalized.

"In regard to the question of Prohibition also he had to take up the question of enforcement and amelioration and he was just awaiting the Committee's recommendations but alas, he will not be with us on October 2nd, when the entire Province will go dry. It was a scheme designed to see that total prohibition must be introduced in the entire Province on that day, and he was making all the necessary preparations towards that end and to-day we find that he is not with us to see the fulfilment of the policy of prohibition on that day.

"He was Chairman of the Palamcottah Municipal Council for well over 12 years and his repeated election to the chairmanship of the Council demonstrated his strength in his own town and the popularity that he commanded from all sections of the people. He was also associated with this Council for a very long time; perhaps from 1926 he was a member of the Legislative Council and he took a very keen interest in the several enactments that were passed in this Legislature either as an independent member or as a Minister. He had a general aptitude for parliamentary work and he acquitted himself very creditably during his long term of office in this House.

"He graduated very early; perhaps at 21 he was a law graduate and immediately he enrolled himself as an Advocate and before long he became a leader of the criminal bar not only in the Tinnevely district but in the surrounding districts also. It was always a pleasure to speak to him on several matters. He was a great lover of books and his own personal library was one of the best in his town and in the Presidency. I had occasion to see his house which was full of book-shelves in every nook and corner of the house and even bath-rooms were not left free from book-shelves. Such an ardent lover of books he was and it was always very interesting to speak to him on any matter because he was always up-to-date with information.

"In these circumstances, Sir, it is very difficult to speak about a Colleague who was very dear to his own friends. In his

[12th July 1948]

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

death the Christian community has lost a good guide and a leader and the Province also has lost a good worker in him. With these words, I move the resolution."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I second the resolution before the House. Whether as a legal practitioner or as a parliamentarian or as a Minister he has made his mark. He has been held in high esteem among his co-professionals of the legal profession and we all know what a high standard of parliamentary work he had set in this House. He was also a scholar as has been pointed out by the Hon. Leader of the House; he was well-informed and up to the mark whatever might be the question he was called upon to tackle. It was a pleasure even to cross swords with him. He was a gentleman to the core. Then, even if one had occasion to differ from him, it was always a pleasure to deal with him because he was of an amiable nature and at the same time he was of an energetic temperament. We all know how energetic he was in putting through the various schemes which were entrusted to him. For instance, the great Prohibition scheme owes to him, to a great extent, the success that it has so far attained in this Province and which it might be in the future. I thoroughly associate myself with all that was said by the Hon. Leader of the House in connexion with the late Minister, the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas. Sir, I do not think he was lacking in any of the qualities which went to make up a man dear to his fellow men and it is mostly for that we are lamenting his demise. We also miss his genial presence in this House. With these words I associate myself with the remarks made by the Hon. Leader of the House and once more I second the resolution."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is indeed very unfortunate that our esteemed Colleague, the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas, passed away suddenly in his prime of age. I wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Hon. Leader of the House and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition both on my own behalf and on behalf of my party. I may state that we fully realize that we have lost not merely a friend, a Colleague but a gentleman who was a successful lawyer, a successful parliamentarian and a very loyal partyman. The Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas was the representative of the Christian community in the Cabinet but besides representing his community he took upon his shoulders a very heavy work, inasmuch as he had to create new departments in addition to the departments under his portfolio. For instance, the new Transport Department was a great responsibility and it was practically his creation. Again Prohibition was a thing which involved a good deal of work and responsibility on his part. He had also to tackle the question of housing. It is not as if these big departments were already there and he had merely to take them up, but he had to create them and this worked a good deal on his health and I am afraid he over-worked himself and lost his life

[Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur] [12th July 1948]

in the service of the people. I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my predecessors and offer my condolences to the members of the bereaved family. I am sure, Sir, that this resolution of condolence would be forwarded to the members of the bereaved family."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the feelings expressed by the previous speakers on the death of my esteemed friend, Mr. Daniel Thomas. Sir, I have known Mr. Daniel Thomas both as a friend and as a Member of the old Legislative Council from the year 1926. When he first entered this Council, Dr. Subbarayan adorned the Treasury Bench. He was a champion of the Depressed Classes and especially those who were converted to Christianity. In the year 1928 when a conference was held by the then Government to amend the Local Boards Act, he fought hard that the Christians who were converted must be given equal privileges as the Depressed Classes, but when Dr. Subbarayan explained to him its implications he agreed to drop the matter.

11-15 a.m. "He was a man who had a great thirst for knowledge. Just after the closing of the evening session every day, he used to go to the Moore Market and Evening Bazaar to select such of those books of his choice that were available. As was already pointed out by the Hon. Leader of the House, his house is practically a library. I feel proud, Sir, that during the time when he was Minister, Prohibition has been introduced in several districts. He was one of those who have been fighting for full Prohibition. I feel sorry it was not given to him to follow up the Prohibition for the several districts that he gave in 1947."

* MR. L. C. PAIS:—"Mr. Speaker, as one of the Parliamentary Secretaries attached to Mr. Thomas and as one who moved with him and who worked with him for over a year, it is my duty to say a word of praise touching this good man—touching his qualities of head and heart. As I understood him and as most of us have understood him, the secret of his success lay in this: that he was a student throughout his life. He read voraciously; he studied things and tried to put into practice what he studied and read. Ever a student of law, ever a student of literature, ever a student of politics and social science, he brought to bear his immense knowledge upon everything that he said or did. It was Emerson who said that all big men come under one of the three classes; either they are knowers or they are sayers or they are doers. You will agree with me when I say that Mr. Thomas would very easily come under every one of these three classes. He was a knower because he studied much and read much and knew much. The little time on the railway platform he would avail himself of by dashing to Higginbothams Bookstall and getting a new book and I have seen him frequently going to the various bookstalls in Madras for buying books because he always wanted to get the right and up-to-date information on the subject. He was a sayer because he was able to say what he knew and he

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was a doer also for the reason that he was able to put into practice what he knew and what he was able to say. Much was expected of him and certainly he would have achieved it but the cruel hand of death was upon him and I do not want to say more except to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers in this House."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I desire to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Hon. Leader of the House and the other Members of the House. The late Mr. Daniel Thomas was a member from the pre-Reform days in the old Council. As a Minister, he took a very keen interest and he was responsible for piloting a number of resolutions and Bills before the House. The resolution before the House is that—

'this House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas on 15th June 1948 and conveys its sense of sympathy to the members of his bereaved family.'

I request Members to stand for two minutes in their seats."

The resolution was adopted, the House standing.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I move that—

'this House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Sri P. Ratnavelu Thevar on the 10th June 1948 and of M. R. P. Syed Muhammad Sahib Bahadur on the 23rd June 1948 and conveys its sense of sympathy to the members of their bereaved families.'

"Sir, since we last met, we had to bemoan the loss of three members including Mr. Daniel Thomas, Mr. Ratnavelu Thevar and Syed Muhammad Sahib Bahadur are the two other members. We did not expect that we will be sustaining this loss within such short period and that three of our colleagues will be no more with us but there it is. It is really difficult to imagine that Mr. Ratnavelu Thevar is not with us to-day and he is hushed and his spirit is hushed for all time to come and we could never more see the frail figure of Mr. Thevar. He had an indefatigable spirit; behind a rough exterior, he had a very soft corner and had very endearing qualities which attracted his friends to him. People who saw him for the first time had an unfavourable impression of him, because he had what is called a rough tongue but his real spirit was not conveyed through his tongue; his spirit was in his heart and his heart was excellent to his friends and all those who knew him intimately. As municipal chairman, he endeared himself to the people of Tiruchirappalli and more than once he was elected chairman and his general hold on the people of Tiruchirappalli is something wonderful. I could see it myself on several occasions. On different occasions when times were critical whenever there was a little crisis in the town over some communal or other matter, he would immediately rush up to the spot and settle matters amicably. He was for a little while also the president of the bifurcated district board. In Local Administration Department he took keen interest and in the various conferences, he took very keen interest and saw that the

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municipalities and district boards were treated fairly by Government. He was also in the Council whereto he came in a bye-election in 1926 when the Congress Party consisted of four members and he came on a sort of anti-Ministerial ticket. Just then the Rajasahib of Bobbili who was in charge of Local Administration superseded the municipality. On that issue he fought the election and was returned on the Congress ticket just to demonstrate to Government that what they did was not approved by the people. All who knew him and we knew him intimately both inside the jail and in the various places, loved him and admired his qualities. He was a sportsman; though looking so weak, he took a keen interest in sports and along with Dr. Subbarayan he kept himself informed and posted with the latest information regarding cricket matches and tournaments.

"With regard to Syed Muhammad Sahib Bahadur, he also alas! is not with us. He was returned from Ramnad district on the Muslim League ticket. Having been in politics and in public life for a long time, he was chosen as a candidate from that constituency and he was returned with an overwhelming majority. I am sure the loss of these two colleagues would be felt not only by the respective parties but by the entire House and it is my desire, Sir, that you convey our sincerest sympathy to the bereaved families of these two colleagues."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, it is again my painful duty to second the motion before the House. I associate myself with the sentiments and remarks that fell from the Leader of the House in putting forward the resolution that is before the House."

"Mr. Ratnavelu Thevar was throughout a man who fought for his principle all his life and with all the energy that one can command. As pointed out by the Leader of the House one would wonder how such a frail man could generate so much energy as he was exhibiting for the cause which he was championing. His loss is really felt by the Province and particularly by the Tamilnad in view not only of the energy that he was putting forward but also for the warm heart that he undoubtedly had."

"With regard to the other colleague of ours, though he was suffering from ill-health all the time he was a member of the House, that ill-health could not suppress his enthusiasm; he was full of enthusiasm for good causes and he was energetic in spite of ill-health. The House will really miss the geniality of the gentleman and I am sure his constituency as well as neighbouring constituencies will feel for the loss of this hon. Member."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, it is indeed unfortunate that this House has suffered great loss in the passing away of two of our most active colleagues. Mr. Thevar is a well-known leader not only of the district of Tiruchirapalli but also of the whole Province. Though he was a person who did not take much active part in the deliberations of the House and though he was as it were a silent Member of the House, his work during the last 25 to 30 years has been so

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marvellous that his name will stand foremost not only in his district but the whole Province and people feel the loss of their leader in the personality of Mr. Thevar.

"So far as our friend and colleague Syed Muhammad Sahib Bahadur is concerned, it is well known that he was a powerful speaker and he took active interest not only in this House but in the whole Province and he did not confine his attention to his work in his district alone. Wherever he found that good work had to be done he went forthwith to that place. The kind of work he was most interested in is the promotion of education and he launched upon a big scheme for the development of education in his district. So much so he was responsible for laying out extensive buildings for the high schools which he brought into existence in his own town in Ramnad district. On account of his untimely demise, the district has lost a friend and leader and this House a very useful and active colleague. I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers and I request you, Sir, to convey the sentiments of condolences of the Members of the House to the bereaved families of both our colleagues who have passed away."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to speak on this resolution because we have lost Mr. Thevar. 11-30
Mr. Thevar was known not only in this Province but also in Ceylon. a.m.
He was one of the popular men in the Province and some people used to regard him as a man of rough type but he had a golden heart. He was a very genuine and sincere man. He was one of the great leaders of my community and this House has lost one of our esteemed friends in the death of Mr. Thevar."

"The other colleague Mr. Syed Muhammad, came from my district and I knew him for a very long time. We were colleagues in the district board and though he was a Muslim Leaguer he was responsible for bringing about peaceful settlement among Hindus and Muslims in my district. With these few words, I wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I desire to associate the Chair with the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and other speakers. Mr. Thevar was a member of the Tiruchirapalli District Board as well as the municipality. Mr. Syed Muhammad was a member of the District Board of Ramnad for a very long time. Both of them took very keen interest in their respective districts. I shall certainly communicate the resolution to the members of their bereaved families. The resolution before the House is—

that this House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Sri P. Ratnavelu Thevar on the 10th June 1948 and of M. R. P. Syed Muhammad Sahib Bahadur on the 23rd June 1948 and conveys its sense of sympathy to the members of their bereaved families."

The resolution was adopted, the House standing.

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II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Private production of khadi.

* 1 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Firka Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have banned private production and dealing in khadi; and

(b) if so, for what reasons?

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) Government are not convinced of the genuineness of the stuff put in the market by private dealers and producers as khadi.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Sir, may I know from the Government what are the reasons that prompted the Government to close the production of khadi especially in Rayalaseema, in which there are no All-India Spinners' Association branches?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“This is a question pertaining to a general subject. Therefore, let the hon. Member put a separate question.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Sir, may I know, in view of the fact that there are very few co-operative societies which have undertaken to produce khadi especially in the Kurnool district, will the Government consider the desirability of giving these societies

MR. SPEAKER:—“Let the hon. Member put a separate question”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Sir, with reference to the remarks made by the Hon. Minister that the stuff produced by the private weavers is not considered to be satisfactory, may I request him to be more explicit and tell us how the khadi produced by the department is more satisfactory than the private manufactured khadi?”

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—“Sir, the question of genuine khadi is fundamental as khadi should be spreading into the country and even the All-India Spinners' Association, with all their experience, were not able to find out what was genuine and what was spurious. Because of the low production of khadi, merchants are exploiting the situation by selling at high prices spurious substitutes produced at cheaper rates. Therefore, we have to take action to prohibit other producers from coming into the market and competing with genuine khadi.”

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“May I point out, Sir, it is a slur on the All-India Spinners' Association to say that they are finding it difficult to know which is genuine khadi and which is not?”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Are the Government aware, Sir, that the general public and especially khadi weavers welcome this ban?”

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Sir, may I know, where there are no All-India Spinners' Association branches, how do the Government propose to supply them with khadi?”

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—“Sir, by introducing more and more spinning and we are just beginning with the Firka Development Scheme. As the scheme develops gradually we will be able to meet the demand. We expect to meet the whole demand soon.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Sir, have the Government come to the conclusion that all others except the Government, who deal in khadi do not want to produce genuine khadi?”

SRI P. NATESAN:—“Sir, may I know why the Government should insist on khadi being genuine when there is so much shortage of cloth in the country and what is wrong in the Government allowing as much cloth as possible to be produced in the country at the present moment?”

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—“Sir, the Government do not want to prevent genuine khadi from being produced by the private weavers. What is happening now is that the merchants who are producing spurious khadi are selling it at prices which results in blackmarketing. Moreover, it is competing with khadi and that is why we ought to be careful.”

SRI P. NATESAN:—“In the case of other kinds of cloth, merchants make much more money than the real price. What difference does it make if khadi is sold at a higher price?”

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—“Let them not sell spurious stuff as khadi.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“Are the Government aware, Sir, of the hardship caused by the ban to thousands of private producers, and if so, whether the Government propose to relieve their distress?”

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—“Sir, as I said before, we are still in the infant stage of developing firkas and to protect khadi we ought to take certain precautions and as years go by and as we increase production, all these difficulties will disappear.”

SRI M. S. PATTABIRAMIAH:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware, Sir, that thousands of spinners in the Rajapalayam area have been thrown out of employment because private merchants have stopped buying the yarn from the spinners of Rajapalayam area?”

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—“Sir, the Government will try to make the All-India Spinners' Association encourage the spinners of that area also. I shall soon be visiting that part of the country and when I visit that place, I shall go into the question and try to help khadi production in the locality without affecting the weavers and spinners there.”

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SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"Sir, before taking a decision on banning production by private merchants, will the Government appoint a committee to enquire into the production of spurious and genuine khadi from 1921 so that really genuine people are not sent away from production?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"Sir, the Government have had enough information and the experience of the All-India Spinners' Association is there and there is no need for a fresh committee to go into the question."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, now that the Government are committed to a policy of decontrol, is it not advisable and high time that the Government should throw open khadi production to private channel of trade?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"Sir, the Government are committed to supply pure khadi. The whole scheme is now in its infancy, if I may say so, and I would ask hon. Members to be a little more patient and give me a year or two when I can satisfy all the demands."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, are we to understand that the Government have exhausted all possibilities of checking production of spurious khadi before they took this step of banning production of khadi other than by the Government?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"Sir, the question of checking involves finance and so much of staff and under the present financial condition of the Province, it is not possible to get into a greater expenditure involving more expenditure. After all, all this checking is not going to serve the purpose to the extent that we expect."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, can the Government give us an idea of the number of people who have been affected by this ban on private manufactured khadi?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"Notice, please."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"Sir, are the Government aware of the several representations from the khadi dealers of Tuni in East Godavari district, Anakapalle and Narasapatnam in South Vizagapatam, that nearly thousands of spinners and weavers are now being ousted from their calling on account of the present policy of the Government?"

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, will not this ban discourage the production of khadi in the country and also discourage the movement for khadi in the country?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"Sir, on the other hand, it will encourage the growth of khadi."

SRI KALLUR SUBBA RAO:—"Sir, may I know from the Government whether they are going to take the distribution and production of khadi directly by themselves wherever it is possible to do so?"

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THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"Sir, the suggestion will be considered."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, the exact reason why the Government have not entrusted the work to the co-operative societies?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"Sir, that is not the function of the co-operative societies. When we have put khadi on its proper foundation, it may be that the co-operative societies may take it up. That will be considered when the question arises."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, am I to understand that the Government are committed to the policy of All-India Spinners' Association in respect of khadi, and if so, may I have an assurance in the floor of the House that that policy will be implemented in all its detail?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"Sir, I ask for a fresh question on the subject."

M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister that khadi in its infancy wants Government protection, may I ask the Government whether they are satisfied that khadi is an economic possibility and can stand on its own legs when the Government protection ceases to have any operation?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"Sir, that is what Gandhiji has described in his book '*Economy of Khadi*' and the Government stand committed to it till it is possible to work it economically which we are striving for. As I said before, we are in the infant stage. When we have reached full maturity, we believe, it will be possible to make it stand on its own legs."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I ask the Government whether they will consider the desirability of relaxing this rule for some time more at least to enable co-operative societies to exhaust their existing stock?"

11-15
a.m.

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"We have already given them six months' time to exhaust their stock, and as I already said before, we have to go forward, and so we cannot wait any further."

Message sent by the Hon. the Premier to His Excellency the Governor-General.

* 2 Q.—N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Muhammad Raza Khan Sahib): Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he sent a message to His Excellency Sri C. Rajagopalachari on his appointment as Governor-General of India; and

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(b) if so, whether the message was sent in his individual capacity or as the Premier of Madras?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of Hon. the Premier):—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The Member may draw his own conclusion."

Resignation of Dr. P. Subbarayan.

* 3 Q.—N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Muhammad Raza Khan Sahib): Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons which led to the resignation of hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan of his ministership; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to fill up the vacancy in the Cabinet caused by his resignation?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of Hon. the Premier):—" (a) The hon. Member may ascertain the reasons from Dr. Subbarayan. (Laughter.)

" (b) Government consider that it is against public interest to answer the question."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—" May I know from the Hon. Leader of the House whether there is any proposal to expand this Ministry? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" I have already said in my answer that it is not in the public interest to answer the question."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether the vacancy was not filled up because the Hon. Premier was not able to find some gentleman like Dr. Gurubatham in the Non-Brahmin community."

SRI P. NATESAN:—" May I ask, Sir, whether it is not right for a Member of this House to ask Government why Dr. Subbarayan resigned? May I know whether a Member of this House has not the privilege to ascertain the reasons why a particular Member of Government resigned? On a matter of privilege, is the Leader of the House right in referring us to Dr. Subbarayan as to the reasons for his resignation? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" What the Hon. Leader of the House meant was this: Dr. Subbarayan had an opportunity to state his reasons for resigning; but since he had not chosen that opportunity, it is not in the public interest to state it. That is what he meant."

SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" On a point of order, Sir, . . . I want to know, when a Member of Government resigns, is it not open to any Member of this Assembly to know direct from Government why he has resigned? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" It is not a point of order. It is left to the Government to answer a question or not."

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SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" If the Government refuse to answer the question, is it not open to a Member to refer it to the Speaker and claim an answer as a privilege . . . "

MR. SPEAKER:—" I have already answered this point several times. The Speaker has nothing to do with the answers of the Ministry. If their answers are not satisfactory, Members have a weapon in their hands." (Laughter.)

SRI P. NATESAN:—" It is impossible to use that weapon in the Assembly as constituted at present."

SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" Is it because the Government have no information as regards the reasons which led to Dr. Subbarayan resigning from the Ministry, or is it because they do not want to disclose the reasons they give this reply? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" Dr. Subbarayan does not think any useful purpose will be served by making a speech. So Government do not think they can reveal the reasons why he resigned."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" My submission is, whether it is not within the rights of the Members of this House to ask for and know the reasons for the resignation of a particular member of the Cabinet. I think, in all Parliaments, it is a recognized right of a Member of the House to know exactly what Government information is with regard to the resignation of a particular Minister. It is not an ordinary thing; it is an important thing. In view of that it is for the Leader of the House to give the information which is in his possession."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" May I ask the Leader of the House to correct the misapprehension that there can be vacancies in the Cabinet. Cabinet is not a service in which vacancies can arise."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—" Will the Government be pleased to state whether any reasons were given by Dr. Subbarayan for his resignation, and if so, will they place them on the table of the House."

SRI B. S. MURTI:—" May I know whether there is any truth in the public opinion that the position of Dr. Subbarayan was so uncomfortable that he had no option left but to resign his post? "

Railway line between Erode and Chamaraj Nagar.

* 4 Q.—SRI M. A. EASWARAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state at what stage the proposed railway line between Erode and Chamaraj Nagar via Kavanthapadi, Gobichettipalayam and Satyamangalam is?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to the proposal for the construction of a railway line from Palni to Satyamangalam

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and thence to Chamarajnagar. If so, the Madras Board of Transport to whom the matter was referred to for consideration, was not in favour of the proposal and they recommended instead the desirability of opening of a new metre gauge railway line from Mettupalayam to Satyamangalam especially in view of the fact that the Mysore Government had under consideration the opening of a line from Chamarajnagar to Satyamangalam and in view of the prohibitive cost of the project, no final decision has yet been taken in the matter."

Formation of a road from Dhone to Rayalacheruvu.

* 5 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the members of the Dronachalam-Rayalacheruvu Road Organization Committee in connexion with the formation of a road from Dhone to Rayalacheruvu;

(b) if so, what the representations are;

(c) what action has been taken by the Government so far;

(d) if not, why not; and

(e) if so, when?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“(a) Yes, representations, dated 25th April 1948 and 24th May 1948, have been received.

“(b) The proposed road from Dhone to Rayalacheruvu will be 27 miles long, 24 miles in the Kurnool district and 3 miles in the Anantapur district. There are no rivers to be bridged or hills to be negotiated and the whole road would run in a valley. The road is required in the interests of 40,000 villagers living in 29 villages whose economic wealth consists of cattle, agricultural produce and minerals and should be sanctioned immediately.

“(c) & (e) The matter has been referred to the Chief Engineer (Highways) for examination and report and his reply is awaited.

“(d) Does not arise.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“In view of the importance of the road, may I ask the Government to expedite the matter and see the road is given to the people as early as possible?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“Yes, Sir; the matter has been examined, and on the examination so far made, I see, that out of the 28 villages referred to in this proposal, there are only six villages with a five hundred population and above, and therefore roads connecting the other villages do not come within the purview of the Post-war Road Development Programme. There are proposals

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to connect the six villages with a five hundred population and above. Regarding other villages, our present proposal, which has been included in the programme, would cover another eight miles in Kurnool district and three miles in Anantapur district. Still about twelve minor villages will be left out, and they will have to be taken up in the next phase of Post-war Development. So the whole proposal is under examination and we are considering to give effect to them as much as possible in the present phase.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know, whether with reference to the eight villages left out, Government will consider the desirability of taking them up under ‘Rural Communications?’”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“The whole programme is one of rural development, Sir.”

The Minimum Wages Bill.

* 6 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state the action taken by the Government on the Minimum Wages Bill passed by the Constituent Assembly (Legislative)?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“The Government are taking steps to set up committees to hold enquiries and advise Government in regard to fixation of suitable minimum rates of wages under the Act.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know since how long Government have been taking steps and how long they expect to bring this proposal to force?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“The hon. Member is a member of the Constituent Assembly, and he knows when the Bill was passed there. That Bill received the assent of the Governor-General only on 15th March 1948. Since then, the Act has been examined by the Commissioner of Labour, and he has sent his report to Government and they are now examining it.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“When do they expect to complete the examination and put the proposal into force?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“As early as practicable.”

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—“May I know whether it is worthwhile to proceed with the measure, as the standard of living is not steady?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“I would refer the hon. Member to the provisions of the Act, wherein he will see all these things are taken into consideration.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“In view of the fact that there are several groups among labourers, agricultural, industrial and others, will the Government consult such of the leaders who are genuine, in fixing the wages and other things?”

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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Committees are to be constituted under section 6 of the Act, and in the formation of those committees all aspects will be taken into consideration."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Does the proposed legislation cover agricultural labourers also?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Yes, Sir, under Schedule II."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"In view of the fact that the agricultural problem is going from bad to worse in Tiruchirappalli, Tanjore and Madura, will the Government expedite the matter so as to prevent further troubles?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"The Government are aware of it."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know whether the Government will give an assurance that no discrimination will be made between men and women as regards the fixation of minimum wages for workers in this Province?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I can't give any such assurance. A committee will go into this question and submit its report to the Government. The Government will examine the report and in the light of public criticism come to a conclusion."

Distribution of cement and iron.

* 7 Q.—SRI S. PARAMANANDA RAYAR (on behalf of Sri A. Subrahmanyam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) what is the principle underlying the grant of cement and iron to different types of applicants; and

(b) whether the present rules allow priority to be given to persons who are agriculturists?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" (a) *Iron and cement.*—The principle is essentiality and urgency of the demand.

" (b) *Iron.*—A separate allotment of 50 per cent of the provincial quota of steel has been set apart for agricultural purposes. Cart-tyres, axles and corrugated sheets are distributed according to strict priority of applications.

Cement.—The Government have authorized Tahsildars or Deputy Tahsildars of various districts to issue permits on dealers to the extent of 25 per cent of their monthly receipts for agricultural purposes in order to avoid delay in the issue of cement for small urgent works, more especially for works connected with rural reconstruction and Grow More Food Schemes."

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SRI S. PARAMANANDA RAYAR:—"May I know whether the Government will consider the desirability to issue cement and iron to agriculturists by restricting their issue to the cinema and drama theatres?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Sir, I have already said on previous occasions, out of the provincial stock, 50 per cent is allotted for agricultural purposes. So agricultural purpose will not be affected in any way by other allotments."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact, that even 15 per cent of the iron and cement allotted to agricultural purpose does not reach the agriculturist, and whether the Government will take suitable steps to see that they reach agriculturists?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"The Government have been receiving monthly reports about the distribution of iron and cement in various districts, and I see from it that every district gets its quota. If the hon. Member wants further particulars he may put a separate question."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know what steps the Government are taking to see that the quota of iron and steel distributed is being properly utilized?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"We leave it to the honesty of the people who receive them."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"As there is a demand for many institutions, like schools, colleges and hostels, will the Government be pleased to see that priority is given in favour of schools and colleges which are newly coming in?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"For the information of the hon. Member, I may tell him, so far as schools, colleges and hostels are concerned, highest priority has been given, and in fact, more than the stipulated quota has been given to them.

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"May I know whether the Government is prepared to give higher priority to all municipal works?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Regarding municipalities, we have been allotting some iron and steel for general repair purposes, and we have sometimes exceeded the limit in respect of certain municipalities."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"May I ask the Government for an assurance that hereafter, in giving permits the practice of giving permits, say, for example, on a dealer in Madura to supply materials to Vizagapatam Municipality, when there are several dealers nearer home, will be eliminated altogether?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Sometimes, it may so happen that the type of material that is wanted by a

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particular municipality may not be available at the nearest place; so to make it available quickly, the Government give such orders."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"May I know why sometimes permits are given to firms under liquidation? Will the Government see that such things do not happen?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"We will take care to see that orders to such companies are not given."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"With reference to the remark made by the Hon. Minister that the quotas allotted for schools, colleges and hostels and for municipal works, the Government have exceeded even the quota allotted for those purposes, may I know how these quotas were exceeded and at whose cost?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Generally we have got a sort of formula that we should not give more than five tons for buildings and institutions; but in the case of schools, colleges and hostels, we have exceeded the five tons quota."

12 noon.

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Instead of relying on the honesty of the gentlemen who apply for these things, have the Government no machinery for detecting at least in cases where large allotments have been made whether the materials have been used or not?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I have repeatedly requested hon. Members on the floor of this House to bring to my notice any instances of abuse that they might have had occasion to know. I should be very happy to receive them to find out whether there is any abuse of the privilege."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"May I know why the Industries department has not been able to supply even ploughshares, not to speak of cart-tyres, to the agriculturists even after the season has begun?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"As I have repeatedly said, the distribution of agricultural implements is done by the Agricultural department."

SRI S. PARAMANANDA RAYAR:—"Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of names of permit-holders districtwar?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"The list is so enormous that it is not worthwhile printing and circulating it."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In the interests of increased food production, is it not advisable for the Government to ask the Revenue department to see that every ounce of iron given for agricultural purposes is utilized for those purposes only and call for an account every time?"

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Are the Government satisfied that no portion of the quota is finding its way into the blackmarket?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"If it is known to the Government, they will immediately take steps to prevent it."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Wherever the quotas have been exceeded, may I request the Government to see that hostels are not penalised and suggest that cinema houses can as well be penalised?"

* 8 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Sir, there is a slight error in the question. What I meant was legislation to redeem the debts and not to reduce the debts."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Then the question may be taken up to-morrow."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Even if the word 'redeem' is there, my answer will be the same."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister says that, even if the word 'redeem' is there, his answer will be the same. So I allow the question to be answered."

Legislation to reduce the debts of agricultural landless labourers.

* 8 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are contemplating any legislation to reduce the debts of agricultural landless labourers;

(b) if so, when it will be introduced; and

(c) if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The matter is under consideration.

" (c) Does not arise."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I bring to the notice of the Government that this matter has been under consideration from 1937 when the Madras Agriculturists Debt Relief Act was passed and ask that, if it is still under consideration, how long it will take to come to a decision?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"I am thankful to the hon. Member for the information."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Is it not a fact that the Agrarian Reforms Committee will consider this point as well?"

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THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Yes, Sir."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Are the Government aware that they have been promising to reduce or redeem the indebtedness of agricultural labourers for the last ten years and that they have not done anything till now?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"I do not know about the history of the last ten years."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"May I know whether the Agrarian Reforms Committee has asked this Government to send their proposals for debt redemption legislation and, if so, what the proposals are that this Government have sent to the Committee?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"It is not with reference to the relief of agricultural indebtedness alone that the Agrarian Reforms Committee has asked the opinion of this Government. It has sent a questionnaire to which we have sent a reply. It is too long to mention here."

SRI P. KAKKAN:—"Is it a fact that most of the lands of the agriculturists are cultivated by landless labourers and, if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to reduce the burden on landless labourers?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Landless labourers are hired labourers."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"May I know whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House their reply to the questionnaire issued by the Agrarian Reforms Committee?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Notice."

M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is not inaction for about a decade inordinate delay on the part of the Government?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"It is not inaction for a decade on the part of this Government."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Is not legislation to relieve the indebtedness of landless agriculturists under contemplation?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"I have answered this question in my answer to clause (b). The matter is under consideration."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether the Government are aware that the agricultural labourer is heavily burdened with debt and that as a result he is not able to raise his economic standard and, if so, whether it is not the duty of the Government to look first to the interests of the needy agricultural labourer instead of the greedy ryot?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is asking for the opinion of the Government."

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SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Are the Government aware that when the Madras Agriculturists Debt Relief Act, 1937, was passed, the then Prime Minister, now His Excellency Sri C. Rajagopalachari, promised to bring a separate Bill to reduce agricultural indebtedness? The present Minister also promised several times to bring forward speedy legislation and he has not yet done so."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"It is quite possible that His Excellency the Governor-General when he was the Prime Minister of Madras, might have made a promise. As regards the promise made by me, I said that there was a proposal under consideration."

Elections to the Corporation of Madras.

* 9 Q.—N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Muhammad Raza Khan Sahib): Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state when the elections to the Madras Municipal Corporation are likely to be held?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"The elections to the Corporation of Madras are likely to be held in September–October 1948."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the elections will be held on the basis of adult franchise or on the basis of the present electoral rolls?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"They will be held on the basis of the existing electoral rolls only."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Since the Government have decided to conduct elections to the district boards on the basis of adult franchise, is it not proper that elections to the Corporation also should be on the same basis and in view of that reconstitute the Corporation by handing over the administration to the M.L.As.?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Certainly not."

Increment of salaries of the scavengers of Salem Municipality.

* 10 Q.—SRI S. PARAMANANDA RAYAR (on behalf of Sri A. Subrahmanyam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Salem Municipality approached the Government on the question of increment of salaries to their scavengers; and

(b) if so, the details of the reply the Government made in this connexion?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The Salem Municipality was informed that the Government could not agree to an increase in the pay of the menials beyond what has already been sanctioned in G.O. No. 3019, P.H., dated 22nd October 1946."

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SRI S. PARAMANANDA RAYAR:—" May I know why the Government refuse to accept the recommendation of the municipal council on the question of basic wages?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" Some other municipalities also are asking for an increase in the basic pay. If the Government grant this concession in the case of one municipality, the other municipalities also will ask for it and the poorer municipalities will not be in a position to meet this extra expenditure. "

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—" Will the Government avoid the word 'menial' and see that the dignity of labour is honoured? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" I have no objection. "

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" Are the Government aware that the Vizagapatam Municipality has proposed a uniform basic pay for all scavengers and whether the proposal is still before the Government? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member may put a separate question. "

III.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION RE ORDINANCE No. II OF 1948— MADRAS MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT).

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Sri Bhashyam has given notice of an adjournment motion under rule 36 of the Assembly Rules. The motion reads as follows:—

" That this House do adjourn to consider a matter of urgent public importance, that is, the promulgation by the Government of an Ordinance taking away the power of a subject to apply to the High Court by a proceeding in nature of Habeas Corpus in cases of detention under the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act (I of 1947) and thus denying to such a person the only constitutional safeguard given to him against any illegal and arbitrary act by any official or the Government under the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act (I of 1947). "

" As I have already informed the House, the motion is given notice of under rule 36. Rule 37 (iv) says that the motion must not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration. The hon. Sri Venkateswarlu has given notice of a resolution. (Sri R. V. Swaminathan: ' He is not here. ') I hope he will be here soon. If he is not here, under rule 120, sub-rule (3) any other member can move that he may be allowed to move the resolution.

" Secondly, the Ordinance was promulgated by His Excellency the Governor under section 88 of the Government of India Act, 1935. The hon. Sri Bhashyam wants to criticize the action of the Governor. It is out of order.

" Thirdly, there is still an opportunity for the hon. Sri Bhashyam. Suppose the hon. Sri Venkateswarlu is not present here and that the resolution is not moved under rule 120, sub-rule (3). The Government will bring forward a Bill within six weeks. I wish

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to point out to the House that even in England when special orders and regulations are made, when the Parliament disapproves of them, the House signifies its disapproval by a resolution which should be by a method known as presentation of an address to His Majesty and not by an adjournment motion. Therefore, before I rule the adjournment motion out of order, I allow an opportunity to Sri Bhashyam to explain his case."

SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" Sir, in the first place objection is taken on the ground that this motion anticipates a motion before the House. Let me point out that the motion or resolution on the Agenda disapproves the whole of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Ordinance. But my motion is for the purpose of disapproving only one particular provision of the Ordinance and not the whole Ordinance. The resolution may have a prospective mover or not. The motion of which I have given notice is absolutely different from the resolution. This is my submission so far as the first objection is concerned.

" About criticizing the action of the Governor, I think we are talking of old history. The Governor acts not under the special powers vested in him as in the olden days, but acts only on the advice of his Ministers. There is no question of his doing anything in his individual discretion or judgment. Therefore this is an act of the Government though the Governor's name is used as a formality. My motion, therefore, really seeks to criticize an act of the Government. Therefore no objection can be taken on that ground also.

" Sir, so far as this adjournment motion is concerned, there are two things which make it of urgent public importance. I have already made it clear that this motion is entirely different from the resolution given notice of in the Agenda by my hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswarlu which may or may not be moved. No doubt, the Government may bring in this Ordinance in the form of a Bill for consideration by this House within six weeks from to-day, when an opportunity will be given to the members to criticize the action of the Government, but that will be a different matter from the subject-matter of my present motion. My motion deals with only one particular provision of the Ordinance which denies a person who is detained under the Maintenance of Public Order Act the only constitutional safeguard given to him against any illegal and arbitrary act of the Government by way of appeal to the High Court in the nature of a *Habeas Corpus* application. 12-15 p.m.

" The second reason is that this Ordinance is so ambiguously worded that even to-day a Full Bench of the High Court is sitting to consider whether this Ordinance which takes away the power of a subject to apply to the High Court by a proceeding in the nature of *Habeas Corpus* in cases of detention under the Maintenance of Public Order Act and thus denying to such a person the only constitutional safeguard given to him against any illegal and arbitrary act by the Act, is not bad according to law. According to law, the Government is not entitled to put any people into jail

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without giving them such a right and it is not fair on the part of the Government or anybody to say that these persons should languish in the jails for six more weeks until the Government bring forward this Ordinance in the form of a Bill for being passed into law by the Legislative Assembly which is the custodian of the life and liberty of the people in the Province."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I must say that Mr. Bhashyam has not still convinced me of the urgency of his motion. I have already given the reasons why I would rule it out of order and I do not think that even after his explanation, there is anything more he has said to revise my opinion. So I rule the motion out of order."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter is before the Full Bench of the High Court and it is going to consider whether the Provincial Government is right in promulgating this Ordinance which takes away the right of a subject to apply to the High Court by a proceeding in the nature of *Hebeas Corpus* in case of detention under the Maintenance of Public Order Act. Until it has decided the matter, I do not think we can discuss this motion, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have no knowledge that this matter is before the Full Bench of the High Court. It is for the Government to inform the House that this is being considered by the High Court. Anyhow, I have already ruled that this motion is out of order and now we shall proceed to the next item."

"The hon. Floor Leader of the Independent Group, Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan, wants that a day be allotted for the purpose of discussing the educational policy of the Government. It is only a request to the Government and not in the form of a definite motion. I now call on him to speak on the same."

IV.—ALLOTMENT OF A DAY FOR THE DISCUSSION OF THE EDUCATIONAL POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of the educational policy of the Government has been agitating the minds of the Government and of the public for a long time. The Hon. Minister for Education has been giving various explanations and expressing various views on the kind of education that he wishes to impart to the student of this Province. I consider, Sir, that it will be really in the interests of the public that the Hon. Minister for Education should place before this House the definite educational policy of the Government so that it can be discussed fully and that the view of the public can be expressed freely on the floor of this House. I would, therefore, request that a day may be allotted for considering the question of the educational policy of the Government."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, we may consider the suggestion of the hon. Member later on, but if he can put any specific question on the subject by means of a short-notice question, the Government will try to answer it within the next two or three days."

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SRI P. NATESAN:—"May I know, Sir, what has happened to my hon Friend Mr. Bhashyam's adjournment motion?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have already given reasons for ruling it out of order. I asked Mr. Bhashyam to explain it and he has not convinced me; so I rule it out of order."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether a day will be allotted for considering the educational policy of the Government? It is a very urgent matter, Sir."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"On a point of information, Mr. Speaker. You stated just now that the motion of Mr. Bhashyam was out of order, because it amounted to criticism of the action of the Governor. May I draw your attention to rule 114 of the Assembly Rules, which gives powers to members to move resolutions disapproving of such Ordinances promulgated by the Governor?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"He can request the Governor to withdraw it, but not criticise Governor's actions. I have already explained how the wording of his motion seeks to criticise the action of the Governor. I have also informed him that Mr. Venkateswarlu has given notice of a resolution on the same subject. The hon. Mr. Bhashyam will have an opportunity to speak on that resolution. Supposing Mr. Venkateswarlu is not present to move his resolution, even then under rule 120 it shall be open to another hon. Member to ask the permission of the Assembly to allow the resolution."

V.—PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have to announce to the House that under rule 9 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I have nominated Chairmen for the fifth Session of the Assembly to be the Panel of Chairmen for the fifth Session of the Assembly:—

- (1) Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin.
- (2) Mr. W. J. Fernandez.
- (3) Sri M. A. Easwaran.
- (4) Sri Alluri Satyanarayana Raju."

VI.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS.

(1) PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, I move—
That, with reference to rule 134 of the Madras Assembly Rules, this Assembly do proceed, on a date to be fixed by the Hon. the Speaker, to elect nine members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the fifth session of the Madras Legislative Assembly."

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"Hon. Members know that the Assembly was prorogued some-time ago and a new Committee has to be elected for the present session of this Assembly."

The motion was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—"In accordance with the regulations framed by me for conducting elections according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 5 p.m. on Monday, the 19th July 1948, as the time within which notices of nominations for the election to the Public Accounts Committee should be given to the Secretary. The nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary. There will be an election, on a date to be announced in due course, if the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, namely, nine."

(2) HOUSE COMMITTEE.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, I move—

'That under Rule 152 of the Madras Assembly Rules, the House do proceed to elect six members to the House Committee according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote in accordance with the regulations made in this behalf by the Speaker'."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to know whether there is any need for appointing a House Committee every session. This House Committee, as you know Sir, comes into existence at the beginning of every session of the Assembly and I have not seen any substantial work done by any of the previous House Committees. I would really wish to ask the Hon. Leader of the House whether there is any need for a House Committee to exist."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I would request the hon. Member to move an amendment to the Assembly Rules to delete this provision; but as long as the rule is there, it is the duty of the House to elect a House Committee."

The motion was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—"In accordance with the regulations framed by me under Rule 152 of the Madras Assembly Rules for the holding of elections according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 5 p.m. on Friday, the 16th July 1948, as the time within which nominations of candidates for election to the House Committee should reach the Secretary. The nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary. There will be an election, on a date to be announced in due course, if the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of vacancies, namely, six."

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VII.—MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have to announce to the House the following message, dated the 8th May 1948, from His Excellency the Governor:—

'In pursuance of section 82, sub-section 1 (a) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Archibald Edward Nye, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Assembly the introduction of the Madras General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1948'."

VIII.—RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 114 OF THE MADRAS ASSEMBLY RULES.

DISAPPROVAL OF MADRAS ORDINANCE NO. II OF 1948.

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, I seek your permission and that of the House to allow me to move the resolution that stands in the name of Mr. P. Venkateswarlu."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, Mr. Venkateswarlu has not specifically asked Mr. Salam to move the resolution in his absence . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to know whether the House gives permission to Mr. Salam to move the resolution standing in the name of Mr. Venkateswarlu."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, before the House gives me permission to move it, I wish to explain to the House what are my reasons for moving the resolution."

MR. SPEAKER:—"No. The House must first give its permission. I wish to know whether the House gives permission to Mr. Salam to move the resolution that stands in the name of Mr. Venkateswarlu."

The motion was put and lost.

IX.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS GENERAL SALES TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1948.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1948, and move, that the Bill be taken into consideration at once."

"Sir, I am not making any fundamental changes in the recent amended Act which has received the approval of the House except to say that the recent amendment contemplated taxing of yarn at two points at one-fourth per cent each. Now, because the Government of India have pursued a policy of de-control with regard to the control of yarn, it is not possible to tax yarn at two points at one-fourth per cent each. So the amending Bill seeks to impose half per cent at one point instead of one-fourth per cent at 2 points. We have gone into the question

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very carefully in consultation with the Textile Commissioner and it is generally felt that this amendment is necessary, because we want some little more money on this tax on yarn."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The motion is, that the Madras General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration at once."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Hon. Leader of the House. When we went into the Select Committee to fix all these rates, we were made to understand that it was likely that the Government of India would withdraw the control on yarn and that it would affect the sales tax that was intended to be levied on it. In the midst of the financial year now, I do not see any reason why we should introduce this Bill. We can easily wait until the beginning of April when probably we should know much better the position of the textile business and whether the people can stand the tax or not. Of course, there is the argument that it is the consumers who are going to foot the bill, but simply because the consumers foot the bill, it is no reason why we should rush on with this Bill. That is the only reason for my opposing this Bill at present Sir."

SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say this to the Government. In so far as this Bill is concerned, I must say, that it has come so soon after the Sales Tax (Amendment) Act was passed in the last session, and that it is far too short a time for any amendment being brought before the House, because the Government have not got any experience in the working of the Act. Looking as it is, I think the amendment is not at all necessary. The whole thing is going to be reviewed by the Government of India very soon, say, at the end of the financial year. Therefore, I should like the Government to reconsider this matter and to examine whether it is absolutely necessary to get this Bill through."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry I have to differ from the previous speaker. Conditions were totally different at the time when the last Bill was passed, and, controls having now been removed, the only matter for debate is whether the tax at one single point should be at the figure fixed by the Finance Minister. Beyond that there should be no controversy. It was agreed by all parties and by the trade that cotton yarn—because cotton itself was not subject to any taxation—might be subject to taxation, but that such a tax should be so light as not to injure the trade. If doubts arise as a result of the removal of the controls exercised by the Government of India, it is but right that the Provincial Government should forthwith take the opportunity to remove the doubt in the minds of their own officers and fix the taxation at a single point at such level as it seems to them proper and reasonable."

12-30 P.M. "I strongly support this Bill, Sir. I would urge on the Hon. the Finance Minister that a study should be undertaken

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about every single item of this Sales Tax levy and we should be in a position to give relief to such industries as are affected by the tax. A statistical study should be made in a department set apart for the purpose. Some amount of the revenue should be set apart for this purpose and a new department started for studying trade conditions in all their aspects so that it may become the duty of the Government to come to the assistance of every kind of trade, import, export, internal and agricultural. In fact the Sales Tax itself throws the responsibility on the Government for maintaining a higher standard of life in the country. The index for the prosperity of the province will lie in the receipts of the sales tax. Apart from the total levy of the tax which may give us some impression, there are details to be studied here and now and from time to time and suitable amendments will have to be brought into the whole structure of the tax to suit emergencies and also the varying conditions of trade and industry. It should not be said that only the end of a financial year will suit this purpose. Although it may be said that the end of a financial year might be reasonable time for bringing in such amendments, if doubts or difficulties arise or if a particular trade is in jeopardy, then I say the Government should lose no time in bringing forward such amendments as would give relief to the trade or industry that is affected and also in seeing that the doubts in the working of the Act are promptly removed, so that the collection of the tax is neither stayed nor delayed on any such account."

"I suppose the rules under the Sales Tax Act have now been published and well-understood. They too sometimes require revision. I wish to take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Hon. the Finance Minister one such simple rule; though it does not strictly pertain to the Bill, I would still ask him to note it down that there are about 5,000 assesseees in the City of Madras who keep their accounts in Gujarati. Trouble arises when inconvenience is caused to these 5,000 men when they are asked to change over to a totally new script. This must be considered by the Government. I would therefore suggest an amendment to the Rules in this respect. The word 'Hindi' may be made to include its variants, such as Gujarati. Sir, the number of assesseees is very large and the amendment proposed is very simple. Perhaps the whole difficulty could be avoided if the number of assesseees was small. Then I would not urge for a revision of the rules. But since they happen to be a very large number and since the balance of inconvenience suffered is more than counter-vailing advantages which the Government get by enforcing the change in their methods of business, I suggest to the Hon. the Finance Minister a revision of that rule so as to remove the cause for complaint. Sir, I support the Bill and I hope Government will come up with other amendments now and then and enlighten us as to the progress of the General Sales Tax."

M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the General Sales Tax Act was last amended the Government had given some sort of concession to the yarn

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trade, by imposing the sales tax on two points only. They gave this concession because the production of yarn in our Province was not sufficient and the yarn trade should not be crippled. But the same position is still continuing even at the present time. We have not improved in our production of yarn and cloth and also we feel an acute shortage of yarn in various yarn centres. Therefore, my submission is that this imposition of the half a per cent taxation on the turnover would to a certain extent affect the yarn trade. Therefore, I suggest that the Government may wait till the close of the financial year and see how far this removal of control by the Government of India affects the finances of the Province and if justified they may give full exemption for yarn. Therefore, I suggest that in the interests of continuity of arrangements the present amendment of the General Sales Tax Act may not be proceeded with."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would ask the Hon. the Finance Minister to just enlighten us as to the number of wholesale dealers who have gone out of view after the 16th of March 1948, what is the amount of revenue expected from taxation at that point and what is the amount of taxation which is likely to be lost. I would also ask the Hon. the Finance Minister to tell us whether the licensees under that scheme, namely, the B class licensees and wholesale dealers are the same. I believe even when the B class licensees go out of the present scheme there will still be the wholesale dealers, because they exist and they will always exist apart from control orders. There is no reason to fear that the revenue from that quarter will be lost at all. Therefore, I would like him to tell these particulars, namely, the number of wholesale dealers who are B class licensees, the number of wholesale dealers who are not B licensees and the financial effect of the present proposal."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request the Hon. the Finance Minister to heed to the advice that has just now been tendered to him by the hon. Mr. Bhashyam with reference to this Bill, namely, to defer this measure having regard to the fact that the previous Bill was passed only a few months ago. It is better to wait and see how the previous Bill works and if it is deemed desirable this measure may be brought forward at some later date. Another point which I wish to urge is that the Government should see to it that by such legislation production is not hampered. The most urgent need of the Province, nay of the whole country, to-day is increased production, because it is only by the increased production of all essential articles, yarn and foodstuffs, etc., that inflation, which has come to be a real and potential danger to the land can be checked. My fear with reference to the Bill is that it may hamper production. It would, therefore, be better if the Hon. Minister examined the point and brought forward this measure after being satisfied that production would not be retarded thereby."

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SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"Sir, I rise to support the motion of the Government with reference to the General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, now proposed. Before the 16th of March when yarn was under control just for the purpose of the tax being levied at two points some sort of adjustment was made, namely, that the manufacturer might charge one-fourth per cent to the wholesaler and the wholesaler might charge one-fourth per cent to the retailer and ultimately the consumer was not charged. When the control was there the wholesaler was getting a proportion of the profits and the retailer was getting a proportion of the profits and the sales tax was borne by them in a particular proportion. After the 16th of March when the controls have been removed the mills are at liberty to charge any price they liked. The mills can well afford to pay this half a per cent of sales tax. As a matter of fact at the Select Committee stage it has been looked to that cotton was not subjected to the tax."

"With regard to the position of production, I would like to tell hon. Members of the House that since three months the Coimbatore Mills have undertaken two to three shifts and there is more production of yarn. By the imposition of this half a per cent the mills are not going to suffer and production will not be hampered. The difficulty in regard to supply from the mills to the wholesaler and from the wholesaler to the retailer and the country at large is want of wagon supplies and the prohibitive cost which the manufacturers are trying to put up. By assessing this half a per cent the Government are not trying to put any undue pressure on the industry so that it will get out of gear. On the other hand it is only another adjustment which is being done by the Government by putting the half a per cent of sales tax. Now as the controls have been removed the tax should be put at some stage or other and they have rightly fixed the levy at one stage. I support the motion of the Government and I request the House to accept the motion."

* SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Sir, I rise to support the motion that is before the House. In doing so, I congratulate the Government for having come forward with such a move. I think it was long overdue especially when Prohibition has been introduced and the finances of the Province have been affected. Sales tax is the only tax which is elastic and which we can extend whenever the need of the Province is to increase the financial resources. Therefore, Sir, I support the present Bill."

"I should like to bring to the notice of the Government certain defects in the existing Act. Sir, one Commercial Tax Officer says that the goods could be taxed only if they are imported by wagons. Now, Sir, in view of the fact that wagons are not available merchants have taken to lorries and they are not maintaining proper accounts as to how much they have imported and from which place, etc. I would ask the Government as to what steps they have taken to check this lorry transportation and whether the merchants have been giving correct accounts or not. I

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feel sure, Sir, that when I bring this to the notice of the Government they will come forward and take the earliest opportunity possible to check this pilfering by the merchants. Yesterday a friend of mine, who is also a Commercial Tax Officer, was telling me that very often the merchants were trying to evade taxation on their imports brought in by lorries. If the imports are made by railway the officer himself can go to the railway station and find out as to how much he has imported and from which place, what is the cost of the goods that are imported, etc. I think the Government will remove the defect which lies in the present administration of the Sales Tax Act.

"I think, Sir, that the Government have come forward with this measure only with the intention of improving the finances of the Province for giving more relief to the people, especially the poor people. We know that a large percentage of the public finances is being spent in maintaining the Governmental machinery than in enhancing the standard of life of the people of the Province. With these few remarks, Sir, I support the motion that is before the House."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot understand for a moment how this Bill can be considered as opportune. First of all we have still to experiment with what is now in existence, i.e., the levy of this tax at two points. My hon. Friends opposite have been speaking of a considerable increase in the yield of this tax when this new measure is going to be implemented. My wonder is, evidently they are speaking of a world which does not exist.

12-45
p.m. "To-day trade has become paralysed. We do not have a free flow of trade because of the terrible bottleneck in transport. It is not blackmarketing, please! It is unfortunate that Government are not able to provide adequate railway facilities for the movement of goods. It is because of that we are now feeling that trade has come to a standstill. We are having a restricted flow of trade, and I do not understand how the Government are going to augment their revenues from this tax. I would very much wish that until railway facilities can be restored and the booking position made easy, Government can as well wait and see the effect of the measure that has already been passed, and then proceed with the new measure if they feel that it is necessary. Mr. Speaker, I would only urge upon this Government to see that they lose no time to agitate and see that the Government of India, restores the railway facilities not only with regard to yarn and textiles but with regard to every other article of trade. It is no use arguing as my hon. Friend Mr. Nagappa has argued just now that merchants are trying to get away from the rigours of law by diverting their traffic through lorries. Unfortunately, the position now is that merchants would not have even that little flow of trade which they have now but for the valuable service which the lorries are rendering to them. I do not know how the trade can continue to exist at all if there should be no lorries and the railway facilities also continue to be very restricted."

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"On a point of information, Sir. My hon Friend has misunderstood me. He says that I have brought to the notice of the House how the merchants have been evading payment of taxes. I do not know whether he comes under this class. My intention is that the Government machinery is not in a position to assess what amount of goods particular merchants have imported to a particular place, because the booking is not known, the place of import is not known, and the merchants do not disclose the amount and the cost of the goods that are imported. That was my intention."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, with regard to the criticism that it is now inopportune and that it should not be brought before this House now so soon after the recent amendment was passed by this House, I would say that Government are only trying to supplement what was done previously. What was lost to this Government by the order of the Government of India, dated the 16th March, we are now trying to retrieve. We are just now losing revenue because of the order of the 16th March. This House approved the taxation of yarn at two points at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent at each point. Now, after the 16th March, we are unable to collect it from two points and we are collecting from only one point. To this extent, the previous amendment was defeated and thus we are losing nearly Rs. 1,50,000. This amendment seeks to re-impose the tax in order to retrieve the position and collect at one point at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. What was done previously is now doubled at one point. We are not adding any additional burden to the trade. So, the question of affecting increased production is not relevant to the issue. We are not putting any additional burden on yarn or on the production of yarn. We are also trying to collect statistical data with regard to the various items that are now taxed. We have got an Economic Adviser who is trying to organise the statistical section in his office. We are giving him the necessary staff. He will go into this question more fully hereafter. I may assure the House that the various defects that arise in the administration of the Act are being referred to the Sales Tax Advisory Committee, which has been constituted. The Hon. Minister for Industries is an ex-officio Member of that Committee. Various business interests, including Members of the Assembly, are serving on that Committee. These matters are being considered by this Committee. This particular matter was referred to that Committee and the Committee have found no difficulty in approving of this amendment immediately.

"With regard to Gujarathi accounts, several representations were made to Government. We have given them time till the 1st of October. We are not in a hurry to rush through our rules that the accounts must be maintained in one of the regional languages or in English or in Hindustani. The question of allowing Gujarathis, Marwaris and Sindhis to maintain their accounts in Gujarathi has to be considered very carefully, because we have found that our supervisory staff was not adequate, that they (staff)

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were not exercising enough control over these Gujarathi accounts. There were cases of evasions, because we had not got enough supervisory staff. Meanwhile, we have given Gujarathi time till 1st of October to continue to maintain their accounts in Gujarathi or any other language. The position will be reviewed by 1st October and we will then decide what should be done. So, there is nothing new that has been done. Instead of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent at two points, we are trying to collect $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent at one point. We are only trying to retrieve the position and save the loss that is likely to occur."

The motion that the Madras General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration at once was put and carried.

Clauses 2, 3, 1 and Preamble were put and carried.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, I move—
'that the Bill be passed into law.'"

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

(2) AMENDMENTS TO THE ZAMINDARI ABOLITION BILL.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to inform the House that amendments to the Zamindari Abolition Bill that are received before 5 o'clock this evening will be accepted, and those that are received after 5 o'clock will not be accepted."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to make a representation in this matter. It is no doubt true that the Bill as passed by the Joint Select Committee has come out. There are still some points of policy over which there is difference of opinion. Government should still adjust those differences. We are not in a position to say whether the Government have adjusted or not. We certainly want more time to give notice of amendments. Once Government's attitude is made known, I think we should have ample time for general discussion of this Bill which involves so much."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall give ample time for consideration of the Bill."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Amendments have to be drafted very carefully and in legal form."

MR. SPEAKER:—"This Bill has been before this House for a long time."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"In certain matters, the position is not clear, and if amendments are to be given in regular form, I think you should give us at least one more day. I shall be satisfied if time till to-morrow evening is given."

SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I wish to know whether the time-limit fixed will be applicable only to hon. Members of this House or to Government also. It should be the same for Government."

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MR. SPEAKER:—"Government are altogether on a different footing."

SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"May I suggest that so far as this House is concerned, the rule should be the same for hon. Members and also Government."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Not only here, in every Legislature Government are on a different footing."

SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am sorry I differ."

SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"I join with the hon. Member Mr. Varadachari in his request that the time for giving notice of amendments should be till to-morrow 5 p.m."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, may I also submit that in view of the very many changes made in the body of the Bill, it will certainly be better if a general discussion is allowed for a couple of days. After that, the reasons which led the Government either to agree or to reject the amendments proposed in the Select Committee, will become known. My submission is that in view of the fact that many changes have been effected by the Select Committee, and that Government themselves may have very good reasons for accepting the changes, a general discussion of the Bill should be allowed for a couple of days. Afterwards, it will be easy for hon. Members to give notice of amendments. Otherwise, there will be a good number of amendments which may not be useful. Useful amendments can be given notice of only after a general discussion. Otherwise hon. Members will not know whether those amendments are to be moved or not to be moved, because they do not know what the Government have to say about those amendments."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"I wish to support the request made by Mr. Varadachari that the time fixed for sending in amendments should be extended by a day. This is a very important Bill, and hon. Members should be given the opportunity of framing their amendments properly and in legal phraseology for which they will require time."

MR. SPEAKER:—"May I point out that this Bill has been before the House for a very long time?"

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"But, as the hon. Member Mr. Varadachari said, the position is not still clear. I do not think that it will interfere with the work of this House if extension of time by one more day is given."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I want to know what the Hon. the Leader of the House has to say."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am in your hands. I have no objection if you allow more time."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I extend the time for sending in amendments till to-morrow 5 p.m."

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Sir, may I suggest the extension of time till day after to-morrow 5 p.m.? This Bill is going to be considered by most of us . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I fix 11 a.m. on Wednesday (14th July 1948) as the last hour for sending in amendments."

(3) THE COTTON TRANSPORT (MADRAS AMENDMENT) BILL, 1948.

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Sir, I introduce the Cotton Transport (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1948, and move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once. It is a very small amendment that I have proposed, and it is very necessary in the interests of cotton cultivation and cotton trade. For the purpose of maintaining the quality or reputation of the cotton grown in any area, section 3 of the Cotton Transport Act, 1923 (Central Act III of 1923), empowers the Provincial Government, by notification, to prohibit the import into that area of cotton or of any specified kind of cotton from any other area, except under, and in accordance with the conditions of, a licence. This Government have issued notifications under section 3 prohibiting the import of cotton into the areas, which are called 'protected areas' by the Act. Protected areas are—

Protected areas for cotton kapas, ginned cotton and cotton waste.

(1) *Northerns and Westerns area.—Consisting of the districts of Kurnool (except the taluks of Markapur and Cumbum), Bellary, Anantapur and Cuddapah.*

(2) *The Cambodia area.—Consisting of the districts of Chingleput, South Arcot, Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore and that portion of the districts of Madura and Ramnad lying outside the Tinnevely areas as defined hereunder.*

Protected area for cotton kapas, ginned cotton, cotton waste and cotton seed.

(3) *The Tinnevely area.—Consisting of the Tinnevely district and that portion of the districts of Madura and Ramnad lying to the west and the south of the Kothagudi river, the east and the south of the Vaigai river, and the north of the Vaigai river bounded by the Periyar Channel up to Melur and thence by the Melur-Sivaganga-Manamadura road.*

1 p.m. "Then, Sir, the second object with which this amendment is brought is this: Section 7 (1) of the Act empowers the Government to frame rules to make the prohibition of the import of cotton into protected areas, except under a licence, effective, and also to regulate the terms and conditions to be contained in licences granted under the Act.

"Rules made under section 7 (1) provide that a contravention of such rules or of the conditions of a licence shall be punishable

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with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees. The rules made by this Government accordingly contain a provision for the imposition of this penalty. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that there were many cases where upcountry cotton of inferior quality was smuggled into protected areas, mainly for the purpose of mixing it with the superior indigenous cotton. It was found that the rules were deliberately contravened in those cases and that the main reason for such contravention is that the penalty of five hundred rupees is far too low, having regard to the value of the cotton involved and the huge profits which could be made. It has been found that many cotton traders preferred to pay this fine of Rs. 500 and they contravened these rules and therefore this has been of no avail. The Director is of opinion that the penalty prescribed in the rules should be deterrent and has recommended that section 7 (2) of the Act mentioned above, should be amended so as to enhance it from Rs. 500 to Rs. 10,000. It is proposed to accept this recommendation because a fine of Rs. 500 is a fleabite to the people who make thousands of rupees and therefore, this deterrent punishment is sought to be imposed on those people who contravene the rules. In order to save the purity of the cotton grown in particular areas, this amendment is brought before the House and it is for the House to accept it."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The motion is that the Cotton Transport (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

* SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bill is right so far as the purpose is concerned. But, how far the purpose is going to be achieved is a matter for consideration. I think the mere raising of the fine from Rs. 500 to Rs. 10,000 which the Government has sought to introduce by means of this Bill will not serve the purpose of preventing smuggling. Of late, dealers have been getting into bad ways and though the India Government has been agitating, it has not been able to prevent this smuggling. My suggestion, therefore, is that the Government should not be satisfied with merely enhancing the fines but they should make imprisonment also a punishment under this Bill. I, therefore, suggest that imprisonment should be provided for along with fine, because, a rich man who is contravening these rules would not fear paying a heavy fine but would fear going to prison even though it is for a day. In these cases, Government cannot check his rapacity by asking him to pay Rs. 10,000 as fine, because he would have profited by about a lac of rupees. Therefore, this fine is no check. I, therefore, suggest to the Government that they should accept my amendment, though I have not formally given notice of it and moved it, because it would carry out the object of this Bill. Fine with imprisonment must be an indispensable punishment in these cases."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Sir, this Cotton Transport Act has been in existence since 1923 and am I to understand that for the last twenty-five years people have been going on smuggling this

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cotton and mixing up varieties and making fabulous profit? If so, I cannot understand how this smuggling can be prevented by bringing this Bill on one fine morning raising the fine from Rs. 500 to Rs. 10,000. Do you mean to say that if you impose this fine of Rs. 10,000, smuggling will not go on and that this will act as a deterrent punishment on the smugglers? I want the Hon. Minister to enlighten me on this point. Suppose a man makes a lakh of rupees as profit and if he is asked to pay Rs. 10,000 as fine, he will be pleased to pay it. Therefore, there should be some rational system by which this smuggling can be prevented. I really do not think that this increase in fine will prevent smuggling. The Hon. Minister has not also stated how this increase in fine will prevent the mixing up of varieties and how to stop that and what is the exact loss to the Government by this mixture of superior and inferior varieties. There are several thousands of people who are really interested in this trade. At least, the merchants concerned should have been consulted and then Government may come out openly and say that such and such a number of cases have happened and that there is so much loss of revenue to the Government and so much loss in the reputation of the particular trade. Therefore, in order to know all these details from the trade concerned, I suggest to the Hon. Minister that he may be pleased to give us at least one day more so that I may consult the interests concerned. The Cotton Transport Act has been in existence since 1923 and the Hon. Minister should give us some indication as to how the merchants have been evading the provisions of this Act since 1923. When we have waited for the last twenty-five years, we can as well wait for a few days more. I would, therefore, make a request to the Hon. Minister to kindly give me time till tomorrow morning so that I may consult some persons in the trade to see how far this Bill will be useful in preventing smuggling."

M. S. ABDUL MAJJID SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the intention of this amendment is to make the penalty deterrent upon those who are smuggling inferior yarn into protected areas. Sir, I doubt whether this amendment is going to help in achieving the object of the Government. In the first instance, cotton is bought by people who want to manufacture yarn and to get the profit out of it. Therefore, for the mixing of the cotton, I really do not know why the Government should have any objection. It is the manufacturers of yarn that should really object to the mixing of cotton and it is the duty of the manufacturers of yarn to say that they cannot accept the mixture of the inferior yarn with the superior variety. If they are prepared to buy mixed yarn, I really do not know why Government should interfere in the matter.

"Secondly, there are people who require inferior yarn for legitimate purposes in protected areas. I would like to know what provision Government has made for that. Therefore, Sir, I really do not understand why Government should, all on a sudden, come with a fine of Rs. 10,000 instead of Rs. 500. It

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must be really left to the discretion of the buyers. If that is done, I think the problem will be solved. I do not think that smuggling will take place at all when the required quality, whether it is superior quality or inferior quality, is made available in the market. Government must give facilities for people and especially the manufacturers to purchase such qualities of yarn suitable to their requirements. Therefore, this Bill is not going to help the manufacturers or industrialists. I, therefore, strongly object to the raising of the fine from Rs. 500 to rupees 10,000."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that the trade has very poorly put up its case with regard to this Bill. It is the business of the trade to know what effect this Bill will have on itself. The object of the Bill is not to prevent mere smuggling. But, the object is to prevent the strain of cotton seed in a particular area from deteriorating by being mixed up with inferior quality which is got into those areas. If this inferior quality is mixed with the superior cotton, the strain suffers gradually because the seed that is left either during the year or in the next year is much inferior in quality to the seed that was sown in prior years. Therefore, the real problem is to maintain the strain at a particular level. I strongly support the Government action not in increasing the fine from Rs. 500 to Rs. 10,000, but in the interest shown by them in preserving the quality of cotton strain in a particular area, namely, the protected area. I do not believe that merchants will readily pay the fine of Rs. 10,000 because I have known merchants spending much higher amounts, twice and thrice, sometimes lakhs of rupees, to prevent this payment of fine in order to efface the stigma on their reputation.

"Now, Sir, Government realize not only in this question but in more than one case that punitive action is necessary in order to maintain the interests of the trade. I do not believe in punitive action. You may fine Rs. 500 or Rs. 10,000. If you fine Rs. 10,000, the chances are, that the merchants being greedy, may smuggle inferior cotton and mix it up with superior cotton. Again, Sir, I say that merchants would be prepared to pay large fines in cases where seizure or detection takes place in perhaps one case out of ten cases of smuggling. Fine would act as a deterrent. Therefore, I suggest that Government should get into grips with the trade interests and should impress upon them the necessity of maintaining a high standard of cotton. They should get into grip with the merchants, the importers, the mill-owners and other manufacturers and see that in their own interests, the strain of cotton grown in particular areas which are called the protected areas should not be disturbed or allowed to suffer decay year by year. Government should see that inferior cotton of one particular area should not be brought to other areas where superior cotton is grown to be mixed up with them. It is highly objectionable to mix up the inferior cotton with the Tiruppur-Karunganni variety. Government should no doubt take action in this matter,

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But, I say that it is best to persuade the trade itself to maintain a high level. Government should take it up with the best men in the trade so that this pernicious mixture of inferior with superior cotton does not take place any longer in those areas. The best thing to do is not by putting a fence of punishment round the areas but to cultivate so much goodwill and so much affection amongst the dealers and producers to see that the trade maintains its standards. I suggest to the Hon. the Minister that most of the people who are in the cotton trade are licensed traders and they have got licences under the General Sales Tax Act. Instead of fining them heavily, their licences should be cancelled and they should no longer be on the list of cotton traders. I do not agree with the suggestion that people should be put into prison. It has become a fashion in these days to suggest that remedy. We have no right to put any person in prison but the real remedy will be that such persons should be removed from the trade altogether. Government should put the offender out of the trade and then make him an example to others. Then others will not dare commit such offences. That is the best way to achieve our object and not by merely raising the fines. Raising fines would sometimes lead to more smuggling and more mischievous action and may even defeat the purpose of this Bill. As it is, I do not propose to oppose the Bill. While supporting it, I recommend to Government that other measures—equally good, perhaps better than this—should be tried to tackle the problem and conditions made to prevail in the areas concerned as would make smuggling of inferior yarn a mere story of the past."

1-16
p.m.

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the motion on the floor of the House and I also support the various suggestions made by my hon. friend, Mr. Varadachari, who has been in the field of cotton spinning for several decades. I welcome both the provisions of this Bill, as it is going to result in the improved purity of cotton in our province. Speaking from a spinner's point of view, the practice of mixing up the short staple and long staple cotton with an inferior variety has given endless trouble to those spinners who have taken to it as a real national effort.

"I know for myself, when I was in Tiruppur, in Gandhi Nagar, this question was mooted with the then Government, but I do not know the reasons why this was delayed so long. Recently the present Government has made elaborate arrangements for improving cottage industries and developing the firkas.

"This has been the real reason why it was possible for the officers and also the Government to know that smuggling was going on. To add inferior stuff, in a province like this which has been producing the best cotton is a great sin. And some of my hon. friends have argued that we should not change Rs. 500 to Rs. 10,000. We all know the cotton trade in this province and the mill-owners; as for the earning of these people we know it has been enormous. And to say that we should not fine wrong

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doers Rs. 10,000 is meaningless. I welcome both the provisions in the Bill, because I feel from a spinner's point of view even this will go a long way if this Bill is accepted without any amendments."

* SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"Sir, I welcome the Bill. Yet, in doing so, I do not approve of my hon. friend Mr. P. Natesan's suggestions. The penal clause is meant only to see that violation of Government Acts is prevented. I hope that Mr. P. Natesan is also one with us in seeing that no violation of Government rules takes place. A number of so-called influential persons were carrying on this trade and enriching themselves. Recently investigations were made and some cases were filed, but due to some technical grounds, they had to be dropped. Now that this Bill has been brought in, I am sure that not only smuggling but also other malpractices which result in bad ways of earning money will be stopped, and also the standard of cotton seed in our country will be maintained. With these few words, I support the Bill."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Sir, I rise to support the measure before the House. And in doing so, I would like to state particularly what is taking place in our area. Especially—Sir, I think the Government is aware—in Rayalaseema, cotton is grown in large quantities. As we all know, the penal clause is already there in the Bill. But after experience, finding that this has not served the purpose of the Government, they want to enhance the fine from Rs. 500 to Rs. 10,000. As my friend, Mr. V. Raghavayya, has put in, any amount of enhancement of the fine is not going to deter the greedy man who makes lakhs and lakhs of rupees of profit. To him, it is immaterial whether the fine is Rs. 500 or Rs. 10,000 or even Rs. 50,000. He knows even if he is going to pay a fine of Rs. 10,000 how much profit he is going to make, and he considers it in the business way. Even if the fine is enhanced to Rs. 50,000, the mentality of the businessman is that he would gain a profit of Rs. 45 lakhs, for after all the fine is going to reduce the profit only by a small extent. Therefore, I support the recommendations made by my hon. friend, Mr. V. Raghavayya, that not less than one year's imprisonment should also be included in the punishment. This will go a long way in checking smuggling, and in preventing the import of inferior quality cotton into our country. So, Sir, I support the Bill."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"The main objection, if I may say so—it is not really an objection—of Mr. Natesan is in asking for more time till to-morrow, so that he could consult his interests, the interests in his constituency. I do not think, that Mr. Natesan's constituency has been so lethargic in this matter. The Bill was published sometime in May 1948 in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and my hon. friend must have got copies of it much earlier, and so I do not think any extension of

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time for consideration is necessary. I am sure, even if Mr. Natesan has not read it, his shrewd clients would have read it. Therefore, there is no necessity for any adjournment in the matter.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. V. Raghavayya, said that the Bill is necessary but that the punishment of enhancing the fine is of no avail, and he felt that one year's imprisonment should also be added on to it. I do not quite agree with him that an increased fine will not be a deterrent.

"Now, what is the object of these people in smuggling inferior cotton? In this connexion, I want to correct Mr. Majid—it is not a question of yarn at all. We are only dealing with cotton here, and not with yarns. The object of the smugglers has been to make more money."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"On a point of information, Sir, particularly from the Minister. I would like to know what he means by 'smuggling'. Is it a case of transport from frontier to frontier, or is it done deliberately by the merchants who want to pass off something inferior as something better?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"I thought, that the meaning of the word 'smuggling' was quite clear, and so it did not require any explanation. I said, Sir, sometime ago, there is what is called the 'protected area'. In these protected areas, certain kinds of cotton are prohibited from coming in. Such prohibited varieties coming in there can only be by smuggling."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Sir, it has been going on for 25 years."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"But, large number of offences were committed, and more cases were booked only from 1944 onwards and not before that. The obvious reason is that the price of cotton yarn has gone high. A large number of cases cropped up. I am not able to give the figures as to the number of cases that came in at that time, at present. But I may rightly say that there was a very large number of cases in 1944-45 and the Public Prosecutor, Coimbatore, advised the Government that these small fines were not at all sufficient, but that it was necessary that the punishment should be enhanced.

"As I said, Sir, the object of the smugglers has been to make more money. If the fine is increased, they will find that it is not worthwhile to indulge any more in such practices of smuggling, and this Rs. 10,000 deterrent fine will certainly have an effect. Mr. Varadachari wants that there should be no imprisonment while Mr. Raghavayya and Mr. Nagappa want one year's imprisonment also to be included in the Bill. Their own views differ so widely in this matter. So let us try the experiment of an enhanced fine first, before we take the drastic step of imprisonment. That is my appeal to them.

"Mr. Varadachari said here was a case of loss to the Government. As I have already said from the very beginning, the main

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consideration is neither loss to the Government, nor the prevention of the private profit of the smugglers, but it is mainly in the interests of growing cotton of good quality, that we are bringing in this Bill. Particularly in Tinnevely, merchants came and represented that the Tinnevely cotton cultivation was considerably impaired by the use of the mixture of inferior varieties of cotton seeds.

"Mr. Varadachari pointed out that the cotton merchant is licensed. Yes, Sir. In addition to cancellation of licence—which is a departmental punishment which the Director of Agriculture could impose without going to the court, at any time—we shall try to make him disgorge a portion of what he has earned by smuggling, by enhancing the fine levied. That is the object of the Bill, before you, Sir."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"The motion before the House is—

"The Madras Cotton Transport (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The motion was put and carried.

Clauses 2, 1 and Preamble were separately put and carried.

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Sir, I move—

"that the Cotton Transport (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1948, be passed into law."

The motion was put and carried.

Mr. SPEAKER:—"We shall not have any afternoon session to-day. I adjourn the House till to-morrow 11 a.m. For tomorrow's agenda, after Questions we will take the items left over from to-day's agenda."

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

X.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

1. Notification appended to G.O. No. 609, L.A., dated the 31st March 1948, regarding the constitution of the Tiruvallur (Chingleput) Municipality.

2. Madras Cottage Industries Loans and Subsidy Rules, 1948, issued with G.O. Ms. No. 237 (Firka Development), dated the 22nd April 1948.

3. Notification No. 301, Home, dated the 6th March 1948, regarding exemption from the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931 of Motor Vehicles of the Mysore Electricity department, etc.

4. Notification appended to G.O. No. 866, L.A., dated the 4th May 1948, regarding the constitution of Guntakal (Anantapur) Municipality.

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5. Notification appended to G.O. No. 758, L.A., dated the 20th April 1948, regarding the inclusion of certain area in the municipal limits of Tanjore.

6. Notification issued with G.O. No. 783, Home, dated the 3rd March 1948, making amendment to notification under the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, No. 347, Home, dated 20th March 1940, as subsequently amended.

7. The Madras Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Ordinance, Ordinance No. II of 1948.

8. Report of the District Magistrate, Tinnevely, together with its enclosure with reference to the answers to the supplementary questions to Question No. 406, dated 25th March 1947, regarding the death of a spinner in Madura Mills.

9. Statement regarding appointment of ex-servicemen in Government service with reference to the answer to the supplementary questions to Question No. 224, dated 24th March 1948.

10. Election—Casual—Tuticorin Municipality—Ward XXV—Reserved for Europeans—Postponed till 15th June 1948—G.O. No. 1156, L.A., dated 12th June 1948.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 13th July 1948.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Abolition of distinction of the various sub-sections of the Hindu community in the matter of appointments.

* 11 Q.—MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Central Government has sent a circular to the Madras Government expressing the opinion that no distinction should be recognized between the various sub-sections of the Hindu community in the matter of appointments; and

(b) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—“(a) The answer is in the negative.

“(b) Does not arise.”

Protection of minorities.

* 12 Q.—MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether instructions have been issued to the heads of departments and District Collectors by the Government regarding protection of minorities consequent on the agreement reached at the Inter-Dominion Conference held in Calcutta in April 1948; and

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, what the instructions are and how they are to be implemented?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—“(a) Yes.

“(b) Heads of Departments including District Collectors and District Judges have been requested to bring to the notice of all officers and subordinates under them specially Magistrates, Police officers and Village officers the decisions relating to the protection of lives, properties and rights of the minorities reached at the Inter-Dominion Conference held in Calcutta in April 1948 which are given below so that they may bear them in mind and implement them both in letter and spirit. They have also been informed that any Government servant acting in disregard of these decisions should be severely dealt with.

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- (1) The responsibility for protecting the lives and properties of the minorities and for ensuring that they receive justice and that their civic rights are fully safeguarded rests on the Government of Dominion in which the minorities reside.
- (2) Every citizen shall have equal rights, opportunities, privileges and obligations and there shall be no discrimination against minorities whose culture and rights shall be fully safeguarded. ('Cultural' rights include 'educational' rights).
- (3) Propaganda for the amalgamation of India and Pakistan or portions thereof should be discouraged.
- (4) It should be made known to Government servants that any Government servant proved to have been guilty of dereliction of duty towards minorities shall receive exemplary punishment.
- (5) Severe action should be taken against any person creating apprehension, fear, etc., in the minds of minorities.
- (6) All tendencies towards an economic boycott of minorities or strangulation of their normal life should be curbed."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are the Government satisfied that these decisions are being implemented in the districts?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yes, Sir. We are fully satisfied."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, may I know whether these instructions conform to the state of affairs present now in that wholesale arrests are being made of Muslims in the border areas because they are Muslims?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Muslims are not being arrested because they are Muslims. They are arrested because of their other activities."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact that very respectable Muslims are being arrested and the rule of terror is being administered in the Province?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not accept that a rule of terror is being maintained. Respectable citizens or otherwise are being arrested because of their subversive activities."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Is it a fact that Muslims are being so treated in service that their probation is being terminated? How is it that such symptoms happen?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not accept the premises."

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M. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Government see the desirability of appointing minority boards in each district so that the minority community may be taken into confidence?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Some such suggestion is being contemplated by the Government of India, and when that is approved it will be done."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that even the existing facilities are being removed now?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not accept that."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"May I know, Sir, whether if I were to bring a catalogue of these grievances, will the Hon. Minister give an assurance that he would go through them and redress the grievances?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Certainly. It is up to the hon. Member to bring it to the notice of the Government."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not true, Sir, that Muslim institutions are being discouraged now if not removed, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Apart from the general question of policy, Muslims are not being denied education facilities."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether it is not a fact that minorities, especially in border districts, have given expression to their sense of loyalty and expressed their willingness to co-operate with the Union Government."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We are not in need of expressions of loyalty. What we want is a translation of it into action."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"May I know, Sir, what communities are regarded as minority communities?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"All well-known minorities such as Christians, Muslims, Parsis and Jews."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask, Sir, whether Government do not know that statements have been made time and again asserting the loyalty of the Muslims and also offering to translate it into action by enrolling themselves in large numbers in Home Guards, Special Police and whatever other posts they may create?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We are extremely thankful to the leaders of the community for that sort of thinking."

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MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Arising out of the reply that if representation is made to the *Government* with regard to discrimination and other things the *Government* will rectify the grievances, does the *Government* stand for the Leader of the House or the Premier? Our representations made six months before to the Premier are yet to be replied. May I know if I have to go to Premier or to the Leader of the House?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"To the respective Ministers who are in charge of the Departments."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know if the *Government* are aware that several respectable Muslim leaders of Bezvada are under fear of arrest everyday on account of certain mischievous activities of certain groups in the town?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member can put a separate question."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether the *Government* are aware that many members among the minority communities are crossing the borders in order to give information to loot the Union villages?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not know whether it arises out of this question."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that there is a rule of terror about which I have spoken already?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not accept the statement, that there is a rule of terror in the Province."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"Is it not a fact that due to the application of the provisions of the Civil Disabilities Removal Act many of the Harijans have been boycotted in the villages? Are the *Government* aware of that?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Certain representations have been received. Beyond that there is no further information."

SRI KALLUR SUBBA RAO:—"Along with the expressions of loyalty are there not some subversive activity everyday from among the Muslims?"

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"Are the *Government* aware, Sir, that many Muslims who have been released after detention have gone underground? Is it an expression of loyalty?"

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"As regards the memorial presented by me on June 7th that Harijans and agricultural labourers in Razole taluk have been unnecessarily and callously beaten, I want to know what action has been taken?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"A separate question may be put."

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MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that when we approach individual Ministers as suggested by the Leader of the House most of his colleagues express their inability to do anything although they approve of the justice of the case and suggest that they have to go to the Premier to redress their grievances."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of what has been stated by the Leader of the House at the beginning that the *Government* are considering the appointment of minority boards in the Province in advance of the *Government* of India and inasmuch as it will not be in contravention of what the *Government* of India have done in East Bengal and West Bengal, will the *Government* appoint committees to allay the feelings of the minority community?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We are not repeating here the incidents of East Bengal and West Bengal."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Is it a fact that where the caste Hindus and Harijans differ, the Police always side the case of the Hindus and harass the Harijans?"

Release of Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu of Tanjore district.

* 13 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the *Government* have received any memorial signed by the Legislators of Madras requesting the release of Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu of Tanjore district, a member of the Tamil Nadu Provincial Congress Committee; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—" (a) Yes.

"(b) *Government* will consider the question of releasing him at the proper time."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I know what the proper time is?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The proper time is that which is not improper."

SRI P. KAKKAN:—"May I know the reason for the arrest of Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The prisoner concerned has been informed of the reason."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the *Government* come out with their policy on agricultural labour which will go a long way to allay the feelings in the district?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The Labour Minister and the Revenue Minister will certainly go into the question."

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SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"Has he been expelled from the Party?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"What have we to do with the Party here?"

SRI P. KAKKAN:—"Are the Government aware that kisans of Mayavaram taluk are not supporting the communists due to Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu?"

11-15 a.m. THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The question of releasing Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu was duly considered and they considered that the time is not yet for releasing him."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state that if alternatives to detention, like home arrests or prohibition from leaving the town, will not be tried?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The suggestion will be considered."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Are the Government prepared, Sir, to bring him before a court of law and try him for specific offences rather than take shelter under an Ordinance which is all-pervading and mischievous?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If we could do that, we could have done that long ago."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu is a Congressman?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yes, Sir."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Is it the opinion of the Government that Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu's activities are a cause for the agrarian trouble in the Tanjore district and, if so, why not the Government try him through a court of law?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If every detenu could be tried in a court of law the provision for detention need not be there on the Statute Book at all."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of letting Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu on parole so that it may enable him to see the Premier and explain his position?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, Sir, the suggestion cannot be considered."

SRI T. S. PATTABHIRAMAN:—"May I know whether the Government are satisfied that by the arrest of Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu the kisan trouble has completely gone in the Tanjore district?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It does not follow that simply because a person has been arrested the whole thing will be set right in a day or two, but there are some other factors also."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, how long this Narayanaswami Nayudu has been under detention and what is the time that the Government have taken to consider his release? In his answer to the question, the Hon. Minister was pleased to state that he will be released at the proper time. May I know Sir, whether that 'proper time' has not reached even to-day?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, Sir."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, Sir, may I ask the Leader of the House whether the Government have given up the idea of releasing the detenus on parole, a privilege which they enjoyed even under the British Government?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The British Government did not give the privilege of parole to detenus, but parole was given for specific reasons, such as sickness and other things."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"From the answers given by the Hon. Leader of the House we assume that certain powers have been delegated to him by the Hon. the Home Member. I want to know whether the Hon. Leader of the House has powers to tell us that he is in a position to deliver the goods on behalf of the Government in regard to the answers that he has given to us this morning?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"As regards answers to certain questions on the floor of the House I can deliver the goods on behalf of the Government."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"May I know, Sir, how many persons are detained like Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu for agrarian troubles?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"A separate question may be put."

SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are so helpless as not to manage the affairs unless they put Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu in jail, or is it because they feel that they can do anything without bringing about a settlement of the kisan trouble there?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu is a general symptom of a general disease."

SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"May I submit, Sir, that it is no answer to my question."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask, Sir, whether Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu has been given the

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charges or reasons for his detention, whether he has submitted his explanation and whether it has been examined by the Government or by the independent tribunal which is proposed to be set up? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"All that has been done, but I have no information just now."

Separation of the Judiciary from the Executive.

* 14 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN (on behalf of Sri L. S. Karayalar): Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) why there is so much delay in the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive; and

(b) when the announcement regarding the separation will be made?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—" (a) With a view to implement the recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee on Separation of Judiciary from the Executive, a Committee of the Cabinet was constituted to examine the scheme outlined in the Report and frame proposals in connexion therewith. The Committee has taken decisions on all the main principles involved. The matters that remain to be considered will be decided when the Cabinet Committee next meets.

" (b) Government expect to take final decision in the matter very shortly."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"On a point of information, Sir. May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Premier is also the Law Member and is the Hon. Leader of the House also having the Law portfolio delegated to him by the Premier?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The Hon. Premier is in charge of courts and the Minister for Agriculture is in charge of legal matters."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that it has been reported in the press that the separation of the judiciary from the executive would come into effect very shortly? How is it then that the Hon. Minister informs us now that this matter has not yet been taken up by the Government and that it will be taken up very shortly? May I know when that 'very shortly' is going to be?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Perhaps the hon. Lady Member did not hear my answer in which I stated that 'the Cabinet Committee has taken decisions on all the main principles involved. The matters that remain to be considered will be decided when the Cabinet Committee next meets'."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Is the Hon. Leader of the House aware of the statement made by the Hon. Mr. Madhava Menon that Government have already decided the question, that they are going to implement the scheme very soon and that it would cost only 5 lakhs?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not think he could have said that it is going to cost Rs. 5 lakhs. On the other hand, it will not cost anything to Government."

Re-laying of the dismantled railways in Salem district.

* 15 Q.—SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have recommended to the Central Railway Board the immediate necessity of re-laying the two dismantled railways in Salem district, viz., the Tiruppattur-Krishnagiri Railway and the Morrapur-Hosur Railway on my letter of request;

(b) if so, at what stage it is; and

(c) whether it is a fact that this Government have recommended for at least metre gauge in the place of narrow gauge?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" (a) The Government have recommended to the Government of India along with other lines the restoration of the two dismantled lines, viz., Tirupattur-Krishnagiri and Morrapur-Hosur in June 1947.

" (b) The question is under the consideration of the Government of India.

" (c) Yes."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"May I know, Sir, if the Government are aware of the hardships which the people are experiencing to-day owing to the dismantling of these lines and that they have been making representations to the Government for the early restoration of these lines?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"Whatever we are aware of, we have done all that is possible with the Government of India."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister, that the Government have recommended the restoration of some other lines along with this line, may I know whether the Kurnool-Nandyal line via Atmakur is also included in the other lines recommended?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"I do not know whether it is a dismantled line, Sir."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Central Government wanted guarantees from the Provincial Government to restore the dismantled lines referred to in this question?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"They wanted a guarantee for some of the lines, but I do not think they wanted a guarantee for this line."

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SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—" May I know, Sir, if the Government have subsequently made a request to the Central Government to expedite the matter? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" I have already stated that we have done all that is possible."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, why then this restoration is denied by the authorities in the Central Government and whether this Government are aware of any such correspondence in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" The question must be put to the Government of India, Sir."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" With regard to the restoration of the dismantled line between Krishnagiri and Tiruppattur may I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the recommendation made by the South Indian Railway authorities? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" We have no information whether the South Indian Railway authorities have made any recommendation, but the Transport Board have considered the question and the Railway Board wanted our views in the matter. We have communicated our recommendations and they will be considered at a meeting of the Central Transport Board towards the end of this month."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, whether this Government are aware of the correspondence that has taken place between the public and the Central Government and which was also communicated to this Government? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" I do not know what my hon. Friend refers to when he talks of a certain correspondence."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I ask whether the Government of India has recommended the restoration of the Kurnool-Dronachalam line which was once in existence and which is now under the control of the Nizam State Railway? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" That does not arise out of this question which relates to dismantled lines."

SRI P. GOVINDA MENON:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Shoranur-Nilambur Railway line is one of the lines recommended by the Government for restoration? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" Yes, Sir."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—" May I know, Sir, what priority has been given to this line? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" We have marked the priority in respect of the various lines, but I do not exactly remember what priority we have shown for this line."

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SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" Sir, the correspondence to which I referred relates to the restoration of the line referred to in this question and it was also communicated to the Hon. Minister? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" It is not necessary to refer to that here. We have already recommended it and the Government have asked us to show priority for it and we have done that. It is under the consideration of the Board of Transport."

Retrenchment in Government Offices.

* 16 Q.—M. S. ATAULLAH SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Mohamed Rafeudin Ahmad Ansari Sahib Bahadur): Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that retrenchment has been ordered in the various departments of the Government;

(b) if so, what is the total number of Government employees affected by the retrenchment order, their class in Government service, and the amount of money saved per year;

(c) whether the Government employees in the permanent cadre have also been affected;

(d) what is the principle on which the retrenchment is effected in different departments; and

(e) whether this retrenchment is temporary or permanent?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) The Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee has made various proposals and most of them are still under examination with the departments concerned. Retrenchment has already been effected in some cases, and the Government are always seeking to economise on staff where possible.

" (b) Final orders on all the various proposals of the Committee have not yet been passed. The information is therefore not yet available.

" (c) It is not likely that many employees in the permanent cadre will be affected. In cases where permanent staff are discharged, which may occur in a few cases of peons, three month's notice is given, and preference is given for re-employment in other vacancies.

" (d) The public interest and the efficiency of the public service.

" (e) It is not intended to restore posts that are abolished. Preference is always given to discharged personnel when vacancies for new entrants are filled."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, the number of persons who have been so far dispossessed of their appointments and how many have been reinstated or appointed in other vacancies? "

[13th July 1948]

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not exactly remember the various people that were retrenched in the various departments."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Sir, is the Leader of the House aware that peons who have put in 8 to 9 years of service have also been affected?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, people must be affected when retrenchment comes in."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"Will the Government place on the table of the House the Report of the Retrenchment Committee before taking action on their recommendations?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, the position is this. They send interim proposals to the Government; they are examined by the various departments concerned and sometimes orders are also passed, but the final report of the Committee has not yet been submitted to the Government."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"In regard to the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee, Sir, may I ask the Government to place on the table of the House from time to time such of their decision—interim though they may be—they have to be taken as the Committee's recommendations?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We shall certainly consider the proposal and give a consolidated statement of the various decisions taken by the Committee so far."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, will the Government defer giving effect to retrenchment until they formulate plans for re-employing the men whom they propose to retrench?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not think it is necessary to defer the question."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the peons do not have guaranteed security of tenure. If it is so, why should people who have put in permanent service under the Government for a long number of years be sent away?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"In those cases three months' notice is given and preference is also given to them for employment in other vacancies."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, in view of the fact that there are several nation-building departments which the Government are proposing to expand and the public are going to witness considerable expansion of those departments in the years to come, is there any likelihood of retrenchment? Will there not be a re-shuffling and absorption of suitable qualified service men in those growing departments?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yes, Sir. It is being done now and it will be done."

[13th July 1948]

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, will reorganization of the services, apart from retrenchment which I consider is totally different, be conducted on the principle of a centralization of policy, but a decentralized execution of policy?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am unable to give any answer to that point just now, Sir."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"May I know, Sir, whether as a part of this policy, peons of District Judges have been retrenched, and if so, what is the number of peons which a District Judge is now allotted?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I think some peons were retrenched, but a separate question may be put for a specific answer."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Is it considered desirable that people who have attained the age of 55 should be given extension of service even after a clear declaration had been made on the floor of the House that such people should compulsorily be retired?"

11-30
a.m.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"As far as possible, all such people who have attained the age of 55 are being retired."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"If there are any such persons whose services are extended will they be sent up before a Medical Board to obtain a certificate of fitness?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, Sir. I do not think they are imbecile; on the other hand they are quite alert in the discharge of their duties and there is no need for a Medical Board to go into the question of their health and fitness for duty."

MR. L. C. PAIS:—"May I know, Sir, whether the proposed scheme affects stamp vendors selling court-fee and non-judicial stamps in the mufassal?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not remember to have seen any file regarding stamp-vendors."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"May I know, Sir, what is the amount that is expected to be saved on account of the recommendations of the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee and what is the expenditure on the Government on account of the working of the Committee?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The Retrenchment Committee will not cost us more than a few thousands and it was expected in the Budget Speech that they will be able to save a crore of rupees but our anticipation may not prove correct."

[13th July 1948]

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are justified in putting into force the interim proposals of the Retrenchment Committee before their final report is given, because in their final report they might revise their opinions and give Government altogether different proposals? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" We are assured by the Chairman and members of the Committee that they are not so fickle-minded."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYAM:—" In view of the fact that retrenchment is in progress, will the Government stop recruitment through the Public Service Commission so that the retrenched people may be re-absorbed? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Those retrenched will, as far as possible, be taken into the expanding departments."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Have the Government considered the question of giving adequate compensation to people who are being sent away before their time? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Yes, Sir. Adequate compensation by way of three months' salary will be given."

SRI P. NATESAN:—" May I know if retrenchment is being effected communitywar? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" It is neither communitywar nor districtwar."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" Arising out of the answer given by the Leader of the House that they had anticipated savings to the tune of a crore of rupees on account of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee which have been belied, would the Hon. Minister tell us what savings are expected as a result of the action already taken and to be taken with regard to the recommendations of the Committee during the Budget year? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" I am unable just now to answer that question; if a separate question is put, I shall try."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that most of the persons retrenched belong to the Harijan community, the Harijan Christians and the backward communities because most of them are appointed as peons and attenders and the Retrenchment Committee was not fickle-minded as stated by the Leader of the House to assure Government that their proposals will not undergo any change? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" I do not think the hon. Member is correct in saying that all the retrenched people belong to one particular community."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—" I have got statistics."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" I do not think his statistics are correct."

[13th July 1948]

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know whether it is a fact that the Government had been retrenching only peons and people in the lower rungs? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" It is not only peons and people in the subordinate ranks that have been retrenched; we have abolished two Deputy Commissioners of Civil Supplies."

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—" If the Government had not accepted any of the recommendations of the Committee, would the Government tell the House the reasons why they had not accepted their recommendation? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" There will be various proposals which will be accepted and others which will not be accepted and I do not know whether it would be desirable to answer those things on the floor of the House unless some definite questions are put with regard to certain specific departments."

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—" May I know whether there is any proposal of the Reorganization and Retrenchment Committee to vivisect any district? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" I do not remember it just now but I know that the hon. Member has got agitated and excited over the possible abolition of Nilgiris district."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" With reference to the statement made by the Leader of the House that at the Budget time they expected to make a saving of one crore of rupees from the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, may I know how that figure was arrived at by him, whether it was arbitrary or whether it was as a result of any plans that they had at the time? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" It was more a conjecture."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Was there any recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee regarding the reduction of the number of Ministers and reduction of their tours in the presidency? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Yes, Sir; there is a recommendation."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I know, Sir, why this National Government is following the policy of the retrenchment in the lower rungs of the official ladder rather than in the higher services? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Even in the higher services we have retrenched; we are going to abolish two posts of Deputy Commissioners of Civil Supplies."

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SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—" Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister in reply to Mr. Bokkai Gowder, may I know, Sir, whether the Government have decided to abolish the Nilgiris district? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" No, Sir."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYAM:—" Will the Government assure the House that they will give the House an opportunity to discuss the Report of the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee before they pass final orders upon it? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Final orders are being passed as interim reports are being received by the Government and so there is nothing like a consolidated report which will come under discussion."

Nationalization of Motor Transport.

* 17 Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the extension of Nationalization of Motor Transport was stopped by the Government;

(b) if so, why;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government workshop for building bodies was ordered to be scrapped; and if so, why;

(d) whether it is a fact that the motor magnates made representations to the Government not to step on their toes; and

(e) if so, what was the Government's reply?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) & (b) As the Government desired to watch the City Scheme in action for a few months and assess its results and as the petrol position at present is very acute, the Government have decided that for the present there should be no extension of the Nationalization scheme to the mufassal, but that the question should be reviewed later, say about October 1948.

" (c) The hon. Member apparently refers to the coach building factory at Chromepet recently established by Government. The factory is being continued on a commercial basis by attending to the requirements of Government departments, public institutions, etc.

" (d) No such representations were received by the Government.

" (e) The question does not arise "

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are satisfied that till now the running of the buses in the City has been profitable? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Yes, Sir, financially it is profitable."

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SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—" Is it true, Sir, that the Government is stopping the import of diesel buses which were ordered originally and if so, for what reasons? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Originally we placed an order for 25 diesel buses and they have all arrived here."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—" With regard to the nationalization scheme why not the Government use charcoal buses instead of petrol buses and extend nationalization to the other districts also? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" We will consider the valuable suggestion of the hon. Member."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" Petrol difficulty being one common to the private owner and to the Government and the principle of nationalization having been accepted and having been tried successfully in the Madras City, may I know if the Government was justified in stopping the experiment even at this stage from extending to other districts? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" The whole position will be reviewed in October; just now we want to watch the working of City scheme and assess its results and proceed."

SRI P. NATESAN:—" Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Leader of the House that financially the working of the City bus scheme is a profitable scheme, may I know how he is satisfied that the scheme is working at a profit? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Because I have gone through the accounts, Sir."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" May I know if the Government recognize that they have been making a mistake in making use of the workshop at Chromepet which was first intended for the building of bodies for buses to ply on routes outside the Madras City and diverting it for purposes other than those for which it was originally intended? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" There is no question of diverting it for other purposes; the factory is not running at a loss just now."

SRI P. NATESAN:—" Will the Government be in a position to publish the balance-sheet after a year's working of the buses in the City? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" The hon. Member can just wait for the Budget speech in February next."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—" The late Hon. Minister for Transport told the House that the ghat sections will be taken up from the 1st April 1948; may I know if the reason for not nationalizing the ghat services is petrol shortage or other reasons? "

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"That was again reviewed by Government and we thought that we might allow some time more so that we can study what is happening in the City before we can extend it to other different sections."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Is the Leader of the House aware that the grant was made for nationalization of buses in the City with a definite programme for further extension to other districts—the grant was made on the basis of that programme and sums were voted for the purpose—and so, any reversal of that policy should have the prior assent of the House before the Government decide on the question of postponement of extension?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Perhaps the hon. Member is right; but we have to review the position from time to time."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the decision to postpone further nationalization is arrived at by the present Minister in charge of Transport or at the time of the late Mr. Daniel Thomas?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It was done by the Cabinet."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"We appreciate the Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi, the Minister in charge of Transport evincing much enthusiasm visiting bus termini and other places. May I enquire whether he is satisfied with the working of the nationalization scheme in the City of Madras?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am not satisfied with anything that is happening in the world." (Laughter.)

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the serious hardship caused by transport bottlenecks to the free flow of trade will the Government undertake the nationalization of lorry service also in the near future so that the flow of trade may be made easy?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Not in the near future."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Hon. Leader of the House said that financially the running of buses by Government in the City has been a success. Then may I know what made him stop the further progress of the scheme and its extension to other mufassal areas?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The financial success of scheme is not the only criterion; we have so many complaints about various matters, especially regarding the evasion of issue of tickets and things like that and we have to make good arrangements before we extend the scheme to mufassal."

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M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will these complaints make the Government give up the scheme of nationalization, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, the point from which his disgust from the world began?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"From the date of my birth, Sir." (Laughter.)

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Sir, are the Government justified in reversing the original policy and programme in establishing the Chromepet Workshop and running it as it does now?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The Chromepet Workshop is not lying idle. It is fully busy."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, while I appreciate the anxiety on the part of the Hon. Minister in not being satisfied with what is happening at present, especially with respect to the Transport Services, will he give me an undertaking that no amount of pressure by vested interests will stand in the way of extending the Nationalization Scheme immediately the review begins in October?" 11-45 a.m.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, if we were so weak as to succumb to the vested interests we would not have launched upon this scheme in Madras where very powerful interests are working."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, if that is the case, will the Government Workshop at Chromepet be so strengthened as to enable the City Nationalization Scheme to fan out to Chingleput, North and South Arcot districts?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, when we decide upon this scheme, certainly the Chromepet factory also will be considerably strengthened."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Sir, are the Government aware of the wide impression in the City and in the mufassal that the Government have been too soft and too willing to yield to the pressure of motor magnates?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not think, Sir, that there is any impression left in the minds of anybody that the Government was too mild or too soft to the pressure being brought through various sections."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"Sir, when there is such an acute shortage of petrol, why not the Government encourage the industry of power alcohol in our Presidency to meet the petrol shortage?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, we were awaiting the Central legislation in the matter."

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SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, in view of the important nature of this question, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to allot some time for discussing this important problem?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, Sir, not in the present session."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"In view of the fact that gas-driven lorries and buses are not suitable for running on the ghats section, will the Government consider the desirability of giving private owners more petrol to run these lorries and buses?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, just now the petrol position is very acute and no such assurance can be given to the hon. Member."

Elections to the District Boards.

* 18 Q.—MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) when the elections to the District Boards are likely to be held; and

(b) when the last elections were held?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" (a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to the Legislative Assembly Question No. 387 given on 3rd November 1947. A decision has not yet been reached on the question of introducing adult franchise for elections to local boards.

" (b) The last ordinary elections to district boards were held in 1938 and 1939 as shown below:—

Vizagapatam, Chingleput, Madura, Nilgiris, North Arcot, Bellary, South Kanara, Trichinopoly, Anantapur, Tinnevely, South Arcot, Cuddapah, Chittoor, Kurnool, West Godavari and Guntur—1938.

Salem, Malabar, East Godavari, Ramnad, Coimbatore, Nellore, Tanjore and Kistna—1939."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Sir, will the Hon. Minister for Local Administration be pleased to tell us how is it that the Corporation election will take place in September or October and the existing electoral rolls will be used for the election, whereas it is not possible to hold elections for district boards under the existing electoral rolls?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Sir, I think, Corporation stands on a separate footing as compared to district boards and municipalities."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister the exact reason for stopping the election last year and whether it was due to defects in the electoral rolls or for want of time in preparing the electoral rolls based on adult franchise?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Sir, the Government have never said that the election shall be held for the district boards."

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SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Sir, is it not a fact that the election which ought to have been held last year has been postponed by the previous Ministry?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Sir, the Government announced it only with reference to municipalities and not to district boards."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that there is a good deal of discontent in the Province that the Government does not want to hold election to the district boards but on the other hand nominate M.L.As. to the district boards and in this connexion a Bill has been notified in the *Port St. George Gazette*?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Sir, it is yet to be seen."

MAHIN SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, may I know whether it is a fact that all the district boards will be abolished and their functions will be entrusted to the panchayat boards in the villages?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Not so, Sir."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Sir, is it not a fact that election for the district boards has been postponed in the year 1946?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Sir, the present Act allows only postponement of the elections to the district and panchayat boards every three months and that is why we are making an announcement every three months."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Sir, now that the electoral rolls are all printed and they are available with the Government and the Government headquarters in the mufassal, what hinders the Government from holding elections on the basis of existing electoral rolls?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"I have already several times announced that the Act governing district boards and panchayats is on the anvil and unless a final decision is taken and the matter is placed before the Legislature, no election will be held."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"When elections are held on the existing rolls in district municipalities, why elections should not be held on the same rolls to the district boards?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Sir, I have answered the question before and I think there is nothing to add."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Sir, may I know how long it will take to prepare the electoral rolls based on adult franchise?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Sir, I cannot definitely say the time but it will be hastened."

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SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—" May I know, Sir, how long it will take for the Government to introduce the Panchayat Bill? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" Sir, Government is very anxious to introduce it but it may take some time. But we cannot definitely say when it will be introduced."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—" Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister for Local Administration whether it is not against the principle of democracy, to which the Congress is wedded, to nominate the president of a district board with respect to the recently published L.A. Bill? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" Sir, at times we have to slacken the democratic principle for a short time as and when it is inevitable."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Sir, may I know whether the Government have already set up a machinery to prepare the electoral rolls on adult franchise? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" Yes, Sir."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—" Sir, is the Government aware that the people in the country are not taking the Government at its word when they say that they are anticipating the Panchayat Bill for postponing elections rather they are thinking that the Government is afraid to face the electorate? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" Certainly not, Sir. The Government is not at all afraid of facing the electorate and we are always prepared to face the people and take their verdict."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—" Sir, since the elections to municipalities have been conducted on the present rolls, is it not a fact that Madras people wanted the Corporation rolls to continue and elections held on the present franchise? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" Sir, I do not understand the question."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—" Sir, are the Government aware that there is a strong impression prevalent in the country that the Government wants to strengthen its group by nominating its own men? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" Sir, Government does not depend upon any group for its strength."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, may I know the reason why Government came to the decision that the elections to the district boards should not be held on the existing rolls while elections to the district municipalities have been done on the same electoral rolls and what are the reasons which made the Government to come to this decision with respect to the district boards? "

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THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" Sir, I have already told recently that the Panchayat Act is on the anvil and that is why the elections could not be held."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, though the Act may be different which governs district boards and district municipalities, why on that account the Government came to the decision that the franchise which was used for the district municipalities could not be used for the district boards? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" Sir, when a new Act is under contemplation and is under consideration, how can we do it."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—" Sir, is the Minister aware that since this Bill was published in the *Port St. George Gazette*, the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee and recently the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee have condemned it and have asked the Government to withdraw this measure? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" Sir, when the Bill comes, the matter may be discussed."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—" Is it not a fact that since the Hon. Mr. Chandramouli has assumed the charge, he has not formulated any policy in regard to the holding of elections for the last two years? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" Certainly not, Sir."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—" Sir, will the Hon. Minister be kind enough to enlighten this House why the Government is not holding the election for district boards and whether it is due to the policy that the Government do not want to hold the election on the present franchise but only on adult franchise or for other reasons? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" Sir, adult franchise is one of the factors. As I have already told you the District and Panchayat Board Act is on the anvil and is being amended. After the passing of the Act we can have elections on a proper and sound basis."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that it is not meet on the part of a Government that has been elected on democratic principles to give the go-bye to democracy and plead for Fascist methods? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" Sir, I could not follow the question."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that it is not meet on the part of a Government that owes its power to democracy to give the go-bye to democratic principles and adopt Fascist methods? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" Certainly, Sir, we are not following Fascist methods."

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Artesian springs round about Mahanandi.

* 19 Q.—SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation has been received in the past one or two months requesting the Government to try the experiment of tapping artesian springs round about Mahanandi by artificial boring; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“(a) No, Sir.

“(b) Does not arise.”

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—“Sir, are the Government aware that there are large number of areas in the Province where artesian springs can be tapped and whether they would take steps to map and survey these areas?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“The suggestion will be considered, Sir.”

Protected water-supply for Sankaranainarkoil.

* 20 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: (On behalf of Sri L. S. Karayalar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations have been made to the Government for a scheme of protected water-supply for the town of Sankaranainarkoil in Tinnevely district; and

(b) if so, whether the Government took any action on the representations?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“(a) No.

“(b) The question does not arise.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Question hour is over.”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“On a point of submission, Sir. In item (5) of the agenda on 12th July 1948, the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Amendment Bill, 1948, is put after the Zamindari Bill. May I just know the reason for it?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“We shall first take the motion under rule 36 of the Madras Assembly Rules.”

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

II.—(1) ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* FAMINE CONDITIONS IN NELLORE DISTRICT.

12 noon. MR. SPEAKER:—“Under rule 36 of the Assembly Rules, Sri V. Raghavayya has given notice of an adjournment motion to discuss ‘a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the extreme and unprecedented famine condition prevailing for the past one week in Nellore district consequent on the failure of the Government to take adequate steps to prevent the very large scale smuggling of foodgrains that is happening daily from the district thus causing food riots and disturbances in the district.’

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“I wish to know from the hon. Member whether he is pressing his motion.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“I am not pressing, Sir. I have been asked by the leader of the Congress Legislature Party not to press it as decided in our party meeting yesterday.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon Member is not pressing his motion. He need not give his reasons.”

SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“Sir, having given notice of an adjournment motion, he is bound to explain to the Assembly why he is withdrawing it.”

SRI P. NATESAN:—“Is it open to an hon. Member to give notice of an adjournment motion and agree to withdraw it on the authority of the leader of the Party?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“I agree with the hon. Member. It is better the hon. Member should have informed me of this beforehand in my chambers. In future, I would advise hon. Members to do so.”

(2) ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* DANGER TO LIFE AND PROPERTY OF INDIAN CITIZENS IN HYDERABAD STATE BORDER AREAS.

MR. SPEAKER:—“Mr. K. T. Kosalram has given notice of an adjournment motion to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the Government of Madras to protect the life, property and honour of Indian citizens in the districts bordering Hyderabad State and to prevent the fifth column activities of agents and spies of the Hyderabad State in various parts of this Province.”

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—“கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சுறுக்கமாக இதற்கு ஒரு பதில் சொல்லி விடுவதாகச் சொன்னார்கள். நான் அதைக் கேட்டுவிட்டு இதை press பண்ணப்போகவில்லை. ஆகையால் அவர்கள் முதலில் பதில் சொல்லுவார்கள் என்று நினைக்கிறேன்.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“நீங்கள் முதலில் இதை press பண்ணப்போகிறீர்களா இல்லையா என்பதைச் சொல்லவேண்டும். முதலில் நீங்கள் press பண்ணுவதாக இருந்து அதை நான் admit செய்த பிறகுதான் அவர் (மந்திரி) ஸ்டேட்மெண்டு கொடுக்கவேண்டும். நான் இந்த motion-ஐ admit செய்வதற்கு முன் உங்களுக்கும் அவருக்கும் பேச்சு நடப்பது என்பது சரியல்ல. ஆகையால் முதலில் நீங்கள் press பண்ணப் போகிறீர்களா இல்லையா என்பதைச் சொல்லவேண்டும். கனம் மெம்பர்கள் ஏதாவது urgent motion move பண்ணுவதாக இருந்து பிறகு அதை press பண்ணாமல் இருக்க வேண்டுமென்றால் அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய அபிப்பிராயங்களை தங்கள் motion கொண்டுவருவதற்கு முன்னதாகவே என்னுடைய chamber-ல் வந்து press பண்ணப்போவது இல்லை என்று சொல்லிவிட வேண்டும். சபையில் motion-ஐ படித்த பிறகு சொல்லக்கூடாது.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—“May I know what the Chair said in Tamil? I was not able to follow the Chair.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“I said it is not a private matter between the Hon. Minister and the hon. Member. As far as the Chair is concerned the Chair feels the motion is in order. What has the Government to say?”

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The Government understand the hon. Member is not pressing the motion."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—"I am not pressing the motion."

III.—ANNOUNCEMENT *re* ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to remind the House about the announcement published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* regarding election of members to the Constituent Assembly. The following is the announcement:—

"I would like to invite the attention of this House to the notification, dated 24th June 1948, published on page 528 of Part II of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 29th June 1948, in regard to the election to the Constituent Assembly of India of four members by the General Part, and of one member by the Muslim Part, of the Madras Legislative Assembly in the vacancies caused by the resignation of the Hon. Sri Kala Venkata Rao, Hon. Sri K. Chandramouli, Hon. Sri H. Sitarama Reddi, Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon and Mr. Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth. Under that notification the following is the programme of dates for the several stages of the election:—

Nomination of candidates—Not later than 3 p.m. on 14th July 1948 (Wednesday).

Scrutiny of nominations—2 p.m. on 15th July 1948 (Thursday).

Withdrawal of candidature by candidates—Not later than 3 p.m. on 16th July 1948 (Friday).

Poll (in the event of contests)—Between 11 a.m. and 1-30 p.m., and 2-30 p.m. and 5 p.m. on 19th July 1948. (Monday) in the chamber of the Returning Officer, Fort St. George.

Counting of votes—11 a.m. on 20th July 1948 (Tuesday).

"In exercise of the powers conferred on me by sub-rule (6) of rule 5 of the Constituent Assembly Rules, I have appointed Sri D. K. V. Raghava Varma, Secretary, Madras Legislature, to be the Returning Officer for the above election and Sri T. Hanumanthappa, Assistant Secretary, Madras Legislature, to perform, subject to the control of the Returning Officer, all or any of the functions of the Returning Officer at such election."

GOVERNMENT BILLS.

IV.—THE MOTOR VEHICLES (MADRAS AMENDMENT) BILL, 1948 (L.A. BILL No. 8 OF 1948.)

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the a report of the joint select committee on the Motor Vehicles (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1948, and I move that the Bill as reported by the joint select committee be taken into consideration. Sir, the joint select committee made very few

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changes in the Bill and so they did not think it necessary to republish the Bill. It is an indication, Sir, that they did not alter the Bill very much.

"Sir, the main change that the joint select committee on the Bill did was that the period of notice for the cancellation of any permit provided for under clause 2 of the Bill has been changed to 'not less than three months' notice'. Further the provision for compensation has been extended to holders of permits to whom temporary permits have been issued under a mistake of law. For purposes of compensation, the date on which the permit should have been in force was changed from '2nd September 1946' to '10th July 1947'. Sir, these are the main changes made in the Bill.

"I would remind the House that the Bill was necessitated by the policy of Government to nationalize motor transport in the Province, and as a first instalment we have taken up the buses in the City of Madras. To-day 243 stage coaches are in operation. As I said earlier in the day, the scheme has been a success financially, and after due experience is gained it might be extended to the mufassal also. So this is a Bill which is necessitated by the policy of Government with regard to nationalization and the consequential measures to be taken by Government. The second object of this measure is to take power to issue directives to the subordinate transport authorities. It was found that the Government had no power previously, and there were many administrative difficulties brought to the notice of Government, and so they felt some power to issue directives should be vested. So this Bill provides for that. On certain occasions, revisionary powers must be vested with the Government, so that no hardship is caused to any individual operator, especially when it is brought to the notice of Government that some injustice was done to an operator. Fourthly, the Bill seeks to validate the action taken with regard to, due to nationalization, the issuing of temporary permits; and all actions taken by Government are validated. These are the main provisions of the Bill and I move the report of the joint select committee be taken into consideration at once."

* MR. D. G. LEONARD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill is a bad Bill. It should never be allowed to sully the Statute Book. The attention of the House has been drawn to the fact that it cuts right across the Central Government legislation; and not merely across the Central Government Motor Vehicles Act but also across the Union Assembly Bill, 1948, which provides for the incorporation of road transport corporations. The statement of objects and reasons claims that the Bill is based on the Bombay Act, 1947. This claim is misleading. Once again I would remind the House that we have been given no figures to indicate the financial result to date. A convenient silence has been maintained about the amount lost in petrol sales tax, and other moneys, which would have come into the provincial exchequer."

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" May I inform the hon. Member that State buses are now paying petrol tax at four annas a gallon."

MR. D. G. LEONARD:—" May I ask how it is paid? Is it a mere book transfer?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" It is shown against in the accounts."

* MR. D. G. LEONARD:—" I thank the Hon. Minister for the information. At any rate, apart from that, there are other moneys like the income-tax which would be payable to the Centre. I say, this House has a just claim to this information, and so Government should not force this legislation through without giving it. Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know whether the Government propose to implement the award of the Court of Inquiry recently published, so that Government Transport employees might receive the same remuneration and terms of employment as those which are allowed for private operators. What will be the financial implications of the award as far as Government Transport operators are concerned? We shall see how Government Transport prospers. We shall see what services the man in the street gets in an year's or two's time, when the new buses now on the road have had time to settle down. I know what he thinks to-day. He thinks they will settle down anywhere and everywhere and that he will have to walk. Nationalization is no longer the popular pass-word, it once was. Opinion has swung the other way. The Hon. Minister for Public Works himself stated that no further steps will be taken to nationalize transport until October. So it is clear that there is no urgency about this Bill."

MR. SPEAKER:—" Order, order. I see several members conversing. If they want to talk, they might go out and talk."

MR. D. G. LEONARD:—" Sufficient reasons have been given to the House why the Bill should be reconsidered and redrafted. Now is the time to do it. I said 'sufficient reasons', but not all reasons. Mention is made in the Bill of compensation to private owners. But that is as far as it goes. It would be scarcely true to say that provision is made for compensation. Government have left for themselves convenient loop-holes, and it is only too clear that they intend to pay none at all. In fact the Bill provides for expropriation without compensation. This is surely bad enough. Yet, only last Saturday, the Hon. Minister for Industries took the Chair at a conference convened to discuss ways and means of expanding industrial development in this Province. He gave specific assurances that Government were prepared to help industrialists who were willing to start new industries. He indicated, according to to-day's 'Hindu', that Government would consider proposals sympathetically. Sympathetically! Sir, we have in this

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measure an example of the sympathetic manner in which industries may expect to be treated! Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said enough. The two don't make sense. Industries in this Province we must have. Expropriation without compensation we must not have. I ask the House to throw out this Bill, neck and crop, while there is yet time."

SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, while taking the assurance of the Hon. Leader of the House that this Bill is mainly intended to enable the Government to nationalize motor transport services, some of the provisions make one feel highly doubtful about their effect. There are certain provisions which go back on democracy probably on the principle enunciated by one of the Hon. Ministers a few minutes ago. The Provincial Transport Authority, the Regional Transport Authority and the Road Traffic Boards were created by the Motor Vehicles Act with the view that a mere official representation might not take note of the transport difficulties if non-official elements were not also associated with them. Another reason why these Authorities and Boards were created and given statutory powers was because the Legislature was of the view that non-official bodies with some official element might be trusted to look into matters and arrive at final decisions themselves and that the Government need not doubt whether they would discharge their duties properly or not. From some of the provisions in the Bill, we find that there is an attempt to go back on this principle and trust purely official or executive decisions. Clause 4 of the Bill reads—

"To section 44, sub-section (2), of the said Act, the following provisos shall be added namely:—

"Provided that if the Provincial Government thinks fit, the Provincial Transport Authority or Regional Transport Authority may consist of a single official.

* * * *

This means that the Government have not got enough faith in the Provincial and Regional Transport Authorities and that they want to vest their powers in a single official. I think that this is distrust of democracy itself.

"I feel considerable doubt about the wisdom of enacting certain other clauses of the Bill. Clause 3 reads—

"The Provincial Government may issue such orders and directions of a general character as it may consider necessary, in respect of any matter relating to road transport, to the Provincial Transport Authority or a Regional Transport Authority; and such Transport Authority shall give effect to all such orders and directions."

This is a very general provision which I do not find in the other Acts. This is a very very large order to make. To-morrow the Provincial Government may direct that no licence shall be issued by any Transport Authority without reference to the Government

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or the Minister concerned. There is no restriction in regard to matters concerning which orders and directions may be issued. Only they should be of a general character and not refer to specific cases like bus A, route B or transport C. Any such general direction will practically render futile the functions of the Provincial and Regional Transport Authorities. It is always unsafe to enact such a wide provision at any time and especially under a popular Government it should not be enacted. At present we find that there is a tendency on the part of the Provincial Government to take the entire authority upon themselves in all matters including small and insignificant matters on some ground or other. So long as we have not crossed that stage, vesting of such a wide power in the Provincial Government will defeat the object of the Transport Authorities and the entire power will be exercised from Fort St. George itself. It is very unwise to enact such a clause in the present circumstances.

“ Again, clause 5 reads—

‘ The Provincial Government may appoint a Provincial Transport Commissioner, and notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, may, by notification, in the Fort St. George Gazette, authorize such Commissioner or any officer subordinate to him to exercise and discharge, in lieu of any other authority prescribed by or under this Act, such powers and functions as may be specified in the notification. ’

You may as well abolish the Provincial and Regional Transport Authorities, if you require so many exceptions for the purpose of taking away their powers. This means that apart from the other officers, you can appoint a Provincial Transport Commissioner and vest him with powers pertaining to both the Provincial and the Regional Transport Authorities. This is a provision by which we are trying to emasculate the Provincial as well as the Regional Transport Authorities. I concede that the Government are acting with the best of motives. But they must also realize the effect that it will have on the Transport Authorities. Wherever a Transport Authority is too independent and does not see eye to eye with the Government, the tendency will always be to by-pass that Authority by appointing a Provincial Transport Commissioner and vesting in him its powers. This is not the way in which democracy or popular Government has to be worked in practice.

“ Then there is clause 12. No doubt a similar provision exists in many of the Acts. The clause reads—

‘ The Provincial Government may, of its own motion or on application made to it, call for the records of any order passed or proceeding taken under this chapter by any authority or officer subordinate to it, for the purpose of satisfying itself as to the legality, regularity or propriety of such order or proceeding and after examining such records, may pass such order in reference thereto as it thinks fit. ’

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Till now the complaints in courts of law have been that there is too much interference by the Government with the Transport Authorities in a manner not authorized by law and that practically every issue comes to be finally settled by the Provincial Government itself. It has also been held that the Government have no right to so interfere with authorities vested with statutory powers. While powers of interference were not there previously, this clause legalises such interference. There was an interpellation in the Council by my friend the hon. Sri B. Bheema Rao, M.L.C. eliciting information about the number of cases in which decisions on road transport matters were given by the Government itself and the Transport Authorities were not allowed to have their own way. If the power of interference is vested in the Government, it will practically enable the Government to ride a coach and four. Instead of the Transport Authorities coming to some decision, the Government will give the decision.

“ In regard to revising the orders of the Transport Authorities, there is a chance of the aggrieved party coming and laying his case before the Government. Papers are called for by the Government either on their own initiative or on the representation of somebody who comes in with a petition. There is no compulsion in clause 64-A that the Government should hear the other side. In fact there are decided cases in which the Government have claimed that no notice is provided for in the Act. Ultimately the result will be that the Government will be exercising all the powers of the Transport Authorities. I have urged several times before and I once again urge upon the Government that statutory bodies should be trusted and not interfered with at the instance of any person. The danger is all the more serious, because there is a chance of persons connected with road transport coming in with petitions. Because they are generally people with a large amount of money and influence, they can represent their case more quickly and with greater force than the other side can possibly do. So I request the Government to omit clauses 4 and 5 and so amend clause 3 as to restrict the general orders and directions to specified matters and not in respect of all matters whatsoever.

“ Lastly, I would like to place one other matter before the House. The Madras High Court has declared that the Government has no power to issue temporary permits. There is a provision that the Government may declare any permit void except in cases where a court of law has said that it shall be valid. I do not want that this distinction should be made simply because in one case the court has declared that permit valid and in the other case the party did not approach the High Court spending a lot of money on litigation but left it to the good sense of the Government. Therefore the distinction made in clause 14 does not seem to be altogether right.

“ These are my submissions. If you really want to confine this Bill to enabling the Government to nationalize motor transport

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services, then some of the clauses are unnecessary. The opportunity created by the nationalization of buses should not be availed of for chopping the heads of the rising forces of democracy and for vesting more powers in the Government."

12-30 p.m. * SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am exceedingly sorry that the gentleman who opposed this Bill in the strongest possible terms is not present in the House just now. I am glad, the opposition has been outspoken. Sir, the object of this Bill is only to supplement the Central legislation and not to run into conflict with it. It is the voice of vested interests that spoke just now and against which I tried so much to call the attention of Government, but it is so well-clothed, as usually the British do in the uniform of law and procedure, which rules this country to-day more than anything else.

"Sir, this Bill helps, in so far as it claims to do, the nationalization of bus traffic in the country. It does not contemplate any further progress in the matter till the whole position in respect of buses and bus-traffic is studied thoroughly by the Government department. Sir, I am an ardent advocate of nationalization of road-transport. It is only then that transport will improve, the service will improve, the satisfaction to the people will improve, the roads will improve, the Government finances will improve, and perhaps the Government itself will improve. It is in this belief that I press again and again, not for any hasty action, but fairly speedy and well-considered action on the part of the Government in the matter of nationalization. Sir, this Bill proposes to give power to the Government to nationalize bus traffic, that is to say, to keep off routes private licensed persons running certain kinds of traffic on the road. Of course, we do not find all that in this Bill, but that is really the object behind this Bill. And it is only with a view to achieving this object that provisions for compensation have been put in, and that compensation is to proceed in the manner prescribed by Government. Sir, I shall have to state presently my views on this question of compensation, lest the Government might act in a manner which goes against the spirit of the decision that was arrived at in the Select Committee. As hon. Members know, permits are issued which license certain people to ply buses on the road. If totally new buses are introduced as in the City of Madras, the question of compensation does not arise for the vehicles at all. The private parties are free to sell their vehicles to whomsoever they like and such vehicles as are road-worthy will sell and those which are not road-worthy will go into the scrap heap. The Government are not to compensate all that will go into the scrap heap. Even when they take over mufassal routes and do not propose to run new buses as they have done in the City of Madras, but buy off all the buses which are road-worthy, even then, I say, that the question of compensation shall be only for the permit issued, apart from paying the value of the vehicles as determined on

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strict financial computations regarding their value less depreciation on them on the date of taking over. That is to say, if you take the life of a bus as three or four years and if a bus has run its course for two or three years, then I say the compensation for the vehicle should be only that amount of the actual cost which was paid less depreciation for the two or three years as the case may be. But, Sir, this Bill seeks to provide another form of compensation and over that there was considerable discussion. All this arose out of a decision of the Madras High Court which held that temporary permits were not legal. The Government of Madras introduced a system of temporary permits, instead of issuing permits which were to run under the Act for a period of three years. These temporary permits were issued for a period of three months in the first instance and were made renewable at the end of three months. This procedure was followed in order to facilitate the Government of Madras to take over the buses, as and when convenient, and run the bus-service throughout the Province. But the pace of nationalization has suddenly slowed down. The Government are seized with a slight fever. I hope they will get rid of this fever very soon and that they will see that their investment in the Madras Transport Service, after allowing for taxes, both Provincial and Central, and after allowing for depreciation as in the case of private owners, is quite sound and that the return on this business amply confirms the view I stated in the House that the experiment must be more than a financial success. Sir, I would not be exaggerating if I say that the return would be well in the neighbourhood of 30 per cent of the capital invested. This explains why there is so much scramble, not only amongst the public, but even amongst some of the Legislators to run bus-services throughout the Province. This is a most profitable undertaking and it is not also a highly specialized trade. It is just these conditions that suit nationalization and the speedier it is done, the better for the Province and the better for all of us. I say, Sir, go not slowly, but hasten the steps and quicken the pace. Let a new life throb in you. You discover new methods of re-organization of the transport services which private bus-owners have never done or attempted in the past. If petrol is scarce, then I say there is all the more a case, not for competitive trade but for immediate nationalization to the extent that is feasible. Sir, I am very careful in the use of my words because I want nationalization to succeed in spite of the opposition, both here and outside this House. I am very anxious to see that at the end of a fixed period—but a very short period—nationalization of bus-transport throughout the Province of Madras becomes an accomplished fact.

"Now Sir, I shall come to the question of compensation. The compensation proposed by the Government is for the permits issued. Sir, I was hesitating to grant the compensation. It is like giving compensation for a gun licence which the Government may suddenly

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stop for reasons which are well within the powers of the Government to act upon. You do not pay compensation at all for that. Similarly, when the trade knows that this is bound to happen, there should be no compensation of any sort. But since the law is being introduced for the first time and since permanent permits have not yet expired or might become renewable at the end of three years, if the old Act had continued to be in force, I thought it would be fair to give them a solatium. But then, even here we should distinguish between old and longstanding companies with large workshops running the trade for years together and new mushroom companies that have come into existence recently and are going on with temporary permits. That is why, Sir, I struggled very hard to get this distinction drawn even in the Bill itself, but the Government have promised that there will be two scales of compensation, one varying totally from the other, one in respect of services run in an organized manner for a long time and with well-established workshops and the like, and another for services run in a haphazard manner for small periods of time, and whose owners entered upon their business with their eyes open and knew that their permits would be cancelled at any time after three months. I hope Sir, that the Hon. Finance Minister and the Hon. Minister for Transport will bear this distinction in mind and not allow people to run away with Government money in their pockets. We should not waste a single pie by way of excessive compensation. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: 'Vested interests!') Sir, I am a good man and I should like to treat the vested interests in the way in which they ought to be treated, but not allow them to continue as my hon. Friend Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan would do.

I should like to draw the attention of the Government only to one point. In the Central Road Traffic Board you have got a statutory authority. It has been entrusted with certain powers. I want that it should be reorganized and not retrenched. I want to see that it is so reorganized that it becomes a really independent body. It should not be by mere selection for promotion from one lower grade to an upper grade. You may well have a judge there with a judicial mind and if necessary, you may put men from outside the Legislature, because I do not believe that all the talent of the country is crammed in the Legislature. You make that an independent body and let its decisions be final. It is good for the Government. Let not the Government take any powers upon themselves. But if that body has overlooked certain matters, or has given wrong decisions, then of course the Government should bring such things to the notice of that Board and ask them to reconsider their decision. That is the limit for Government interference which I would like to prescribe. It is becoming, Sir, a matter for easy comment among the public and I should like the Government to maintain a high level of conduct and see that these Boards which they themselves constitute take

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ultimate decisions and give their final answers to all the questions which are proposed to them. It is with that view that I objected to a particular clause which the Government have sought to add to section 64. I strongly continue to oppose that particular rider and I would like the Government to think over what I have stated and themselves come forward with an amendment withdrawing that additional clause. It is always in the inherent power of the Government whether it is explicitly stated in a statute or not, to call the attention of people who are placed in the position of judges to what they may consider an erroneous decision and ask them to re-judge the matter for themselves.

"Sir, I have nothing more to say, but to request the Government once again not to slow their pace, but to quicken it and act in the just and pleasant manner of dealing with the trade which is ready to place their services in your hands in order to strengthen the finances of this Province and in order to ensure safety, comfort and good service to all classes of people on the road. With these words, Sir, I support this Bill."

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, 12-45 p.m.
while speaking on this Bill, I wish to place one suggestion before the Government. Government are now taking over certain routes and they are running their own buses. They have to cancel buses plying already on these routes. Provision has been made in this Bill for compensation being given to the permit-holders whose permits will be cancelled. So far as the Bill goes, the Bill does not disclose the way in which compensation is proposed to be given and who the authority for determining the compensation is. Under Section 68, Government may make rules for payment of compensation. In making those rules, they may also appoint certain authorities for ordering compensation. The matter of getting compensation is a substantive right of the permit-holder. We should know the authority who should order the compensation, the manner in which the compensation will be paid, and also the principles governing the grant of compensation. Instead of Government prescribing rules for the payment of compensation and enforcing the same I suggest the draft rules embodying the principles governing the grant of compensation, the manner of compensation, the authority ordering compensation, etc., should be placed before this House, and hon. Members should be given the opportunity to go through those rules and satisfy themselves that the rules are fair and proper. I put forward this suggestion for the consideration of the Government."

SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill was originally intended to remedy certain defects which had been disclosed by the judgment of the High Court. Government were under the impression that they could issue temporary permits from time to time, if they wanted to take over certain lines of communication to themselves. But that was found to be wrong. I think Government are wise in coming to the Legislature for the purpose of setting right matters, and to that extent the Bill may

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be allowed. But if this Bill should go further than that and interfere with what has already been said in the old Act, which has so far worked well, I ask why should Government do so. I am nervous in all cases of Government commercial undertakings. I still believe that private enterprise must go along with Government taking up some standardized commercial undertakings, because when once Government take up these commercial undertakings what happens is that trouble with labour starts. They (labour) want more amenities and more wages, which means cost of labour will go up. I am sure, as Mr. N. S. Varadachari said, all that can be done. (Interruption by Sri N. S. Varadachari.) I am sure he will do all that if he had the money for it. The question is one of finance. As a matter of fact Government are spending a lot of money for the purchase of these buses. What guarantee is there that all these things are going to be done on a commercial scale. This is a question which the Government should answer. I am told this morning, in answer to a question, by the Finance Minister that it is running at a profit. I would like to know how much he has allowed for depreciation and for interest on the capital outlay. I would like to know whether, in the long run, it will be run at a profit at all. But of course we are committed to the policy of nationalization of motor transport. The easiest thing to do is to reorganize the road transport board. As my friend Mr. Varadachari pointed out it does not require much skill for spending and taking money out of this nationalization. If we undertake commercial undertakings, we should leave them to a body independent of Government. This is absolutely essential. When Government constitute railway boards, traffic boards, etc., they should have confidence in their own boards. Unless they put in incompetent men, why should Government distrust these boards. I think that so far as the Bill seeks to interfere with the efficient working of the boards, Government are doing an absolutely wrong thing. This really shows want of confidence in the very bodies which the Government themselves constitute. There was a time when it was thought that non-officials must be associated with these bodies for the purpose of deciding questions affecting transport facilities. That was a wise decision. Things have been going on fairly well. Now and then there was interference by Government, and then trouble started. When once Government realize that the board they set up is a semi-autonomous body and that they should not interfere with the work of that board, it will be very good. The more powers the Government take to themselves they will be the worse for it, because there will be applicants crowding into the rooms of the Ministers for this favour and that favour. I think it will save them lot of trouble and also earn for them a good name if they adopt the course which I have suggested.

"Sections 43-A and 44-A are more for officializing the transport services. Is it necessary, I ask? I can understand the Bill being restricted to the extent of remedying certain difficulties

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experienced in the matter of nationalization. But why should Government take extra powers to interfere with the work of the boards? There must be sincerity of purpose in allowing these boards to be autonomous. We must be frank about it. If we want we can even abolish these boards. Under section 43-A Government can issue instructions of a general character. They have taken powers to do even small things. They can appoint members to these boards. All these objectionable features should be deleted from the Bill, and I think this will save them from criticism.

"Now as regards compensation. The principles of compensation will be prescribed in the rules to be made by the Government. Is it not better that the Government tell us what those principles are? Is it not better that those principles are incorporated in the Bill or at least brought before this House for approval? Government are only taking powers to prescribe the rules governing compensation. They are not vested interests; but they are only licensees. Compensation is practically nothing except the price paid when you take over the buses yourself. Therefore, we would like to have those rules placed before us so that we may know the principles governing compensation. I do not know whether it is really legal that the principles of compensation should be prescribed in the rules to be made by Government. I think—if my recollection is right—the principles of compensation should be embodied in the Bill itself. I hope the Finance Minister will get this point examined by the Legal Department.

"One other point. Apart from all the other powers they have taken, Government are taking power under clause 12 (section 64-A) to call for the records of any order passed by any authority subordinate to them. I would like to know whether this is necessary at all. I am sure Government will be flooded with applications in respect of any and every order that may be passed by any transport authority. I should like that in all these matters Government reconsider the position, and delete all these objectionable clauses. Let them bring in a simple Bill for taking power to get rid of any difficulties that may stand in the way of nationalization."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting the Bill for the good intentions to make nationalization a success, I wish to point out to Government that it would be well to take note of certain disturbing factors in this motor transport. The path of nationalization, from the time it was thought of, has not been smooth and clear. Somehow and somewhere this path is always crossed by a crow. Ministers certainly cannot be blamed for not having included business talent in this matter. They have taken upon themselves a huge responsibility involving crores of rupees. But it is reasonable to expect that they would have efficient officers who would be constantly working and would not be changed from time to time. This motor transport control has been a headache to the public, to the Government, and to the

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officers concerned. It has a chequered history. In addition to the change of Motor Transport Controllers, the portfolio of motor transport also was subject to frequent changes. Because of the frequent change in the portfolio, much attention could not be paid to the credit and debit sides of the motor transport. That is why I asked a question this morning whether the Government are, at this stage, satisfied about the credit side of their business. Take for instance, the behaviour of these officers. I am quoting an instance now. A respectable citizen of Madras applied for a Hindustan Car. The Government Memo., dated 6th June 1947, fixed the price at Rs. 8,195. The gentleman who bargained for the car was prepared to pay the price and secure the car. But suddenly the distributors informed him that the price has risen to Rs. 9,350. The gentleman was wondering as to how it could happen. The Government fixed the price originally through their Price Controller, who was paid a high salary. When this Price Controller's qualifications were questioned on the floor of this House, encomiums were simply showered on him, and the House was told that he was a very capable man. Such a capable man fixed the price at Rs. 8,195 on 6th June 1947, and the price subsequently rose to Rs. 9,350. This price is not fixed by Government. The Government Order also was not produced. But the company had the audacity to write to the purchaser that the Provincial Motor Transport Controller by a letter, dated December 2, 1947, has authorized the company to sell the car at a higher price. Hindustan cars had a very sudden swing down in their prices.

1 p.m. "Whereas it was Rs. 8,195 before the Government interfered, afterwards, it rose to Rs. 9,350 and on 27th April 1948, it was Rs. 7,700. Actually the price was fluctuating like this from Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 9,000. The authorized sale price of the car was not published as Rs. 9,350 in the official gazette. Thus, unless these vagaries of the motor transport authorities are checked in time, they are bound to involve the Government in unnecessary legal actions.

"Sir, there is a clause in this Bill which wants to avoid courts of law. Courts of law seem to be the bug-bear of this Government and whenever there is a Bill, there is a clause introduced which says that courts will have no power to interfere with the validity or otherwise of this piece of legislation. There is one such provision in this Bill also. Section 14 says: 'Temporary permits issued in pursuance of such orders, shall be deemed to be valid; and no such order shall be called in question in any court of law.' Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to invalidate any decision or order of a court which became final before the passing of this Act. Sir, there are some lawyers still on the Treasury Benches. I ask, why should they fight shy of courts of law. I am unable to understand it. Well, Sir, this Bill has provided a right of appeal to the Provincial Government. But the presence of influential non-officials will embarrass the position

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of the officials on the Committee, because the Committee gives a directive power to the regional transport authority and will try to pursue in appellate stages also. It cannot also be forgotten that the persons who are on the committee are the *persona grata* with the Government and such men are only put into it. Therefore, I may suggest that any non-official who is put on the Committee should not be a Member of the Assembly or the Council and they should not be associated with these bodies. For instance, the Collector has the right to seek the aid of the police in cases of unauthorized occupation of land and to order remissions of land revenue. Are you going to appoint a committee for it? By an executive act, you cannot be going on appointing committees of non-officials to look to these offences. Government should not interfere at all in these matters.

"Then, Sir, the Regional Transport authority may give a permit to a man saying that he is a man who is a political sufferer or that he has contributed to the Congress fund. If that is the way in which the Regional Transport authority should behave, then the position of the members on the Committee will be very embarrassing. The Regional Transport authorities may be a big name, but if they are mere bee-hives, it is very undesirable. I do not like to take it further because it is not a good thing abusing one-self. That is why I say that the Members of the Legislature should not be on those committees because they are only old chips of the same block and if they are there, and if once influence is brought to bear on them, they are unable to resist and stand erect and act according to their conscience. Sir, I should like to sound a note of warning to the Hon. the Minister in charge of the portfolio about this and I hope he will rectify these defects which have occurred in the past. He should not be merely satisfied with setting up these bodies or finding the personnel for them but he should see that the persons whom he is appointing to these committees are not got from a particular group, so that the Act may be satisfactorily worked. The Hon. Minister who is in charge of this portfolio should also place his trust in his own officials. As a matter of fact, the public as well as the Government are both anxious to ensure the convenience of the passengers and the travelling public. But, the public are not convinced that the National Transport System of Madras is running on economic lines. In fact, they talk both in time and out of time that the Madras Transport Nationalization has not been a success. Therefore, Sir, I do not want that such a good scheme as nationalization should flounder upon the rock of mismanagement and inefficiency because it will tell upon other national enterprises. I, therefore, suggest straightway that Government will do well to abolish these transport authorities and abolish these boards and committees, I suppose, with the concurrence of the Hon. the Premier who is so good in expressing his opinions frankly. It might influence more people to take interest in this motor transport. There is much red-tape which

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has to be cleared from this department as from some other departments I venture to suggest that you should go back to the olden days—you may not mistake me; but unfortunately, in some respects, officials were far quicker and more effective and more powerful. This department, perhaps, will be reduced to a mockery if the Members of the Legislature should behave so badly. It is good Government that is wanted and not bad Government in good garb. I would like to suggest to the Road Transport Authorities, whether they are individuals or committees or bodies or triumvirates and whether it will not be good to delegate their powers to the District Magistrates or the District Superintendents of Police because they are the proper men to look into these matters. They are high officials and they can take risks. My attention has been pointedly drawn to this question and my suggestion, therefore, will be to abolish all these transport authorities and delegate all their powers to the District Magistrates and to the District Superintendents of Police. Many of these permits that are taken from the Government are exchanged. Many lorries and many buses have been bought by people who have not taken the permits actually. Certainly it is an illegal transfer. But these transfers are going on and are three degree deep. 'A' has taken the permit and has sold it to 'B' and 'B' has sold it to 'C' and 'C' to 'D' and so on. When a police officer sees a vehicle and checks the permit, it will not be in the name of the person who has taken the permit. Of course, it is not allowed by law but that is going on unchecked in the countryside. It is better this blackmarketing in motor cars is not allowed to continue.

"Thirdly, I do not see any reason why this compensation should be given at all. You are not going to compensate the various industries in the country which you are going to take up. With wide open eyes, the Madras Government has been speaking about nationalization for the last two and a half years and permit-holders should not have been thinking that they are going to have a gala day eventually. In fact, they should keep themselves ready and help in introducing nationalization. On the basis of a future nationalization alone, every route has been bargained for. Therefore, I ask, why should you pay compensation to those who have taken the permits and have sold them to a half a dozen fellows and then claim compensation from you. My suggestion, therefore, is that where an old vehicle has been purchased on an old permit and is transferred, you need not pay compensation. I think this Government has been rather too lavish or rather too prodigal in spending its revenues on these things.

"Sir, I say that this nationalization is being hindered by the inefficiency and bungling of the staff. You should put better men in this trade. Another defect is that the Madras Government has always thought of nationalization in theory, but they lost sight of the fact that there is shortage of the vehicles. Recently, hon. Members might have seen that our Finance Minister gave

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shortage of petrol as a reason for suspending nationalization and said that it is being diverted to the Hyderabad Front. If officers do not do their duty properly, you may say that it is due to the Hyderabad Front; if the police do not function properly, it is due to the Hyderabad Front and if the rice is sold in the black-market, it is again due to the Hyderabad Front. (Laughter.) I can agree if you say that all these are due to the sins of our forefathers. But, if you give a farcical reason of shortage of petrol for not extending the nationalization of transport, I cannot understand it.

"Before I close, I only wish to give a caution to our fellow-members that they should apply for themselves a self-denying ordinance. If Government are not able to remove them from these committees, they should patriotically withdraw from those committees and thus apply a self-denying ordinance and I hope, as patriotic citizens, they will do well to withdraw from those committees. These committees should be allowed to function in a normal and just manner and not hinder the progress of the country. With these words, I would close my remarks."

SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Mr. N. S. Varadachari said, this Bill is intended to facilitate the nationalization of transport in the Province. Everyone has to support the scheme but nationalization in this Province has had a very chequered career from the very beginning. I do not blame the Government, for it is a very stupendous project with divided opinion about its success. On the one side, there are vested interests that had accumulated huge profits at the expense of the convenience of the public and on the other side, there are other difficulties such as the system of monopoly which the Government has to face both individually and collectively. To offset these, there is this advantage because nationalization is a profitable concern and apart from profit, it is absolutely necessary that the Government must nationalize because the private owners who were operating hitherto on the roads have become too haughty and callous and they do not care for the convenience of the public and they care only for their profits. These private owners are bound to keep company as a sort of monopoly because at that time, it was fixed that only fleet-owners with a certain number of buses were to be given future permits on new roads.

"That was the reason why the Provincial Government came forward with the proposal of nationalization. And it is only to see that those owners are not put to unnecessary trouble that this system of temporary permits was introduced. The idea was that we must have nationalization completed in five years. We must take up at the rate of four or five districts every year. We must begin with motor buses in the City of Madras and some two or three districts in the first year and nationalize them. Next year we must take up three or four districts more and take up lorry transport for nationalization in the districts in which, in the previous year we had nationalized bus transport. Thus, in the

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course of five years, the transport system in the whole Province must be nationalized. Because the Government then could not know which they must take up first and which to take up in the succeeding years, they introduced the system of temporary permits. But when once we have a definite plan, we can give permanent permits for three or four years as the case may be, and then for the succeeding years, in which case there would be no question of compensation. Only when there is a question of an abrupt ending of the permit, the question of compensation comes in. But when we have got a definite plan, we know permits could be given for three or four years and for succeeding years and there will then be no difficulty about compensation. But it so happened that nationalization is still in the anvil except in the City of Madras. And it is very strongly rumoured—I am giving it for the information of the Minister concerned and for the Government in general—that every attempt is being made to see that in Madras City also, the experiment of nationalization does not succeed while we thought it would succeed. The vested interests are trying their best to see to it that the nationalization scheme is not such a thorough success as we anticipated first. It is true we are working on a profit.

“But at the same time, we must also see to it that there is no wastage of time. When a bus comes to the terminus, a definite period of rest is usually given before it starts again. But as soon as it reaches the destination, in one minute the whole bus is filled up. Even the standing space is filled up. In the case of buses plying once every half-an-hour, 29 minutes are being wasted, because the bus does not start immediately it is filled up; while private buses were running more profitably. If all these buses are going to stop at the termini for half an hour, where one or two minutes are quite enough, then it is a real waste, which the authorities concerned must know.

“Then, Sir, it is understood that the Regional Transport Officer as well as the Central Road Traffic Board should be under one individual. There is great danger in that. If it is thought that at the threshold of nationalization, a single officer will be expeditiously carrying out the programme, then perhaps we could understand the necessity. Apart from that provision, if this amendment comes into effect and our nationalization is still postponed, it will be a very dangerous state of affairs, because I remember, at one time, we had to stop issuing permits for buses which were not running in good condition. That was the reason why wholesale stopping of such buses was ordered by the Government, and only the Central Road Traffic Board was allowed to issue permits for certain buses to be run on the highways. Barring that, every other permit has been issued for one year. I must say that one Regional Transport Officer coupled with one Member of the Legislature in the board is not enough. As one hon. Member has put it, it gives room for patronage, which certainly must be stopped. I would suggest that the Collector be made the Regional

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Transport Officer, and some three or four Members of the Legislature constitute the Central Road Traffic Board,—if possible good non-officials, because the Members of the Legislature are not anxious to be there since it is a sort of trouble to them, if they have to tackle with big persons which they may not be able to bear. Further, the members are persons who move closely with the general public, and as such they will not be prepared to invite the criticism of these big persons—good pucca non-officials who will be able to act boldly, and with a full knowledge of the roads and their necessities. Let the Central Road Traffic Board have two or three officials, and one or two non-officials and make it a good body to work out the programme of nationalization expeditiously, because in executing the nationalization process, expediency is very necessary, and quick action is essential. By all means, the popular Government must decide the matter. But I would say that it should not be left to a single individual to issue licences. It is very difficult. And even if good things are done by an individual, they will be considered to be very bad.

“Next comes the question of checking the vagaries of the old fleet-owners. Even now, we know a good deal of manipulation is being done so far as petrol is concerned. They have a fleet of buses at their disposal, which run on their own routes, without caring for the convenience of the public. If a man owns 40 buses, he takes the petrol for these 40 buses, but runs only 20. These are all matters which the Minister concerned must investigate and rectify.

“As for the mufassal, the situation is still worse, and the longer the process of nationalization is delayed, the worse for our transport system. It was so in the city, but now things are better—we have got diesel Government buses. And I suppose with the introduction of a uniform fare system, things will become still better, and will result in more convenience to the public and the saving of more time. From what the Hon. the Minister in charge of Transport said, in regard to the Chromepet factory, we gather that the Government are not quite ready to push on with nationalization. They could take up two or three districts in the first instance and order the body-building of buses. Of course, they have to take the necessary trouble in getting at the materials for body-building. And, Government cannot afford to purchase costly diesel engines. I understand, ordinary body-building costs about Rs. 4,000 for a bus in a private workshop. The Chromepet factory can be best utilized for the purpose of body-building for which it was originally meant. It only shows that the Government is still hesitating. Have they not decided that there should be nationalization? I suppose they have decided in favour of it. We may take it that they have decided. They can safely entrust it to some expert official body. The Cabinet Committee may decide the whole thing. Why give room for rumours of the type that I have been hearing from many persons, to the effect that the Government is going to give up nationalization? Government cannot be expected to manage

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things as callously as the private owners were doing in the past in the interests of their own private profits. These buses are giving good profit. There is, therefore, all the more reason why Government must take heart and must go on with their programme of nationalization.

"Before I support the Bill, I would like to add that this single individual officer business and the Road Traffic Board business must not be there, if it could be avoided. As I have suggested, there must be a body composed of pucca non-officials, along with the Collector and other officials who may have some check on the non-officials. Of course, I would request that unnecessary powers are not taken over by the Government singly, except where they think that it is necessary for the purpose of expediting nationalization."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on this Bill, because I feel I have to say something which will help Government in shaping the policy of nationalization of bus transport in the Province. We have had the experiment of nationalization in the Madras City bus transport, and, if we make the experiment a success, then the case for pushing ahead with the nationalization scheme in other districts will be very strong indeed. I, therefore, urge upon the Minister in charge of the portfolio of Transport the imperative necessity for straining every nerve to make the experiment a great success as it is bound to be. With regard to the policy of nationalization, the House has already given assent to the general programme that was then chalked out by the Hon. Minister who was then in charge of this portfolio when he moved the grant for the amount required for putting State buses on the roads of the Madras City. I was very much pained to see that this policy of nationalization of bus transport in the Province has been slowed down by the Cabinet, and whatever reasons they may give, I once again urge that they should revise the policy and go ahead with the cause of nationalization for many reasons. First of all, it is a public utility concern. And the question of profit or loss should not come in. There has been in fact no instance of any bus-owner putting forward a serious case that he has suffered a loss. At least in one decade, there might have been cases of loss, but so far as the present bus-owners—the bus-owners during the last ten years are concerned—I do not think, Sir, anybody has put forward seriously a case that he has suffered a loss. Therefore, I am emboldened to say that there is every prospect in this industry. I submit, Sir, that apart from the commercial aspect of the question, in the interests of the public; who are now, so to speak, maltreated by the callous bus-owners, who never care for the convenience of the passengers, I urge that this programme of nationalization must be put through at all costs, and in so doing, the Government must put their soul and heart into this question, and appoint proper officers who will be enthusiastic about the scheme.

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"One other point that I would refer to is this. When municipalities or local bodies such as district boards are prepared to come forward and nationalize bus transport in areas under their control, then clearly they must be given the first preference. I know, Sir, as a matter of fact, that a number of municipalities came forward to run bus services in their towns and within their local limits, the Government or the Regional Transport Authorities denied them this opportunity of running local transport services and have given this right to private people in preference to the municipalities or the local bodies. That has been one of the reasons for the slowing down of the process of nationalization. I would request, Sir, that such of the municipalities as are willing to come forward to undertake this scheme must be given every opportunity to do so"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may resume his speech to-morrow. There will be no evening session to-day. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 11 a.m. to-morrow."

V.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

Notification appended to G.O. No. 997, L.A., dated 20th May 1948, regarding the inclusion of certain areas in the municipal limits of Ootacamund.

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APPENDIX.

[Vide item IV at page 70 supra.]

To

THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
MADRAS.

The JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE, appointed to consider the Motor Vehicles (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 8 of 1948), has the honour to make the following report.

2. The Bill was published in English in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 30th January 1948.

3. The Committee was appointed on the 24th February, 1948.

4. The Committee met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, on three days, viz., the 10th March 1948, the 31st March 1948, the 1st April 1948 and the 19th April 1948.

5. The principal changes made by the Joint Select Committee in the Bill are briefly referred to—

(i) The period of notice for the cancellation of any permit provided for under clause 2 of the Bill has been changed to "not less than three months' notice."

(ii) The provision for compensation has been extended to holders of permits to whom temporary permits have been issued under a mistake of law. For purposes of compensation, the date on which the permit should have been in force was changed from "the 2nd September 1946" to "the 10th July 1947."

Sri N. S. Varadachari was not, however, agreeable to the payment of compensation to temporary permit-holders who came into the business for the first time and not for renewal with the knowledge that the permit issued was only to be temporary, notwithstanding the invalidity thereof.

(iii) The provisions of the Bill are to apply, barring those cases where any decision or order of a court has become final before the commencement of the amending Act.

Sri N. S. Varadachari was not in favour of the proposed new section 64-A under clause 12 of the Bill. He would prefer, if the clause is to be retained, to remit the case back to the subordinate authority for disposal in the light of directives, if any, the Government might deem fit to issue.

6. The Joint Select Committee considered that it was not necessary to republish the Bill.

7. A copy of the Bill, as amended by the Joint Select Committee, is annexed.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
19th April 1948.

T. S. S. RAJAN,
Chairman.

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ANNEXURE.

[Note.—The changes made by the Joint Select Committee are shown in clarendon type.]

L.A. BILL No. 8 OF 1948.

A Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, in its application to the Province of Madras.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, in its application to the Province of Madras, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Motor Vehicles (Madras Short title. Amendment) Act, 1948.

2. In section 43 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be added, namely:—

Amendment of section 43, Central Act IV of 1939.

"(4) (a) The Provincial Government may, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, declare that it will engage in the business of road transport either throughout the Province or in such areas therein or on such routes or portions thereon in the Province, as may be specified in the notification.

Explanation.—The power conferred by this clause may be exercised from time to time, as occasion requires.

(b) Where a notification has been issued under clause (a), the Provincial Government, notwithstanding anything contained in section 58 or section 60, may, after giving not less than three months' notice, cancel any permit granted under this Act in respect of a transport vehicle or any class of such permits, in so far as such permit or class of permits relates to the area or the route specified in such notification:

Provided that where any permit (other than a permit for a spare transport vehicle) is cancelled under this clause, the holder of the permit shall be entitled to such compensation as may be prescribed, if the following conditions are fulfilled, namely:—

(i) A permit should have been held for such vehicle for the area or route concerned both on the 10th July 1947 and on the date of the issue of the notification under clause (a).

(ii) If the permit held in respect of the vehicle on the 10th July 1947 had been granted or renewed under section 58, the period for which the permit was so granted or renewed should not have expired before the date of the issue of the notification under clause (a).

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(iii) If the permit held in respect of the vehicle on the 10th July 1947 was a temporary permit irregularly issued under section 62 in a case where, but for the orders of the Provincial Government, a permit would have been granted or renewed under section 58, a period of three years from the date of the grant of such temporary permit should not have expired before the date of the issue of the notification under clause (a).

Explanation.—Where more than one temporary permit has been granted irregularly in respect of the vehicle on or after the 2nd September 1946 and on or before the 10th July 1947, the earliest of the temporary permits so granted shall be taken into account for the purposes of the foregoing paragraph."

Insertion of new section 43-A in Central Act IV of 1939.

3. After section 43 of the said Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

Power of Provincial Government to issue orders and directions to Transport Authorities.

"43-A. The Provincial Government may issue such orders and directions of general character as it may consider necessary, in respect of any matter relating to road transport, to the Provincial Transport Authority or a Regional Transport Authority; and such Transport Authority shall give effect to all such orders and directions."

Amendment of section 44, Central Act IV of 1939.

4. To section 44, sub-section (2), of the said Act, the following proviso shall be added, namely :—

"Provided that if the Provincial Government thinks fit, the Provincial Transport Authority or a Regional Transport Authority may consist of a single official :

Provided further that an official shall not be deemed to have a financial interest as aforesaid merely by reason of the fact that the Provincial Government employing him has such an interest."

Insertion of new section 44-A in Central Act IV of 1939.

5. After section 44 of the said Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

Provincial Transport Commissioner or his subordinate to exercise notified powers.

"44-A. The Provincial Government may appoint a Provincial Transport Commissioner; and notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, may, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, authorize such Commissioner or any officer subordinate to him, to exercise and discharge, in lieu of any other authority prescribed by or under this Act, such powers and functions as may be specified in the notification."

Amendment of section 45, Central Act IV of 1939.

6. To section 45 of the said Act, the following proviso shall be added, namely :—

"Provided that the Provincial Government may, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, direct that

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applications for such class of permits and in such region as may be specified in the notification, shall be made to the Provincial Transport Authority."

7. After section 48 of the said Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

Insertion of new section 48-A in Central Act IV of 1939.

"48-A. Any conditions attached to a stage carriage permit in pursuance of clause (d) of section 48 may, at any time, be varied, cancelled or added to by the Provincial Transport Authority, provided that this power shall not be exercised to the prejudice of the holder of the permit without giving not less than three months' notice to him."

Power of Provincial Transport Authority to alter conditions attached to stage carriage permits.

8. After section 51 of the said Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

Insertion of new section 51-A in Central Act IV of 1939.

"51-A. Any conditions attached to a contract carriage permit in pursuance of section 51 may, at any time, be varied, cancelled or added to by the Provincial Transport Authority, provided that this power shall not be exercised to the prejudice of the holder of the permit without giving not less than three months' notice to him."

Power of Provincial Transport Authority to alter conditions attached to contract carriage permits.

9. After section 56 of the said Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

Insertion of new section 56-A in Central Act IV of 1939.

"56-A. Any conditions attached to a public carrier's permit in pursuance of clause (b) of section 56 may, at any time, be varied, cancelled or added to by the Provincial Transport Authority, provided that this power shall not be exercised to the prejudice of the holder of the permit without giving not less than three months' notice to him."

Power of Provincial Transport Authority to alter conditions attached to public carrier's permits.

10. In section 58 of the said Act, in sub-section (1), the words "not less than three years and not more than five years", and the proviso shall be omitted.

Amendment of section 58 Central Act IV of 1939.

11. In section 62 of the said Act, after clause (c), the following shall be added, namely :—

Amendment of section 62 Central Act IV of 1939.

"or

(d) in such circumstances as may, in the opinion of such authority, justify the grant of such permits,"

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Insertion of
new section
64-A in
Central Act
IV of 1939.

Revision.

12. After section 64 of the said Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

“ 64-A. The Provincial Government may, of its own motion or on application made to it, call for the records of any order passed or proceeding taken under this Chapter by any authority or officer subordinate to it, for the purpose of satisfying itself as to the legality, regularity or propriety of such order or proceeding and after examining such records, may pass such order in reference thereto as it thinks fit.”

Amendment
of section
68, Central
Act IV of
1939.

13. In section 68, sub-section (2), of the said Act, after clause (h), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—

“(hh) the compensation to be paid to the holder of a permit granted or renewed in respect of a transport vehicle, for the cancellation thereof;”.

Validation
of certain
orders.

14. All orders issued by the Provincial Government, the Provincial Road Transport Authority, or a Regional Transport Authority, on or after the 2nd September 1946 and before the commencement of this Act, directing that no permits shall be issued or renewed under the said Act except for temporary periods, and all temporary permits issued in pursuance of such orders, shall be deemed to be valid; and no such order shall be called in question in any Court of Law. Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to invalidate any decision or order of a Court which became final before the passing of this Act.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 14th July 1948.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Smuggling of rice from Nellore district.

* 20-A Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether smuggling of rice from Nellore and Kovur taluks has been going on on an unduly large scale within the past one week by rail, by boat, and lorry;

(b) whether the Nellore district authorities have applied to the Government of Madras for special police staff to prevent the smuggling activities;

(c) what steps the Government have taken to meet the needs of the district authorities;

(d) whether acute scarcity prevails in Nellore district for foodgrains; and

(e) whether prices have soared high?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) The Government have received reports that large scale smuggling of rice is going on from the district, not particularly during the past one week but even earlier.

“(b) No special police staff was applied for by the Collector. He only asked for the employment of two Deputy Tahsildars and two peons for the prevention of smuggling by trains.

“(c) The Collector was informed that the staff of two Deputy Tahsildars and two peons applied for by him would be inadequate to prevent smuggling if it was on such a large scale as he represented it to be and that the employment of a substantial police force, which was necessary for the purpose was impracticable. There is already a police staff of two Sub-Inspectors, five head constables and 24 constables sanctioned for the district for the prevention of smuggling. He was therefore asked to arrange for the Tahsildar or Taluk Supply Officer checking the trains now and then with the aid of the police force available, in order to prevent the smuggling. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies has also been asked to take suitable and effective measures to prevent the smuggling.

“(d) The Government have received certain complaints of scarcity of foodgrains from Gudur and other areas of the district. This scarcity, however, was not due to any appreciable fall in production this year. Though the production

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of rice in the current year is estimated at only 125,000 tons, the millet crops, on which the non-delta portions of the district mostly depend, have been better than in last year. The procurement target for rice was fixed at 50,000 tons but the target for export was only 25,000 tons. The procurement up to 26th June 1948 has totalled 29,620 tons and the quantity exported up to 30th June 1948 was 14,155 tons. On a representation from the Collector, the Board has agreed to reduce the exportable target from 25,000 tons to 20,000 tons. The district has already exported, as stated above, 14,155 tons and after the balance out of 20,000 tons is exported the remaining quantity will be left for circulation in the district. There is therefore no reason why there should be any scarcity of foodgrains in the district during the current year. I propose, however, to tour in the district in a few days and find out facts.

"The Government had ordered that relief shops should be opened in places where scarcity of foodgrains was felt or where the prices of foodgrains had risen up to 50 per cent. The Collector had at first utilized the 408 retail shops which were then functioning in urban, semi-urban and rural areas, for the supply of foodgrains at fair prices fixed by him. As these shops were sufficient in number and were functioning satisfactorily and were at the same time serving the purpose of relief shops, the Collector considered that no regular relief shops need be opened. But as complaints regarding scarcity of foodgrains were being received by the Government, they observed that the arrangements made by the Collector were inadequate and directed that the question whether relief shops should not be opened should be examined by the Board. The Collector has since reported that consequent on the abolition of the scheme of intensive procurement in all the upland taluks of the district, instructions have been given to convert all the existing retail shops into relief shops and also to open sufficient number of additional relief shops with reference to prevailing market prices in each taluk. The number of relief shops opened up to the week ending 3rd July 1948 is 591, 103 in semi-urban areas and 488 in rural areas.

"(e) The Collector of Nellore reported in the middle of May that unlike in the deficit districts intensive procurement was in force in Nellore district and the wholesalers and retailers selected by the Collector would get their supplies at controlled rates on permits issued by the District Supply Officers and as there was no open market for the purchase of rice and paddy as in the case of deficit districts, there was no scope for inflation and rise in the prices in the Nellore district.

"The Collector has also reported about the end of June that while the prices generally showed an upward trend, the increases were limited to 25—40 per cent over statutory prices. The increase cannot be said to be abnormal."

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I have placed the answers to this question in roneoed form before every hon. Member . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister need not read. I shall now ask the hon. Members to put supplementary questions?"

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"In view of the admission of the Government that there has been large scale smuggling of rice from the district of Nellore, may I know what orders have been passed by the Government, whether confidential or otherwise, to check this smuggling of paddy and rice?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Sir, the Government have stated clearly all the facts in their possession, and they have also stated categorically what actions have been taken and are being taken. I would like to know what further answer the hon. Member would require."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Is it a fact, Sir, that orders have been passed confidentially to the Collectors that in view of the impossibility of checking this smuggling, the Collectors would do well not to bother themselves with it, and but go on intensifying procurement?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"No, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Sir, is it not the policy of the Government to relax controls when the situation eases? If so, will the Government consider the desirability of relaxing the rule of inter-district ban?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have asked the District Magistrates to stop the smuggling of paddy by taking the necessary police action?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Collector has been instructed to do everything according to the directions of the Government and he is doing it. Whatever action is necessary, the Government are taking."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Government can only take steps to prevent but cannot prevent smuggling?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Government have got a duty with regard to prevention of smuggling, and they are doing it."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the duties of the Anti-Corruption Squad will be beyond the scope of checking this smuggling?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"No, Sir."

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SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Are the Government satisfied that the existing police officials, i.e., two Sub-Inspectors and five head constables will be sufficient to prevent smuggling?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Smuggling is not and cannot be prevented solely by police intervention. Public co-operation also is required. Unless this is forthcoming, the action of the Government will be one-sided and will amount to persecution."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Have the Government any information with regard to the ruling prices of paddy and rice in Nellore, which are responsible for smuggling to other districts."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The hon. Members have already got the information in my answers where I have stated the prevailing percentage of high prices."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will not collective fine and imposing of punitive police prevent smuggling?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"If the hon. Member would know how smuggling takes place, he will see that it is very difficult to penalise people carrying on small headloads of rice to short distances. They get in at one station and get down at the next. If we are to prevent this, then we must have the whole police arranged throughout the railway stations for quite a long time. It is only the necessary quantity of food that is required, that is transported. It is not transported on commercial quantities for profit."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister, that the people should co-operate and since the people are not co-operating in preventing smuggling, will not the Government resort to the method of imposing punitive police and collective fine from the people of the area?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The one thing that the Government can do is to confiscate the property which is being brought over in small headloads which they have been carrying; and as often as police force was necessary to check it, it has been done."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Am I to understand, Sir, that the price at which rice is selling in Nellore district is far less than Rs. 1-8-0 at which it is selling in North Arcot and many other districts in Tamil Nad?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is certainly less than that in any other district of the Province."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are the Government aware that these headloads that are seized from the people are taken over by the police and the railway officials and not at all handed over to the Government?"

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"No, Sir, the Government have statistics to show the quantities handed over to them."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Sir, will the Government consider the question once again and remove the ban on inter-taluk movement and lay down rules to buy from delta areas, as the Government is not supplying them sufficiently?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The inter-taluk bans are meant to enable the Government to procure the target that has got to be secured from Nellore district; and the Government have given an undertaking to remove the inter-taluk ban provided they are guaranteed the minimum of the procurement which they need. But, so far they have not been successful in enabling the Government to get the necessary procurement although the Government procurement agency is still at work. If the Government are assured that the maximum procurement could be had from these districts, we shall at once remove the inter-taluk bans."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"What are the difficulties which the Government think they have got to face, if they remove the inter-district ban on the movement of rice?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is very simple, Sir. There will be a rush to all the surplus areas and the same famine conditions that are prevalent in the deficit areas will also begin to operate in surplus districts."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"In view of the fact that smuggling is taking place with the connivance of the railway staff, may I know what steps the Government have taken to check this?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I do not concede the proposition of the hon. Member that the police are conniving."

SRI K. LINGARAJU:—"In view of the existence of producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies in almost all the producing districts, will the Government consider the desirability of handing over distribution to them?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"There is no producer-cum-consumer co-operative society in Nellore district."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Are the Government aware that the railway authorities, from the guard to the porter, and the railway police from the Sub-Inspector to the head constables are actually aiding parties for smuggling, and are conveying this rice in first-class compartments right through from one end to the other?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"This is an allegation which I am afraid, I cannot accept and I must certainly repudiate."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"May I know whether in view of the large-scale smuggling of rice, the price of rice in Nellore has considerably risen even to the extent of 100 per cent?"

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is not so. I would once again request hon. Members to read my answer a little bit more carefully."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"May I know whether the Government have not been promised adequate imports from the Centre to enable them to lift this inter-district ban?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The import from the Centre does not depend upon the removal of the inter-district ban. It depends upon the general food situation in the whole Province and whenever the Provincial Government feel that imports are necessary from the Centre and if the Government of India could spare it, it is given to us, and to-day our food position is such that we can without any anxiety hope to pull on well nigh for another month more."

SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"In view of the smuggling and black-marketing as a result of the low quota of rice that is given according to rationing, will the Government consider the desirability of increasing the quantity of rice from 6 oz. to 8 or 10 oz. in view of the fact that sufficient quantity of paddy and rice is coming into the Province now?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Government have recently increased it from 5 to 6 oz. in derationed areas and in Malabar and the Nilgiris where compulsory rationing is prevailing from 6 to 8 oz. I do not think it is possible to increase the ration any further."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I know, Sir, what happened to the assurance given by the Hon. Minister on the floor of this House, during the April session, that they will consider the question of removing the inter-district ban in the month of May or June?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"We have certainly been considering the question. As I said in one of my answers earlier, we shall do so, as soon as our procurement is secured properly according to the target which we require."

SRI KALLUR SUBBA RAO:—"If the people in the deltaic areas do not co-operate with the Government in procurement, is it the intention of the Government to punish the people in the non-deltaic areas by imposing this inter-taluk ban?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Not, at all."

Separation of the Judiciary from the Executive.

* 21 Q.—M. S. ATAULLAH SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Mohamed Rafeeudin Ahmad Ansari Sahib Bahadur): Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the scheme for the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive is ready for enforcement;

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(b) if not, at what stage the scheme is;

(c) whether the Government would place the scheme for approval of the Legislature before it is brought into effect?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of Hon. the Premier):—" (a) Very nearly ready."

" (b) Does not arise."

" (c) After orders are passed by the Government on the subject, the papers will be laid on the table of the House for information of the hon. Members."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive is in the charge of the Premier or Mr. Madhava Menon?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"I think, yesterday this question was put."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"In the charge of the Premier."

M. S. ATAULLAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask, Sir, the reasons for this inordinate delay in bringing this scheme into operation?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The High Court has to be consulted, the Board of Revenue has to be consulted, and various decisions have to be taken by the Government."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know, Sir, when the recruitment of officers in implementation of the scheme is likely to take place and which will be the body that will recruit the officers?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I cannot say the exact time when the recruitment will take place. As for the recruiting body, it will obviously be the Public Services Commission."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"May I know, Sir, the reasons why this important matter, the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive is not in the hands of Mr. Madhava Menon who is a tried and experienced lawyer but is in the hands of the Premier? What are the definite reasons for it?"

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know, Sir, whether recruitment will take place from among the members of the Bar only or from the Provincial Services also?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"A separate question may be put, Sir. As far as I can see, a certain proportion from the Bar also will be recruited."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, when this question was raised yesterday on the floor of the House, the Hon. the Leader of the House said that this separation of the Judiciary from the Executive would not cost anything to the

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Government. Am I to understand, Sir, that no new officers are going to be appointed except for the vacancies that may be created by the retirement of the existing officials?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"For the information of the hon. Members I may say that the tentative proposals of the Cabinet Sub-Committee are . . ."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I want to know whether it will not cost anything more to the Government."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, Sir."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"There seems to be a division of this portfolio between the Kerala and Tamil Naḍ Ministers. What about a share for an Andhra Minister, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not understand the question."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that this portfolio of law is entrusted in almost all the provinces to an eminent lawyer, and if it is so, why has some deviation been made in this Province? The Hon. the Leader of the House may give a reply without observing a self-imposed silence?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is not a fact that the Law Department has always been in the hands of eminent lawyers. During the Advisers' regime, the portfolio was in the hands of I.C.S. men."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"My question has not been answered, Sir. I wanted to know whether no new officials will be appointed as a result of the separation, because the Leader of the House stated that it will cost nothing to the Government."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"After the separation a number of officers will have to be retrenched. As far as we could see the number will be—

Subdivisional Magistrates	...	...	...	30
Estate Land Deputy Collectors	...	...	...	4
Additional First-class Magistrates	...	...	...	53
Deputy Tahsildars	...	...	...	3
Stationary Sub-Magistrates	...	...	...	190

"In their places other people will be recruited."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Hon. Minister, Mr. Madhava Menon, in charge of Law, made a statement in a speech that this scheme will cost the Government three lakhs of rupees?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I may say, Sir, that the recommendations of the Committee are undergoing changes."

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MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that such an important subject as this will be much better dealt with by a lawyer than a non-lawyer, and, if so, what are the reasons why it is not entrusted to a lawyer like Mr. Madhava Menon?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not accept the statement that a lawyer alone can deal with this matter. Any administrator can deal with the matter."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer to clause (c) and the assurance given by the Hon. the Leader of the House may I ask whether no appointments will be made before the House discusses the matter and given its suggestions to the Government?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I did not say that the matter will be placed before the House for discussion. I only said that the papers will be laid on the table of the House for the information of hon. Members."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask whether the Government propose to separate the High Court from the Executive?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yes, Sir, the High Court from the country also."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"When the new appointments are made as a result of the separation, will those appointments be made by the Services Commission, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is too early to say anything about it. We have not taken a final decision. The hon. Member may put a question later on."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"In view of the importance of the question of the separation of the executive from the Judiciary, may I know whether the Government are in a position to give us the time when the scheme will be finalized?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It may be this month or it may be in two months. I cannot say definitely when a final decision will be taken."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Is it a fact, Sir, that four lists have been drawn up for appointments when the Judiciary has been separated from the Executive, list A +, list A —, list B —, and list B —? If so, may I know whether sufficient care has been taken to see that Harijans are not left out from the lists?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is a very top secret matter, Sir. I cannot say anything about it."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"In view of the assertion of the Hon. the Leader of the House that the portfolio of law can be administered by anyone although he is not a lawyer, is it proposed by the Government to abolish the portfolio of law?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, Sir, we do not take the hon. Member's suggestion very seriously."

SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:—"In view of the fact that the Indian National Congress has promised long ago that the Executive will be separated from the Judiciary, may I know whether the Government is really serious about seeing that the Executive and the Judiciary are separated very early?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Because the Congress took up this question as early as 1885, the Government are trying to implement it now."

Procurement of foodgrains in deficit districts.

* 22 Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have decided to stop procurement of foodgrains in deficit districts; and

(b) if so, whether Malabar also is one of them?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (a) & (b) Procurement of foodgrains has been given up in all the deficit districts except Malabar and the Nilgiris."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know the special reasons why Malabar has been singled out for this harsh treatment?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It has not been singled out for any discrimination, Sir. There is compulsory rationing going on in Malabar and it is necessary to secure all the foodgrains available in the district."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Government will be pleased to restrict this procurement to the surplus taluks in Malabar?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"We do not go talukwar in this respect. The Government are paying very careful attention to the food position in Malabar and they have to supply food to everyone in Malabar. In doing so, the question of procurement by taluks does not come in. We have got to pool the resources of all the taluks in the district so that everyone in the district both in rural and urban areas can be provided with the rations according to the rates prescribed."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"In view of the answer given to this question, may I ask what is the present food position in the Province?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The food position in the Province is very good."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know the present system obtaining in respect of procurement?"

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Now we are not in the procuring stage, because the harvests are over and there is very little to procure. If there is foodgrain available in the country, the Government will make arrangements to procure it."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—"Are the Government aware, Sir, that in certain districts though procurement is done, the procured grain has not been shown in any account?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"We are getting weekly reports from all places where procurement is being done and weekly reports are also issued by us showing the quantity procured. In deficit districts we do not procure. Where procurement is going on in the surplus districts, we get weekly reports and we issue weekly reports to the public for information."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Sir, how can the Hon. Minister come to the conclusion that the food position is good when rice is being sold in the village parts at Re. 1-4-0 a Madras measure, particularly in the southern districts?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Government are concerned only with the food position in the Province. We are bound to feed the people and see that the food available is given to the people at controlled prices. That is what we do in all the fair price shops we have opened in a number of places. Taking the population to be fed and the stock of foodgrains available, the figures at my disposal show that the stock of rice will enable me to get on for one month in comfort. That is why I said the position is good."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the statement that the food position in the Province is good, may I know from the Government whether we can expect derationing in the Province in the near future?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"That will depend on the food position in the Province later on."

SRI P. GOVINDA MENON:—"Are we to understand, Sir, that the Government intend to discontinue rationing and procurement in the district of Malabar in October?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is too early to promise anything. So much depends on the monsoons."

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—"In view of the fact that the Nilgiris is a non-producing centre, will the Government see the desirability of increasing the ration from 8 ounces to 10 ounces as is being done in the statutorily rationed areas?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Nilgiris is treated as a statutorily rationed area and it is treated on a par with Malabar and other districts where statutory rationing is continued."

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SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Will the Government at least now realize that their policy with regard to the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies has brought about all these miseries caused by the food scarcity and given all the encouragement to blackmarketing?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is a matter of opinion. The societies are not in existence now and those that are in existence are not doing procuring work and taking part in food distribution."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"If the monsoon is late and does not set in early and an emergency arises, how do the Government propose to meet the situation?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Government certainly wait for the monsoon before they commit themselves to anything."

SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Sir, in view of the good food position which the Food Minister was pleased to announce, will he consider the necessity of raising the ration from 6 ounces to 8 ounces in the rural areas of Malabar as 6 ounces are quite insufficient and people are obliged to buy at the rate of three nazhis for one rupee in the blackmarket?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"In addition to 6 ounces of rice 4 ounces of millets are given. It is not as if they are asked to subsist only on 6 ounces."

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—"Is it a fact that the Nilgiris has been singled out for the compulsory taking of 4 ounces of maize?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"No, Sir, it is just like every other place."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the policy of the Government to allow a higher quota of rice to the surplus districts, may I know whether the Government will see that in the deficit districts a larger quantity of ration rice is allowed to individuals?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"In the surplus districts there is no rationing at all. Therefore there is no question of giving a greater quantity of rice. With regard to the Nilgiris and Malabar the quantity has been increased from 6 ounces to 8 ounces."

11-30 a.m. SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether procurement has been made from the merchants in the taluk areas?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"If the merchants possess foodgrains with them the Government will certainly secure those foodgrains from them. Otherwise, they will have to procure from the producers or millers or whoever holds stock of foodgrains with them."

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SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"In view of the fact that Government are slowly relaxing their policy of control and rationing and also in view of the position stated by the Hon. Minister, may I know whether rationing will completely disappear as per indication given to this House?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"If the hon. Member has listened to my answer he would have seen that it will depend upon the monsoons and the amount of foodgrains available at the end of the season and prior to that it is impossible for the Government to give any assurance with regard to their policy."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Sir, in view of the unsatisfactory answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I request him to make a statement with regard to the food position of this Province so that we may raise a debate on the subject."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I am sorry the hon. Member has not been able to understand the statement that I have made, and I doubt very much whether any further explanation is going to relieve his difficulty."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, how does the Hon. Minister reconcile his statement that the overall position is good with the prevalence of exorbitant prices in several districts of the Tamilnad where rice is selling at more than Rs. 1-4-0 per measure?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"That is due to the vagaries of trade and it is difficult for the Government to interfere in the matter. The only thing that the Government can do is to make available rice at controlled rates through relief shops, so that the poor people may go and buy the requirements from them. If rich people choose to pay higher prices it is left to them to buy it."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, in view of the clean confession of the Government that large-scale smuggling is going on, will the Government consider the question of reverting to rationing as they have done in United Provinces and Central Provinces, instead of resorting to half-hearted rationing in one place and not having it in other districts?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I do not think we are doing it in a half-hearted manner. The food position of this Province in spite of the wholesale failure of the monsoon, is extraordinarily good and we have not yet been driven to the necessity of resorting to the suggestion which has been made in the press that the Bihar and the United Provinces Governments are reverting to the previous situation. Such a situation has not unfortunately arisen in our Province and therefore we can well afford to handle the situation as we have been doing."

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister has realized that the very high prices, for example Rs. 60 per bag in the Vizagapatam district, are directly due to the restriction of free transport between district and district? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" No, Sir, it is not the reason."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—" Are the Government aware, Sir, that in the Government hostels students are being served with very little food and they are therefore feeling hungry during the rest of the day? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—" It is due to rationing, Sir? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" This question relates to procurement of foodgrains in deficit districts."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" May I know from the Hon. Minister that if high prices are not due to artificial restrictions, then what are the reasons that he would attribute to high prices? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" It is due to lack of production and non-availability of stock in the market."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, when the price of rice is so very high as Rs. 1-8-0 per measure—and I may also tell him that it is being sold even at Rs. 2 per measure in certain places—whether the policy of establishing relief shops is successful and whether these relief shops are meeting the needs of the people? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" The relief shops do meet the requirements of the people who cannot pay much, but if there are people who are willing to pay any sum of their food that is not the responsibility of the Government. The Government have to-day placed at the disposal of the public over 8,500 relief shops in the various districts of the Province and we have not yet received any complaint to say that these shops have not satisfied the requirements of the people. If in spite of it people are prepared to pay more for higher class of rice or are rich enough to pay more for their fancy, the Government cannot help it."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, when I say that these poor people are forced to pay Rs. 2 per measure in certain places, do the Government deny this fact. Do they not know that it is these poor people whom we are talking about? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" It is for the sake of these poor people that relief shops have been established in a number of places and there is no complaint so far that these shops have not met the demands of the people."

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" Sir, with reference to these relief shops do I understand the Hon. Minister as saying that these shops are able to supply rice to all the persons in a particular locality? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" It is not a question of supplying to all persons, but it is a question of supplying to those who demand. Moreover, these relief shops are not ration shops, but they are shops where foodgrains are made available at a fixed price controlled by the Government and to that extent it is open to any man to go and take the grains at the fair price shops at a fair and stipulated price."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister that there has been no complaint as regards the supply from these relief shops, may I ask whether it is not a fact that in his own town of Tiruchirappalli people have gone without receiving rice stock from the so-called relief shops? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" It is not so; it may be that on that particular day the relief shops did not get stock. Nobody said that there was serious shortage and that the relief shops have not answered the demands of the people."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister is aware that a relief shop can cater to only 300 persons in a day—normal working day of eight hours—and if so, these 8,500 relief shops can cater on that basis only to 240,000 or even 3 lakhs. That is totally inadequate to meet the demand for foodgrains from these relief shops. If so, what steps the Government propose to contemplate to increase their number so that all the poor people may have some relief at these shops."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Relief shops are being increased in number to the extent required, but I must remind the hon. Member that foodgrains are freely available in all the decontrolled districts where foodgrains are bought and sold. It is the poor man that usually goes to these relief shops. It may be that in particular area people cannot get rice at controlled rates. If in areas where relief shops did not meet the requirements of the situation and if the Government are made aware of it, we will certainly not hesitate to increase the number of relief shops."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, a request was made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Swaminathan, to allot a day for discussion, but the reply of the Hon. Minister was that the hon. Member had not been able to understand the statement made by him. Why not we assume that the Hon. Minister was not able to explain properly and that was the reason why he wanted a day to be allotted for the purpose? "

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, the Hon. Minister said that four ounces of maize is supplied as

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supplementary ration in Malabar. May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that people in Malabar are not accustomed to maize. If so, will the Government be pleased to divert this maize to districts where people are accustomed to eat maize and send rice to Malabar?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is not a question of any part of Madras being accustomed to maize. As a matter of fact nobody is accustomed to maize. It is a difficult situation. Even in Malabar where people are not used to maize, day after day, the consumption of maize is increasing and as much as two to three thousand tons of maize are being consumed in Malabar."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know, Sir, whether sufficient stocks are kept in these relief shops so as to meet the requirements of all the poor people in the places where relief shops have been opened?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The question is not considered on the population basis. The fact is that these fair price shops issue rations to the old card-holders who were getting rations during the control days and on the production of the cards rations are issued to them. New ration cards are also issued to such persons as require ration from these relief shops. Therefore, it is not as if that every one is being supplied with foodgrains whether he demands it or not, but the Government have made themselves responsible for distributing the available quantities of food-stuffs at a fair price to all those who need them and to that extent relief shops are opened."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, apart from the fact that these relief shops are being served with very meagre supplies which are not adequate for the needs of the locality and also in view of the fact that they have prevented even the normal channels of trade from securing normal supplies, is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that they have created a chaotic condition in the country-side resulting in exorbitant prices?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Sir, these 8,500 relief shops are expected to cater to over 4 million people at the rate of about 500 persons for each shop. If more shops are required they will be put up in places where they are found necessary."

SRI B. VENKATANARAYANA REDDI:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister is aware that in the relief shops in Nellore even two weeks' supply was not sent?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"If supplies are not received by the people in any place and the fact is brought to the notice of the Government, we will certainly rush as much foodgrain as it is required."

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SRI T. K. T. N. R. TATACHARI:—"Do not the Government think, Sir, that it would take away a lot of misunderstanding if they removed the word 'relief' and merely called it 'shop'?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is not the word that matters, but it is the food that matters."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister, Sir, whether he will take steps to see that boiled rice is not supplied to the relief shops in the Vizagapatam district?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"No such undertaking can be given."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, if the object of the Government is to keep down the soaring prices, have the Government considered wherein lies the balance of advantage, is it in allowing smuggling which necessarily means high prices in the areas in which rice is smuggled or trying the experiment in free trade which will perhaps keep the lower level of prices?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"That has got to be considered only after decontrol. Decontrol means introduction of free trade. If that is what the hon. Member wants he will have to give us time to consider the question."

Badathalav Irrigation Scheme.

* 23 Q.—SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR: "Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is an irrigation scheme called Badathalav Scheme before the Government;

(b) if so, since which year it is before the Government; and

(c) at what stage it is?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Since 1947.

" (c) The Government have called for a further report from the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) in the matter and it is awaited."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government will expedite the matter?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"I heard from the Chief Engineer this morning that the reference had been answered by him and I hope to take up the scheme for sanction very early."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"Is it a fact, Sir, that the estimate and other things in regard to the project were ready even from the time of the Advisers?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"It was ready then, but it was also decided by them that it should be deferred."

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Contract for the supply of Diesel buses.

* 24 Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: “Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Diesel buses contract has been cancelled; and if so, why;

(b) what were the terms of the original contract with the Italian firm; and

(c) what is the total expenditure incurred by the Government on each bus that has been put on the road?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) & (b) No regular contract or agreement was entered into with the Italian firm. The contract was mostly by correspondence between the Transport Commissioner and Messrs. Indo-British General Exchange, Bangalore, as the agents of the Italian firm.

In July 1947 the Transport Commissioner placed an order with the Indo-British General Exchange for the supply of 25 Italian Diesel buses. The vehicles were to be delivered in Madras during the period from 15th October 1947 to 15th November 1947.

On 29th August 1947 another order was placed by the Transport Commissioner with the Company for the supply of a second batch of 25 Diesel vehicles.

In view of the delay in obtaining the import licence and in view of the shipping difficulties, the Company was allowed time till 31st March 1948 to ship all the 50 vehicles.

The company however reported subsequently that they would not be able to supply the second batch of 25 Diesel vehicles owing to difficulties experienced by the Italian firm. They asked for permission to supply 25 Fiat chassis instead. This was not accepted and the order relating to the second batch of 25 Diesel vehicles was cancelled.

As regards the first batch of 25 Diesel vehicles, the company was allowed further extension of time up to 10th May 1948 to ship all the vehicles.

The Transport Commissioner has now reported that all the 25 Diesel buses of the first batch were shipped before 10th May 1948 and that all of them have been taken delivery of.

“(c) The total cost of each Italian Diesel bus comes to Rs. 45,000 approximately inclusive of freight, insurance charges and custom duty.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“Taking into account the non-availability of spare parts, the damage done to roads owing to the sheer weight of buses and the difficulty in driving experienced by drivers and the comparative small returns from these buses

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owing to the inadequacy of seating arrangements, does the Government at least now realize that it has caught in the Diesel buses a white elephant after all?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I do not accept all the arguments put forward by the hon. Member.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Has it come to the knowledge of the Hon. Minister that drivers driving the Diesel buses die earlier on account of the fact that they have to drive buses like that?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“No doctor has ever mentioned it to me.”

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMIAH:—“Is it not owing to the fact that such initial mistakes were made in introducing nationalization of bus transport that the Hon. Finance Minister was forced to say yesterday that we have to call a halt to the speedy nationalization of bus transport and review the situation?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I do not think that I ever said that we have committed initial mistakes in nationalizing the transport system.”

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that the running of Diesel buses is a recognized form of transport both here and elsewhere in foreign countries?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Certainly, Sir.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Arising out of the answer given by the Leader of the House that no agreement was entered into between the Government and the Italian firm and only correspondence passed between the Transport Commissioner and the firm, am I to understand that nearly 11 lakhs of rupees have been invested in purchasing buses without any agreement but only on the basis of mere correspondence?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“It is true there was no agreement but it does not mean that the Transport Commissioner acted on his own discretion; he must have been consulting Government at every stage.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“Will the Government be pleased not to start with a prejudice against Diesel buses but use them on proper routes for express services for which they are eminently suited?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The whole question with regard to Diesel buses is under review and we shall certainly take the proper decision.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“I have already allowed 25 minutes for the question relating to food, the question being an important one. Hon. Members cannot expect so much time over small questions. I have placed ten questions before the House and they must be finished before the question hour. Therefore, I pass on to the next question.”

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Number of power drills at the disposal of the Government.

* 25 Q.—SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the number of power drills at the disposal of the Government; and

(b) how many have been distributed for agricultural purposes, how many for industrial purposes, and how many for sinking wells for drinking water?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“(a) There are 26 power drills with the Department of Industries and Commerce:

(i) One is an air compressor drill used for lignite investigation in South Arcot.

(ii) Fourteen are steam-engine drills of the percussion type.

(iii) Seven are diesel engine drills of the percussion type.

(iv) Four are diesel engine drills of the Calyx type.

“(b) The drills are not permanently allotted separately for agricultural, industrial and drinking-water purposes, but, as and when drills are disengaged, they are allotted to the waiting applicants in the order of seniority, but generally without involving long haulage. At present—

Ten power drills are distributed for agricultural purposes;

Three power drills are distributed for sinking borewells for drinking-water;

Three power drills are distributed for industrial purposes;

One drill for lignite investigation;

Five drills are undergoing repairs mainly due to steam boiler trouble; and

Four Calyx drills recently received from U.S.A. are being assembled and tested in the Industrial Engineering Workshops, Madras.”

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—“Seeing that in the Ceded districts where it is difficult to sink wells, people are suffering a lot of difficulties for want of drinking-water, will the Hon. Minister allot more power drills, at the rate of at least one for each district.”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“The suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“In view of the fact that especially in the Ceded districts people are suffering for want of drinking water, will the Government consider the desirability of giving top priority for sinking drinking-water wells?”

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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“If applications are received from those districts, they will be considered.”

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—“May I know how many power drills are working in the Northern Circars?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“I suggest a separate question might be put.”

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—“Are the Government satisfied that with the number of power drills at their disposal they would be able to meet the demands in dry districts such as Coimbatore?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“Due to insufficiency of existing stock, proposals have been submitted by the department for the purchase of 17 more power drills and the proposals are being examined.”

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—“May I request the Government to make a statement about the progress of the power drills in each district?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“There is no such thing as the progress of each power drill. If the hon. Member wants the number in each district, I suggest that a separate specific question might be put.”

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—“May I know the approximate cost of each drill?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“There are various types as would be seen in the reply to clause (a) of the question. If the hon. Member wants to have the price of various types of power drills, I suggest that he may put a separate question. I do not have the information in the file here.”

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—“My idea in asking for a statement from the Government is with a view to know how far the power drills were made use of and how far they were successful commensurate with the cost of the drill and the establishment charges.”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“I should suggest to the hon. Member that the information contained in the Administration Report must satisfy him.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—“May I know from the Hon. Minister the various types of power drills and their names?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“I should suggest to the hon. Member to refer to the answer to clause (a).”

Increase in the prices of cloth and yarn.

* 26 Q.—SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the enormous increase in the prices of cloth and yarn;

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(b) whether any steps have been taken by them to put down the prices; and if so, what they are and with what result;

(c) whether any, and if so, what instructions have been received from the Central Government in this respect; and

(d) whether the manufacturers and wholesalers have been warned in the matter of prices, and if so, what their view is?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) As the Government of India have lifted price control on cotton textiles the question of taking any action does not arise. The Government are, however, carefully watching the situation.

“(c) No.

“(d) No. The question of taking suitable action is engaging the attention of the Government of India.”

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—“Will the Government appoint a non-official committee to go into the question and suggest suitable amendments?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“For the information of the hon. Member, let me tell him that the Government of India have appointed a Committee and the Tariff Board went into the question and submitted a report; on the 21st and 22nd of this month, there is going to be a conference in New Delhi and this Government is going to be represented in that conference and the necessary information has been collected by the Government of India and the entire question is going to be examined and reviewed.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that owing to the high price of yarn a large number of weavers, mostly Harijans, have been thrown out of employment?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“I have already said that there is no control over the price of yarn or cloth and there is no question of high or low prices.”

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—“Have the Government of Madras taken powers under the recent control orders issued by the Government of India to seize stocks with a view to equitable distribution and meet the acute situation created by high prices?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“That is one of the subjects that will be discussed at the conference to be held at Delhi.”

Administration of district boards by Special Officers.

* 27 Q.—SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the circumstances under which the Government are allowing the district boards to continue under a Special Officer even though it is nearly 2½ years since the popular Government has come into power;

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(b) the circumstances under which the Government are allowing the panchayat boards to continue though they are obsolete; and

(c) the probable time during which the Government would arrange for the elections of the above local bodies?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—“(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to Legislative Assembly question No. 387 given on 3rd November 1947. The question of the introduction of adult franchise for elections to local boards is under consideration. Pending a decision on this question, elections to district boards and panchayats have been postponed. Hence the Special Officers of district boards and the existing members of panchayat boards are continuing in office.

“(c) It is not possible to forecast at present when the elections to district boards and panchayats will be held.”

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—“Sir, may I know if the Government are aware of the discontent that is prevailing among the people for not having brought about this election and invested new hands down below with powers?” 12 noon.

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—“I can assure the hon. Member, Sir, that no delay will be made and we are also trying on our part to see that the whole thing is hastened and put on a proper basis.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“Sir, is there any truth that non-official special officers will be elected in case the election is to be delayed or the recent Bill published could not be brought before the House?”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—“Sir, the hon. Member may ask questions when the time comes.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Sir, may I know how long it will take for the electoral rolls to be prepared on the basis of adult franchise for the local bodies?”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—“Sir, I cannot exactly say what time the preparation of electoral rolls will take but the Government have given instructions to hasten the matter and see that the preparation of the electoral rolls are expedited.

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Sir, in view of the recent notification issued last week about the reconstitution of district boards with the co-operation of M.L.As. in the district, is the Hon. Minister aware of the prevalence of rumours in the countryside that this Government do not want to hold elections until 1952?”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—“Sir, I am not at all aware of that thing.”

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Rescue homes for condemned bulls.

* 28 Q.—SRI M. A. EASWARAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether there are rescue homes for condemned bulls managed by the Government in this Presidency?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"The answer is in the negative."

SRI M. A. EASWARAN:—"Sir, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state how they are disposed of?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Sir, they are sent to the pinjrapoles wherever it is possible."

The change in the name of the "Veterinary Department"

* 29 Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the name of the "Veterinary Department" has been changed to one of "Animal Husbandry";

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) how long the controversy over this name lasted?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The department deals not only with veterinary work but with all aspects of animal husbandry work such as breeding, dairying, poultry farming, animal nutrition, etc. The change was also suggested by the Director.

" (c) The suggestion was first made in 1939."

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—"May I know from the Government, Sir, who made this suggestion?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"This suggestion was first made by His Excellency Sri Rajagopalachari while he was Prime Minister here. In fact the change of name was ordered but before it was communicated the Ministry resigned and the Advisers stopped it."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Sir, may I know why it took nine long years to arrive at this blessed name?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Sir, I said that it did not take nine long years. Orders were passed in 1939 by the Congress Government but before they were communicated, the Government resigned and the Advisers withheld it and it has been re-issued now."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, seeing that the matter is not a mere change of name but a change of policy in respect of the Veterinary Department, will the Government be pleased to ask the Veterinary Department to draw up forthwith a working plan, mapping out the various breeds, the availability of fodder and all other relevant questions that would relate to the working of the Department?"

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THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Sir, it is being done already."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Sir, arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I know whether the new department will also cater or take up the rescue home for condemned bulls?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"Sir, I cannot give any assurance about that matter. It is a very big problem whether the condemned bulls will have separate homes. There are hardly sufficient homes for old and destitute men."

* 30 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Sir, I request that this question may be taken up to-morrow. I should like to elicit a good deal of information from the Hon. Minister."

MR. SPEAKER:—"It will be taken up to-morrow."

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

II.—HALF-HOUR DEBATE ON FOOD SITUATION.

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Sir, as the food question has not been satisfactorily answered by the Hon. Minister for Food in regard to the acute food situation in the Nellore district, I request that you may be pleased to permit an half-an-hour debate at the end of to-day's deliberations."

MR. SPEAKER:—"We shall have half-an-hour debate as soon as our business is over."

SRI M. BAPINEEDU:—"Sir, there is a party meeting to-day."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, I think a very elaborate answer was given."

MR. SPEAKER:—"That is for the Chair to decide. It is not for the Leader of the House."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, I only wanted to know whether the Chair has allowed it."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, has not the Leader of the House got the right to submit to the Chair for his consideration before the Chair decides the matter?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"I am convinced that the hon. Member is justified. So I have allowed an half-an-hour debate."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, it may be that there may not be an afternoon session."

MR. SPEAKER:—"In that case, shall we take up the debate at 1-30 p.m. to-day?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, shall we meet at 2-30 p.m. and go on till 3 p.m.?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Let us proceed with the business now and we shall decide it as soon as we finish our business."

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III.—THE MOTOR VEHICLES (MADRAS AMENDMENT) BILL, 1948.

* SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday I was trying to make out it is worthwhile of the Government to make the City Bus Transport Service a grand success because several hon. Members of this House feel to pin their faith in the success of this venture and I do not see any obstacle which will stand in the way of making it a success. The second point I tried to make out yesterday was, should the Government at any time feel hesitant to take up the entire burden of running the Transport Services of this Province, it will do well to give opportunities to such of those municipalities and local boards who are prepared to share this burden in their respective limits.

“ After all, we have got between three thousand to four thousand buses in the entire Province and we have already taken on hand about three hundred and odd buses in the City of Madras and from now on, it is very necessary for the Government to see that every available chassis is purchased by the Government for the purpose of building bus bodies and keeping the buses ready to put on the road as and when further progress in nationalization takes place. I would venture to suggest that if possible, the entire three thousand buses may be requisitioned but if, for any reason, that is not possible, then I will suggest that all available chassis must be purchased by the Government so that they may be put on the road as and when available.

“ Sir, the hon. Mr. Bhashyam, the Member representing the University Constituency, yesterday said that he felt a little frightened at the State taking over the bus transport, for the reason that the moment the Government takes over the industry, confusion will arise due to labour strikes. Well, that should not deter us from going ahead with our plan. After all, the Government are bound to stand by labour and they do want a certain standard of living to be maintained by labour. The Government must be a model employer and I will go a little further and hope that that time will not be far away when labour employed by the Government will not only have decent standards of living but also they will have a lively interest in the venture on which they are engaged either by a profit-sharing scheme or sharing a part of the capital of the scheme in which they are engaged. That will keep labour contented. For instance, we have already an experiment of this sort in the Ex-Soldiers or Ex-Sepoy Co-operative Societies who run lorries. These sepoy are asked to find part of the capital for the purchase of lorries and they are actively interested, therefore, in the prosperity of that venture. If labour also is put on that basis and they are made to participate in that venture not only as mere working partners but also to some extent contributing to the share capital they take a very live interest in the prosperity of the company, I think it will go a long way to place labour on a contented footing.

“ Sir, the main reason why this amending Act was thought necessary was that in the policy of nationalization a certain obstacle arose as a result of the judgment of the Madras High Court

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that arose in the case which was filed by Sree Rama Vilas Motor Service who had a number of buses plying in the City of Madras. The Madras Government, in furtherance of the policy of taking over all the buses in the City of Madras had instructed the Central Road Traffic Board not to issue a permanent licence for three years but only to issue temporary licences for four months or so. That instruction was held by the decision of the Madras High Court to run counter to the main Act—The Motor Vehicles Act—because the Regional Transport Authority and the Provincial Transport Authority are statutory bodies having certain duties fixed by statute and you cannot interfere with these statutory duties. You cannot interfere with the discretion of the bodies in their discharge of those statutory duties. That is the rationale given in the High Court judgment. Some of us, like my friends who are wedded to nationalization of bus transport are prepared to go the whole hog to support the extraordinary powers which this amending Act gives to the Government. The main Act itself is a Central Act, the Motor Vehicles Act of 1939. According to the scheme of which, in the districts the Regional Transport Authority will have the control or the right to issue permits to consider cases of application for bus routes and to issue permits thereafter. On that decision, an appeal is open to the Central Road Traffic Board and the Provincial Transport Authority and these are the two statutory bodies to which this can be done. Now by this amending Act, we are taking over the power to issue certain instructions but I do hope that these extraordinary powers with which the Government are now arming themselves with will be used only for one purpose and with one object, viz., only in cases where nationalization of transport service is jeopardized in any manner. In no other case, should the Government use these powers. They should not ordinarily interfere with the decision of the Regional Transport Authority or the Provincial Transport Authority and their ruling must be binding upon the Government. To my personal knowledge, I know of two instances where the Government have interfered with the concurrent decision of both the Regional Transport Authority and the Provincial Transport Authority not in a manner which would interfere or which impugns on the policy of nationalization of transport but purely in private interests. I hope that the Hon. Minister in whose charge this portfolio now is, will see that these cases will not recur again and that these extraordinary powers with which they are invested now, are not used for private objects but only for the main object, viz., the nationalization of the transport services of this Province. With this limitation, I would pass on to the next point that it is very necessary to have a very definite programme or time-table before us of the various stages of nationalization. After all, Sir, the bus operators and small bus operators have invested large sums of money in this transport industry and it is only necessary and proper that they must be given sufficient notice for the purpose of adjusting their finances. That is why the Select Committee in which I had the privilege to be a member, extended the time for giving notice from one month to three months. Speaking apart (from a

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member of the Select Committee and a member of this House) I would suggest as an ordinary lay man that if there is a time-table when various districts or various routes are going to be taken up, we can give a sufficient indication of our intention of taking over particular routes or particular districts. The necessity of having a time-table and programme is very urgent and it would be only fair to the persons who have invested large sums of money for the purpose of running this industry.

"Sir, some criticism has been levelled by my friend, Mr. Raghavayya that no non-official should be associated with either the Regional Transport Authority or the Provincial Transport Authority. I am not a member of any Regional Transport Authority or Provincial Transport Authority, but I do want to place the view-point of the public generally that it is very highly necessary that non-officials should be associated with these two bodies and so far there has not been much of a complaint that they have gone out of the way. One or two cases of aberrations might have occurred. That is common everywhere. Therefore, I do hope that the Hon. Minister for Transport, in spite of the strong criticism levelled against it, will continue to associate non-officials with such bodies.

"Then, Sir, there is one other matter regarding which I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Transport Minister. Under the rules at present governing the City Transport Service, the City transport owners are in a much better position than the mufassal transport owners. Because if there is any abuse of law or if there is any violation of law as in cases where the Government interfere with the decision of these statutory bodies like the Regional Transport Authority or the Central Road Traffic Board, the City bus owners have got the right to go up to the High Court for a speedy remedy either by way of an application for a *writ of mandamus* or *writ of certiorari*. Whereas mufassal bus-owners, who have got an equal stake—because they have also invested an equal, if not more, money as the City bus-owners, have no such remedy. All they can do is to go up before the Central Traffic Board and to the Government, and if the Government do not interfere with the decision of the Board, they have to take the circuitous and delaying method of issuing notice, give 60 days' notice and then only file a suit in court and await its decision. I believe, the Madras High Court, in a recent decision has pointed out this anomaly, and has asked why the mufassal bus operator should be in a worse position than that of the City bus operator. I hope the Hon. Minister will make some provision in the Bill which will provide for the *writ of mandamus* or *writ of certiorari* to be availed of by the mufassal bus operators also. The anomaly has arisen in this way: it is only the Madras High Court in its original side jurisdiction that has got the power to issue the writ. Its jurisdiction is limited to the area from Guindy to Adavar and from Adavar to Tiruvottivur. I believe, Sir, this anomaly, the Hon. Chief Justice of Madras High Court has pointed out, is unjustifiable in these modern days in view of the large interests involved. So, Sir, I hope the same remedy will be made available to the mufassal bus operators also.

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"Sir, as one who is committed to the policy of nationalization, I support the provisions of this Bill, and I support it with this submission that the Government will use the great powers we are arming them with considerable caution, and they will interfere only in cases where nationalization policy of bus transport is solely involved."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to say a few words in reply to the speeches made by members of the Congress Party. I will be very brief. It will be a sort of caution to the Hon. Finance Minister, who unfortunately or fortunately has taken up the portfolio of Motor Transport, which is a nuisance portfolio with enough of trouble. I am sure the Hon. Mr. Gopala Reddi will manage it in the best way, as he seems to be capable of. With regard to complete nationalization of motor transport, we have been hearing speeches not only now but from the time when the Bill was in the first reading stage. With some of the members I do sympathize for their ignorance, as they do not possess the business mind. I am in agreement with Mr. Leonard. Most of the arguments put forward by members from the other side have no bearing with facts. I do feel nationalization in the city will prove a success. Even if it proves a success here, it will be a different thing in the mufassal. Sir, the question of nationalization has been discussed on all platforms. On some pretext or other the Government should not take up everything themselves. In fact our experience has been that all that private agency has by way of business capacity and acumen, the Government do not possess.

"Secondly, Sir, whenever Government take up a scheme, its cost is invariably much larger when compared to a private agency. Yesterday, in answer to an interpellation, the Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi said, 'we have stopped further nationalization because of petrol shortage.' I am sure it is not the reason for that. I am sure he wants to go slow. What I would request him is to stop further nationalization till March 1949. When the budget is presented in February next, we will have an idea of how the scheme had worked, and this House will have a clear picture as to how much capital has been invested, what is the return and how far we can proceed further with the scheme. Therefore, I request the Government not to proceed further now. Of course, the Hon. Finance Minister has been careful enough not to say how the scheme now is successful; he has only said, it is working successfully. A member of this House has a right to know how it is working successfully. A petrol tax of four annas is given to the Provincial Government. The Central Government is not charging income-tax on this scheme. But may I draw the attention of our Hon. Finance Minister that the time has come to take into account income-tax also, as the Central Government have said, that even this provincial scheme has to be taxed as the sources of revenue of the Central Government are very meagre. Unless and until it is known what the income-tax will be and that amount is also reduced from the outturn, there is no point in saying the

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scheme is working successfully. I know by a jugglery of figures the Hon. Finance Minister will be able to say that such and such is the return.

"I may suggest that it is not an ordinary thing to work the scheme. Of course it is due to the very great interest and enthusiasm with which it was worked by the late lamented Daniel Thomas (who worked with a zeal and all sincerity) that the scheme is what it is to-day. I am sure it will be continued. It will be an easy thing to nationalize bus service in the Madras City, because it is a compact area of a very few miles, say thirty to forty square miles all told. But if you take up the districts it will be a very difficult problem. Because from one end of the district to the other end, it will be 250 miles or more. It will require a lot of money to launch the scheme, and the problem of supervision will be very very difficult. I do concede, that the bus service in the mufassal is very very defective. For the last few years it is so. I can myself prepare a big list of so many defects in the service. But you cannot say, simply because of these things you should take up that service yourself. Is that the only remedy? I may say, the present Government is defective in so many respects; there are several faults in the present Government, and so will I be right in saying that this Government should be thrown out and another brought into being. (Laughter.) I do not hold that view. I say, if there are defects in the bus service, why not try to rectify them? I am sure the present Government will rectify the defects in them if only they are pointed out to them. Similarly, why not do so with bus service? The buses in the mufassal have been running for the last two decades; there are defects and complaints; why not rectify them and make them run efficiently? I hope at least till nationalization takes place the Government will do this.

"I do not know how businessmen have become a red rag to this Government. When anything does not suit Government, they say, 'these things are rotten, therefore kill them or expel them.' (Laughter.) I am not a bus-owner; nor do I hold a brief for any one of them; they are, if I may say so, a nuisance to me. There are families which have been ruined by running buses in routes which are not paying. It is quite likely in a period of boom, when people have been travelling more by bus, much money was made by some bus-owners. It does not mean, you should kill them for that. They too pay income-tax, sales tax and petrol tax. You should be a little bit more charitable to your poor opponents.

"I find that this sort of dislike is displayed not merely on the question of bus transport in other spheres also it is manifested. At every stage you want to finish the people. Take the zamindari question. You want to finish the zamindars. (Laughter.) Take bus service; you want to finish bus-owners. Take any commercial enterprise, you want to finish private agency! At this stage, may I ask, where will you stop? (Laughter.) The other day, the

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Hon. Sri Sitarama Reddi invited the commercial community to come and help him to start industries. They would have said, 'you want to nationalize industries, why should we come and help you, why should we spend money and why should we work to start industries, when you want to nationalize them?' And as regards compensation, it is all at the sweet will and pleasure of the Hon. Minister. Such policy will only retard the progress of industry. On the question of compensation, 'no equity, no law, no justice', that is the dictum. Now, Sir, every speech made here is widely read in the Indian language and other papers; every M.L.A. or M.L.C. goes to the district and says, 'no compensation for this and that.' At this rate, I ask, who will come forward and work industries? At the same time, you cry hoarse 'our Province is backward, let us start industries.' So I say, let the Government change their policy. I would appeal to the Hon. Finance Minister—who is very much amenable to reason—to think a hundred times before he launches on any commercial venture. Past experience has shown that every business venture of Government had proved a failure."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"What do you say about the generation of electricity?"

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"It is on a different footing.

"In clauses 7, 8 and 9 of the Bill, provision is made for giving three months' notice. I think the period is too insufficient. A family may be entirely dependent upon the income from buses. You should not ask the bus-owner in that family to quit in three months. He should get some compensation. He must have time to switch on to some other avocation in life. The Government will do well to provide for at least six months' notice. 12-30 p.m.

"Nothing is mentioned about the amount of compensation to be paid. It all depends on the rules which the Hon. Minister will lay before this House or cause to be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. The Government should give equitable compensation. No member would like that the Government should lose more money than what is reasonable.

"With regard to the issue of temporary permits, I have got my own doubts. Permit-holders whose permits were not in force on 2nd September 1946, the date on which the Government announced their policy of nationalization, shall not be entitled to any compensation. Suppose in a particular district, there is no nationalization even after ten or twelve years. Only temporary permits will be issued and renewed and the bus-owners will be made to spend all their money. Even after the ten or twelve years, the bus-owners will not be entitled to any compensation because the Transport Authorities will be issuing only temporary permits and renewing them without issuing permanent permits. The Government will do well to obviate this difficulty.

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"Now I come to the Traffic Boards in the districts. As far as I know, they have not worked sufficiently well. No doubt it has been the policy of the Government to include the members of this House in those Boards. Really any sensible member of this House will like to keep aloof from those Boards, because people will be approaching him and it will be a sort of nuisance. Such of the members of this House who have been members of the Traffic Boards have been so with much inconvenience and even at the cost of their own prestige.

"In all the twenty-four District Road Traffic Boards, we do not find that even a single member from the Opposition has been included. All the members have been taken from the opposite side. Even in this small matter, the Government are not fair. I do not want to be communal and I do not want that the selection of members should be confined to the Muslim League or the new party. You may be in the Ministry and we may be in the Opposition. We may have fundamental differences. Barring these, in all matters we have a common approach. At least in these small matters, the Government should be above board. The Government should say, 'Here is a man who has offered his services. I shall accept his services, never mind whether he belongs to the Communist Party, the Muslim League, or the Kumararaja's Party.' These are my suggestions to the Hon. Minister for Motor Transport and I hope he will take them in the spirit in which I offer them."

HALF-HOUR DEBATE ON FOOD SITUATION.

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Government will make a statement on the food situation. In view of that I hope the hon. Member Sri V. Raghavayya will not press his request for an half-hour debate. If necessary, we shall have a full-dress debate on the statement."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"In view of the great advantage that will accrue from a full-dress debate on the statement, I agree not to press for the half-hour debate. I only request that the Hon. Speaker will be good enough to arrange for it in this sitting, as the situation is very acute and even food riots have taken place causing a great deal of annoyance to the public. I do not think that even normal public order can be preserved unless something drastic is done."

MR. SPEAKER:—"As soon as the statement is made, we shall consider the question of having a debate."

THE MOTOR VEHICLES (MADRAS AMENDMENT) BILL, 1948—cont.

MR. L. C. PAIS:—"Sir, I support the Bill and in doing so I may be permitted to make only one suggestion. The Hon. Minister in charge of Motor Transport has told us that for certain reasons and on account of certain difficulties it may not be possible to extend the nationalization scheme to the mufassal. The reason was given that the Government want to assess the full result of the work that has already been done. (At this stage, the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.) My only suggestion to the

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Hon. Minister is that, when this large question is being considered, he may also be pleased to consider whether the municipalities also should not be permitted to go on with the municipalization of motor transport services alongside the Government or independently or in the alternative. My reason for this suggestion is very plain. To-day the municipalities are suffering for want of funds. They have many constructive schemes to put through which are held up for want of funds. Here is a scheme which has been tried well by the Government in Madras City and which has yielded profit. If the municipalities are allowed to municipalize the transport service, they can augment their resources. With this only suggestion, I support the Bill."

* BEGEM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, I wish to support the principle of this Bill, namely, the nationalization of bus transport. I may point out that this principle that is being adopted by this House is not a new one. As a matter of fact, a resolution urging the nationalization of road transport was adopted even during the Advisers' regime by the Post-war Reconstruction Committee as early as 1944, which was seconded by no less a person than a capitalist of the status of Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetti. I was a member of that Committee and both he and I supported the principle because we arrived at the conclusion that it would be in the interests of the public at large. In view of the fact that railways have been nationalized, it is felt that road transport is also a service which should legitimately come within the control and ownership of the State so that there might be co-ordination between rail and road transport and unnecessary and wasteful competition between the two eliminated. Another consideration for our lending our support to the above resolution was that we felt that the Government would be able to earn substantial revenue, which they could usefully utilize on the construction and maintenance of roads which were in an appalling condition. While I lend my support to the State ownership of road transport, I should like to utter a note of caution and urge upon the Government to move most cautiously and carefully in regard to their scheme and not to proceed in a haphazard or headlong manner.

"Another point that I should like to urge is that while nationalization may be desirable in respect of certain industries or service, it should not be deemed to be a panacea for all human ills as some persons in this House and elsewhere are inclined to imagine. The people and the Government should not make a fetish of nationalization and urge the State control of every item of industry. At the present time the talk of nationalization is proceeding in season and out of season with reference to most of the industries to such an extent as to be of infinite harm to the industrial development of the land. At a time when the air in this country is thick with the talk of nationalization of this and that industry, there comes the news from Great Britain that one full year's operation of the United Kingdom coal

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mines by the Labour Government is costing the British tax-payer £20,000,000, being the loss sustained by the industry. This should serve as an eye-opener to the Government and the people of this land, and impress upon them that nationalization is not a panacea for all ills. While nationalization may be resorted to in regard to certain public utilities like electricity and road transport, every item of industry cannot be subjected to State control in the interests of production and the well-being of the people at large. I, therefore, urge upon the Government not to be carried away with the slogan of nationalization and be obsessed with their capacity to successfully operate every industry. Even in regard to road transport the Government have to exercise their utmost vigilance and caution to make the scheme a success. It is a well-known fact, which must be acknowledged by the Government, that Government departments do not go well with commercial enterprises. The Government must dismiss from their minds the idea that an I.C.S. officer will be able to discharge his duties with reference to a commercial undertaking like road transport with the same degree of efficiency and competence as one who has had a back-ground of commercial training. Hence the Hon. Minister should take steps to entrust the work of this department to those who have had some training in commercial enterprises.

“ Another point to which I wish to refer is that it is indeed a matter of regret that the Government have provided in this Bill loop-holes to evade the payment of compensation. In consequence of these loop-holes, in course of years, the Government will completely escape the payment of compensation. It must be remembered that to-day we are not being governed by a communistic regime which is opposed to all sense of equity and does not recognize the necessity for the payment of compensation to those who are deprived of their rights. We are living in a state of society which has respect for justice, fairness and equity and the Government of this land is being administered under the Government of India Act, 1935, section 299 of which provides for the payment of compensation to those whose rights are taken away. I wish to urge upon the Government to act in consonance with the spirit of that Act and not to evade the payment of compensation to those who are deprived of their rights.

12-45 p.m. “ Another point that I should like to mention is that it was desirable that the basis on which compensation is to be paid should have been incorporated in this Bill itself. The attention of the late Mr. Daniel Thomas had been drawn to this and we expected that the defect in the Bill would be rectified in the Select Committee. But we are disappointed. I hope, at least the rules with reference to the grant of compensation, when they are ready, will be placed before this House and the approval of this House obtained before they are enforced.

“ Before I conclude I should like to advert to the other matter and that is that it is most undesirable on the

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part of the members of this House to interfere with the working of the Transport department, in regard to which many complaints have been heard. In this connexion, I may state that the late Mr. Daniel Thomas himself several times complained to me bitterly that his life was made miserable and irksome as a result of the constant interference of legislators with his work. His heart was in the Law portfolio which he had been asking for ever since he took up office, and he was simply disgusted with the Transport portfolio which was a regular nuisance to him because legislators would not give him any peace of mind. I would, therefore, request the hon. Members of this House to keep aloof from interference in the interests of the efficiency of the department and also in the interests of the public at large. (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi: ‘ And in the interest of the Minister’s health also.’) (Laughter.) Yes, the interest of the Minister’s health also demands this, for I feel that the late Mr. Daniel Thomas had been overworking himself, as a good deal of his time was being taken up by the constant stream of visitors from this House. I, therefore, hope that my colleagues in this House will exercise forbearance.

“ With these remarks, I have pleasure in supporting this Bill.”

* SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—“ Madam, Deputy Speaker, nationalization of motor transport in this Province is the declared policy of this Government. So is the will of the people. There shall not be any question of going back on this unequivocal declaration of policy, whatever may be the pressure that might be brought to bear on it and from whatever quarters it might come.

“ Madam, the Government and this party behind this Government are wedded to this policy. Eager and united as we are on this matter, we should not hustle the Government into quickening their pace, for any hasty or wrong step might ruin the otherwise bright future of this industry. If the Minister-in-charge were to announce to-day that from to-morrow morning, all the buses in the mufassal and in the entire Province are to be State-owned, then it may be spectacular indeed. It may catch the public gaze, but in my opinion, it will be anything but prudent. We should not hustle the Government; also we should not allow the Government to run any risks. Therefore, I am not sorry at the decision of the Cabinet that this policy will be deferred for a few months, for the purpose of assessing and reviewing the results so far achieved. Now, Madam, the City of Madras is having the privilege of enjoying the Government motor transport. When I say that, I do not mean that all the needs of the public are satisfied, as for instance, more buses, more routes, buses at more frequent intervals, courteous behaviour of the transport workers towards the general public, etc. But the problems that will confront you when you extend this policy to the mufassal will be far too different and far more difficult than what we have in the City of Madras. The City of Madras is a very compact

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area and there is ample scope for proper and effective supervision and efficient control. In the mufassal the roads are so bad that the wear and tear of an average vehicle will be very heavy. The life of a bus running in the mufassal will not be half as much as it is in the City of Madras. Further, people in the rural areas are not used to demand tickets. That is, in my opinion, a very serious handicap. If the people are not accustomed to demanding tickets and if the conductors do not issue tickets, then there will be a consequent loss of revenue to the Government. Not only that the City of Madras being very compact, and every route being only four or five miles in length, it will be very easy to put up a workshop or two within the City to attend to the repairs to any vehicle as soon as it gets damaged. But that is not possible in the case of mufassal transport services. Probably you will have to locate six or twelve centres for the installation of workshops in every district and that means a lot of staff and additional expenditure. That is why I want to make a humble suggestion to the Government in regard to this matter. I should like the Government to take up two or three more routes in the mufassal illustrative of these difficulties as an experimental measure and work them up. After they have gained sufficient experience and got over all the difficulties, then they might think of extending the service in the other routes as well.

"Now, Madam, we must also take into consideration one important factor in taking over the mufassal transport services. If private bus-owners are said to be making lots of money on these services in the mufassal, it is not because they are able to run the services efficiently or well, but because, in my opinion, they are indulging in some malpractices, such as overloading and charging higher fares. That the Government transport simply cannot do. So the Government should not be guided by the consideration that private operators are making tons of money in this business. I would only request the Government to proceed slowly and cautiously in this matter. Slow and sure should be our motto. At the same time, I must submit, that they should not also slacken their pace unduly. That is my submission.

"Now, Madam, in this Amending Bill there are two or three provisions which are objectionable in my opinion. One is the addition of a proviso to section 44, sub-section (2) of the Act under clause 4 of this Bill. It says: 'Provided that if the Provincial Government think fit, the Provincial Transport Authority or a Regional Transport Authority may consist of a single official.' I do not know, Madam, why the Government is enamoured of officials. Friends who preach democracy, who profess and practice democracy and who are the creations of democracy should not fight shy of these democratic institutions. Do the Government think that if a single official is entrusted with the care of these vehicles throughout the Province, he will be able to manage the system more efficiently? Or is it their opinion that if non-officials alone are entrusted with this business, they will not work it properly? I do not think that it is proper way of looking at the matter. I deprecate the very tendency of the Government in

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entrusting these matters to a single official rather than to officials with non-officials attached to them. I would very much wish that the Provincial Transport Authority and the Regional Transport Authorities are more broad-based and their number increased by the addition of more non-official elements. I quite see that there are some attendant risks. The same risks will be there, even if it is entrusted to an official. I do not see any reason why these duties should not be entrusted to the non-official agency combined with officers of the district concerned. I certainly take strong objection to the provision contained in section 44-A under clause 5 of this Bill, which says that under certain circumstances, the Provincial Government may authorize the Provincial Transport Commissioner to do anything he pleases or even to supersede the orders of the Provincial or Regional Transport Authority. That is indeed a very dangerous provision. I see that the Government have already taken power under clause 3 of the Amending Bill, namely, by section 43-A to issue such orders and directions of a general character as they may consider necessary, in respect of any matter relating to road transport, to the Provincial Transport Authority or a Regional Transport Authority and that such Transport Authority shall give effect to all such orders and directions. This is quite sufficient power. Then why entrust the Provincial Transport Commissioner, however highly placed he may be, to exercise all control, including the supersession of these bodies. That is not in my opinion a proper thing for the Government to do.

"Then, Madam, I do not know wherefrom my hon. Friend Mr. Leonard or my hon. Friend Mr. Raza Khan got the idea that the compensation that is provided for under this Act will be something nearing nil, or something illusory. When the Government say that they are prepared to pay compensation, it certainly means that the compensation will be equitable according to broad economic principles. It should not be confused with the compensation that is sought to be provided for in the Zamindari Abolition Bill. We are forgetting the most important difference between these two. In the former case we are going to compensate the bus-owners for taking over their buses, who are the masters of the property, while in the case of the Zamindars, the Government are going to compensate them for their terminating their services as rent collectors. After all compensation varies according to what right you acquire. If the right you acquire is merely rent-collecting business, then certainly the compensation ought to be much lower than what you propose to pay for acquiring the buses from the bus-owners. Therefore, if my hon. Friend Mr. Leonard gave the impression that the Congress Government is going to pay only a meagre compensation or compensation in name only, then I think he is awfully mistaken.

"I would also advise the Government to make such rules as 1 p.m. would give the public an assurance that when they say they would compensate, they would effectively compensate. We are going to

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take over many industries in the future. We are going to nationalize many key and major industries. Therefore we must have an assurance from the Government that people who are running these industries or putting more money into these industries would certainly get a reasonable compensation. This assurance is necessary from the Government and when Mr. Leonard wants it I request that the Government may give it.

“Thirdly, in addition to what I have said I would request the Government to give a specific date when they are going to take over the bus transport in the respective districts of the Province. It is but reasonable that they should give it. Of course I can see the difficulty of the Government in arriving at a certain date and fixing a certain date as the limit within which they will take over. But they can give an approximate idea as to when they are going to take over. It is absolutely necessary that a bus owner or whoever is running a bus in the mufassal should know when it is likely that his buses would be taken over so that he may adjust his circumstances, so that he may not lose and so that he may not accuse anybody. Therefore I want a definite statement from the Government, namely, that when they are going to consider the rules to be made under this Bill, they would give an approximate idea of the date on which this nationalization would come into force in the respective districts of the Province.

“Under the proposed new section 64-A the Government have taken very wide powers. True it is that many friends from the Opposition feel a little funky about it. (Mr. Muhammad Anwar Sahib: ‘Monkey!’). I said ‘funky’ not ‘monkey’. But in my opinion a provision of this nature is intended only to guard against certain rare possibilities. It is not intended to be put into effect every now and then or to interfere with the day to day administration by the Provincial or the Regional Authorities. I shall put this question, Madam. Supposing the Government do not possess this power what would then happen? Even in a certain emergency when the Government might feel it necessary to issue certain urgent orders to the lower rungs they would be helpless. So a provision of this nature which is general in character is necessary and nobody need feel that everything is taken away from the Provincial and Regional Authorities. Thank you, Madam.”

* * SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—“Madam, Deputy Speaker, the first point which I want to impress on the Government is that the method of passing legislation in order to give them power to nationalize the road transport service by amending Central Act IV of 1939 is not quite the proper way of doing it. Act IV of 1939 was passed by the Central Government for a specific purpose, namely, for the control of road transport and traffic. Even a cursory glance through the provisions of Act IV of 1939 will disclose this. Chapter II deals with licensing of drivers of motor vehicles. Chapter III of the Act deals entirely with the Registration of Motor Vehicles and chapter IV deals with the control of Transport Vehicles. It is in this chapter of the Act that this proposed amendment is sought to be made by the present Bill.

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Chapters V, VI and VII all deal with licences, appeal and construction, equipment and maintenance of motor vehicles. I have just taken you through the provisions of Act IV of 1939 to show that the purpose for which the Act was then passed was totally different from the purpose of nationalization of the road transport services. It is not merely as a technical point that I am drawing the attention of the House to this. Certain other provisions of amendment which are included in the present Bill to amend the provisions of the Central Act are possibly made ostensibly for implementing the purpose of nationalization and to help the Government to successfully run the nationalization scheme. This object is totally different from the object of the Central Act IV of 1939. To explain my point that this is not the proper way I shall draw the attention of the Government to a case in Bombay: I have also the fear that at sometime the matter might go to a Court of law and this kind of legislation may be held *ultra vires*. That is why I propose to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to a particular case though I do not exactly remember the citation of the judgment. In 1937 or 1938 the Bombay Government wanted to introduce prohibition. The Madras Government also wanted to do so. The Madras Government passed a special Act for the purpose, namely, the Prohibition Act. The Bombay Government on the other hand wanted to achieve the same object by amending the Abkari Act. The matter went up to the Bombay High Court and that Court said that that legislation was *ultra vires* and they said: ‘You cannot achieve certain diverse objects by diverting the original objects of the original legislation’. That is one point.

“Then we come to the provisions of this amending Bill. The first amendment is to section 43. Section 43 of the Act deals with the power of the Provincial Government to control road transport. I want to know where is the object of the section which is ‘power of the Provincial Government to control road transport’ and where is the object of nationalization. The section runs as follows: ‘Having regard to the advantages offered to the public trade, industry, etc., by the development of motor transport and the desirability of co-ordinating road and rail transport and the desirability of preventing deterioration of the road system and the desirability of preventing uneconomical competition among motor vehicles, etc., and after having heard the representatives and the interests affected and having consulted the Provincial and Regional Transport Authorities the Government may by notification in the official gazette do?’ (Do what?) ‘It may prohibit or impose conditions on the conveying of long distance goods traffic generally or prescribed classes of goods by private or public carriers, etc.’ It is to this section that the amendment is sought to be made now giving power to the Government to nationalize the entire road transport system, or as it is called here to give power to declare that it will engage in the business of road transport either throughout the Province or in such areas therein or on such routes, etc. What I submit is, instead of this indirect method of legislation by the amendment of an unsuitable existing legislation, the Government might well have come forward with a full fledged legislation with a beginning, a middle and an end.

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"So far as the provision of compensation is concerned, I have nothing much to add to what has already been said. I don't think that there will be any trouble about its being *ultra vires* because the interests that are going to be acquired will be compensated. As the previous speaker has said compensation means just compensation, fair compensation and adequate compensation unlike the compensation given to inamdars. That is what he said. I agree. (Interruption.) Yes, to small zamindars also. That is the main portion.

"Coming again to clause 3 of the Bill the whole object of nationalization is gone. That purpose has altogether been forgotten. Advantage is taken of the amendment of the Act and again the autocratic mind of the Government thrusts itself forward. The rest of the provisions of the Bill are intended only to take more power and more power and still more power into the hands of the Government. Under clause 3 they want an additional section, namely, 43-A. As I said just now, Madam, Deputy Speaker, section 43 deals with the control of road transport and the imposition of conditions over the carriage of goods over long distances. Then let us see what this new clause which is being added is intended for. It says that the Provincial Government may issue such orders and directions of a general character as it may consider necessary in respect of any matter relating to road transport. Section 43 says in any matter relating to long distance traffic the Government may impose conditions, etc. But here it is in respect of any matter relating to road transport the Government may issue directions to the Provincial Transport Authority or a Regional Transport Authority and such Transport Authority shall give effect to all such orders and directions. In another clause these orders are made unappealable. The Government are presenting to the legislature the scheme of nationalization which is very presentable and welcome; but under cover of that they are trying to take more power for themselves. Time and again it has been pointed out on the floor of the House that it would not add to the prestige and reputation of the Government that they should try to take such powers under the cover of legislation. We are depriving the civil courts of their power to adjudicate disputes arising between the State and the subject. The effect of section 43-A is that whatever instructions or orders proceed from the Fort St. George to the Regional or Provincial Transport Authority they should be carried out. I submit, Madam, that this is not law. It is only a nominal law. It is not law that we are asked to pass but it is a mere executive act which we are asked to approve. This is the kind of legislation by the Government against which protests time after time from every group and every section of the House have been made.

"Then again in clause 4 which seeks to amend section 44 the same kind of autocratic tendency shows itself though it is elected autocracy and not hereditary autocracy. What does it say? It says: 'Provided that if the Provincial Government thinks fit, the Provincial Transport Authority or a Regional Transport

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Authority may consist of a single official'. I would submit that this provision is altogether *ultra vires*. Section 44 (2) of the Central Act says that the Provincial Transport Authority or Regional Transport Authority shall consist of such number of officials and non-officials as the Provincial Government may think fit. The point is, officials and non-officials have been deliberately put in there so as to keep the legislation in harmony with the progressive ideas in this country. And to-day if suddenly this Government should come forward and exercise its power of amendment to the extent of saying that it may consist of a single official and remove the non-officials altogether, I submit that this provision is absolutely *ultra vires*. This clause fully expresses the mind of autocracy. It would be declared *ultra vires* if the matter is taken before the High Court. I would, therefore, request the Hon. the Leader of the House to consider this point before he finalizes it, because the whole purpose of democracy—let alone democracy, I do not want to use the word 'democracy'—the whole object with which non-officials have been associated with the administration of the Motor Transport would be negatived. This amendment seeks to destroy the original Act altogether and destroy the purpose of the original Act also. It is not merely *ultra vires* but it is also an improper thing which we should not do. I would, therefore, submit that this is not a provision which should be agreed to by the House.

"Madam, the previous speaker objected to the Provincial Transport Commissioner taking powers. On the other hand, I would submit that the Provincial Transport Commissioner, being a statutory authority, must be invested with powers. This Government should not seek to interfere with the free exercise by the Transport Commissioner, of those powers. That is why I submit that while section 44-A is all right, section 43-A is thoroughly destructive. There is no use of giving or retaining powers in the hands of statutory authorities if there is also a provision to the effect that those statutory authorities shall obey whatever instructions the Government might issue to them even before they conclude their proceedings. Then we come to section 64-A. This is not law. This is neither an amendment of the Act. It is merely the language of autocracy. At every step and in every section, Government want to show that they have got powers. They want to exercise those powers irrespective of fairness and justice. The clause says—

'64-A. The Provincial Government may, of its own motion or on application made to it, call for the records of any order passed or proceeding taken under this chapter by any authority or officer subordinate to it, for the purpose of satisfying itself as to the legality, regularity or propriety of such order or proceeding and after examining such records, may pass such order in reference thereto as it thinks fit.'

By this provision, all the remaining efforts at legislation and all efforts at amendment, are simply nullified. How many sections

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are required for this Government to take this all embracing power to run the Government simply by executive fiat and call it legislation? I wonder how long this process will go on. We have got the validation of certain orders. The only portion of the Bill that is really correct is the last one put in clarendon type in clause 14. That is 'Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to invalidate any decision or order of a Court which became final before the passing of this Act.' That is the only sensible portion in that section. The rest is nothing but mere autocracy dressing itself in its own shape and speaking in its own language consuming paper and print. Therefore, I submit that this kind of legislation should not really be permitted on the floor of this House. There is no use of my using the word 'permitted'. Somehow or other the position is that this executive Government are powerful. They have got a majority and they want to proceed with what is called legislation—legislation which debars courts statutory authorities to do or not to do or follow every instruction that is issued by Government in pending cases. Therefore, I submit that it should not be permitted. But I see that conditions are such that the words 'not permitted' are misplaced and wrong. I submit this, however, that when they have got the majority, the responsibility of the Government is much greater. The Government should see that the great powers which they take to themselves are not misused. Let the legislation be real legislation. Let them bring real legislation sanctioned rather than take legislative sanction to condone or to approve of all the executive fiats. The responsibility of the Government is very great. Let them not think that because this Bill is passed by a majority, and there are only very few people raising these points, that everything is all right. The whole country is watching in what way we are proceeding. It is not yet one full year since we attained our freedom. Not only this country, but all the other countries are watching how we are working our democracy and how after Swaraj we are conducting ourselves. A great dictum was made yesterday by one of the Hon. Ministers that democracy must be slackened. I think that this is not the time for slackening democracy. On the other hand, we must strengthen and consolidate democracy and show to the world that after the British tutelage of two hundred years, we are able to run our democracy on sound and fair lines broad based on justice. Time and again, I have been drawing the attention of the Government to the principle that Government should not try to bring in legislation, which is legislation only in name, and which is only a request that all their executive acts must be condoned or approved. I know that my voice is not strong. I know that although there may be several people who will agree with me, they may not come out exactly to tell hon. Members and the Hon. Minister frankly that what Government are doing is not the correct one. The fact that they are silent puts even a greater responsibility on the shoulders of the Hon. Minister and the Government."

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* SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Madam Deputy Speaker, the Bill introduced by Government involves two principles. The first principle is nationalization of transport. I completely agree there and I heartily support the principle of nationalization. We are anti-feudal and anti-capitalist. The Congress as a party is socialistic in its ideals and the more the Government act in that direction, the more they are Congress. If they go the opposite way, I think they are un-Congress. In this Bill, the Government propose to nationalize this motor transport. I congratulate the Government on nationalizing the motor transport. Government should do this as quickly as possible. It is not that we do not like the merchants. When we nationalize, we do not hate the merchants. It does not mean that we are hostile to them. So far as we nationalize, that portion of the business which was in the hands of private people, is no doubt taken away from them. But so long as the business is in their hands we wish them all success. They are our friends. We do not mean any harm to merchants. I represent a constituency of merchants. Let them do their business. Let them prosper and let them be happy. But when Government want to take up something in the interests of the nation, they should not come in the way and complain that the Congress is hostile to the mercantile community. Because my learned Friend, Mr. Raza Khan, referred to this I am only replying to him in this way. In the process of nationalization the Government may make mistakes. It is said sometimes that the Government, by taking up a business might lose money and that private individuals can manage things in a better way. It may be so because a private individual is intent upon making as much profit as possible. He will be careful and he will devote all his time and squeeze work from his employees. But the Government's object is not profit-making. Of course, they want some profit only for the benefit of the nation. Therefore, Government will not be so stringent in the running of this business as a private individual. The Government must make experiments and profit by experience, and improve the business in course of time, so that, within a reasonable time, everything will be placed on a proper basis. That is the difference even in England between the Conservative Party and Labour Party. The Conservatives always raise a hue and cry whenever any business is attempted to be taken over by the Government. They want everything to be given to merchants and capitalists. But the object of the Labour Party is to make everything nationalized as far as possible. It is in that sense that we have introduced the Zamindari Bill. We want to bring all the lands under the control of the Government. At the same time, we have provided for compensation to be paid to the people. In the same way, here also we have provided for the payment of compensation to the bus-owners if they have not run their buses for three complete years. If nationalization takes place, within three years, reasonable compensation will be paid to bus-owners. It is a very good thing. I approve of the principles of nationalization, and I wish that Government should carry out this policy as speedily as possible."

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"I must say at this stage that the Transport Department has brought only ill-fame to Government. From top to bottom, i.e., from the Provincial Boards down to the District Traffic Boards there is some confusion. The department has not brought any good name to Government. On the other hand it has impaired the good name of the Congress and the Congress Government. If Government take up nationalization, it would be very good, because the whole blame will then fall upon Government. If the officials should be corrupt and should go wrong, the Government can check them. Non-official corruption is more difficult to be dealt with by any Government. Wrong patronage, partisanship and group mentality are all more difficult to be dealt with by any Government. Officials can be dealt with immediately. If an officer should go wrong, his superior will take immediate action against him. Therefore, the sooner nationalization is introduced the better it will be.

"The second point is that Government are taking more powers. Let them take more powers. Anyhow, it is now too late for us to stop this Bill. I hope that the new Minister will set up this department properly, will infuse new spirit and new energy and cleanse all the defects that are prevailing there now. This department should be made as efficient as possible. I hope that he would not abuse the powers that Government are taking under this Bill. For instance, there is the power to appoint an official superseding a board. I hope he will not do that though the power is there. So long as the present system continues, the board must be there. I hope officials will be appointed without regard to party affiliations. Only men of good character should be appointed. Then alone it will bring reputation to the department and to the Congress Party, of which this Government is the chief agent. I am sure the new Minister will see that the department is manned by men of good character—men who will do justice irrespective of other considerations.

"With these words, I support the Bill generally. I would request the Minister not to put into force certain provisions in the Bill unless there is a necessity for it."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"I now adjourn the House till 2-30 p.m. The House then adjourned for lunch."

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting the Bill, I would like to make some suggestions to my Hon. Friend, Mr. Gopala Reddi. My hon. Friend was pleading that he could not introduce nationalization quickly in other parts of the Province because of the shortage of petrol. I am sorry, Sir, that an intellectual like Sri Gopala Reddi should plead like this. It is necessary to nationalize because of petrol scarcity itself. Then, the control of petrol will be in your hands and you will be able to know how much you will be able to spend for these public utility services in the mufassal. As it is, you are

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giving petrol to private concerns and you do not exactly know whether this petrol is really being used for those buses. There are many cases which have been brought to my notice and I think Government are already aware of the fact that some owners of buses and lorries have accumulated petrol coupons and they are selling them to Hyderabad at a very high price. They make large amounts of money by smuggling them from our territory and selling them in the Hyderabad territory. This is a very serious situation. For the very reason that petrol scarcity is there, it is absolutely essential that nationalization must be introduced and effectively. Sir, I find in this House itself some friends who are trying to plead against nationalization and on behalf of private ownership. I can quote one instance which occurred only day before yesterday. The District Collector and the District Superintendent of Police went to a place called Chilakalurpet and there they found a bus overloaded with passengers who had paid double the fare. There are many such instances and the public are put to a lot of difficulty and inconvenience by these greedy private-owners who are merely trying to become rich. Such being the case, it is absolutely necessary that nationalization must be introduced immediately. I am sorry to find that there are still people speaking against nationalization when the order of the day is nationalization of at least the public utility services in the whole world. When, even in England, nationalization is going on speedily, in a country like India, if you find difficulties to nationalize, I am really very much surprised about it.

"Then, Sir, in this Bill, I find there is the question of compensation. I do not know, Sir, why this word should find a place in this Bill. Compensation is haunting our Ministers every time. What is the compensation that you want to pay in the Zamindari Bill to those who have become already rich on account of their monopoly? What is the compensation that you want to pay to the bus which has already become useless? Are you going to give the original price or are you going to assess its value according to the market-rate? Practically, every bus-owner runs his bus for five or six years and during that time, he gets not only the cost of the bus but treble or sometimes ten times more money out of it. Such being the case, I do not know why compensation is necessary. It is just like the military people selling their jeeps at the Avadi Military stores. If you purchase such a jeep, you will find that every part of it is worn out and some parts even stolen away, and there is so much of inconvenience for the purchaser. Similarly there may be many defects when you take over these buses. I do not advise the payment of compensation except where the bus is run only for six months or one year. Sir, this compensation disease must be immediately cured and that must be got over. We must see that the common man is profited by this nationalization and everybody gets the benefit out of it. Some individuals should not be made to pocket this money.

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"Then, Sir, I am very much distressed to see that the present Bill does not contain anything about labour that are engaged in these transports. As a matter of fact, there is the award of the Industrial Tribunal to regulate the conditions of labour in the motor transport services."

MR. SPEAKER:—"We are in the second stage of the Bill. The hon. Member is speaking as if we are in the first stage. The Bill has now emerged from the Select Committee and the hon. Member should speak only on the clauses of the Bill. He is speaking as if it is a general discussion."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"I only wish to suggest that this Bill should have contained at least the terms of this award regulating the conditions of labour. The findings of that Tribunal are not incorporated in this Bill. Recently it was reported in the Press that some of the paragraphs of the award of the Industrial Tribunal would apply to the Government Transport Department also. But, now it appears that they do not apply to the Government transport. There is a story in Andhra. It seems that a Brahmin was going round preaching everybody that on Amavasya day they should not use onions in the house. His wife heard that and, therefore, she did not put onions in the curry. When the Brahmin came home, he beat his wife for not putting onions. It is just like that. Government are trying to apply the sections only to the private owners and not to the Government transport. Sir, there is already trouble brewing and they have already given strike notice. If that is so, I would advise my hon. Friend Sri Gopala Reddi to go deeply into the matter and to see that he implements the award given by the adjudicator appointed by the Government."

"Then, Sir, one of our hon. Friends from the Opposition said that if everything is nationalized, merchants may not take interest in the industries and that they may not work without the profit motive. Sir, I say that unless the industries such as the public utility services are taken over by the Government immediately, there will be no chance of developing our country on proper basis. Now, Government have taken electricity; railways are in the hands of the Central Government and they are being run better than they were run by the companies. But for the scarcity of engines, railways are being run properly and much of the money is going to the Central Treasury. So also, you must be able immediately to nationalize the bus services in the mufassal also. During the Budget Session, we were asked to vote for a grant; we have given that grant and at that time we were assured that on such and such a date, the whole of the transport system in the Province of Madras will be nationalized and that it will start with the City of Madras and will then be extended to the district of Coimbatore and other districts. Now, you have said good-bye to that scheme in order to spare some money. I think it is not fair. There may be some difficulties but difficulties must be got over."

"I only want to say one word more on this. In this nationalization, we are going behind the times. If you keep a clock and

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if you put the minute-hand at 12, it goes further to 1 and not backwards to 11. So also, the whole world is progressive and we are moving progressively towards a socialistic state. Every country is following this principle. If you are behind the times, you will be only missing the bus and you will lose the very little freedom that you have already got and you will be far away from real independence. With these words, I support the Bill."

DR. D. S. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is rather late in the day to discuss the problem of nationalization. For what all it is worth, we are committed to the policy of nationalization. We have put our hand to the plough and we cannot turn back now. Sir, whatever the reasons that might have induced us to support this big venture, one thing is certain that our Government resources are limited financially. We need money and plenty of it. We have lost a large amount of money and somehow that must be made up. So long as the nationalization of motor traffic brings in money to the exchequer, I do not think we have any right to refuse it. Sir, we know that certain things look admirable in theory and on paper but difficulties encounter us in practical working. However magnificent a scheme may be and however much we are convinced that millions and millions of rupees would go into the exchequer, still difficulties of accumulating them and using them for the right purpose stares us almost at every turn."

"Sir, for one thing we know that what is everybody's business is nobody's business. The Government think in terms of the nation. But the individuals that compose the nation shelve the responsibility and, therefore, many things which ought to be done and in fact could be done to satisfaction somehow miss the mark. With my own little experience of the Government of Mysore which had been at least two decades ahead of the then British India, I could say with a great deal of confidence that whatever the Government undertook from their point of view completely failed so far as profits and losses were concerned. Take for instance the great Bhadravathi Iron Works, which I might say, was a venture. For several years, it was a losing concern, so much so that legislation was brought year after year suggesting and fighting for the closure of the Bhadravathi Works. But it had to wait for a long time. Therefore, for nearly 15 years the concern was running at a loss. Finally when the war broke out, the condition of the works suddenly changed, and what was a losing concern now became a profitable one. And if many of the ventures of the Government proved financially a loss to the State, it is not because the Government were not equipped with all the resources that private individuals have, but somehow the very method of working has been as I said earlier, it is nobody's business, and nobody is really interested as the individuals are and the whole thing practically ended in a financial loss to the country. Sir, we get poor consolation by looking at the past."

"We have before us the example of Russia, where the so-called Soviet methods of work, they say, have yielded admirable results. To what extent it is true it is very difficult to say,

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because the party in power in Russia tried its very best to place before the world only one aspect of the question. Visitors are shown only certain scenes. They are not permitted to go and look round, to look behind the scenes to know how things obtain in that country. Therefore, the so-called scenes in Russia are no object lessons to us unless we get information at first-hand. But, whatever it may be, there is one thing to be said for Russia, and the Russian proletariat. They are imbued with a spirit of nationalism. We are told rightly or wrongly, all the sufferings that they undergo, all the work and privation they go through are in the interests of the country at large. And, therefore, if we can impress that on our masses and our leaders, the effects might be more satisfactory in future than it has been in the past. It is, of course, no easy task to undertake. I for one believe that the Minister who will be in charge of this portfolio should be a full-time Minister—not encumbered with other portfolios—giving all his time and energy, and with an enthusiasm that will be contagious and will be communicated to the whole staff working under him. We know also people, not only Government servants, but also others who feel that by trying to force this on to a success, they are doing a service.

“Also, we need labour organizers. It will not be possible to get them entirely within the ambit of Government service. There is a great deal of talent outside the Government, and it should be the policy of the Government to rope in all the enthusiasm, the business acumen and organizing ability outside, into the Government service. Somehow, ways and means must be devised by which the organizers outside the Government would feel that by co-operating with the Government they are doing a national service. The Mysore Government also attempted to do things on their own initiative, but nearly failed. Only then they began to see that they ought to go hand in hand with the people, and therefore both the initiative of the Government and the people came together and the injustices of the old have been dwindling, since then. So I offer to this Government, to take it for what it is worth that it would be a suicidal policy if they are going to discard the talent in the country. Somehow, they must be brought in, encouraged to feel that by co-operating with the Government they are serving the country at large.

“Now there is the conflict between capital and labour. We hope and trust that if Government capital is supplied the individual's desire to dominate Labour could be done away with, and sufficient inducements and encouragements may be given to Labour so that the latter also might realize that they are part and parcel of production, they are not the underdogs and the product of production, but are equal co-partners with those who supply them the resources for Government work. Therefore if we can possibly bring in Labour, the Government is best suited to make Labour realize that they are not the victims of the rapacity of the capitalists, but on the other hand, their contribution is as good and as important as that of those who constitute the Cabinet, and the

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Government might also improve and give more amenities to Labour so that the latter would try to work honestly. The Government should in recognition of their work give them handsome salaries and compensations, and even in a way a certain amount of pension at the end of 10 or 15 years. If that is done, I am sure, Sir, the problem will be solved.

“It is unfortunate that during the last decade or so even people in villages are giving up the habit of walking. They want a vehicle for travelling even two or three miles. A man that walks two or three miles is considered either a lunatic or a miser. We have the Public Health Department which insists upon public health. And here are our villagers who at one time were known to be hardy and could walk many miles, now waiting for hours and hours for a bus or train to carry them over a short distance of three or four miles. In a similar way, we see in the city, men and women waiting in queues even in pelting rain, instead of walking to their homes. This unfortunate practice must certainly be discouraged, if people are to be made hardy. In Germany, the discipline was so thorough in the olden days that little children between 7 and 8 were made to walk three or four miles in pelting storm and snow, so that they not only saved money but got that Spartan discipline even while they were young. While it is an advantage to increase the number of buses that we have in the street, the crusade must be carried on to use the buses only to the minimum. And the human energy and the money that is spent in locomotion might be spent on a better and nobler purpose. If this could be achieved, then I am sure we could tackle the problem of nationalization in a really national spirit. The Minister in charge of Transport must be really convinced of the importance. He must be enthusiastic, and must communicate that enthusiasm to the Cabinet and to those with whom he comes in contact with. He must be able to select men not by means of more seniority or priority, but by the test whether they have really the gift and the will to make this a great success. Otherwise, we would only be adding to our chapter on failures. I suggest that the Minister who is in charge of this portfolio should be young, robust and optimistic, must have the courage to give up all the other portfolios, and make this a great success within one year.”

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAILADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, Professor Ramachandra Rao has uttered words of wisdom. Indeed he has anticipated me in thought and word. It is no use, Sir, at this moment when it is too late in the day to decry nationalization. It is a *fait accompli*. We have now got to see how best this nationalization can be implemented. And that is where we feel we must give our suggestions to the Government of the day. So many of my friends on both sides of this House have spoken about the pros and cons of nationalization, and have brought out clearly that the irreconcilability between capital and labour is the most thorny problem of nationalization. But why is it, Mr. Speaker, that almost every section is to-day agreed upon nationalization? It is all for public good, and for

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3 p.m. expanding the services which the State can render. The State has now discovered new avenues of service. It is no longer Police State. It is now a social service State which is actually trying to expand its services by taking in as many avenues of services as possible. No doubt, transport services have witnessed a period of boom in recent years mostly due to the war. But as Dr. Ramachandra Rao cited the maxim of Aristotle that everybody's property is nobody's property, it is that fear, Mr. Speaker, which is tormenting the minds of those who have been criticising the scheme of nationalization. Sir, transport services have got to be taken over as soon as possible all over the Province, but the question is how best you are going to realize the virtues of private enterprise which yielded huge dividends and which has been an eye-sore to many people and at the same time see that public good is served. Mr. Speaker, it is no good arming the Government officers with immense powers with regard to a thing which requires the highest skill of private enterprise. You must seek the co-operation of private enterprise though it may not be in the sense in which hitherto it was allowed to function. We have got a galaxy of *entrepreneurs* who have shown a great deal of leadership in business and industry. Are you going to deny to this Province the benefits of their talents? Only the other day we heard that in the organization of transport much has got to be said of the human element. There are far too many bottle-necks which have got to be overcome which, I am sure, the officials will not be able to even imagine in their dreams. They can at best be only passing orders from their offices but they cannot be actually aware of the conditions in which the transport services work. We are all behind this Government in its desire to augment its resources to enable it to implement many schemes of social reform. But you are not going to get wonderful results from nationalization if you entrust the entire transport service to the officials alone. There should be a Board of Directors drawn from private enterprise, consisting of motor magnates who have built up a reputation for leadership in this field. The ownership must of course be in the State but for purposes of administration you must enlist the co-operation of the business magnates who have worked the scheme and brought huge dividends that have been an eye-sore to many sections of this House. I am appealing to the Government to see that a Board of Directors is appointed. The emoluments of the Directors may be according to the dividends they can bring to the Government. This will bring the profit motive into play and induce them to discover new ways of bringing dividends to the Government.

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want that what Aristotle admonished us about thousands of years ago should be repeated in this 20th Century of Jesus Christ. I do not want that the Government should make a muddle and should be proof of the saying that everybody's property is nobody's property. The officials do not know the realities of business administration. They will make a muddle. The administration will become top heavy. If you are

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going to allow non-officials to interfere in the administration, only the other day we heard of grievances expressed on the floor of the House about the interference of non-officials in the administration of transport. Therefore I suggest a happy compromise, a golden mean and a *via media* which will reconcile what apparently seem to be irreconcilables. They are not necessarily irreconcilable. Let us not alienate the sympathies of those operators who have got the genius of the trade and who will help the Government to increase the amenities to the public. Their services can be employed and their emoluments determined on a *pro rata* basis according to the dividends they are able to bring to the Government for the lines they operate.

"One more suggestion, Mr. Speaker and that is with regard to the extension of nationalization so as to cover lorries as well. We have been hearing of rail-road competition till recently, but at present the railway services are not available for the movement of goods and trade and industry have been crippled and paralysed for want of transport. Many commodities including textiles are rotting in different centres and cannot be moved over long distances especially to South India. At Bombay and Calcutta goods imported from overseas and produced in this up-country have been rotting for months and could not be transported here, because the railway administration is pre-occupied with many more vital problems. If you are going to expect huge revenues from sales tax, you should see that trade and industry are not denied the normal facilities for free flow of trade and that there is a quick turn-over of business. Unless there is a quick turn-over of business how are you going to realize revenues from sales tax and for the Central Government from income-tax? That is why businessmen are resorting to lorries for quick movement of goods over short distances. Otherwise conditions must have been intolerable and even as between districts there could not be movement of consumer goods. Much worse conditions than those of famine at present would have prevailed. Lorries may bring in much more revenue than buses. They are quite a simple proposition. They do not require much capital. If lorries are organized under the auspices of the State and facilities for the transport of goods are increased and insurance against risks provided—which is not provided now owing to the vagaries of the private owners—it will give a fillip to the trade and incidentally we will get more revenues by way of sales tax and transport nationalization. It is in a spirit of co-operation and compromise that I urge the Government to proceed. They should not be carried away by mere vendetta. There are ever so many men of talents in the industry whose co-operation will be most welcome."

SRI K. A. NACHIAPPA GOUNDER :—"Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the Government are taking steps to augment their finances by such means as will not affect the agriculturists, as was done by the previous British Administration. By these means the Government expect to get much revenue which will go to make up the loss they have incurred in other directions. In these matters we must

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proceed cautiously. I have stated before that this nationalization of transport, if taken up directly by Government and worked by Government would yield great benefits. But there are practical difficulties in working. Therefore I suggest that the monopoly must be taken by the Government and private enterprise asked to run the transport, so that the Government may have the maximum profit by giving the thing in competition. I do not know whether this suggestion has been considered. The Government have directly taken over the transport in Madras City. If the Government are not in a position to take over the transport in the districts also, I would suggest that they try this experiment at least in one or two places and see how it works. It will give us the full benefit of nationalization and at the same time the Government would not be compelled to invest large capital. If the scheme works profitably to the Government without much risk, it may be extended. In any case, I am anxious that something should be done to see that public needs are satisfied.

"Sir, we find that in the districts, people are not able to get adequate bus service. Petrol scarcity has added to the difficulty. I can understand the theory or the logic of my hon. Friend Dr. Ramachandra Rao that people should walk as much as possible. I can appreciate that argument, but we have to move with the times. People prefer to go by bus because they know the value of time. They are obliged to travel by buses in order to go from place to place quickly and attend to their avocations. There is no use of saying that walking is a physical exercise which will do good to the body and so on. That will not meet the needs of the situation. Ample facilities should be provided for the people and more and more buses should be put on the road. If the Government are not able to take up the thing directly, they may consider my suggestion that the Government may have a monopoly of the thing and give it out in competition among the various bus people so that they will be able to explore all possible means of increasing the facilities.

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"Then, Sir, I want to refer to another point which my hon. Friend, Mr. Anwar has touched. He said that on the Board of Directors motor magnates also may be taken on, so that this work may be carried on efficiently. But, I have got a fear that if these motor magnates are included in the management of this transport they will see that the Government undertaking proves a failure, so that it may go to their own hands ultimately. Because they have been working for so long in the line for their own profit, they would adopt all possible methods to make it a failure if they are put on the Board of Directors. So, Sir, my own feeling in the matter is, Government should think of the co-operation of other people who have got experience in the line and who have a good knowledge of transport and such people should be given a chance.

"In the Bill that has been brought forward, Government propose to centralize the whole thing and they want to do away even with Traffic Boards that were created by them. After all, in all these Boards, the appointments are made by the Government themselves; they nominate people and appoint officials to

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these Boards. I think they may be given some latitude to come to some decisions in these matters instead of the Government taking the entire responsibilities on their own shoulders. Of course, I can understand a popular Government taking such powers and I am prepared to grant it, but they have also to take into consideration the actual difficulties in the working. I would suggest decentralization of transport so that the work may be carried on quite smoothly and easily too.

"Whatever may be the policy of the Government, I am immediately concerned with providing more buses for the convenience of the public and I would therefore urge on the Government that they should see their way to increase the number of buses on every route and see that the public are amply provided with facilities of transport. If Government consider that the difficulty of petrol comes in their way, I would suggest that they go in for more charcoal buses to meet the situation. I once more urge on the Government to take all the suggestions into serious consideration and provide more facilities to the public. That is the first and foremost thing they should do."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir. I congratulate the Hon. Minister for Transport for plainly confessing that he has decided not to extend this nationalization because everything about it is not all right, but he has not chosen to give us all the reasons. The reasons that he gave were, want of petrol and so on. He stated also that there were other reasons which he was not prepared to reveal. He definitely stated 'I have decided not to proceed with nationalization'. But, if we read the Objects and Reasons for this Bill, the very first sentence says: 'The object of this Bill is to enable Government to nationalize motor transport services in this Province'. No other reason is given. If Government is not going to proceed with nationalization, I ask, why such haste and hurry for coming forward with this Bill. We have heard speeches and sermons about the pros and cons of nationalization, but the House has not been able to see clearly what the aim of the Government is not about nationalization. Probably they have got other aims. My hon. Friend, Mr. T. Viswanatham has explained how the Government are aiming to seize power with the help of this House and see that all the power is with them, so that they may later on do all they want to do. I think, Sir, that since the Hon. Minister told us yesterday that he is not proceeding with the work, there is no need for this Bill at all. But, we have to go beyond and see what are the aims. Apart from the powers sought by the Government in regard to nationalization, they are asking for still more powers. In this connexion I want to know whether the Government are going to answer the points raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Viswanatham. He says that their main aim is to avoid High Court decisions. In regard to the Public Safety Ordinance, the High Court said, it was no good, it was bad and all that. That is why they wanted to see that no more powers are given to the High Court. They interfered in the matter, wrote letters and sent for the files from

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3.15
p.m.

"Then, Sir, I want to refer to another point which my hon. Friend, Mr. Anwar has touched. He said that on the Board of Directors motor magnates also may be taken on, so that this work may be carried on efficiently. But, I have got a fear that if these motor magnates are included in the management of this transport they will see that the Government undertaking proves a failure, so that it may go to their own hands ultimately. Because they have been working for so long in the line for their own profit, they would adopt all possible methods to make it a failure if they are put on the Board of Directors. So, Sir, my own feeling in the matter is, Government should think of the co-operation of other people who have got experience in the line and who have a good knowledge of transport and such people should be given a chance.

"In the Bill that has been brought forward, Government propose to centralize the whole thing and they want to do away even with Traffic Boards that were created by them. After all, in all these Boards, the appointments are made by the Government themselves; they nominate people and appoint officials to

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these Boards. I think they may be given some latitude to come to some decisions in these matters instead of the Government taking the entire responsibilities on their own shoulders. Of course, I can understand a popular Government taking such powers and I am prepared to grant it, but they have also to take into consideration the actual difficulties in the working. I would suggest decentralization of transport so that the work may be carried on quite smoothly and easily too.

"Whatever may be the policy of the Government, I am immediately concerned with providing more buses for the convenience of the public and I would therefore urge on the Government that they should see their way to increase the number of buses on every route and see that the public are amply provided with facilities of transport. If Government consider that the difficulty of petrol comes in their way, I would suggest that they go in for more charcoal buses to meet the situation. I once more urge on the Government to take all the suggestions into serious consideration and provide more facilities to the public. That is the first and foremost thing they should do."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir. I congratulate the Hon. Minister for Transport for plainly confessing that he has decided not to extend this nationalization because everything about it is not all right, but he has not chosen to give us all the reasons. The reasons that he gave were, want of petrol and so on. He stated also that there were other reasons which he was not prepared to reveal. He definitely stated 'I have decided not to proceed with nationalization'. But, if we read the Objects and Reasons for this Bill, the very first sentence says: 'The object of this Bill is to enable Government to nationalize motor transport services in this Province'. No other reason is given. If Government is not going to proceed with nationalization, I ask, why such haste and hurry for coming forward with this Bill. We have heard speeches and sermons about the pros and cons of nationalization, but the House has not been able to see clearly what the aim of the Government is not about nationalization. Probably they have got other aims. My hon. Friend, Mr. T. Viswanatham has explained how the Government are aiming to seize power with the help of this House and see that all the power is with them, so that they may later on do all they want to do. I think, Sir, that since the Hon. Minister told us yesterday that he is not proceeding with the work, there is no need for this Bill at all. But, we have to go beyond and see what are the aims. Apart from the powers sought by the Government in regard to nationalization, they are asking for still more powers. In this connexion I want to know whether the Government are going to answer the points raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Viswanatham. He says that their main aim is to avoid High Court decisions. In regard to the Public Safety Ordinance, the High Court said, it was no good, it was bad and all that. That is why they wanted to see that no more powers are given to the High Court. They interfered in the matter, wrote letters and sent for the files from

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the Central Road Traffic Board to see that the High Court is not given powers. It is for that purpose that this Bill has been brought forward and they want this House to say, we want nationalization. When? Not now, but sometime hence when they want to do it. They do not specify the time even. The Hon. Minister for Finance and Transport confessed that he was not satisfied with anything in this world. That may be the case. However, he wants powers. Why he wants such powers seems suspicious. My Friend, Mr. Viswanatham read relevant portions and I do not like to take the time of the House in repeating what he has read, to show that the High Court cannot interfere in such matters. They can send instructions to the Provincial Road Transport Board, District Transport Boards, they can send for files, they can appoint any people they like to the Boards—ten people or even one person—and perhaps even without appointing anybody, they can do the work. There is one clause in the Bill according to which anything can be done. They want such powers. Are we to accept such a position? Of course, they have their majority, the greatest majority and they may come forward and say to the people outside, 'take care', we are proceeding with the Bill because we have a greater responsibility. You have of course, a greater responsibility to the greater majority you have here.

"Then, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Kaleswara Rao hopes that the Hon. Mr. Gopala Reddi is a great statesman and he will never abuse the powers and resort to this clause in the Bill. But, Sir, we have to see the past record of this Government. They have recently published a Bill and according to that Bill this self-same Government wants to nominate not only the members of District Boards, but also the Presidents of District Boards. That is what they want to do under that Bill . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is not proper in referring to that Bill here."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I do not like to take the time of the House in referring to that, but I only wish to point out how the powers taken by this Government are not properly used. We have examples of such nominations during the Advisers' regime. And here, this Government come forward to claim such powers to nominate Presidents of District Boards and no-confidence motions should not be moved against such presidents. There is yet another Bill before this House and I refer to the Zamindari Bill."

MR. SPEAKER:—"It will be taken up day after tomorrow and the hon. Member may have opportunity of offering his remarks on that Bill then."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am referring to these Bills in order to show how they have used their powers in the past. Sir, one Minister argued with me that the Premier has a right to nominate Ministers either from this House or anybody from the lakhs of people outside. Yes, he has the

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power, but it is a fraud on the electorate, when persons like my hon. Friend Dr. Ramachandra Rao and others in this House who were elected by the people are there . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member should not go out of the way and refer to matters which have no relevancy."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I accept that it is not relevant, but I am trying to demonstrate how in the past the Government and the Ministers have used the powers given to them. Of course, powers may be resorted to, but it is a reflection on this House when they say that there are not people in this House to fill such posts. Sir, I shall not give any more instances, because you have given me a warning. There are many more such instances. I do not see why they want still more powers when the Act itself contains ample powers. Of course, I sympathise with the Minister for Transport. Willingly or unwillingly portfolios are divided and subdivided and I cannot go into those matters. However, I sympathise with the Hon. Minister for Transport. But, is he aware of what all has happened in regard to the matter and why this Bill has been brought forward? This Government have power to nominate members to the District Traffic Boards and the Provincial Transport Board, but have they used that power properly? Is the Hon. Minister aware that in the various District Traffic Boards, they have nominated people belonging to the respective groups in their party—may be from this House or from outside? Can he deny that? Have there not been complaints? Have not instructions been sent from the Government to the High Court? The High Court have stated that it is all very bad to issue permits to this man and that . . ."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Did the High Court say that; certainly not."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"All people cannot understand judgments of the High Court and people must have the capacity to understand High Court judgments. They must have the training to understand what the High Court says. I am a lawyer and I can see what the High Court says. The High Court said, the Central Transport and the Provincial Transport authorities are bodies constituted by the Government and the Government shall not interfere with them. And there is the judgment. Perhaps the Hon. the Leader of the House was not the person who drafted it. The late Mr. Daniel Thomas has gone through the judgment and he has stated clearly that the High Court have no powers and so on. It is all there and I shall show it later on. There were questions in this very House that people belonging to the party in power in the Chingleput district got permits because they were either members of the Constituent Assembly or they lent their names through their letter heads. They have no capital and they have not registered themselves under the Companies Act either. But, one fine morning they got printed some letter heads as the Presidents of certain concerns and the application for the permit comes in in that very letter paper. The

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previous Minister who was in charge of Transport got such applications in such letter heads. Perhaps the present Minister in charge of the portfolio is not aware of that. I can show how some of the applications have come on letter heads"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"What does it matter if members use letter papers used by Members of the Legislative Assembly. As a matter of fact the hon. Member himself is sending his demi-officials to Ministers on Assembly letter heads."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"There is nothing wrong in it, Sir, provided there were such companies, provided they are directors of such concerns and that they were registered under the Companies Act. But, one fine morning they come into existence and it is these people that do all these things. My point is, this Government in regard to this transport matter, have not used their powers properly. It is not proper that we should accept such a position and say that the High Court have no powers. Sir, I have already given notice of a resolution that the wording of the Ordinance is not good and the House should disapprove of it because the right of a citizen to go to the High Court to issue a writ of *habeas corpus* is taken away from him. We know what they are going to do. The Ordinance says, even if your boy's head is taken away, you cannot go to the High Court. I do not know whether hon. Members understand the implications of it. Is it proper, I ask, that Government should take such powers and yet tell the people that nationalization is good and all that. They say it is only for three months. They also say, there will be no compensation in respect of temporary permit-holders. What can one do if Government issue temporary permits for say, three months, six months or even one year and since the permits are going to be only temporary, there will be no compensation. Then who is to say whether the permit is temporary or not. It is the Government that should say that. As a matter of fact, in respect of a particular line, you may go on issuing permits temporarily even up to a period of four years. You now say there will be no compensation in respect of temporary permits. Apart from the question of compensation, this Government have not properly used the powers given to them. There are things usually unheard of and untouched by the Hon. Leader of the House. He very strangely gives the reason that there is no petrol. Petrol is not only required for Government vehicles but it is required by private operators also. He says that there are also other reasons which he is not prepared to divulge to the House. It is really a pitiable condition in which we are placed. We cannot support all measures if all the matters connected with them are not made available to us. In this case, though the Hon. Minister has stated that everything is not good, he has not stated all the reasons for it. We are in such a position. It is but proper that an able administrator—as our Leader is—should ponder over, as my hon. Friend, Mr. Viswanatham has said, and see that so much power is not sought

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for when it is not necessary, especially when the Hon. Minister is not going to proceed with nationalization. As some other hon. Member has stated, absolute power corrupts one absolutely and Government should take note of it."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I would like the hon. Member to point out which is the clause in the Bill that is sought to deprive the High Court of the power?"

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I would like some time to be given for referring to it."

* SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really surprised to note why the Government have come forward with such a Bill as this at this stage. Now, Sir, you have been noticing that all over the world people are crying for nationalization. For instance, in England coal mines, banks and other means of production are being nationalized day by day. Because our Government have realised the importance of nationalization they have introduced it. No doubt, there are many practical difficulties in the way and unless and until one gets into the business he cannot come across those difficulties and only when one comes across difficulties he will strive to overcome them. It is no use that simply because it will mean profit to Government they want to run that business. It only proves the inefficiency of the Government. I would in this connexion refer to the case of Hyderabad where State Buses have been running with success for so many years. Even in spite of the economic blockade they are able to run their buses with groundnut oil mixed with power alcohol. Our Government having 24 districts and five crores of people with 50 crores of revenue, if they are not able to maintain and run the bus service, what can we call it, except that it is an inefficient Government."

"I would like to bring to the notice of Government what the defects are in the present administration. Traffic Boards have been constituted all over the presidency one for each district. They favour X and do not favour Y and God alone knows what the reason is and we are not able to understand the reason ourselves. When an appeal is preferred to the Central Road Traffic Board, they merely go on sending the appeal back for some reason or other to the people who have appealed. That is the way that appeals are disposed of. When the whole world is crying that all amenities should be municipalized and land should be socialized and industries to be nationalized, this Government alone sticks to old individual capitalist methods. It has, nevertheless been proclaimed that the intention of the Government is to socialize and to bring in socialism as early as possible. But I do not know when the Government is going to introduce socialism. There is no use of merely having pious wishes; you must try to put them into practice; you may come across with so many difficulties but with all that you must have the courage to go forward, push through and overcome difficulties. Difficulties are there to be overcome and simply because there are difficulties you should

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not keep quiet. The Hon. the Minister the other day said in reply to a question that the Government transport system in the City of Madras has been working at a profit; if it is so and especially when you are in need of funds to enlarge amenities to the people, why do you close this business and why do not you push through and get more money for the benefit of the people? The Hon. Minister must have known that there are many in the mufassal who started as drivers and have become millionaires. When individuals managed their business in such a way and became millionaires, if a popular Government, the people's Government finds that it is not in a position to run the business and make a profit out of it, we cannot but conclude that it is due to inefficiency? The Hon. Minister comes forward and says that the petrol position is very acute. I accept but is there no other way out; can you not introduce charcoal buses or Diesel oil buses and it has been said that Diesel oil buses are durable and in the long run, cheaper than petrol buses. If that is the case, having started the business, why do you go back; why this defeatist mentality and how long you want to suffer on account of this mentality—I mean the Government, Sir (laughter). It may be said: 'We are inexperienced and we do not have enough experience in the trade.' All right if that is the case, employ some of those magnates who have been in the line, treat them as your servants, put them in the correct way and see that the Government make a profit out of nationalization. Having started nationalization of bus services, you find that every one feels that it is his bus. One day I was travelling from Parry's corner to the Paikaddai. By the time I could purchase the ticket I had reached my destination. When I gave the conductor an anna and wanted the ticket the conductor asked me if I wanted a ticket and I asked him: 'Do not cheat your Government to the extent of one anna; this is your Government and it is your duty to run the bus on profit', and the man was repentant. Every passenger feels that it is his bus and he is having his state drive (laughter). I do not know why the Government want to curb and put an end to that enthusiasm which is prevailing among the people. See the conditions of bus transport in the mufassal areas. You will see even the tops are loaded and people do not know what will happen to them by the time they reach their destination. People are occupying the buses even on the right side of the driver, not ordinary people but responsible people who ought to know better. You can check all these things only when you have an efficient staff, a staff in which you have confidence and they are made to understand that they exist there only to serve the people with missionary zeal. Without that, Sir, I fear that it is not possible to make any enterprise a success. Having introduced the scheme, go ahead; why do you stop here? Why do you feel diffident? As regards nationalization in the City, what sort of nepotism and favouritism has been taking place? Labour generally and drivers, feel—now that the Government are running the bus services—that their services are secure? If they are dismissed or sent away they have a right of appeal

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to Government but if you leave these things to private individuals they can employ one man to-day and dismiss him to-morrow and what guarantee is there that a private individual will give such benefits to his servant? Let the Government not feel diffident and let them go ahead with nationalization of the whole Province. If they feel it difficult to take up nationalization of the whole Province, let them take it district by district or one regional area after another; let them take up the nationalization of lorry service in two districts and but service in two other districts and let nationalization gradually spread from district to district. What is the good of saying: 'There are practical difficulties; this is not the proper time; let us go slow.' I wish to know when the proper time will arrive and can the Government say which particular date will be suitable? No, Sir. Whatever the difficulties may be: 'March forward, get through the scheme that you have launched upon.' With these words, I resume my seat."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, the question was raised by the Leader of the House whether . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Is it a personal explanation?"

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Yes, Sir, I shall read for the benefit of the Leader of the House clause 14:

'All Orders issued by the Provincial Government, the Provincial Road Transport Authority or a Regional Transport Authority, on or after the 2nd September 1946 and before the commencement of this Act directing that no permits shall be issued or renewed under the said Act except for temporary periods and all temporary permits issued in pursuance of such orders, shall be deemed to be valid and no such order shall be called in question in any Court of law.'

The same thing is in the amended Bill also."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is validating the previous orders and we are not depriving any court of any jurisdiction."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"My point is that in future if the Government or the Central Road Traffic Authority or the District Authority does anything, I cannot go to the High Court. That is my explanation and that is why I said this morning that the Law Minister should be a lawyer."

SRI M. KANNIAPPAN:—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, இப்பொழுது நம்முடைய சென்னையிலும் இன்னும் பல பக்கங்களிலும் மோட்டார் போக்குவரத்தை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு அரசாங்கம் நடத்தவேண்டும் என்று நாம் தீர்மானம் செய்தோம். அப்படி தீர்மானம் செய்தபிறகு இப்பொழுது எப்படி நடத்திக்கொண்டு வருகிறோம் என்றால் சென்னை

[Sri M. Kannappan]

[14th July 1948]

பொருத்த அளவில் நடத்திவிட்டு இன்னும் பல பக்கங்களிலும் நடத்துவதை விட்டுவிடுவதாக தெரிகிறது. அப்படி விட்டுவிட்டால் எல்லா பக்கங்களையும் உடனடியாக எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்தவேண்டியதுதான் முக்கியமான கடமை என்று நான் நினைக்கிறேன். ஆனால் சென்னை மக்களுக்கு இந்த பஸ்களினால் ஏதாவது நன்மை ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறதா என்று பார்த்தால் இங்குள்ள தேவைக்கு 300 பஸ்கள் இருக்கவேண்டும். அதற்கு கம்மியாக இப்பொழுது 240 பஸ்கள்தான் ஒடுகிறது என்று எனக்குத் தெரிகிறது. அதோடு 50, 60 பஸ்கள் கெட்டுப்போய் எப்பொழுது பார்த்தாலும் ஸ்டாண்டில் நிற்கின்றன. அப்படி நிற்பதனால் மக்களுக்கு எவ்வளவு தொந்தரவு ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பதை முதலில் நாம் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். அது மாத்திரம் அல்ல. இப்பொழுது ஒடுகிற பஸ்கள் நம்முடைய வரி பணத்தால் அதிகப் பணம் கொடுத்து வாங்கி ஒடுகின்றன. அதை சீர்திருத்தப்பட்டு ஒடுகிறது என்று பார்க்கும் போது அந்த பஸ்கள் நடத்தும் விதமானது அந்த பஸ்கள் இன்னும் ஆறு மாதத்தான் ஒரே என்று தொழிலாளர்கள் சொல்லுகின்றார்கள். ஆறு மாதங்கள் ஒடினபிறகு அவைகள் கெடுதலாகிவிடும் என்ற முறையில் ஆபீசர்களை நியமிக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி நியமிப்பவர்கள் உண்மையாக மக்களுக்குச் சேவை செய்கிறவர்களாக இல்லை என்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. எத்தனையோ பஸ்களைப் பார்த்தால் அவைகளை கவனிக்காமல் எவ்வளவோ மனை அடைபட்டு இருக்கிறது. Nutsகள் கழண்டுபோய் கிடக்கின்றன. அவைகளை ஆபீசர்கள் சரியானபடி கவனிப்பது இல்லை. அதைப்பற்றிக் கேட்டால் இங்கே இருக்கும் ஊழியர்கள் அப்படி இருக்கிறார்கள் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அதற்குத் தகுந்த முறையில் அங்கிருக்கும் தொழிலாளர்கள் நடந்து வரவில்லை. அங்கிருக்கும் ஆபீசர்கள் வேண்டுமென்று தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு தொந்தரவு கொடுத்து வருகிறார்கள். இந்நிலையில் அவர்களுக்குக்கொண்டு சொல்லப்படுகிறது. அவ்விதம் தப்பான எண்ணத்தில் இருப்பது நம்முடைய காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கத்திற்கும் மக்களுடைய அரசாங்கத்திற்கும் அதை வைத்து நடத்த முடியாமல் எடுத்துவிடும்படியான நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டுவிடும். அந்தப் பழியும் நமக்கு வந்து சேரும். அப்படி செய்கிறவர்கள் ஐந்தாம் படைக் கூட்டம் என்று ஒவ்வொருவரும் முக்கியமாக சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது போலீஸ் ஆபீசர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் எல்லாம் முந்தி இருந்ததைப்போலவே இருக்கிறார்கள். முதலாளிகள் பஸ்களை வைத்து நடத்தி வந்தபொழுது இந்த போலீஸ் ஆபீசர்களுக்கு ஏதோ மாமூல் கொடுத்து வந்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது அரசாங்கம் பஸ்களை வைத்து நடத்துவதால் அவர்களுக்கு அந்த மாமூல் கிடைக்கவில்லை. அவர்களால் சம்பாதிக்க முடியவில்லை. இப்பொழுது போலீஸ் டிபார்ட்மெண்டிலிருந்து எடுத்துப் போட்டிருப்பதாகத் தெரிகிறது. அதனால் அவர்கள் இதை எடுத்து ஒழித்துவிடவேண்டுமென்று வேலை செய்வதாக தெரியவருகிறது. அவர்களும் அதில் வேலை செய்யும் தொழிலாளர்களும் இதை ஒழித்துக் கட்டுவதற்காக வேலை செய்வதாக தெரியவருகிறது.

3-45 p.m. “அது மாத்திரம் அல்ல. இன்னும் நம்முடைய பஸ்களுக்காக Workshop வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதையும் Contract ல் விட்டு நடத்துவதாகத் தெரிகிறது. அப்படி Contract ல் நடத்துவதால், முதலாளிகளுக்கு ரூ. 3,000-க்கு மேல் லாபம் கிடைப்பதாக தெரிகிறது. அது கூடவே கூடாது. அதை சர்க்கார் உடனடியாக எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்தவேண்டும். Contract-ல் விட்டு நடத்துவது என்பது ஒரு தவறான காரியம். அதை உடனடியாக போக்கவேண்டும்.

“கடைசியாக நம்முடைய தொழிலாளர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு பஸ்ஸில் வரக்கூடிய வருமானத்தில் அவர்களுக்கு பங்கு உண்டு என்று வைத்தால் நிச்சயமாக அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய சொத்தைப்போல் கவனித்து மக்களுடைய சொத்தை நல்ல முறையில் நடத்துவார்கள் என்பது என்னுடைய தாழ்மையான அபிப்பிராயம். கோவாபரேடில் முறையில் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் பஸ் வரும்படியில் பங்கு உண்டு என்று வைத்து ரூ. 100 கொண்ட ஷேர்கள் போட்டு வைத்துக்கொண்டால் அவர்களுக்கும் அதில் சிறுத்தை ஏற்பட்டு நன்றாக நடத்துவார்கள்.

[14th July 1948]

[Sri M. Kannappan]

இதைப்பற்றி நான் ஏற்கனவே தெரிவித்திருக்கிறேன். இப்பொழுது வரக்கூடிய லாபத்தில் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் பங்கு உண்டு என்றிருக்க வேண்டும். அப்பொழுதுதான் அவர்கள் உண்மையாக நடந்து கவனித்து வேலை செய்வார்கள். நமது தோழர் கனம் நாகப்பா சொன்னார். பணத்தை வாங்கிக்கொண்டு டிக்கட்டு கொடுப்பது இல்லை என்று. அது ஒருவாறு வாஸ்தவமாக இருந்தபோதிலும் கொஞ்சம் கவனித்துப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். ஒரு தனிப்பட்ட முதலாளி பஸ் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்திய காலத்திலும் இப்பொழுது நடப்பதையும் பார்க்கும்போது அப்பொழுது டிரைவருக்கும், கண்டக்டருக்கும், இன்ஸ்பெக்டருக்கும் எவ்வளவு சம்பளம் கொடுத்து வந்தார்கள் என்பதை புள்ளி விவரங்களைப் பார்த்தால் தெரியும். இப்பொழுது தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு ரூ. 30 கம்மியாக வருகிறது. குறைவான சம்பளத்தில் அவர்கள் வேலை செய்கிறார்கள். ரெண்டியில் போனால் இதைத்தான் அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கம் வந்தால் விமோசனம் வரும் என்று இருந்தோம். ஆனால் சம்பளம் இப்பொழுது கம்மியாக வருகிறது என்றும், எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் எங்கள் பேரில் ரிபோர்ட்டு எழுதிவிடுகிறார்கள் அதன்பேரில் உடனே டிஸ்ட்ரிப்யூட் செய்துவிடுகிறார்கள். அப்படி செய்வதற்கு இவைகளை எல்லாம் ஹேதுவாக இருக்கிறது என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஆகையால் எங்களுக்கு பயமாக இருக்கிறது என்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஒரு ரிபோர்ட்டு எழுதி விடுவோம் என்று பயமுறுத்துகிறார்கள். அப்படி ரிபோர்ட்டு எழுதினால் உடனே விசாரிக்காமல் டிஸ்ட்ரிப்யூட் செய்துவிடுகிறார்கள் என்று அரசாங்கத்திலேயே தெரிவித்திருக்கிறார்கள். இவைகளை போக்குவதற்கு நான் ஒரு யோசனை சொல்லுகிறேன். தொழில் சங்கத்தில் தலைவர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களில் ஒருவரை கமிட்டியில் போட்டுக்கொண்டு நியாயத்தை விசாரித்து உண்மையானவைகளை தெரிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டும். நியாயமாக இருக்கவேண்டும். இதைப்பற்றி பல இடங்களில் சொல்லி இருக்கிறார்கள். தலைவர்களை கமிட்டியில் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். அவர்கள் இப்பொழுது ஸ்ட்ரைக் நோட்டீஸ் கொடுத்திருப்பது அரசாங்கத்திற்கு தெரியும். அவர்களுடைய குறைகள் தீரவிட்டால் ஸ்ட்ரைக் செய்வோம் என்று மூன்று தினங்களுக்கு முன் ஒரு பெரும் கூட்டம் கூடி தீர்மானம் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி ஸ்ட்ரைக் செய்தால் யார் பாதிக்கப்படும். மக்கள்தான் பாதிக்கப்படுவார்கள். போக்குவதற்கு வசதி இல்லாவிட்டால் எல்லோரும் அவசியமான காரியங்களுக்குப் போவதும் ஆபீசர்கள் ஆபீஸ்களுக்குப் போவதும் பாதிக்கப்படும். அந்த நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டால் அரசாங்கம் ஏதாவது செய்யவேண்டும். வெங்கட்டரமண ராவ் தீர்ப்புக்கு எதிர்ப்பு வந்தது. அதை எதிர்ப்போம் என்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஏதோ முதலாளிக்கு ஒரு சட்டமும், அரசாங்கத்திற்கு ஒரு சட்டமும் இருப்பதுபோல் ஏற்படுகிறது. ஒரு தீர்ப்புக்காக நம்முடைய மனோபாவத்தை மாற்றிக்கொள்வதா என்று கேட்கிறேன். இவைகளை எல்லாம் கவனித்து ஸ்ட்ரைக் நோட்டீஸை வாபீஸ் வாங்கிக்கொள்வதற்கு அரசாங்கம் ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். வெங்கட்டரமண ராவ் தீர்ப்பு பிரகாரம் எவ்வளவு சீக்கிரம் வேண்டியது செய்யமுடியுமோ அதைச் செய்து ஸ்ட்ரைக் நோட்டீஸை வாபீஸ் வாங்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டும். இன்னும் அரசாங்கத்தின் சார்பாக தொழிலாளிகளையும் முதலாளிகளையும் ஒன்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். வேண்டுமென்று கிளர்ச்சி செய்து பலன் அடைவதற்கு ஒன்றும் செய்யவேண்டாம். இப்பொழுது நடப்பது மக்களுடைய அரசாங்கம் நமக்கு நியாயம் கிடைப்பதாக இருக்கிறது. மக்களுக்கு நியாயத்தை வாங்குவதற்கு காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரிகள் இருக்கின்றார்கள். இவைகளை யோசித்து தொழிலாளர்கள் உடனடியாக ஸ்ட்ரைக் நோட்டீஸை வாபீஸ் வாங்கிக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். உண்மையான வாக்குறுதி கொடுத்தால் ஸ்ட்ரைக் இல்லாமல் காப்பாற்றப்படும் பிறகு தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் விமோசனம் ஏற்படும் அவர்களுடைய குறைகளை நியாயமான முறையில் தீர்ப்பு தந்து நம் மந்திரி கோபால் ரெட்டி இருக்கிறார். எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் கூக்குரலாக இருக்கிறது. காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கம் வந்தது எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் ஸ்ட்ரைக் நோட்டீஸாக இருக்கிறது என்று கூச்சல், கிளர்ச்சி செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கம் நியாயத்தை வழங்குவதாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால் ஸ்ட்ரைக் இல்லாமல் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும்.

[Sri M. Kanniappan] [14th July 1948]

டியது நம்முடைய கடமை, அது அரசாங்கத்தினுடைய கடமை. இந்த Port folio வை வைத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கும் தனம் இந்திரி கோபால் ரெட்டியவர்களுடைய கடமை என்பதை தெரிவித்துக்கொண்டு இந்த 'பில்' மே முழுமனதுடன் ஆதரிக்கிறேன். அவசியமான குறைகளை அரசாங்கம் கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, I welcome the introduction of this amending Bill. When I do so, Sir, it is not without the knowledge or the experience of what is obtaining in the districts to-day as regards Motor Transport. Many of my colleagues who have preceded me have discussed threadbare the difficulties the general public are experiencing as regards road transport and the vagaries in the workshops. It must be admitted on all hands that it is only a short time since the Government came forward with nationalization of Motor Transport and it is for us to bear with them with some patience and see that the whole scheme of nationalization is completed. This Bill seeks the permission of this House to thoroughly nationalize Motor Transport and I know, as a matter of fact, it has given a real welcome for the establishment of these Services. It must also be admitted on all hands that to obtain success in the working of Motor Transport, is not an ordinary thing. Long before this Government came into power and during the time of the Advisers' Regime, certain sections of the people were given a free lance, as it were, to do what they wanted in the Motor Transport and to-day you see most of the owners of transport systems do not like to see Government running buses either in the mufassal or in the Metropolis. It is due to the great courage of this Government that it has been possible for them to run the Transport Services in the City of Madras and to bring satisfaction to the general public. I know there is a certain amount of feeling in the minds of the people that labour has not been looked after. I am sure, Government will see that contented labour is established in the City where they have taken this pioneer service. If we turn to the mufassal, we see that Motor Transport there is not at all satisfactory whether in the towns or in the villages. Overcrowding and inconvenience in the buses cannot be exaggerated. The services are unreliable and we do not have safety and convenience that we expect. In this Bill the Government have made certain provisions to get over this trouble by the appointment of Provincial and Regional Boards and I do not think we can suggest any better methods in the matter of their composition. Even in the matter of a single officer being appointed as the Provincial Regional Transport Authority, you must understand that the Government have come to that decision as a result of their long experience that it is advantageous to have one officer instead of so many intermediaries who may be interfering at all stages in the decision of the Boards which was always dangerous, especially at a time when there are labour troubles in the field and when there is shortage of petrol and other things required for the successful running of Motor Transport. It is therefore highly necessary that the Boards of this nature ought to be there so that the services can be made useful for the general public."

[14th July 1948] [Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillai]

"Sir, in clause 2, it is laid down that after giving a month's notice they can cancel the permit. In the early stages, of course, I felt that a company or a corporate body or a rich gentleman who has been running these buses will find it difficult but seeing the way in which motor owners have amassed wealth, I do not think that a clause of this nature will really ruin those people. I welcome this particular clause in this Bill."

"Coming as I do, Sir, from a hilly district, I remember a few months ago the late lamented Mr. Daniel Thomas when he was in charge of this portfolio told us that from 1st April 1948 they will take the Ghats Section. Though I was feeling for the companies and individuals running the buses in those areas, I felt a little surprised that that scheme had to be given up and the Leader of the House said the other day that they are considering the matter and a decision will be taken later. Both in the Nilgiris and Coimbatore and Anaimalai and Kodaikanal, the services have not been satisfactory as is usual with companies. I wish the Hon. Minister make up his mind and see that these routes are taken up as early as possible."

"Sir, regarding the shortage of petrol, when the Hon. Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram came here, a deputation from Nilgiris urged on him taking up of the manufacture of power alcohol as a substitute for petrol. After the introduction of prohibition in Nilgiris, there are many premises equipped fully and the Government can come forward and take them up to manufacture power alcohol. It has been found that even from potatoes in the Central Province and United Province, they get molasses and power alcohol is manufactured therefrom and if only Government is earnest and has a will, they can take up these things and ease the petrol position. With these few observations I welcome the introduction of this Bill."

SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:—"అధ్యక్ష మహాశయ, బస్ (bus) పరిశ్రమను జాతీయము చేయవలసిన అవసరం ఈ సమయమున అనేక సార్లు చెప్పబడినది. వార్టీలు, రాజీయ గ్రూపులు ఆనే విధాలు లేకండా, నాకు తెలిసి సంకటము. ఈ బస్ రవాణా పరిశ్రమను జాతీయము చేయవలసిన అభిప్రాయమును చాలామంది ప్రజలు వెలుబిచ్చారు. ప్రభుత్వమువారు కూడా సాధ్యమయినంత వ్యయం ఈ Nationalization Scheme ను అమలులోనికి తీసుకొని వచ్చినది ఇదివరకు మనకు జామీ ఇచ్చారు. డి. కే. డేనియన్ థానుస్ గారు Bus Nationalization Scheme ను ఏ సంవత్సరములకాలములో మన రాజధానిలోని అన్ని స్టాల్లలోను అమలుపరచవలసి నాకుని మనకు ఇదివరలో చెప్పియున్నారు. ఆప్పుడు చాలమంది ప్రజలు 4 p.m. ను ఏ సంవత్సరములకప్పు తక్కువ కాలములోనే రాష్ట్రమంతటను అమలుపరచ వలసినదనే అభిప్రాయమును వెలుబిచ్చారు. అంతేకాకుండా వెంటనే బస్ రవాణాను జాతీయము చేయవలసినదనే అభిప్రాయము ప్రజలలో పెచ్చుగా ఉన్నది. ఈ విషయంలో ప్రభుత్వప్రాయము ప్రభుత్వము వారికి తెలియనిది కాదు."

"ఈ నా దుబస్ సర్వీసులు (Bus Services) వ్యాపారస్తులయొక్క, పెట్టుబడిదారులయొక్క, వ్యక్తులయొక్క ఆధీనంలో ఉండడంవలన వారి జేబులు నిండడం, వారు పెద్దవారు కావడం, లక్షలాది రూపాయలను అన్యాయంగా ప్రజలపద్దనుంచి గుంజడం

[Sri Alluri Satyanarayana Raju] [14th July 1948]

మా తమ జరుగుతోంది కాని, ప్రయాణికులకు ఏ విధమైన సౌకర్యములు లేవిని సర్వతా అంగీకరించిన విషయమే. అంతేకాకుండా కాంగ్రెస్ మహాసంస్థ—ఏ కాంగ్రెస్ మహాసంస్థకయితే ఈ ప్రభుత్వమువారు చెందియున్నారో. ఎన్ని కలకుండు ప్రజలనుండి నుంచిన ఎన్ని కల ప్రజాభివృద్ధి. ప్రజాసామాన్యానికి ఇందిన, వారికి సౌకర్యములను కలిగించేటటువంటి పరిశ్రమలను జాతీయము చేస్తామని స్పష్టముగా తెలియజేసి యున్నారు. అటువంటి పరిశ్రమలలో ఈ Bus Nationalization Scheme ను సీటింగ్ నేగాక టిల్లాలలో కూడా అమలుజరుపడాన్ని తాత్కాలికంగా కొంతకాలము నిలుపుటకు నిశ్చయించినామని అభివృద్ధి భావములు కలిగినటువంటి గౌ. శ్రీ. గోపాల రెడ్డిగారు చెప్పడం లో నాకు ఏ మాత్రము సబబు కనుపించడము లేదు. ప్రపంచములోని ఇతర దేశాలలో ఆరోజుకా రోజు ప్రజాపయోగకర పరిశ్రమలను జాతీయము చేస్తుండగా, భూమికూడా కొద్దిమంది పెట్టుబడిదారుల, పెద్ద భూస్వాముల చేతులలో ఉండకూడదనే ఆభిప్రాయంతో Land Nationalization కు ప్రయత్నాలు చేస్తుండగా, మన రాష్ట్రంలో పెట్రోలు లేదనే కారణవలన, ఇతర చిన్న కారణాలవల్ల, Bus Nationalization Scheme ను అమలు పరచుటలో ఆలశ్యముచేయుట: ఏ మాత్రము ఆర్థిక క్రంగా లేదని మనవిచేసుకుంటున్నాను.

“పెట్రోలు లేదనేటటువంటి కారణంచేత బస్ రవాణాను జాతీయం చేయడంలో వెనుకాడవలసి వస్తోందని అభివృద్ధి ఆభిప్రాయములు కలిగినటువంటి శ్రీ గోపాల రెడ్డిగారిలాంటివారు చెప్పడం న్యాయంగాలేదు. ఈ ‘పెట్రోలు లేకపోవుట’ అనేటటువంటి ప్రతిబంధకము ఈ నాడు బస్ సర్వీసులను (bus services) నడుపుచున్న వ్యక్తులకు, పెట్టుబడిదారులకు, వ్యాపారులకు, ఇతరులకు, అందరికీ సహజమైనటువంటిది. ఈ ప్రతిబంధకము ఉన్నప్పటికీని వారు వెనుకాడకుండా ఈ బస్ సర్వీసులలో పెట్రోలు, బస్ లకు డబ్బులు గాస్ బస్ లను నడుపుతున్నారు. వ్యక్తులకు, వ్యాపారులకు సాధ్యమైనటువంటి ఈ రవాణా వ్యాపారము ప్రభుత్వానికి అమలుచేయడం ఏమాత్రము కష్టము కాదని, ఈ కారణాలను ఆధారముచేసుకొని బస్ nationalization ను అమలుచేయడంలో వెనుకాడడం సబబుగా లేదని మంత్రిగారికి విషయపూర్వకంగా మనవిచేసుకొంటున్నాను.

“అంతేకాకుండా ఇంకొక విషయము. ప్రస్తుతము bus service లు వ్యక్తులచేతులలో ఉండడమువలన కార్మికులు, ప్రయాణికులు అనేక కష్టపరిస్థితులలోను కానుకనెస్తోంది. బస్ యజమానులకు, బస్ లలో పనిచేసేటటువంటి కార్మికులకు తగాదాలు వచ్చినప్పుడు ఆ తగాదాలను విచారించి న్యాయము కలుగచేయుటకుగాను adjudicator లను వేస్తున్నారు. ఈ మధ్యవర్తుల తగాదాలలోని న్యాయాన్యాయాలను విచారించి వారినిర్ణయములను ఉధయలకు తెలియజేసిన తరువాతకూడా యజమానులు ఈ మధ్యవర్తుల తీర్పులను అడరించక పోవడం, వారిని ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఏమి చేయలేకపోవడం మనము చూస్తున్నాము. కాబట్టి ఎంతవరకూ ఈ bus service లను nationalize చేస్తే అంతలాందరలో ఈ ఇబ్బందులుతీరుతాయి. కష్టపడి పనిచేసేటటువంటి కార్మికులకు న్యాయముజరుగుతుంది. అప్పుడే కార్మికులు తాము ప్రజాసేవకులమని, ప్రభుత్వ bus లో పనిచేస్తే తమకు కడుపునిండా తిండిదొరుకుతుందని భావిస్తారు.

“Bus service లను nationalize చేయవలసినటువంటి ఆభిప్రాయము ప్రజలలో చాలా బలవత్తరముగా ఉన్నది. ఇట్టి పరిస్థితులలో తాత్కాలికముగా ఈ scheme ను రాష్ట్రములోని ఇతర ప్రాంతములకు పొడిగించమని అని ఆనుటలో మాత్రము నాకు న్యాయముకనపడడములేదు. అందుచేత ఇటువంటి ఆభిప్రాయానికి నా అసమ్మతిని ప్రభుత్వమువారికి మీద్యారా తెలియజేసుకుంటున్నాను.

14th July 1948]

[Sri Alluri Satyanarayana Raju]

“అంతే కాకుండా ఇంకొక విషయము. ఈనాడు ఈ వ్యక్తుల చేతులలోనున్న బస్ లో ప్రయాణము చేసేటటువంటి ప్రయాణికులు ఏ విధముగా కష్టపడుతున్నారో మనకందరకు తెలుసును. బస్ లో ఎక్కినది లగాయతు ఇంటికి వెళ్ళవరకు ప్రాణాలను గుప్పిళ్లలో పెట్టుకొని ప్రయాణము చేయవలసిన పరిస్థితులు ఏర్పడి వున్నవి. ఇక బస్ యజమానులు ప్రయాణికులవద్దనుంచి ఐసూలు చేస్తున్న చార్జీలు చూడగా మా అంటే, అవి చాలా విపరీతంగా కనబడుతున్నాయి. రూ. 0-4-0 లు ఇచ్చి ప్రయాణము చేసే దూరాలకు ఇప్పుడు సమయానుకూలంగా రేట్లు రూ. 1-0-0, 2-0-0 ల వరకు ఐసూలు చేస్తున్నారు. ప్రయాణికులకు టిక్కెట్లు ఇవ్వరు. వారికి ఇటువంటి బస్ లో ప్రయాణం చేయకుండా ఉండుటకు వేరు సాధనం లేదు. ఈ ticket black-market ఒక చోట కాకుండా అన్ని చోట్ల బాహుటంగా సాగుతోంది. ప్రయాణికుల వద్దనుంచి అనేక రేట్లు హెచ్చు చార్జీలు బస్ యజమానులు ఐసూలు చేస్తున్నారు. ఇంత హెచ్చు రేట్లు ఐసూలు చేయలేమని బస్ కార్మికులు అసహనంతో తాళలేదు. వారు ఆ విధంగా అంటే వారిని యజమానులు suspend చేస్తాము, dismiss చేస్తాము అంటారు. అందువల్ల ఈ బస్ కార్మికులు బస్ యజమానులు అట్టల ప్రకారము ప్రయాణికుల వద్దనుంచి హెచ్చు రేట్లు ఐసూలు చేస్తున్నారు, వీళ్ళ పరిస్థితి ‘కంటే చేసు మేస్తే కాపేమి చేయగలడు’ అనే విధంగా వున్నది. అందుచేత ప్రయాణికులకు తగిన సౌకర్యాలు కలుగచేయటానికి, వారివద్దనుంచి న్యాయమైన bus charge లు ఐసూలు చేయటానికి, కార్మికులకు సంపూర్ణ కలిగింపడానికి, అంతకన్నా సుఖంగా యాదృశాలలో black-market లో అమితమైనంత డబ్బును అన్యాయంగా ఆర్జించిన ఈ వ్యక్తుల, వ్యాపారుల పెట్టుబడిదారుల చేతులలోనికి పోతున్న లక్షలాది డబ్బు ప్రభుత్వ భజానాకు చేర్చడానికిగాను ఈ కాపు అందరికన్న పెద్దకా పై నటువంటి ప్రభుత్వమువారు bus service లను పెంటనే nationalize చేయడం చాలా అవసరమని మనవిచేసుకొంటున్నాను. అనేక దేశాలలో land nationalization చేయటానికి ప్రయత్నములు జరుగుచున్న ఈ రోజులలో మనము bus లను కూడా nationalize చేయటానికి వెనుకాడుతుండడములో ఆర్థికమేదని మరల ఇంకొక సారి ప్రభుత్వమువారికి మనవిచేస్తున్నాను.

“అంతే కాకుండా ఇంకొక విషయము మనవిచేస్తాను. ఈ బిల్లో ఈ బస్ యజమానులకు కొంతమందికి నష్టపరిహారము (compensation) ఇచ్చే విధాలులు చేయబడి వున్నాయి. ఈ విధంగా నష్టపరిహారము ఇవ్వటానికి ఏ మాత్రము అవసరములేదని నా అభిప్రాయము. ఈ బస్ యజమానులు ఇంతవరకు 20, 40, 100 రోజులను నడుపుతూ కోటీశ్వరులు, లక్షాధికారులు అయినారు. ఇటువంటి వారికి ఈ బస్ లను నడుపుకుంటున్న ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఇచ్చిన permit ను cancel చేసినందుకు నష్ట పరిహారము ఇస్తామనటానికి అంగీకరించారు. ఇంతకుముందు ఒక గౌరవ సభ్యులు చెప్పినట్లు ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఎవరికైనా వారు ఇచ్చిన gun licence ను ఇప్పుడు cancel చేస్తే వారికి ఏమైనా నష్టపరిహారమిస్తున్నారో? అదే విధంగా ఈ bus permit లకును నష్టపరిహారం ఇవ్వవలసినది లేదు. ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఆ bus owner కు కాదను నడుపుకోటానికి gift (ఒకామతి) గా permit ఇస్తున్నారు. వారు ఇచ్చిన permit ను వారు తీసుకోడంలో ఏ విధంగాను ఎవరికి అన్యాయం జరగడం లేదు. కాబట్టి permit ను cancel చేసినంత మాత్రంచేత bus owner లకు నష్టపరిహార మివ్వడం అవసరం.

“అంతే కాకుండా ఈ మధ్య కొత్త రూట్లు (routes) కు permit లు పెద్ద పెద్ద హాళుకార్లకు ఇస్తున్నారు. ఇది నుంచికాదు. ఈ హాళుకార్లకు permit లు

[Sri Alluri Satyanarayana Raju] [14th July 1948]

ఇచ్చి ఇంకా ప్రజలను రోమోవడానికి వీలు కలిగించే కన్న ఈ route లను వేశం కోసం పాడుపడినటువంటి Political sufferers కు ఇచ్చి వాళ్లచేత bus లను run చేయిస్తే మంచిదని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను.

“సోదరులు రాష్ట్రవయ్యగారు ఈ Road Traffic Board లో అధికారులు (officials) మాత్రమే ఉండాలని, వాటిలో అసభికారులు (non-officials) ఉండకూడదని అన్నారు. (నేను ఈ Board లో సభ్యుడను కాను.) Democracy ని preach చేసే టటువంటి రాష్ట్రవయ్యగారి వంట వారు ఈ విధంగా ఎందువలన అంటున్నారో బోధపడుట లేదు. వీరు ఒక వైపున ఆసభికారులకు ఈ Board లో స్థానము ఉండకూడదంటున్నారు. రెండవ వైపున ప్రజా సామ్యున్ని అచరంచా అంటున్నారు, ఈ రెండు వ్యతిరేకార్థివాయాలు. వీటినివారు ఏ విధంగా సమన్వయ పరచగలరో తెలియటం లేదు.

“శ్రీ కాలేశ్వర రావుగారి వాంటి పెద్దలకూడా ఈ Board లో అసభికారులను వుండితే corruption హద్దిపోతుందనీ, ఈ corruption అణచడం కష్టపాధ్యమనీ, officials ను ఉండితే లంచగొండితనాని అణచి వేయవచ్చునని అన్నారు. వీరుకూడా democracy ని plead చేసేటటువంటివారే.

“ఇటువంటి వ్యతిరేకార్థివాయాలు గలిగినటువంటి వారికి సమాధానము ఇవ్వవలసిన ఆవసరం లేదు.

“ఇంకొక విషయము మనవిచేసి ముగిస్తాను. ఇది ఇదివరకు చెప్పినప్పటికీ మళ్లీ ఇంకొక సారి మనవి చేసుకొంటున్నాను. ఏ కారణం చేతనైనా ఈ Nationalization of Motor Transport Scheme అమలుచేయటం అలశ్యమయితే, అది పెట్రోలు లేక పోవడంవల్ల మాత్రముకాకూడదని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను. పెట్రోలు లేకపోతే gas లో అయినప్పటికీ బస్లను ప్రభుత్వమువారు నడిపించాలి. గాస్ లో నడకూడదానికి బస్లు నుండికూడదని, సిగ్గుపడించి మనవిచేస్తూ, సాధ్యమైనంత త్వరలో Motor transport ను nationalize చేయవలసినదని ప్రభుత్వమువారిని కోరుచున్నాను.”

* SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—“Mr. Speaker. Sir, now there seems to be no difference of opinion regarding the present policy of Government on the nationalization of bus transport, though there may be difference of opinion regarding the method of approach in gaining the ultimate object. Therefore, so far, our opinion, placed before Government on the method of approach, is different. Of course, a word of caution has been sounded that we must go slowly. Of course, that is a sound caution. Government, as it is constituted, must have an eye upon the public revenue. The present policy, I think, is cautious enough. Government must have a programme and a time-table to follow. That will help both Government and the people, for it will put the public on guard, and interested people will be on their guard. I therefore endorse what some previous speakers said, that Government must have a plan of their own, and a programme, fix a schedule and seek to follow it.

“Sir, we were given a certain programme, but to our bitter disappointment that programme was not followed. We were told,

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next to Madras, Government will take up nationalizing of bus transport in the Coimbatore Municipality and the hill-stations of the Nilgiris and Kodaikanal, and the public were awaiting the launching of the scheme. But they were disappointed. The present motor transport operators, as we know, care only for more profit, and profit is the be-all and end-all of their service. They never care for the convenience of the public. After seeing the convenience of the town bus in Madras City and the newly introduced bus service in Coimbatore, the public are very eager to see that new buses are allowed to be used by the general public. Sir, a Government exists for the public, and the private operators have no right to run a service and earn huge profits by running buses on public highways. Like the railways, it is high time that motor transport is nationalized. Coming as I do from Coimbatore, I wish to mention that the Coimbatore District Board was the pioneer in the field of State Nationalization of bus service. The Hon. Finance Minister was then Minister for Local Administration, and he knew full well that the District Board was running a service and earning a decent profit. Unfortunately, war came in, and the service was stopped by the Advisers' Government. Therefore it will be clear if the public transport service is handed over to municipalities or district boards they can run it efficiently. My previous speakers mentioned only of municipalities. I am sorry none of them mentioned about district boards. In rural parts it will be a pitiable sight to see country folk huddled together in buses with no convenience whatever. Their comforts and convenience are never cared for. The operators care only for money. Through passengers alone are liable to secure tickets. Short distance passengers are never cared for.

“Now, Sir, the policy of the present Government is also to break down monopoly. Of course it is a good policy. ‘Breaking down of monopoly’ means also encouragement of small capitalists and small operators. I am afraid the present Government is not going to encourage them in any way. Government want to have very drastic powers in their hands. That means they want to notify a certain route either throughout the Presidency or in a certain area and take up the business of running the public transport themselves. That means, nobody else should run public bus service; not even small capitalists. It is all right in the case of big operators, who have amassed wealth, to scrap their bus. But what about the small capitalists who run buses? Government should encourage them and allow them in the line.

“One word, Sir, about the Regional Transport Board and the Provincial Traffic Board. Some members questioned about the necessity or usefulness and about the composition of these Boards. I for one will say that the non-official element in them will exert a corrective influence on those bodies. How can Government say that officials alone are straight and honest? I therefore say very forcibly that the intention of Government in keeping closed to non-officials the Provincial and Regional Transport Boards is not proper. Unless and until Government go the whole

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length of nationalizing the entire transport service in the Province—when Government can man these Boards with officials alone—till then, I for one want the non-official elements on these Boards.

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“As regards the legal aspect of the question my legal friends and advocates have voiced it. I do not quarrel here with the legal aspect of the question. As a layman I have placed before you the public point of view.”

SRI P. KAKKAN:—“கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, பெர்க்கிஷ் மந்திரியவர்களால் கொண்டுவரப்பட்ட மோட்டார் சட்ட திருத்த மசோதாவை நான் முழுமனதுடன் ஆதரிக்கிறேன். அப்படி ஆதரிப்பதற்கு காரணம் முக்கியமாக இரண்டே இரண்டுதான். முதலில் மோட்டார்கள் எல்லாம் சர்க்கார் தேசியமயமாக்கிவிட்டால் அதன் மூலம் வரும் ஊதியம் சர்க்காரைச் சேர்த்தாக ஆகிறது. தவிர எல்லா மக்களுக்கும் வேலை கிடைக்கிறது. இன்றைக்கு ஒரு தனிப்பட்ட முதலாளி மோட்டார் வைத்து நடத்தினால் அதில் அவனுடைய உற்றார் உறவினர்களுக்குத்தான் வேலை கிடைக்கிறது. இன்னும் சொந்தக்காரர்களைத்தான் டிரைவர்களாகவும் கண்டக்டர்களாகவும் நியமித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் வேலை கொடுப்பதாக இல்லை. நியாயம் வழங்குவதாகவும் இல்லை. ஆனால் நான் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்காகப் பேசுகிறேன் என்று நினைத்துக்கொள்ளக் கூடாது. ஏனென்றால் அவர்களுக்கு வேலை கொடுப்பது இல்லை அந்த தனிப்பட்ட முதலாளிகள். இப்பொழுது பார்த்தால் ஹரிஜனங்களில் IV Form, V Form படித்துவிட்டு வேலையில்லாமலிருக்கிறார்கள். சர்க்கார் மோட்டார்களை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் இந்த ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு நிச்சயமாக அதில் வேலை கிடைக்கும். அவர்கள் நம்பிக்கையுள்ளவர்கள். அரசாங்கத்திற்கு பக்கத்துணையாக இருப்பார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்களை நியமித்தால் அவர்கள் என்றைக்கும் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு பக்கத்துணையாக இருப்பார்கள். அதற்கு ஒரு உதாரணம் சொல்லுகிறேன். ஜப்பானியர்கள் சென்னையில் குண்டு போடப்போது மற்ற ஜனங்கள் எல்லோரும் சென்னையை விட்டு ஒடிவிட்டார்கள். அரசாங்கமும் கோயமுத்தூருக்கு மாற்றப் படுவதாக நேரிட்டது. இந்த ஹரிஜனங்கள்தான் ஊரை விட்டு ஓடவில்லை. ஹரிஜனங்கள் இதே ஊரில் இருந்துகொண்டு இந்த ஊரை தாங்களே ஆளுவோம் என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு இங்கேயே தைர்யமாக இருந்தார்கள். ஆகையால் ஹரிஜனங்களை கண்டக்டர்களாகவும், டிரைவர்களாகவும் போடால் அவர்கள் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு பக்கத்துணையாக இருந்து வேலை செய்வார்கள். அவர்கள் வேலையைவிட்டுவிட்டு கோமேட்டார்கள் என்பதை தைர்யமாக சொல்லுவேன். T.V.S. கம்பெனியில் கம்யூனிஸ்டுகள் ஸ்டிரைக் செய்தார்கள். பல்கலை ஒட்டாமல் கைவிட்டு விட்டார்கள். அவர்கள் வெளிக்கிளம்பி அவர்கள் ஜாதிவிரிந்துக்களாக இருந்தால் வெற்றிலை பாக்குக் கடை பலகாரக் கடை வைத்துக்கொண்டு பிழைக்க போய்விட்டார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்களாக இருந்தால் அப்படி போக மாட்டார்கள். அவர்கள் பக்கத்துணையாக இருந்து வேலை செய்வார்கள் என்பதை நான் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு உறுதிப்படுத்துகிறேன். ஆகையால் மோட்டார்களை தேசிய மயமாக்கினால் எல்லோருக்கும் வேலை கிடைக்கும். அவர்களுக்கு சம்பளம் குறைவாக கிடைக்கிறது என்று கனம் கண்ணியப்பன் சொன்னார்கள். தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு ஜாஸ்தி ஊதியம் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார்கள். கனம் நாகப்ப எதோ பணத்தை வாங்கிக் கொண்டு டிக்கட் கொடுப்பது இல்லை என்று சொன்னார்கள். நான் தொழிலாளர்களை ஒன்று வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். மோட்டார்களைச் சர்க்கார் நடத்துவதால் அவர்களுக்கு இப்பொழுது சம்பளம் குறைவாக இருந்தாலும் செய்கையங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. குறிப்பிட்ட நேரத்திற்கு வேலைக்குவந்து குறிப்பிட்ட நேரத்திற்கு விட்டிற்கு போகலாம். தனிப்பட்டவர் நடத்தினால் பயம் என்பது கிடையாது. சம்பளக்குறைவு என்பது உண்மைதான். முதலாளிகள் ஜாஸ்தி வரும்படி வந்தால் ஜாஸ்தி சம்பளம் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். சர்க்காரால் அப்படி கொடுக்கமுடியுமா? தேசிய

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[Sri P. Kakkan]

மயமாக்கினால் ஆரம்பத்தில் கொஞ்சம் அசௌகரியம் ஏற்படத்தான் ஏற்படும். ஊதியம் அதிகமாக வந்தால் பொக்கிஷ மந்திரி தன்னுடைய பாக்கெட்டில் லாபத்தை எடுத்துப்போகப்போகிறார் அல்லது அசெம்பளி மெம்பர்கள் தான் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்போகிறார்களா? இரண்டும் இல்லை, அவ்வளவு பணமும் மக்களுக்காகத்தான் போய்சேருகிறது. இதைப்பற்றி கனம் கண்ணியப்பன் தொழிலாளர்களுக்குப் சொல்லவேண்டும். பாட்டாளி மக்களுக்கு சொல்லவேண்டும். அவர்களை அரசாங்கத்திற்கு பக்கத்துணையாக இருக்கும்படி சொல்லவேண்டும். அவர்கள் கால்துட்டுக்கூட எடுக்கக் கூடாது. அப்பொழுதுதான் அரசாங்கம் வாழ்ந்து முன்னேற்றமடையும். தொழிலாளிகள் நிச்சயமாக தேசிய மயமாக்குவதற்கு பக்கத்துணையாக இருக்கவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் கம்யூனிஸ்ட் இயக்கமும் சோஷலிஸ்ட் இயக்குமுகம் இருக்கிறது. காங்கிரஸ் சர்க்கார் என்ன பெரிய காரியம் செய்துவிட்டார்கள் என்று பறைசாற்றிவருகிறார்கள். தாங்கள் ஏதோ செய்து விடுவோம் என்றும் சொல்லிவருகிறார்கள். அதை நம்பக்கூடாது. இப்பொழுது சென்னையில் எடுத்துக்கொண்டதுபோல் மாகாணம் பூராவும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். கம்யூனிஸ்ட், சோஷலிஸ்ட் கட்சியைவிட ஒரு படி உயர்வு என்று நமது சர்க்கார் செய்து காட்டவேண்டும். நமது பொக்கிஷ மந்திரி அவர்களை அந்தக் காரியத்தை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு செய்யவேண்டும். அவரும் அவ்விதம் செய்வார் என்று நம்பிக்கை இருக்கிறது. நிச்சயமாக சென்னையில் மட்டுமல்ல மாகாணம் பூராவும் தேசிய மயமாக்கவேண்டும். இந்த நல்ல காரியத்தை அவர் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நான் இந்த மசோதாவை ஆதரிக்கிறேன்.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not expect that the report of the Joint Select Committee would be subjected to so much discussion on the floor of this House. Very many speakers have participated in the discussion and very useful points from various angles have been adduced. On the whole there were speeches on both sides one cancelling the other. There were friends who wanted that there should be no nationalization, starting from Mr. Leonard and followed by Mr. Raza Khan Sahib and others. On the other hand there were friends who wanted not only nationalization but immediate nationalization. Likewise, there were friends who did not want the Government to take powers to give directives from above to the subordinate Transport Authorities. Here again there were other friends who complained that all was not well with the subordinate Transport Authorities and pleaded that there must be directives from above. The discussion was very useful and all told I feel that the various points of controversy have been met by the speeches of one another, and really there is not much for me to say by way of reply.

“Sir, the policy of nationalization has been before this Assembly for a very long time and it has come into great prominence in recent months. As my hon. Friend from Coimbatore, Sri V. C. Palaniswami Gounder, reminded the House, some years ago, nationalization was taken up by the district board partially in the Coimbatore district when we gave a sort of monopoly to run buses from Coimbatore to Pollachi. The district board was not in a position to undertake the whole work itself. Issuing and checking of tickets, etc., were done by the district board, while the maintenance of buses was entrusted to a private firm. All the

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collections accrued to the district board, and the board was earning a profit of two thousand rupees a month. This is not a mean income for a district board considering the fact that there were only six buses plying a distance of twenty-eight miles. We convened a conference of the very many interests concerned and after the conference we gave the monopoly to ply buses from Coimbatore to Pollachi to the district board. The scheme was quite successful. Unfortunately, after the Congress Ministry resigned, the Advisers broke the monopoly and reverted to the old system of private enterprise. That was how it was killed.

"I am glad that all sections of the House, including Muslim friends and Independent friends, and a large majority of Congress friends or perhaps all of them approve the scheme of nationalization. As has been pointed out by so many friends, it is too late in the day to argue whether nationalization should be proceeded with or cried a halt to at this stage. It is not as though we are starting with a clean slate. We have the experience of the States of Travancore and Hyderabad and the province of Bombay and the United Province. I was told recently that the United Provinces Government had invested two crores of rupees and taken over not only the urban services but also the rural services. I do not know whether the scheme has been a financial success, because I have not got the data to judge. But it is said that the people are much delighted in that they are getting greater comfort and more convenience than before on account of nationalization. Likewise, in Bombay Province in the cities of Bombay, Ahmedabad and perhaps also Poona, the bus service has been nationalized or perhaps I am not quite sure—municipalized. Our officers went to some of the States and other Provinces to study at first hand the working of nationalization, the experience gained, and to compare notes with the officers there. Such a study is of great advantage. We can profit by their experience and try to avoid the mistakes which they have committed. With the experience of other Governments before us, we are trying to do what all we can to improve the scheme of nationalization here. Further, recently we have appointed one Mr. Chengal Rao, who was the Traffic Manager in the Transport Services in Hyderabad. He will be relieved and joining service under this Government shortly. He will be in charge of the City Bus Service and with his experience let us hope that under his supervision things will improve and greater comfort and convenience afforded to the travelling public.

"Many friends have questioned why the Government have suddenly reversed the policy of nationalization of bus services throughout the Province within five years as they promised and why they have cried halt to the scheme. There is something like what is called consolidating of gains. We have taken over the entire City service. Our target is to have three hundred buses. Two hundred and forty-three buses are already on the

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road and the rest will be put on the road shortly. Before proceeding with nationalization of mufassal routes, we want to see what has happened to our scheme in the City where we have got all the facilities of workshop, direct management, etc., and where the public also are very intelligent in ventilating their grievances, in demanding tickets, etc. Let us make it perfect here before we nationalize the buses in Chingleput, North Arcot, South Arcot or Cuddapah where, profiting by the experience gained in the City, we can avoid some of the mistakes. That is what we are trying to see.

"Then, Sir, as I said at question-time, the whole scheme is going to be reviewed in October 1948. It is, after all, only three months from now. By then all the data and statistics will have been made available and we may also be in a position to study the working of the United Provinces Scheme and other schemes and decide to go ahead with the scheme of nationalization in this Province. Nobody need be under any doubt as regards our ultimate goal of nationalization of the entire bus-transport throughout the Province. It is only a question of time. Not only that. It is also a question of finance, because it will involve a huge initial capital outlay, although it may not immediately but ultimately pay. Workshops will have to be put up and there are ever-so-many little details that will have to be looked into before we can launch the scheme. There are very many real difficulties, but they need not deter us when we are determined to go ahead with our scheme of nationalization, in spite of vehement protests from vested interests. I know how powerful they are. They are trying to villify our scheme in the City. I have heard whispers as well as propaganda carried on by them, saying that nobody in the City buys tickets, that there is a lot of leakage in collections, that the City transport is not at all paying, that these City buses are not paying the Motor Vehicles taxes and all such sort of things. Such propaganda is carried on purposely by these vested interests to see that the scheme of nationalization is not proceeded with and also to create doubts in the minds of Legislators as to the ultimate success of the scheme, so that they might attack the scheme and insist on the Government to drop it. Sir, I say that in spite of all this opposition, we are determined to proceed with our enterprise and see that it is made a success in the City of Madras and also to extend it to the mufassal with all our experience in the City service. That is my answer to them and no hon. Friends need be under any doubt or misapprehension with regard to our ultimate goal of nationalizing the entire motor transport throughout the Province.

"Sir, some friends have not taken very seriously my reply that it is because of the lack of petrol that we are not able to proceed more quickly. I say, Sir, that it is one of the reasons, though it may not be the sole reason. Our petrol position is so acute that we cannot minimise the importance of petrol in a scheme of nationalization of the entire transport service. Immediately some members may ask me, 'Even now many buses are

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run on charcoal, why don't you take over those buses and go ahead with your scheme?' My hon. Friend Mr. Satyanarayana Raju in his very eloquent Telugu speech attacked the Government and said that we are fighting shy and feeling hesitant after we have taken over this business. Sir, I may assure him that it is not a question of shyness or hesitancy on the part of the Government. When the Government take up the question of nationalization, the travelling public must be assured of a certain minimum standard of comfort and convenience and only such vehicles as could ensure such a standard could be put on the road. But in the case of private operators, they can do whatever they like; their aim is only to make money. They may put old and rickety buses on the road and get on with them. They may not put in sufficient number of buses and the passengers may have to wait for a considerable time at the stopping stations, but still the travelling public cannot and would not find it worthwhile to complain to the private-owners about such inconveniences. But that is not so when the Government take over these transport services. Even now many people are not satisfied with the number of Government buses that are plying in the City of Madras. They want more buses to be introduced. Many people are still not satisfied with the comforts afforded and our friends in this Assembly are still clamouring that we should afford greater conveniences and comforts to the travelling public. Therefore it is a different story when the Government take over the bus transport in their own hands. They must have buses of certain standard quality; they must see that the petrol position is adequate and satisfactory and they must also have a sufficient number of workshops on the spot to see that the repairs are attended to immediately, when any vehicle gets damaged. Sir, as I have already said, the petrol position is very bad for this quarter and we have not yet received instructions from the Government of India as to what is going to be the position in the next quarter. So, that is a great factor which has to weigh with the Government in deciding the extension of the scheme of nationalization.

"Then, Sir, the position with regard to charcoal buses is also very peculiar. Except in the districts of Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari and Kurnool, there is a ban on charcoal buses because of the shortage in the production of charcoal. The Chief Conservator of Forests has vehemently protested that if these charcoal buses are again put on the road in all the districts, then the forests would be depleted. Unless therefore we take to Diesel buses which are very costly and perhaps very difficult to manage—and generally operators are not willing to go in for these diesel buses because of the huge initial outlay—it is highly difficult to put in more buses on the routes just now. That is the real position, Sir, at the present moment. It can very easily be said, 'Put more charcoal buses', but it is very difficult to implement the same and as I said above, petrol is also playing a vital part in our scheme of nationalization.

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"Sir, the next is the objection raised by my hon. Friend Mr. T. Viswanatham in regard to the powers taken by the Government under this Bill. He said that we are not doing the right thing, that our seeking to amend the Central Act in this manner is not legal and that ultimately we may come into the clutches of the High Court which might declare the whole legislation as *ultra vires*. Sir, that question has been examined thoroughly by our legal luminaries both in Madras and at Delhi. We have been advised by them that we have the power to amend the Central Act and we have also received the approval of the Government of India in this matter. Let me also inform my hon. Friends what we have done is only a replica of what the Bombay Government has done sometime ago and the main features of our present Amending Bill are more or less copied from the Bombay Act. The Bombay Government was also permitted by the Government of India to amend the Central Act and we have also got a precedent in this matter, wherein both the Governor and the Governor-General have given their assent to a similar Amending Bill. Therefore what we are doing is a perfectly legal thing and we are perfectly within our rights to do so and I am sure that the High Court would not say that our action is *ultra vires*. So, there need be no fear or doubt in the minds of hon. Members about this.

"Sir, our nationalization scheme has to be put through. Because we did not undertake this legislation earlier and because we have taken over the City buses before this legislation was passed by this House, we had some little difficulty with the High Court with regard to those temporary permits which were held to be not within the competence of this Government to issue and also to give directions to our subordinate authorities in this behalf. But when once this Act is passed and legalized by this House, then there will be no difficulty or hesitation whatever on the part of the Government to put through their scheme of nationalization with the powers vested in them. Sir, further it must be remembered that this is a big scheme of nationalization involving several crores of rupees and we cannot therefore leave things to our subordinate authorities—our district transport authorities and regional transport authorities—to be looked after by themselves. It is very essential and necessary that the Government must have the power to supervise and direct the scheme of nationalization. I know there have been a lot of criticisms both from Members of the Opposition and from Members on this side of the House. They have asked, 'Why is it that you are trying to take all the powers in the hands of the Government? Why don't you leave things to the district and regional authorities? Why don't you trust them to do their work? Why do you want to interfere with their work?' That was the general trend of their criticisms. They seem to feel that all the virtue lies in the District Committees and Regional Committees and that all the vice is centred in the Fort St. George. After all, Sir, the Government is the only body that is responsible and answerable,

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not only to the Members of this House, but also to the general public outside, when any matter goes wrong either in the headquarters or in the districts, while the district authorities composed of three or four people and the regional authorities composed of four or five people are not answerable to anybody except perhaps the Government in certain cases. Here at least you have got the right to interrogate the Minister to tell the House why such and such a thing was done and why such and such a mistake was committed. But if the same things were done by the Regional Transport Authority or the Provincial Transport Authority whom are you going to ask? Are you going to ask the non-official members why they have done so? If you ask the Minister the same question, he will simply say, 'I have nothing to do with it; go to the Provincial Transport Authority who is the final authority in the matter.' That will be my answer then. Therefore, Sir, I submit that in a large scheme like this, where, as I said, a huge capital outlay is involved, it is absolutely necessary that there must be central direction and central control and we must also see that these subordinate authorities function efficiently and properly."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"On a point of personal explanation, Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the House seems to be under some misapprehension about my remarks. He has not perhaps clearly and rightly understood what I have said, with regard to the proposed section 43-A. Our objection is not that the Government should not interfere, when persons come here for purpose of revision on appeal as provided for under this Act. But our complaint is that the Government are now taking a power which prevents such appeals being filed altogether. Without providing for such appeals, the Government want now to take power under section 43-A to issue such orders and directions of a general character as they may consider necessary to these authorities at any stage without reference to prescribed procedure and such authorities shall give effect to all such orders and directions. Again, Sir, under the proposed section 64-A, the Provincial Government take power to call for the records of any order passed or proceeding taken under this chapter by any officer subordinate to it, at any stage and pass such orders as they think fit. This, I submit, Sir, will lead to nepotism and corruption and ultimately reduce the prestige of the Government. That was the point of my objection, Sir, and it is not our intention that the Government should not, at any time, be answerable to the public. It is a great misapprehension and I hope the Hon. Minister will correct himself."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, there is nothing for me to correct myself. After all many things come up to the Government because people feel that ultimately it is the Government that are responsible for setting right mistakes committed by the district authorities and by their subordinate officers and naturally the Government must have the power to

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correct such mistakes. Sir, I am in the Government and I cannot plead helplessness on the part of my Government to interfere and set right matters and I cannot be a helpless spectator seeing that some wrong or some positive harm has been done to some party by these authorities, and therefore I must necessarily have those powers. It is not as though the Government are anxious to interfere with the daily work of these authorities at every stage and issue directions every now and then. The Government must have the power to issue such directions and instructions of a general character. Just now the position is that there is only one appeal provided for under the old Act. If it is the Regional Transport Officer that has passed the orders, there is only one appeal against his orders to the District Transport Authority, composed of the Collector, the District Superintendent of Police and a non-official gentleman and against the original orders of the District Transport Authority, there is only one appeal to the Provincial Transport Authority and against the original orders of the Provincial Transport Authority there is only one appeal to the Government. Suppose some order was passed by the Regional Transport Authority, it would end with the District Transport Authority. In most cases we do not know what sort of things are happening in the districts and we are hearing all sorts of complaints from the general public that the District Superintendent of Police and the District Collectors are taking sides, that the non-officials are also taking sides, and that the parties are not getting justice. The Government certainly cannot be a helpless spectator in those circumstances.

"The Government are convinced that it is not a question of nepotism or favouritism. It is not a question of who should be favoured. When the Government are convinced on various representations and on enquiries that some wrong is done to some person, they must have the ultimate authority and power to rectify the mistake. Otherwise no Government would be worth its mettle and it won't be worthwhile continuing in Government if we are not able to rectify a small mistake done somewhere in the district. It is not as though all the non-officials and the regional authorities are perfect and what they do is always right and implacable and only when the Government enforce something there is something wrong and corruption will creep in or nepotism will creep in. If there is nepotism, there is nepotism in the districts, in the Province and in the Government. Nobody can deny it. There must be an attempt to rectify these things and see that some justice prevails. Otherwise the public will feel aggrieved. They will say: 'After all I went to the Government and the Transport Commissioner, but nobody can rectify the mistake. All pleaded inability in spite of the fact that they were convinced that it was a mistake.' I do not want that state of affairs to continue. The Government must have power even if it is likely to be abused. If it is abused you can dethrone the Government and the public will dethrone them in due course. In matters relating to the Police, Revenue and Law and Order, you have not distrusted the Government. The Government have

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some authority to go in and direct either the Provincial or the district authority. The Minister must be made responsible for corruption if there is any and he must be judged at the bar of public opinion. So, Sir, some of these powers are necessary. Only after experiencing various difficulties and having had much administrative experience in the matter the Government and the officers felt that the Government must be clothed with some of the powers to see that these mistakes do not come up very often. That is my justification, Sir. It does not mean that the Government are going to tamper with these authorities at every turn. When they take a power it does not mean that they are going to use it at every turn. After all the Government have got the power of clemency. Even when the highest court gives a death sentence there is the over-riding power of the Government to release a person. It does not mean that the Government are using that power and releasing all the people who are sentenced to be hanged by the High Court. The Government have got the power to reduce the life sentence also. It is not as if the Government are releasing all their party men or of their group from the Central Jails and the Penitentiaries. There are powers and powers which the Government must have and in rare and special cases they must be able to use them so that justice may be maintained. That is my answer, Sir, and so there need not be any suspicion, simply because the Government are clothed with some power which they feel very necessary after great administrative experience.

"Sir, the question of labour being given all facilities has been raised on the floor of the House and I am glad my hon. Friend, Mr. Kanniappan, has warned the labourers not to be hasty about their demands and not to hustle the Government into making hasty decisions. I have called all the officers concerned for a personal discussion and very soon we will be examining their views and all that is necessary to be done will certainly be done. Sir, I deprecate the strike notice given by the workers and I do not want that these services also should copy the private companies, because ultimately they can certainly appeal to the Government and the Government also is willing to do what is possible and desirable. The workers may rest assured, Sir, that all that is just and proper will certainly be done to them. In the City also there are various matters that have come up before the Transport Officers and they are looking into the matter. I cannot say that all that is necessary will be done overnight. It is a question of petrol and it is a question of chassis. It is even an international question in the sense that there is the dollar position and the acute position regarding shipping and so on. We are anxious to give all comforts to the City public first and ultimately to the mufassal. It is a question of time and nobody need have any suspicion about it. Sir, there is nothing more that I can usefully add to the debate and I am thankful to the general approval of the nationalization scheme that has been adumbrated by this Amending Bill."

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SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"What about the points I raised, Sir? I raised a point about the workers."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister is not answering. The motion before the House is that the Motor Vehicles (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 8 of 1948) as reported by the Joint Select Committee be taken into consideration."

The motion was carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall take the Bill clause by clause."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"You can have it to-morrow, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"There are no amendments. The clauses can be put now."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"You can put all the clauses together, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"If it is the desire of the House that all the clauses can be put together I shall do so, if nobody wants to speak on any clause."

HON. MEMBERS:—"No, no, Sir. We want to speak on the clauses. The clauses may be put separately."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall take the preamble and clause 1 at the end."

Clauses 2 to 14 were separately put and carried.

Then clause 1 and the preamble were put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister will now move that the Bill be passed into law."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, I move that the Bill be passed into law."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"I wanted to speak on this motion, Sir. I was looking to you, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"On the other hand I waited for some time. The Hon. Member should have stood up. Now it is too late for the hon. Member to make a speech."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"What about to-morrow's programme, Sir?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The programme will be announced to-morrow. I now adjourn the House to meet again at 11 a.m. to-morrow."

The House adjourned.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, the 15th July 1948.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Recommendations of the Harijan Welfare Committee.

* 30 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state when the recommendations of the Harijan Welfare Committee will be given effect to?

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“ The several recommendations of the Harijan Welfare Committee are under the consideration of Government and orders will issue as expeditiously as possible.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ May I know whether the Government are aware that it has taken two long years for the Harijan Welfare Committee to produce its report? ”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“ Yes. It is known to every one.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ In view of the fact that this is a very important matter and that it has been delayed very long, will the Government consider it advisable to place the recommendations before the House for consideration? ”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“ I think the copy has been circulated to all the Members of the Legislature.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ I do not suggest that copies should be sent to us. I want the House to consider it? ”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“ There has been some delay in the Committee submitting its report. The Government will try to implement the recommendations as far as possible after a consideration of the same.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“ The Committee has already sent interim proposals to the Government. We were told yesterday that the interim proposals sent by the Rentrenchment Committee were already given effect to some cases. I would like to know what has been done with regard to the interim proposals sent by the Harijan Welfare Committee? ”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“ Regarding the proposals under my portfolio I may say that they are under the consideration of the Government. Their recommendations have not yet been given effect to. They will be considered by the Cabinet as a whole.”

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SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—" May I know, if any amount has been spent out of one crore and if so, for what purpose? "

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—" Some money has been spent. I cannot give details off-hand but so far we have sanctioned one lakh and twenty thousand for the construction of the Thakkar Baba Vidyalaya. I think for ten years the Harijan students are exempt from the payment of all the fees required and an amount of Rs. 6,82,000 is sanctioned for the payment of compensation to District Board schools for the loss of fees due from Harijan students."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Committee have recommended that some portion out of this one-crore fund will be spent towards the school fees of Harijan boys? "

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—" The Committee did not make any special recommendation about the payment of fees that are to be paid to the District Board schools. It is the duty of the Government to see that they give in addition to the payment of compensation to the District Board schools the fees to the schools under private management."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—" Are the Government aware that people are greatly disappointed at the undue delay in giving effect to various recommendations of the Committee? May I know whether there is any difference of opinion in the Government on the report of the recommendations of the Committee? "

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—" There is no difference of opinion. But the Committee is to be blamed for the delay. The Government did not delay the matter. Government are taking effective steps to implement the recommendations."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know the number of drinking water wells and dwelling houses that has been recommended by the Harijan Welfare Committee? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" I think the answer is already given in the report circulated to the hon. Members."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—" There is a separate provision for digging wells to provide fresh water to Harijans by the Labour Department. They recommended that certain amount may be spent towards digging wells. I want to inform the Members that out of the one crore of rupees it is better to spend more money for this purpose as the funds allotted to the Labour Department are very meagre."

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—" May I know, Sir, whether it is the intention of the Government to consult the Committee before the amounts are spent? "

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—" It is enough that they have recommended. The Government will implement such of their recommendations as they think fit."

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SRI B. S. MURTHI:—" The Hon. Minister stated that the Committee must be blamed for the delay in submitting the report. May I know if he shares the blame because he was the Chairman of the Committee? "

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—" The Minister cannot share the blame because first it was thought that the Committee will be a Standing Committee. Later on the Committee elected a sub-committee to go into the question of the Harijan Welfare. I myself refrained from attending the sub-committee and asked them to elect their own Chairman and to submit their report."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—" May I inform the Government, Sir, that the Committee had not delayed even a day for completing the report, after touring various places in the Madras Presidency? "

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—" According to the previous orders of the Government the report should be submitted before the 15th August. The Secretary of the Committee asked for extension of time till the 15th September. The final report was submitted in December."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—" The Minister had said that the Government is considering the proposals. Once again he says some money has been given to the Thakkar Baba Vidyalaya and that they have also decided to give some money from out of the one crore towards school fees. May I know whether the proposals are being considered piecemeal or whether they will be considered as a whole? "

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—" The report will be considered as a whole. Government knows which money should be spent for which institutions. Not only have the Government given money to the Thakkar Baba Institution but the Government have spent nearly eight lakhs of rupees towards hostels run by the Harijan Sevak Sangh and various other private individuals."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, how much the recommendations of the Committee will cost? "

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—" Of course they have made a definite recommendation to the Government to spend fifty thousand rupees from the one-crore fund. But they make recommendations only for spending from out of the one-crore fund allotted for this purpose."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" What will be the approximate total amount if the recommendations are given effect to? "

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—" The hon. Member is requested to put a separate question."

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to spend some little money in dribblets every year to serve as an eye wash to poor Harijans and make this one-crore fund lost in perpetuity?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"The intention of the Government is to add every year to this amount."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—"May I know whether the Harijan people who become Christians will continue to get the same privileges?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"This concession given out of the one-crore fund applies only to Harijans. This does not apply to converts."

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—"Are the Government aware of the very reasonable criticism from the Harijan public that unnecessary and undue delay is being caused in utilizing this amount whatever may be the cause whether it is due to the Harijan Welfare Committee or to the inactivity of the Government?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"I want to draw the attention of the Members to the fact that there has been no delay in the matter. Nobody can spend without proper accounting and proper sanction. Naturally it will take some time to formulate schemes and to get reports from officers. I also want to tell the House to compare the concession extended to Harijans in this Province with those in the other Provinces. We are proud to spend so much amount on Harijans in this Province."

11-15 a.m. SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"By the enormous delay caused in spending the one-crore of rupees sanctioned so munificently by the Prakasam's Government, are we to understand that the Government want to follow the parable of the ghee pot and the miser? The miser was looking into the ghee pot as he was taking food, so that the ghee in the pot might be preserved for ever."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state the amounts that have so far been spent each year out of the fund and the amounts replenished each year?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"A separate question might be put, Sir."

SRI P. KAKKAN:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister for Harijan Uplift is aware that the disabilities of Harijans will be removed after giving effect to the report of the Committee?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"I do not understand the question clearly and how the disabilities could be removed after giving effect to the report of the Committee."

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M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, the Hon. Minister spoke of the larger amounts that are being spent in this Province as compared with other Provinces. May I ask him whether the Harijans of this Province are particularly backward or more backward than Harijans in other Provinces?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"There are many graduates, and many have taken up service under the Madras Government. When compared to other Provinces, Harijans in Madras Province are very forward."

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—"தலைவர் அவர்களே, இப்பொழுது ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு நன்மை செய்யக்கூடிய கமிட்டிகள் இருக்கின்றன. அந்த ஹரிஜன கமிட்டிகளில் அய்யர்களும், அய்யங்காரர்களும் தலைவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். அதை மாற்ற முடியுமா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"It may be translated, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government will be pleased to give an account of all the recommendations that are carried out ever since the report was submitted?"

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"On a point of information, Sir. The hon. Member Mr. Kanniappan put a question in Tamil, and the Hon. Minister wanted it to be translated so that he could answer. Before he could answer how you allow another hon. Member to put a question?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not for the hon. Member to ask how I can allow another hon. Member to put a question."

"If the Hon. Minister is not able to understand the question, I hope some other Hon. Minister will help him."

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMIAH:—"I will translate the question, Sir. The Hon. Minister is requested to answer whether he would consider the abolition of the committees which are packed with Ayyars and Ayyangars?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"The committees are being reconstituted after a very long time. Ayyangars and Ayyars have been doing useful service, and so they have been nominated. I must tell you that Ayyars and Ayyangars have taken up the cause of Harijans in previous years."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, how many of the recommendations have been given effect to ever since the report was submitted?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"All the recommendations are under the consideration of the Government. Ninety-nine per cent of the recommendations will be put into force after they are decided by the Cabinet."

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMIAH:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of immediately diverting a part of the one crore of rupees for feeding the poor Harijans in the mufassal who are starving in these famine days?"

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THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"The money may be spent on poor homes and hostels run for them. This money cannot be spent on people who are starving in rural areas."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to give an assurance that this one crore of rupees will be spent before the end of this year?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"That promise I cannot give. We may even spend more than one crore."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Sir, one of the recommendations of the Provincial Harijan Welfare Committee is that the Harijan Uplift department under the Labour department should be converted as a Harijan Welfare department. May I know, Sir, whether the Government have considered this matter and taken any decision?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"It is under the consideration of the Government. We have not yet taken a decision on it."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister the definite or at least the approximate date by which the Government will come to a decision with regard to this report?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"I cannot give any definite date. But the Government will certainly decide at an early date."

MR. H. O. FOWLER:—"Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister that a Harijan ceases to be a Harijan when he becomes a Christian, may I ask him to give us a very simple definition of 'Harijan'?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"Certainly a Harijan ceases to be a Harijan as soon as he is converted to Christianity. Harijan means a man who is in the Hindu fold and who professes Hindu religion. As soon as he is converted to Christianity, he professes another religion and he does not follow the Hindu customs and manners. Therefore he ceases to be a Harijan."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Arising out of the answer that a Harijan Welfare department is under the active consideration of the Government, may I know why the labour officers in the districts are now called Harijan Welfare Officers?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"This is one of the recommendations made by the committee long ago. So, I thought these officers should be called Harijan Welfare Officers instead of Labour Officers because the schools are run for Harijans, and these schools are not labour schools. This is a misnomer given by the Justice Party. I only changed it."

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DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister, Sir, whether the concessions to Harijans are given just because they are Hindus or that they are economically depressed?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"It may be true that they are economically backward. As soon as a Harijan is converted to Christianity, he is shown consideration for service under Government, etc., as a Christian. He will be governed by the quota allotted to that community."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether this question of treating people belonging to the Harijan community is on a political basis or economic basis?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"It is on economic basis."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have allowed 25 minutes for this question."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Sir, may I know whether you would allow a half-hour debate on this question. Because, the whole problem has been engaging the attention of this Legislature for a very long time, and no practical solution has yet been found?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"I can suggest to the Hon. Minister that instead of a half-hour debate we can have full-dress debate on some day. If the Government are prepared to have a debate on one full day, I think it will be better."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, we have already spent 25 minutes on this question. We shall certainly consider your suggestion of having a debate on some day. I will tell you about this to-morrow or the day after."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I hope the House agrees to a full-dress debate on the report."

Recruitment of Home Guards.

* 31 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have completed the recruitment of Home Guards and Commandants—Districtwar;

(b) whether any preference has been given to the local people in recruiting Home Guards and Commandants;

(c) if so, what sort of preference was given; and

(d) if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—" (a) Recruitment of Home Guards is going on. All the Commandants required for the force have been recruited.

" (b) & (c) The Home Guards for any particular locality are recruited from persons in that locality. No such preference has been shown in the recruitment of Commandants.

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“(d) No preference was shown to local people in the matter of recruitment of Commandants, because the Government considered that the best men could be selected only if recruitment was not confined to particular localities.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Sir, do not the Government realize that local people will evince more interest than others as it will affect their own homes?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“That is why, Sir, recruitment to Home Guards is confined to the localities.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know, Sir, whether the target figure of recruitment has been reached?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“It has not yet been reached. That is why I said ‘it is going on’.”

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Are the Government aware that since no minimum qualifications are prescribed, all sorts of persons are being recruited?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“All sorts of people are recruited.”

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—“Sir, while the Government claim that this recruitment of Home Guards is in no way political and that everybody is given an opportunity to get himself recruited, is it not a fact that most of the non-officials generally nominated to the various district committees are all Congress men and nobody else?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“As far as my own district is concerned, they are not all Congress men. I know there are certainly non-Congress men.”

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know, Sir, what is the response received from the public with regard to enrolment in the Home Guards? Have they got sufficient applicants to reach the target?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Generally it is quite good; but in certain localities it is not quite good.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know, Sir, the reason for such a slow progress in recruitment. Is there any complaint regarding the personnel selected or the method of selection, or is it in any way communal? What is the information of the Government in the matter?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“In certain districts, especially Telugu districts, they are not coming forward in larger numbers. Therefore recruitment is going on, as I already stated.”

SRI P. NATESAN:—“What the Commandants are doing now when there are no Home Guards?” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“There are too many things to be done. The selection of Home Guards itself is being looked after by them.”

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SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“Are the Government aware, Sir, that several Harijans who offered themselves as Home Guards were not selected and several ex-service men who offered for Commandants' posts were not selected? If so, may I ask the Government whether they will give a direction to the recruiting officers to do justice to the Harijan community?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Home Guards have to satisfy certain tests like height, chest measurement, etc. Perhaps they did not satisfy those tests.”

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—“May I know from the Hon. the Leader of the House as to what are the special qualifications of one Mr. Rajagopalan, who is the Office Manager of the Tamil Nad Congress Committee, for being nominated to the Madras City Recruitment Committee?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“He has been connected with the various voluntary organizations, and he is well conversant with the local conditions.”

SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—“In selecting Commandants local people were not taken. Do the Government feel that there are not competent men in the local area?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“All these officers are not confined to any particular locality. There are various considerations to be looked into before Commandants are recruited.”

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—“Will the Government, Sir, without necessary delay, start giving training to the Home Guards in the districts?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“All steps will be taken to give them military training.”

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“In border districts where Home Guards are absolutely necessary, little progress has been made. Will the Government enquire into this and let us know about it?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Certainly we will make an enquiry.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Sir, arising out of the answer that Home Guards are recruited from the local areas, may I ask how this principle of selecting men from the local areas does not apply to the recruitment of Commandants?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Commandants belong to a superior cadre. Then again, Sir, previous experience in military matters have to be taken into consideration.”

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—“Will the Hon. the Minister be pleased to state whether in the border districts the Home Guards will be supplied with rifles and guns?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The Government are considering the suggestion.”

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"May I ask the Government, Sir, that in the number of Commandants that are now employed, how many are Telugus?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I think there are now 16 Commandants. As to how many of them are Telugus, a separate question may be put."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"In view of the fact that Telugu districts are border districts and where the Home Guards are more necessary, may I know whether there has been any failure in the recruitment? If it is so, is it due to the personnel of the Committee appointed by the Government or is it due to the fact that Government have not consulted the Leaders of the Congress there?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"In general the leaders of the community or the leaders of the locality have been consulted and the recruitment is going on. If there is no brisk recruitment, it is because of the indifference and the apathy of the people generally."

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—"Are the Government going to give special preference to Harijans even in enlisting these Home Guards, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Due preference will be given."

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—"தலைவர் Sir, 1942-ம் வருஷம் ஹோம் கார்க்கு நியமித்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது பயிற்சி அடைந்தவர்கள் தப்பாக நடந்து கொண்டார்கள். அந்த முறையில் இல்லாமல் இப்பொழுது நியமிக்கும் ஹோம் கார்க்கு சரியான முறையில் நடக்கும்படி நியமிப்பார்களா? ஆகைய விமானப்படை பயிற்சி கொடுக்க முடியுமா என்றும் கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Necessary training will be given in due course."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"May I ask the Government, Sir, how many Commandants have been selected throughout the Presidency, their scale of salary and whether they have undergone any training?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"A separate question may be put."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"May I know, Sir, whether there is any recruitment of Home Guards in the districts beyond the border districts of Hyderabad?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Recruitment is going on in some other districts also."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"It was just now mentioned that recruitment to these posts of Home Guards is being done only with Congress men. If that is so, may I know, Sir, what harm is there in recruiting them to those posts?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Certainly. The hon. Member is quite right."

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SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—"Have the Government received representations to the effect that the allowances provided for these Home Guards in the rules is so meagre that it should be raised to at least to Rs. 2 or Rs. 2-8-0 at least on the days they are on duty?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The question was reconsidered and recently some orders were passed on that subject. I do not exactly remember but some orders were passed."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"With reference to the answer given by the Hon. the Minister to clause (c), may I know, Sir, what steps the Government have taken to find out how many people in the local areas are willing and are available for recruitment as Home Guards, apart from the appointment of Commandants?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The Committee that was set up to select these persons went into the question and they selected all those people suitable for these posts."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"In view of the keen interest shown by the members of this House in the matter of recruitment of these Home Guards, may I know how many of the hon. Members of this House have offered themselves to serve as Home Guards in the various districts and taluks?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Does the hon. Member want that even hon. Members of the House should offer themselves to serve as Home Guards on Rs. 30 and Rs. 20?"

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"I mean, in an honorary capacity. Members need not be paid. My question is how many hon. Members have offered themselves to serve as Home Guards in an honorary capacity. As a matter of fact, the Yuvaraja of Pithapuram has offered himself to serve as a Home Guard in an honorary capacity."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am thankful for the information given by the hon. Member."

Dr. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Will the Hon. the Leader of the House give an assurance that Ayyangars and Ayyars will not be recruited to these Home Guards so that it may not form the subject of an interpellation later on in this House and may not embarrass the Government?" (Laughter.)

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask the Government whether it is not desirable to give permission on a wide scale for starting of rifle-clubs along with the policy of enlisting Home Guards?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"A separate question may be put."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"May I know how many Hon. Ministers have enrolled themselves as Home Guards?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I separate question may be put."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"While appreciating the assurance given by the Hon. Minister that due representation will be given to Harijans in the recruitment of Home Guards, may I know, Sir, whether any instructions have been given so far to this effect?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am not quite sure. I will find out the position."

State emblem of the Government of Madras.

* 32 Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have come to any decision with regard to the State emblem of the Government of Madras; and

(b) if so, what its features are?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The emblem will feature a South Indian temple gopuram as well as the Sarnath Lion Capital of Asoka (the State emblem of the Government of India). The exact design of the emblem with these features is still under the consideration of Government."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, how the Leader of the House can reconcile the oft-repeated statement on the floor of this House that this is a secular State with the features of the State emblem, which represents the various communities in the Province?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The emblem of this variety will not take away the secular character of the Government and it will maintain that. This Government will be secular and in choosing the emblem, we have to take something which typifies the general South Indian culture and we could not think of anything else than a temple gopuram for that purpose."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. the Leader of the House, does he mean that the South Indian culture is the Tamilnad culture and the emblem should take only the Tamilnad culture whereas there are various linguistic areas having different cultures?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I repeat the statement that a temple gopuram is not the monopoly of Tamilnad but it is found everywhere in South India. In my own village, Buchireddipalem, we have got a gopuram and so also in several other Telugu areas. So, that typifies the general South Indian culture and we have taken it as our emblem."

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SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"Is it not possible for this Government to find out an emblem which would not have given cause for such complaints?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We could not certainly think of anything else which is better."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact that 'iddli' is essentially significant of South Indian culture and could that not have better represented?" (Laughter.)

Compulsory Education Scheme.

* 33 Q.—SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Compulsory Education Scheme started in our Province by the Advisers' Government is being pursued;

(b) if so, whether it is being enforced actively in all districts; and

(c) if not, why not?

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

" (a) The scheme was first introduced in selected villages in each district in 1945-46 and was extended to other areas in 1946-47 and 1947-48.

" (b) & (c) The Director of Public Instruction has pointed out certain defects in the working of the scheme. He has been asked to suggest measures for remedying them. Pending further examination of the question, the Government have decided not to extend the scheme of compulsory elementary education during the current year."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"Is there a different scheme before the Government, Sir?"

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

"No, Sir."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know, Sir, what are the difficulties that have been pointed out by the Director of Public Instruction?"

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

"The difficulties are that the compulsion has not worked properly, that the attendance committees have not worked properly and that no action has been taken in cases where attendance has not been forthcoming. Another difficulty is the lack of qualified teachers to work the compulsory education and that there are now 1,200 untrained teachers in the compulsory areas. Some other difficulties also have been pointed out."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"With reference to the enforcement of compulsion, may I know who imposes the fine and who collects it at present?"

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

“Previously, the presidents of district boards were entrusted with that work. Latterly, Government entrusted this work to the District Educational Officers. Still, there has not been effective enforcement. Government are anxious to bring into existence compulsorily elementary education as soon as possible under the new reorganization scheme of basic education throughout the Province.”

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—“Is the Hon. Minister for Education aware that every day when we open the daily papers, we find speeches and statements condemning his educational policy in the Province and, if that is so, will he consider the matter seriously and try to rectify those defects?”

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

“The Government is anxiously watching the reactions to the new scheme and they are trying to do what they can in the best interests of the people of the Province.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Will the Government consider the desirability of amending the Madras Education Act so as to empower the educational officers not merely to impose fines—because the majority of the parents are poor and they cannot pay the fines—but also to compel the parents to put their children to school? May I point out that this was one of the suggestions made by that late Sir Mevrel Statham and the Post-war Reconstruction Committee?”

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

“Originally we made the local bodies responsible for enforcing this compulsory system of education. To enforce compulsion it is necessary to have penal provisions against parents and employers of these children. This was considered at the present Conference of Local Boards in Madura and Masulipatam and there it was suggested that these coercive steps may defeat our purpose.”

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“In one of the statements referred to by Mr. Raza Khan, the Hon. Minister tried to correct himself. For instance, about the compulsory nature of Hindi in the Tamilnad, he has corrected himself in view of the confusion created in the Press.”

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

“I am afraid the hon. Member is all confusion every time he gets up. This question only refers to compulsory elementary education and not to the teaching of Hindi in Tamil schools.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Do not this Government consider that it is high time that they should revise and modify the enforcement of compulsion in this Province and follow what was done by the Advisers' Government?”

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

“I do not follow the question.”

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SRI KALLUR SUBBA RAO:—“May I know from the Government whether the compulsory teaching of the three R.s means education?”

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

“It is difficult for me to give a dissertation on education here but I can say that how basic education is the policy of the Government with regard to elementary education.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“In answer to a question whether the compulsory education scheme started by the Advisers' Government has been pursued by this Government, the Hon. Minister said ‘Yes.’ Is it not high time to amend and modify the Education Act to see that education is developed faster than before and that they should revise the various conditions before compulsion is introduced?”

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

“Yes; attempts are made for a faster pace in consultation with the Government of India.”

SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister whether he intends to follow the compulsory education scheme only in the City of Madras and, if so, whether he intends to remove also the teaching of Telugu in schools on the plea that Telugu is not the regional language of the City of Madras?”

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

“I would like to clear the misunderstanding that Telugu is not taught in the schools in the Madras City. In Madras City, boys will be given instructions in that language as medium of instruction.”

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—“Is it a fact that the Advisers' scheme is one of twenty years and that this Government modified the scheme to one of ten years?”

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

“Yes. The latter part is under correspondence with the Government of India.”

SRI T. S. PATTABHIRAMAN:—“Is it a fact, Sir, that in 11-45 compulsory education areas, the teachers are held responsible for the absence of boys from the schools?”

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

“To a certain extent, teachers are held responsible for the attendance of boys in schools.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know, Sir, whether it is due to withdrawal of mid-day meals that the compulsory education scheme has failed?”

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

“The withdrawal of the mid-day meals has to a certain extent affected their attendance, but I cannot say that by itself it has been responsible for the failure.”

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SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Do the Government realize, that most of the parents of these poor boys are unable to send their children to the schools because they are unearning members and in order to obviate this difficulty, will the Government consider the desirability of introducing mid-day meals in the schools?"

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

"The system of mid-day meals was discontinued because of the extra cost is involved, and it may go up to 5 to 6 crores.

The Government are considering other methods like the shift system, etc."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that compulsion is being enforced even to-day under the existing Elementary Education Act and all its provisions kept intact?"

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

"Yes, Sir, compulsion is being enforced under the present Elementary Education Act."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"May I know, Sir, whether the educational policies are arrived at entirely by the Minister himself or a decision is taken by the whole Cabinet, because education is a very important subject and will affect the prosperity of our Province?"

No answer.

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, what are the steps taken by this Government with the Central Government in regard to finance to have this scheme fulfilled within a short period?"

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

"The matter is under consideration, and I do not like to divulge things still under consideration."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister, that in Madras City all the four languages have got equal importance, may I know the reasons why Telugu has been abolished in several schools in the City?"

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

"I do not like to enter into a controversy on this subject, but I can say this much that for pupils who speak other languages also, provision will be made in the Madras City."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"In view of the fact that the Minister is very fortunate in having a good deal of prominence in the press, of course by way of strong criticism, will he allow a full day's debate so that this House may have an opportunity of discussing the educational policy of the Government? Otherwise much harm will be done to the educational system in the Province under his ministership?"

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

"I am thankful for his suggestions. But I feel the question hour provide an opportunity to give more pointed answers, rather than more debates where such a thing is not possible."

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MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"We assure him that we would not give him any trouble. But only we want to see that things are properly rectified, because there is a feeling that he is rushing on with the schemes and thoroughly disorganizing the whole educational system in the Province. Especially in view of the fact that Mr. Kala Venkata Rao has made a statement that his views are his own, and they are not those of the Ministers, we have got a right for a debate and demand it from him."

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

"Sri Kala Venkata Rao will clarify what he said. So far as I am concerned, I am so much accustomed to the opposition I have been receiving from the hon. Members opposite, that sometimes I feel unhappy without them. I am always eager to have enlightened criticism and valuable suggestions. I think nothing will be served by a mere general discussion. I shall answer questions, even short notice questions, because they will give me an opportunity to discuss matters on which the hon. Members want pointed answers."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know Sir, why there is so much deterioration in the scheme of compulsory education under a National Government, whereas that very scheme was making headway under the Advisers' regime?"

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

"I do not concede the proposition, Sir. It is the intention of this Government to evolve a scheme by which during the shortest possible time full compulsory education may be introduced throughout the Province."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"After all, Sir the difference is too small. We get of course information by way of questions, but I submit that we could get it better by means of a debate. I would request the Minister not to fight shy of a debate, because the very purpose of Government is to serve the interests of the public. Wherever there are defects we could make our suggestions. This is my request to Government."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"To obviate the need for mid-day meals, will the Hon. Minister see to it that morning schools and evening schools are established in compulsory education areas in the Province?"

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

"That matter is under consideration."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"Since it is the settled policy of the Government of India and also of the Congress for the spread of compulsory and free primary education, will the Government double the provision for the compulsory education scheme in the next Budget?"

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

"It will be considered."

MR. SPEAKER:—"There are only ten minutes more in question-hour, and there are six more questions."

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Payments received from the Central Government.

* 34 Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the total amount given by the Government of India to the Government of Madras under the various heads in 1946-47?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The more important payments received by this Government from the Government of India in respect of 1946-47 are given below:—

	RS.
	LAKHS.
(1) Provincial share of taxes on income other than Corporation Tax	448.05
(2) Compensation for suspension of Provincial measures of taxation on wholesale trade in tobacco	22.00
(3) Grants towards Postwar Reconstruction Schemes	230.08
(4) Grants towards Grow More Food Schemes.	152.82

Total ..	852.95

“In addition, certain payments have been made for certain services rendered by the Provincial Governments as agents of the Government of India, e.g., for the administration of the Indian Companies Act, Petroleum and Explosive Acts, Issue of Passports, etc.”

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know whether the Government can give us any idea of how much money is being released to the province of Madras by the Government of India?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I answered that question some time ago. A separate question may be put.”

Retrenchment Committee.

* 35 Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Retrenchment Committee has submitted its final report to the Government; and

(b) if so, the total amount the Government can save by putting its recommendations into effect?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) No. It is likely that the Committee may conclude its deliberations and submit its report by the end of this month.

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“(b) The total amount the Government can save by putting into effect the recommendations of the Committee involving retrenchment will be about Rs. 2 crores.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Since the final report of the Committee has not been received, may I know whether it is desirable to act piecemeal on the interim reports?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The recommendations are piecemeal and there is no necessity to consider them as a whole, because they are concerned with different departments.”

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know whether this Retrenchment Committee has recommended anything about Ministers' tours?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“As far as I remember, there was nothing mentioned about Ministers' tours, but there was a mention about Ministers.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“In view of the fact that the Retrenchment Committee is prejudiced against women and have recommended the closure of girls' schools and some women's organizations will the Government consult this House or prominent women's organizations in the City before taking action on these recommendations?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I think the Committee had particularly a preference to women, especially the Chairman. But as far as these women's organizations are concerned, we are not accepting the recommendations of the Committee.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister, may I know, how he comes to the conclusion that it will result in a saving of Rs. 2 crores, when the Committee's recommendations have not yet been finalized?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“By a general calculation, Sir.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“May I know whether there is any Harijan member on the Retrenchment Committee?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“There are friends of Harijans in the Committee, especially Mr. Bapineedu.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I ask whether the Government gave instructions to the Retrenchment Committee that the retrenchment should result in a saving of Rs. 2 crores and more?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“No such instruction was given.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—“May I know, who the Chairman of this Committee is that is prejudiced in favour of women?”

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Not in favour, but against them."

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Retrenchment Committee has made an atrocious proposal to abolish the Nilgiris district in deference to certain interested parties, and if so, will the Government give us an assurance to see that such ill-conceived and short-sighted schemes will not be given effect to without consulting the wishes of the people in the district?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"A separate question may be put."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"May I know whether it is not a fact that in reply to a question yesterday, the Finance Minister has told us that the expected saving would be Rs. 2 crores, and if the Government feel to-day that it falls short of the expected Rs. 2 crores may I know whether the answer to clause (b) is in keeping with the answer given yesterday?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If all the recommendations are accepted, the savings would amount to about Rs. 2 crores, but because some of the recommendations are not going to be given effect to, the savings may not come to that figure."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee in the taluk offices of Krishnagiri and Hosur, a number of peons were retrenched, and later on, when the number of peons was in practice found insufficient, many of them were reinstated in office?"

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—"தலைவர் ஸார், ஆள் குறைப்பு கமிட்டியின் ரிபோர்ட் ஏற்பெய்யுன்களுக்கு மாத்திரம் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா அல்லது ஆபீசர்களையும் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா என்பதை தெரிவிக்க வேண்டும்."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We did not what to retrench peons, but we thought some of these officers were having too many peons, and so could retrench the peons."

Private cars running as taxis.

* 36 Q.—SRI S. PARAMANANDA RAYAR:—"Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a number of private motor cars are running as taxis without having taxi boards in the Province of Madras?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is reported that a few private motor cars are plying as taxis without having taxi-boards and that prosecutions are being launched against the owners of such private cars as and when they are detected by the Police."

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SRI S. PARAMANANDA RAYAR:—"Are the Government aware that private cars are allowed to run for hire, and the supplementary rations applied by these persons for their own use are allowed to be utilized for running cars on hire?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not think that supplementary coupons are being allowed for these spurious private cars, and if there is any such instance, the hon. Member may bring it to the notice of the Government."

Tenancy Legislation in Malabar.

* 37 Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have come to any decision with regard to Tenancy legislation in Malabar?

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"The question of amending the Malabar Tenancy Act, 1929, with reference to the recommendations of the Malabar Tenancy Committee is under the active consideration of the Government. A final decision in the matter has not yet been reached."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know how long it will be under the active consideration of the Government?"

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"I do not know, Sir; at least it is under active consideration, after I took charge."

SRI P. GOVINDA MENON:—"In view of the fact that there is a feeling in the district of Malabar that this necessary legislation is unduly delayed and in view of the fact that the Government are bringing in the zamindari legislation, may I request Hon. the Revenue Minister to give us an assurance, that this legislation will be taken up early?"

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"We shall try. As for the inams, we are examining them, and the decision may be put into effect very early."

MR. L. C. PAIS:—"May I know whether the Government has any idea of introducing any legislation in ryotwari areas with a view to prevent the eviction of tenants?"

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"The Government are considering all the aspects of that question also and will arrive at a conclusion very shortly."

SRI P. GOVINDA MENON:—"Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue give an assurance that when he introduces legislation with regard to land tenure in Malabar it will be mainly based on the report of the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee on that question?"

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THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"I cannot make a direct promise like that. The intention of the Government cannot be overruled by any committee outside it, however eminent it may be. But I can give an assurance that the recommendations of that Committee will be given due weight by this Government."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are satisfied that the Communist trouble in Malabar can be suppressed by repressive measures only without their being accompanied by some constructive measures for the alleviation of the condition of the peasants?"

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"If the Communist resort to violence, it will be suppressed. But we are also trying to have equitable social legislation so that the ills of the society may be set right."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister that at least after he took charge there has been active consideration of the question, may I ask whether it is not a reflection against his predecessor? How does he know that there was no active consideration by his predecessor?"

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"I have never said that others did not consider the matter. As regards 'active consideration' I used the words deliberately."

Italian made Diesel buses bought by this Government.

* 38 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) how many Italian made Diesel buses were bought till now by the Government for the Madras City Transport Service;

(b) what the cost of each bus is; and

(c) how many of them are now plying?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) 25 Italian Diesel buses have been purchased.

" (b) The cost of each Italian Diesel bus is roughly Rs. 45,000 inclusive of freight, insurance charges and customs duty.

" (c) All of them are plying."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the price of Rs. 45,000 is not too much, whether the Government are aware of the fact that some serious complaint has been made against the officers concerned, and whether the Government examined the question and took any action?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We do not consider that Rs. 45,000 is too much. Otherwise we would not have placed the order."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know what is the life of a Diesel motor bus, how much the Government expect to collect through it during its lifetime?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is a very difficult question to answer."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What is the amount charged as commission by the firm who acted as the agent of the Government?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I have no idea, Sir. A separate question may be put."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"If any firm or a person comes forward and offers to the Government that he is prepared to supply a Diesel bus for Rs. 25,000 will the Government be prepared to accept it?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If we are in need of more Diesel buses and if we are satisfied with the genuineness of the offer, we will certainly place orders with that firm."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the high cost of these Diesel buses, will the Government be pleased to charge higher rates for the service rendered by these buses?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We will certainly consider the suggestion."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether it is not a fact that tenders were called for for these Diesel buses and orders were placed only after a security of the tenders?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Perhaps it was so, Sir."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"What are the special advantages of this Diesel bus?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"They can run without any petrol, Sir."

Qualifications for Secretarial course.

* 39 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) what are the qualifications prescribed by the Government for the teaching staff for the proposed Secretarial course to be introduced in certain schools in the Province; and

(b) whether the Government have fixed any scale of pay for them?

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

" (a) The qualification prescribed for the post of Assistant is a pass in the B.Com. or D.Com. degree with shorthand and typewriting. He should, in addition, have undergone teachers' training.

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"(b) Yes; Rs. 85—5—125—10—175 for those in Government high schools and Rs. 75—5—145 for those in high schools under local bodies and private managements."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I know whether the Government have received any representation from the B.Com. and D.Com. candidates that the scale of pay is not sufficient for them and if so what action has been taken?"

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

"I do not remember to have received any representation, Sir. Possibly it might have been received in the office. Government have not considered it necessary to raise the scales of pay, because they think that these are quite sufficient for them."

* 40 Q.—Withdrawn.

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

II.—NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS—BILL.

THE MADRAS HINDU BIGAMOUS MARRIAGES PROHIBITION AND DIVORCE BILL, 1947 (L.A. BILL NO. 6 OF 1947).

* SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Madras Hindu Bigamous Marriages Prohibition and Divorce Bill, 1944 (L.A. Bill No. 6 of 1947) and move that the report be taken into consideration."

"Sir, in making this submission to this House, I do not want to go into the history and the necessity of this far-reaching and important piece of legislation. We had an interesting and long discussion over that matter when I submitted this Bill for referring it to a Select Committee. The Bill has taken a long time to come before this House in this form. There had been hurdles and delays. It had to be submitted to the Party and there was opposition and it was the women members who fought for their rights and succeeded. Then I got permission only to refer it for public opinion and therefore though I introduced the Bill in the early part of 1947, it took several months to get the opinion of various bodies and individuals. After the public opinion was received by the Legislature Department, I presented the Bill again and moved a motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. Thus it took a long time before it was taken to the Select Committee. But the Select Committee did not take a long time. I am happy to say that the Select Committee was unanimous with regard to its recommendations. Very few changes have been made and the changes made are in pursuance of the recommendations of the Madras Branch of the All-India Women's Association. Thus there was no dissenting voice among the members of the Select Committee who met under the distinguished Chairmanship of Dr. Subbarayan. The whole thing went on very smoothly and unanimously and the Select Committee concluded its sittings on the 19th of February. It took five months to come

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to this stage and the reason is that Government have always been in a hurry to pass their own Bills and they took away the non-official days also for Government business and therefore caused much delay. Now, I am thankful to the present Leader of the House for not coming in the way of this Bill being presented to this House to-day. I am really thankful to God that I am given the privilege of moving such an important Bill.

"Sir, this is a Bill to remove the longstanding hardships and difficulties experienced by the womanhood of the country. There has been agitation and public opinion has ripened that the pernicious custom of polygamy should be put an end to. That is what every progressive country is doing. Of course, this Bill does not apply to Muslims but I am sure, that they will do well to follow the progressive Muslim countries like Persia, Egypt and Turkey in particular and remove the two bad customs of *purdah* and polygamy. In the matter of property to women, they are in advance. But the Hindu community has not advanced to such an extent and the Hindu Law has to be modified and improved in the direction of the Muslim Law. We have to learn from one another. The Hindu community has to learn the good things from the great sister community of Muslims. Similarly, the Muslims have to learn all the good things from the Hindu community."

"Now, Sir, coming to the Bill, I must say that only very few changes were made in the Select Committee. In the first portion, viz., the definitions, a few changes were made in accordance with the Hindu Law Reform Committee's Report to bring them in line with their definitions. A few changes were made in the definition of the word 'Hindu.'"

"Sir, as regards the question of bigamy, practically no change has been made except with regard to the punishment of a guardian or a parent or a person who is in charge of the minor who is a party to the bigamous marriages. With regard to punishment, a limit is prescribed instead of leaving it to the provisions of the Indian Penal Code. Of course, the House is aware that this Bill prohibits a second marriage of a man or a woman while his wife or her husband is alive and if such marriage takes place, it comes under the definition of Section 494 or 495 of the Indian Penal Code and very severe punishment is given. But if the parties are minors below the age of eighteen years, it is only the guardian or the parent or the person in charge of the party, that is to be punished. The punishment to such persons is limited to six months. Similarly the persons who abet and promote such marriages and those who secure the matches, if they know that the marriage is void and wrong and that they are doing something illegal, are also punished and the punishment is limited to the same period of six months. Except for these few changes, there is no major change."

"Sir, bigamy is prohibited during the lifetime of the husband or wife. A man or woman cannot remarry and the marriage is void for all legal purposes and also the parties to such marriages

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are all punished. Only after the dissolution of the marriage either by law or under a custom, and six months after the dissolution, that either party can marry again even though the first husband or wife is alive. This is the first portion. To this portion there has not been any objection anywhere except from a very few most reactionary people.

"Sir, the second portion was one which was controverted by many people in the country. It is with regard to the definition of 'divorce.' As I submitted last time, divorce follows naturally the prohibition of bigamy. When you prohibit a second marriage, then under certain circumstances provision has to be made for a second marriage during the lifetime of the husband or wife. So those conditions are given in the 'divorce' provisions. If those conditions exist, the party has to present a petition to the court and the marriage is dissolved. Various Divorce Acts have been in existence in various civilised countries of the world. We took certain provisions out of them and incorporated them in this Bill. Of course, we do not grant that right to minors because that is not fair, but when a boy or a girl becomes a major, he or she can exercise that right. After all, it is only a right. There is no compulsion. People may choose to suffer even though hardships may be caused to them. Particularly, women in India do not generally care to go to courts and even if there is suffering they will suffer. Indian women—Hindu, Muslim, Christian, etc.—are very famous for their self-sacrificing spirit, for their purity and for their suffering for the sake of the children or husband. But if any particular woman is so oppressed that she feels that she must seek the provisions of law on divorce, then she is at liberty to go to court and get the marriage dissolved. Therefore, they are optional provisions. I hope that cases will not ever arise for seeking divorce in a court of law. For the dissolution of the marriage a few more grounds have been added by the Select Committee.

"Sir, the first ground in the Bill for divorce is that if a man keeps a woman as concubine or a woman becomes a concubine of any other man or leads a life of prostitution, divorce can be sought.

"The other grounds are desertion either by the husband or wife, lunacy for a continuous period of five years which is found to be incurable and incurable leprosy for a continuous period of five years. At the request of the Indian Women's Association, we have raised the period from three to five years. On the ground of cruel treatment also, if the wife finds it unsafe to live with her husband or if the husband finds it unsafe for him to live with the wife, divorce can be sought in a court of law.

"Sir, we added four more provisions to this in the Select Committee. One is impotency—impotency of a man or a woman. Impotency of the woman means her unfitness for any sexual co-habitation. According to the decision of courts, e.g., 44, Calcutta Weekly Notes, impotency existing at the time of the

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marriage and continuing till the time of the presentation of the petition makes the marriage void and that is also put in as a ground in the Rao's Committee Report. That has been specifically put in in this Bill so that there may not be any doubt about it and this Bill may be self-contained.

"Sir, at the request of the Indian Women's Association, conversion to another religion has been added as another ground to seek a divorce. I wish that the day would come when one member of the family would be a Hindu, another a Christian, another a Parsee and another a Muslim. I am looking forward to that day when the Indian Nation will be one and religion will be a matter of personal opinions."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"On a point of information, Sir. May I point out that this Bill affects women mainly but there is not a single woman in the gallery. Perhaps the women of Madras City are not interested in this Bill. May I suggest that this Bill be postponed for some time till the Madras City women take interest in it?"

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Sir, there are a number of women Members in this House."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, are not gentlemen equally responsible for the protection of the privileges of women?"

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Sir, that shows that women are sure that this House is a good one and all the Members even in their absence and even without agitation or demonstration, will pass the necessary legislation for the protection and welfare of women. That shows that they have great confidence in the Members of this great Assembly including my Friend Mr. Swaminathan.

"So, Sir, conversion also is added now because there is much difference in customs, traditions and modes of worship, etc. Therefore, as soon as a man or woman ceases to be a Hindu and becomes a convert to any other religion, the right to seek divorce in a court of law is given.

"Then, Sir, the third thing is, if a person is suffering from venereal disease of a virulent type continuously for five years, then also the other party to the marriage is given the right to apply for divorce. Another important provision is added not on the request of the Indian Women's Association but on the model of the Bombay Act passed as a Government measure in March 1947. This Act prohibits bigamy and permits divorce to Hindu women. On that model a provision has been made in the Select-Committee that if a husband marries again, the first wife will have the right to go to a court and get her marriage annulled even though the marriage took place before the passing of the Act. After the passing of the Act, any second marriage is void and punishable. But if there are two wives to a man before the

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passing of the Act, the first wife can go to a court of law and seek divorce. This provision was unanimously accepted by the Select Committee and I hope that this House will have no objection. About other things, there is nothing worth mentioning.

"Now, Sir, with regard to the procedure, instead of putting the High Court for original jurisdiction, we have put the City Civil Court. We have not gone into the elaborate methods provided by the Indian Divorce Act."

SRI K. RAJARAM NAYUDU:—"Sir, what would happen in the case of three or four wives?"

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Sir, all the wives except the last one will have the right to seek divorce in a court of law. It comes under the provisions of this Bill."

"So, Sir, the petition has to be presented before the Sub-Court, District Court, or the City Civil Court. Only one appeal is provided and that is to the High Court."

"As regards the court-fee for presenting a petition, it has been increased from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50 as some members of the Select Committee thought that the raising of the court-fee would considerably reduce the number of divorce cases and that we should make it as difficult as possible for any one to sue for divorce. But I am not one with them in enhancing the court-fee from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50 as I feel that only in necessary cases any one will go to a court of law. Yet I have accepted their suggestion."

"Sir, during the pendency of the petition, interim arrangements are also made for the maintenance of the wife, whether she is a plaintiff or a defendant or a petitioner or a respondent, and also for the custody and maintenance of the minor children during that time. Her costs also must be paid by the husband. After the final order has been passed by the court, the court has to decide about the maintenance to be given to the wife by the husband in case she is not the offending party. Suppose, she deserts or she becomes the concubine of another man, then she would not get that maintenance. But in all other cases, she is to be given maintenance till she chooses to remarry. Sir, provision has been made in the Bill for the custody of young children."

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p.m.

"These are the provisions that have been made in the Bill. At this stage, I need not appeal to the reason or to the generous feelings of the Members of this House, because the House has already given sanction for sending it for public opinion and again for referring it to a Select Committee and I am now only presenting the final report of the Select Committee. Therefore, I request that the Bill as it emerged from the Select Committee be accepted and considered by this House."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in seconding the motion moved by Sri Kaleswara Rao."

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The Bill has come not a little too soon in the history of our society in this country. I have not much to add to what he has already said.

"The subject has already been discussed on the floor of this House once or twice; the Select Committee also has carefully gone through the provisions of the Bill and it was not in any light-hearted spirit that the members of the Select Committee agreed to the inclusion of the provision relating to divorce in Hindu society. I am not going into the ethics of the divorce or the no-divorce system but I only want to impress upon the Members of this House that after great anxiety the members of the Select Committee thought that we also should move along with the spirit of the times and give liberty to the women of this land to divorce wherever they feel compelled to resort to such a course. That is why the provisions have been worded in the way we find in the Report of the Select Committee. I know that the conservative sentiment and tradition in the country are not very much in favour of divorce but, at the same time, the progressive elements among women and several women associations have come forward saying that this provision should be made the law of the land and it is only to give effect to the wishes of those that are concerned in the matter particularly, that my hon. Friend, Mr. Kaleswara Rao has introduced this Bill and the Select Committee gave careful consideration and also its approval to it. I therefore believe there will not be much opposition to this Bill. I understand that no substantial amendments have been received affecting the provisions of this Bill. It only shows that the Bill has general approbation. I have therefore great pleasure in seconding it."

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, though this Bill is considered as being a step in the direction of a more civilized outlook, there is some loose drafting in it which may lead to complications in the future. In the case of marriage, it is always safe, especially when you are enacting for a Province, to see that if either of the parties is domiciled in the Province, this Bill may be made applicable to such marriage. In the original draft of the Bill there seems to have been a clause 'if either of the parties was domiciled', but that seems to have been omitted in the Bill as it stands now. This Bill applies only to Hindus domiciled in the Province of Madras. Supposing the husband was a person who was not domiciled in Madras, but was a Bombayite and he married a lady in Madras, the difficulty would be both in applying the bigamous provisions of the Bill against him or in applying for divorce against him. You might then be faced with the fact that the gentleman is not a person domiciled in Madras and therefore would not be affected by this Bill, because of the language used there, namely, 'This Act applies to Hindus domiciled in the Province of Madras'. And there is nothing to prevent a marriage between a person domiciled in any of the other provinces and a person who is domiciled in Madras. The other provisions of the

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Bill, he may well say, are not applicable to him. In all cases of marriage offences, it has been the practice in every country to so frame the Bill that if one of the spouses happens to be a foreigner, he may also be netted in and the Bill made applicable to him also. That I think, is a matter which I believe the author of the Bill may well consider whether even now it may not be safe to have such a provision introduced.

"Sir, the second point that I would urge is, when you are enacting penal laws, you should be careful to see that offences which were not intended are not made offences and that acts which were not possibly intended to be offences are not made offences. For instance, clause 4, sub-clause (3) says: 'if a party to the marriage which is void under sub-clause (1) has not completed eighteen years of age at the time of the solemnization of such marriage, any person having charge of such party, whether, as parent or guardian or in any other capacity, lawful or otherwise, who does any act to promote the marriage . . .'. That is, the guardian is made responsible for the marriage and his act is made penal. Sir, there may occur instances where a guardian might not know, as a matter of fact, whether the spouse of his ward is living or not. Or take the case of persons involved in some cataclysm—as for instance the refugees—or owing to other incidents, who are not known to exist or have been missed, in such cases marriages made under the *bona fide* belief that the spouse is not existing, should not be made penal. It is, therefore, proper that clause 4, sub-clause (3) is qualified in a suitable language, viz., 'who has entered into or has arranged a marriage with the knowledge that his spouse is living or having reason to believe that his spouse is living, etc.' If that is not done, even though he arranges his marriage in a most *bona fide* manner, believing that the spouse is dead, he will be penalized and subjected to imprisonment therefor. It is, therefore, necessary that some kind of similar qualification should be put in in clause 4, sub-clause (4), because it is laid down in the section that 'whoever performs or conducts, or abets the performance or conduct of, any marriage which is void under sub-clause (1) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine or with both unless he proves that he had reason to believe that the marriage was not void under sub-clause (1)'. That is, the burden is thrown upon him of proving that he has reason to believe that it was not void. For instance, there may be cases where a person might not even know that it is second marriage. But, according to sub-clause (1) of clause 4, the fact that it is a second marriage and that his spouse is living is sufficient to make the marriage void. It is all a question of knowledge. If, for instance, a priest is asked to perform a marriage on a representation that it is the first marriage—but in fact a second marriage which will be void—to throw a burden on him of showing that the marriage was not void under the section especially when he had no reason to know the existence of first marriage, is not proper and correct.

"Then, Sir, with regard to divorce, I do not know whether the main ground of divorce which has been accepted as an

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acknowledged ground in all countries wherever divorce is permitted, has been omitted in this Bill either by mistake or deliberately. If you are convinced that there has been a deliberate act of adultery, how do you expect that the spouse would live together. Therefore acts of adultery ought to have been made a ground of divorce. No man or woman would like to consort with another if he or she happens to be guilty of an act of adultery. Therefore, along with the other grounds mentioned in the Bill, this provision, namely, if either party has been found guilty of adultery, may also be included among the grounds for divorce. You may, of course, qualify it further by saying 'in case it has not been condoned.' Such a provision is found in all laws. When adultery has been proved, not to make it a ground of divorce especially when the divorce law is being passed, may look rather abnormal. Clause 5 (1) (a) says 'if a husband has any other woman as a concubine'. The next sub-clause says, 'if a woman is a concubine of any other person or lives the life of prostitute'. I am afraid these provisions leave very great loopholes. Because, you see that the language used here is in the present tense. At the time when the divorce petition is put in, supposing a man, knowing that the wife is going to file a divorce petition, cleverly keeps off the concubine there may not be sufficient ground for divorce, because the language used here is 'if a husband has any other woman as a concubine'. Similarly, in framing the ground for the husband for the divorce of his wife, the clause, as it is worded, says 'if a wife is a concubine of any other man . . .'. For instance, a woman may be concubine of a person for any number of years but if at the time of the filing of the application for divorce, she ceases to be a concubine or gets out, it may not be a ground for filing the divorce petition. Similarly in the matter of leading the life of a prostitute, the same lacuna is found in the Bill. It means that at the time of filing the petition she must be leading the life of a prostitute . . . (At this stage the Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.) Otherwise there is no right of divorce to the man. You should not, therefore, leave the door open for all kinds of subterfuges. So, the clause should be made to cover all past acts. The only question to be considered is whether she has committed the offence or not. In the absence of all that, I am afraid there would be considerable difficulty with regard to applying the provisions of the Bill.

"I understood from the mover of the Bill that the Court-fee 12-45
in respect of such petitions was raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50. I p.m.
must say that the persons who are to be protected are the ladies
and not the gentlemen and this Bill is intended more for their
benefit than for the men. In the case of the Hindu women even
when they are married, they are generally dependent upon their
husbands, so much so, under the law there is provision for interim
maintenance. I do not see what the object is in fixing the Court-
fee like this. The woman might be a coolie, she might be a poor
woman and there is greater need for security in her case than

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in the case of the man. In my opinion, 'because it is intended to give relief to the oppressed, the Court-fee should have been reduced to the minimum possible; it might be Rs. 2 and it must be sufficient. These are things which must be rectified if this Act is to be as useful as it has been intended by the Mover of the Bill and also the Select Committee.'

SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL:—"தலைவி அவர்களே, ஸ்ரீ காளேஸ்வர ராவ் அவர்களால் கொண்டுவரப்பட்ட இந்த சமூக மத சம்மந்தமான திருத்த சட்டத்தை நான் ஆமோதிக்கிறேன். இந்த மாகாணத்தில் ஸ்திரீகளுடைய கஷ்டத்தைக் குறைப்பதற்கு ஸ்ரீ காளேஸ்வர ராவ் அவர்கள் இந்த சட்டம் கொண்டுவந்ததற்காக ஸ்திரீகள் எல்லோருடைய சார்பாக அவர்களுக்கு மனப்பூர்வமாக நான் என்னுடைய வந்தனத்தை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். மத்ய சட்ட சபையில் பால்ய விவாகத்தை தடுப்பதற்கு ஸ்ரீ சாரதா அவர்கள் ஒரு சட்டம் கொண்டுவந்து இப்பொழுது அது எப்படி பூர்ணமாக அமுலில் இருக்கிறதோ அதே மாதிரி ஸ்ரீ காளேஸ்வர ராவ் அவர்களால் இன்று இந்த மாகாணத்தில் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கப்பட்ட இந்த சட்டமும் பூர்ணமாக அமுலில் இருக்கும் என்று நம்புகிறேன். பால்ய விவாக தடை சட்டத்திற்கு எப்படி மத்ய சட்ட சபையில் சாரதா ஆக்ட், என்று சொல்லப்படுகிறதோ அதே மாதிரி இந்த சட்டமும் 'ஸ்ரீ காளேஸ்வர ராவ் ஆக்ட், காளேஸ்வர ராவ் சட்டம்' என்று கூட நாம் இதை அழைக்கலாம். அதற்காக அவருக்கு இந்த மாகாணத்திலுள்ள ஸ்திரீகள் என்றைக்கும் கடமைப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஒரு ஸ்திரீக்காக நிகமாக கல்யாணம் செய்துகொள்வதால் எத்தனையோ குடும்பங்கள் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்படுகின்றன. அதைப்பற்றி இன்று விஸ்தாரமாக சொல்ல வேண்டிய அவசியம் இல்லை. இந்த சட்டம் முதன் முதலாக இந்த சட்ட சபையில் பிரேரேபணைக்கு வந்து அதை பொருக்குக் கமிட்டிக்கு விடுவ காலத்தில் இதைப்பற்றி நான் விஸ்தாரமாக பேசி இருக்கிறேன். அநேகம் பேர்களும் பேசிவிட்டார்கள். ஆகையால் அதைப்பற்றி இன்றும் பேச வேண்டிய அவசியமில்லை. ஆனால் இன்றைக்கு இந்த சட்டம் நிறைவேற்றப் போவதைப்பற்றி மகிழ்ச்சி தெரிவிக்கவேண்டியதை மட்டும் நான் தெரி வித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

"இந்த சட்ட சபையில் நமது நண்பர் ஒருவர் இன்றைக்கு ஸ்திரீகள் காலரியில் ஒரு ஸ்திரீகூட இல்லாமல் இருப்பதால் இந்த சட்டம் ஸ்திரீகளுக்கு அவசியம் இல்லை என்று தோன்றுகிறது என்றும், ஆகையால் இதை ஒத்திப்போட்டுவிடலாம் என்றும் அவர் குறிப்பிட்டால் அதில் அர்த்தம் இல்லை. இந்த சட்டம் இன்றைக்கு சபைக்கு வரும் என்று அநேகம் பேர்களுக்கு தெரியாமல் இருந்திருக்கலாம். தெரிந்திருந்தால் அநேகம் பேர்கள் வந்திருப்பார்கள். ஆகையால் இதன் அவசியமும் இதை எவ்வளவு சிக்கிரமாக நிறைவேற்ற வேண்டுமென்பதும் என் போன்றவர்களுக்குத்தான் தெரியும். இந்த 'பில்' ஜனங்களுடைய அபிப்பிராயத்திற்கு விட்டு பிறகு முதலில் சட்ட சபையில் கொண்டுவந்து பொருக்குக் கமிட்டிக்கு விட்டு இப்பொழுது ஒரு வருஷத்திற்கு மெலாகிவிட்டது. இன்றைக்கு நாம் எல்லோரும் இதை சட்டமாக நிறைவேற்றப் போகிறோம். ஒரு தாரத்திற்குமேல் கல்யாணம் செய்து கொள்ளக்கூடாது என்பது மிகவும் முக்கியமான சட்டம்தான். அதைத் தொடர்ந்து விவாக ரத்தும் சேர்க்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இதைப்பற்றிய அபிப்பிராயம் நான் ஏற்கெனவேயே பேசிய காலத்தில் சொல்லி இருக்கிறேன். அதைப்பற்றி இப்பொழுது நான் அதிகம் பேச முன்வரவில்லை. சட்டம் படித்தவர்கள் அது அவசியம்தான் என்று சொல்லி இருக்கிறார்கள். Select Committee-ல் கூட இது விஷயமாக ஹப்சேபேனையே இல்லை. இந்த சட்ட சபையில் திருத்தங்களுக்கூட இப்பொழுது இருப்பதாக தெரியவில்லை. இதுவிரகுது இது எல்லோருக்கும் சம்மதம்தான் என்று தோன்றுகிறது. விவாக ரத்துபற்றி நான் ஏற்கெனவேயே என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயத்தை தெரிவித்தாய்விட்டது. கல்யாணம் என்பதை நாம் தொண்டுதொட்ட நாளிலிருந்து அது ஒரு புனிதமான காரியமாக நாம் நினைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறோம். ஆனால் விவாக

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ரத்து ஏற்படுமானால் குடும்பங்களில் அதிக பாதகம் ஏற்படும் என்பது என் அபிப்பிராயம். அநேகம் பேர்கள் தங்களுடைய அபிப்பிராயத்தில் இது கூடாது என்று தெரிவித்திருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது கதோலியர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களில் ஒரு ஸ்திரீ இருக்கும்போது மறு கல்யாணம் செய்துகொள்ளக்கூடாது என்றிருக்கிறது. அவர்களில் divorce என்பது கிடையாது என்பது எல்லோருக்கும் தெரிந்த விஷயம். இன்னும் அநேகம் நாடுகளில் விவாக ரத்து இல்லாமலேயே இஷ்டமில்லாவிட்டால் தனியாகவே அவர்கள் இருக்கவும் அவர்களுக்கு சொத்து உரிமையும் இருக்கிறது. நம்முடைய மாகாணத்தில்கூட இந்த சொத்துரிமை சட்டம் நிறைவேற்றி இருக்கிறது. ஒருவருக்கு இஷ்டமில்லை என்றால் தனியாக இருந்து கொள்ளலாம். அதைப்பற்றி இங்கு பேசி லாபம் இல்லை. இந்த விவாக ரத்து ஏற்படுமானால் அநேகம் குடும்பங்களுக்கு பாதகம் ஏற்படும் என்பதும் புனிதத் தன்மை போய்விடும் என்பதும் என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். இருந்தாலும் ஸ்ரீ காளேஸ்வர ராவ் அவர்களுடைய ஏகதார விவாகத்தை பூர்ணமாக நான் ஒப்புக்கொண்டு இந்த 'பில்' லே ஆதரிக்கிறேன்."

Dr. M. J. SAMUEL:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, at this stage of the Bill, I do not wish to say anything against it. 'I wish to say a few words pertaining to the clauses dealing with dissolution of marriages. Divorce in India is not liked by any community or any religion and especially Hindu women are not for divorce. But this Bill is providing for it and they have given many reasons for divorce. Coming as I do from the Indian Christian community, Madam, the question of divorce does not arise in our community. Lord Christ is against it. Marriage is considered sacrosanct and is a sacrament. But in the Western countries, they have followed this system of divorce to suit their own social conditions but we, Indian Christians in India, do not follow it. Some of the provisions dealing with the dissolution of marriages are rather very hard. Clause 5 (g) states: 'has been suffering from venereal diseases in a communicable form for a continuous period of not less than five years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition, the disease not having been contracted from the petitioner.' Madam, this is a very complicated medico-legal question. Every medical practitioner can say that more than fifty per cent of the people in this land are having infection from venereal diseases in some form or another, though it is not apparent. From external appearance, lay men especially misunderstand this disease as something obnoxious or something very virulent. It is a disease which is not easily diagnosed but by a medical practitioner. I know, as a matter of fact, many women come to our clinics and we find them hale and healthy, but still they are infected women. I have known cases where women had half a dozen still-births and finally after intensive treatment they gave birth to normal full-grown live children. I can quote instances in dozens. The words 'venereal disease in a communicable form' is rather dangerous and it can be interpreted by medico-legal experts in any way they like and, therefore, I suggest that this may be modified or amended. Venereal disease is a very common disease all over the world. I know many families were having this infection but still having progeny and they are living normal healthy lives. If a woman or a man wants to dispose of the partner, she or he

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can very well make use of this clause and easily obtain a divorce. I would even like the deletion of the clause. Gonorrhœa or syphilis and such other venereal diseases are not such incurable diseases that would preclude man or woman from living a normal life after treatment. So also about clause 5 (i), namely, conversion to another religion. I can quote many instances, Madam, where there are people living in this part of our Province as man and wife but belong to different religions; the man may be a Hindu; the woman may be a Christian or may belong to some other religion and they are living very happy and comfortable lives. If you introduce this clause, I think, they will be forced to obtain divorce and, therefore, I put this view point for your consideration."

1 p.m.

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, it was a very laudable attempt on the part of my hon. Colleague Mr. Kaleswara Rao. to have thought of a comprehensive measure like this for the purpose of elevating the status of women and wives in this Province. In doing so, he has also made it possible to improve the social amenities of men and husbands also. But in the two important matters which are covered by this Bill, namely, bigamy and divorce, in both cases, it must be definitely understood that the provisions of this Bill make serious inroads on not only Hindu Law but also on Hindu religion. In so far as bigamy is concerned, it is not illegal for a Hindu, as the law stands at present, to marry a second or third or fourth wife, and Hindu religion does not make it incumbent to marry a second wife. It is only a permissive practice of law. In this affair it may be said by advanced modern thinkers that they wish to conform to those rules of social practice as obtain in Western countries. But here, it is not as if we are witnessing a state of affairs in a society in which the men are making a scandalous abuse of the privilege conferred upon them by marrying too many women. The law must be intended to prevent abuse. Here, in this case, I do not understand what great abuse the Hindu male population in this Province has been indulging in for the Legislature to prevent second marriages. Rare cases, exceptional cases, perhaps one in a lakh or one in two lakhs, should not be made the matter of legislation in this broad form as has been attempted by the provisions of this Bill.

"Madam, Deputy Speaker, I may be permitted to tell you that in my short experience at the Bar, I have known cases where first wives forced their husbands to marry another wife for the simple reason that they have had no issue, male or female. In most cases, where there is no male issue, the first wife has herself compelled the husband to marry another and she has been bringing up the children born of the second wife as if they are her own children. All this is due to that environment, that holy and very good environment that has permeated the joint family system in our country that our ancients have devised, a system of family life in which men and women are necessarily compelled to love each other, though they might not have known it at the time of

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marriage,—and thus lead happy lives in their homes. That is the essential difference between our system and the system obtaining in Western countries. (Sri T. Viswanatham: 'That is compulsory love and marriage.') You can mock at it; you can make fun of it; you may be amused at it; but all the same it is a good system. Of course, any evil may be mitigated to a little extent by amending the Sarda Act and by raising the age of marriage. We can by this means prevent any abuse of privilege in the matter of second marriages, i.e., by raising the age of consent still further and make people come together at a mature age so that their bonds of love and affection may last more permanently than it might be imagined to be otherwise. Therefore, I submit the provision of this Bill restricting second marriages are not one which is sought to prevent the abuse of the privilege on a large scale in society; it is intended to close the door to second marriages which are performed even with the consent of the first wife.

"Another thing I wish to say in this connexion is this: Hindu Sastras have made the institution of sonship a holy thing. Every Hindu wants his son to offer oblations to him after his death so that his soul may rest in peace. Pithrupooja, Pithrutharpanam and Pithrusardha are holy things in the Hindu society. Now these things are sought to be completely destroyed by the provisions against bigamy in this Bill. Of course, I do realize the necessity for preventing uncalled for second marriages. Can't you devise suitable provisions to prevent them in this Bill? Why do you by a broad proposition sweep away a good system, simply because the idea of bigamy is foreign to modern thought and foreign to the modern society in the West. This is my fundamental objection to the ban on bigamy which is sought to be provided for in this Bill.

"The second thing is the question of divorce. I find I have to mourn the spirit underlying the provision regarding divorce. Divorce is a thing which has been completely foreign to the spirit of Hindu religion. I have already referred to the compulsory love between husband and wife and the all-important institution of sonship. All these things are based on the compulsory union of two people for life. At a stroke of the pen you are destroying this holy institution. In our marriage we know what Mantras are uttered by the wife and husband. To the wife, we say, when giving blessings, 'let you have ten children and treat your husband as the eleventh child after that.' That is to say, 'let you live happily, give birth to ten children, and in old age the man should be taken care of as the eleventh child.'"

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Do I understand Mr. Varadachari to say that our Sastras tell us that the wife should beget ten children and treat the husband as the eleventh child." (Laughter.)

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Madam, by that time the husband must be sufficiently old, though my friend, Mr. Viswanatham, never ages. (Laughter.) I, therefore, submit that this fundamental institution, the corner-stone of the Hindu religion is sought

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to be destroyed once for all by divorce. I am not so much grieved over the provisions of bigamy as I am grieved over the provisions of divorce.

“ And then, Madam, very curious reasons, infructuous grounds are adduced in clause 5. One is concubinage. Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar has brought out the broad form in which the word is used and the circumstances under which a divorce can be sought for. Up to the date of presentation of the petition the wife or husband must be keeping a concubine. Otherwise the petition would not lie. It will be dismissed *in limine* on this ground. We, lawyers, can find out where the loopholes are. I can appreciate for breach of faith they must be divorced, because Hindu religion never recognizes a couple of that sort.

“ My Friend, Dr. Samuel, said that fifty per cent of the people are suffering from venereal disease. (Laughter.) If that is so, there will be no ground for this legislation. (Laughter.) If fifty per cent of the people have venereal disease, how many marriages can there be and how many divorces there will be? Therefore, I submit that this wording in the Bill gives a loophole in a most important respect for people to escape. In all cases the grounds are unsubstantial. The first thing is there is no substantial reason for divorce; and the second thing is you have made loopholes to make all petitions infructuous.

“ Then I find from a cursory study of the provisions of the Bill, the word ‘impotent’ being used. It means ‘impotent’ both in regard to husband as also the wife. I don’t understand the word ‘impotent’ used with reference to a woman. I have never heard of a woman being impotent. Members in this Assembly may enlighten me on the subject why this word should be used in common for both men and women. I have heard of cases of non-attainment of puberty by women for any length of time. Such women are called Machakommas in Andhradesa and I do not know what the corresponding term is that is used in Tamilnad. They are barren women. Even after attaining puberty, they are not able to bear children. Suppose a husband finds that his wife has not attained puberty even three years after attaining the age of majority. What should he do? Have you provided for such cases in this Bill? No. If you want to find excuses for divorce, you must include all possible grounds. But you have not done so. Then, the barrenness of the wife, on which ground alone the Hindus, if at all, marry a second wife, is not said to be a ground for divorce. The most important ground in which the husband will find an excuse for marrying a second wife or the most valid ground for marrying a second wife is not mentioned in this Bill. How our great modern reformers in the Select Committee could not even think of such cases passes my comprehension. As I have already pointed out, Madam, Deputy Speaker, there are several instances where a first wife had compelled her husband to marry a second time for the purpose of begetting male children to continue the lineage. Why do you strike at the roots

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of our religion in this manner? When you are providing for divorce and against marrying a second wife, why should you not say that the most important ground on which a Hindu would like to marry a second wife must be made a ground for divorce also? This important lacuna must be filled up by a suitable amendment. I had not the forethought to give notice of an amendment in time; if I have still time, I will do so. But the Government themselves must take into their head that, if divorce is to be accepted by this House, the barrenness of the wife must be made a ground for the husband to marry a second wife.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO :—“ Madam, Deputy Speaker, for the information of the lawyer and non-lawyer Members of this House, I wish to point out that the wording of the clauses has been taken from the Rau Committee’s Report on the Draft Hindu Code. My Friend, Sri K. Varadachari, was speaking from general commonsense and I quite appreciate that. Impotency as applied to a woman means her unfitness for sexual life. Mr. Rau, who is a great authority on Hindu Law, has used the wording: impotent at the time of marriage and at the time of the institution of the petition. So also the word ‘is’ is used with regard to concubine as well as prostitute. The Bill embodying the report of the Rau Committee is now before the Central Legislature.”

DR. M. J. SAMUEL :—“ Madam, Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of information. Sri Kaleswara Rao has referred to the impotency of a woman. I would like to point out a medical aspect of the question. At the time of her marriage, a woman may be impotent in the sense in which he has used that word. There may be certain anatomical irregularities in her structure which may be rectified by surgical operation. When she becomes potent after the operation, she will have to be restored to her normal conjugal rights. What does this Bill propose to do in such cases? ”

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—“ Sri A. Kaleswara Rao will reply at the end.”

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI :—“ అమ్మ, పాండు సాంఘిక జీవనములో ఈ నాడు ఉన్నటువంటి ‘భక్తు భార్యలను వివాహమాడండి’ దురాచారమును నిర్మూలించుటకుగాను ఈ బిల్లును ఈ శాసన సభలో ప్రతిపాదించిన శ్రీ కాశేశ్వర రావుగారిని నేను హృదయపూర్వకముగా అభినందించుచున్నాను.

“ ఈ దురాచారమువలన మన సంఘములోని అనేకమంది స్త్రీలు చాలా వాధలు పడుచున్నారు. ఇటువంటి సంస్కరణ ఎన్నడో చేయబడవలసివచ్చింది. ఇప్పటికే చాలా ఆలోచనలుయ్యింది. ఈ సంస్కరణను తీసుకొనివచ్చుటకు మన దేశములో ౫౪ 20 సంవత్సరములనుంచి ప్రయత్నములు జరుగుచున్నను ఇంతవరకు కొనసాగలేదు. అందుచేత ఈ నాడు మన సాంఘిక జీవనములో జరుగుచున్న కొన్ని సంఘటనలను, కొందరు స్త్రీలు పడుచున్న వాధలు చూచి కించపడవలసి వస్తోంది. ఇటువంటి పరిస్థితులూకూడా కొంతమంది గౌరవ సభ్యులు ఈ బిల్లును తీవ్రంగా విమర్శించుచున్నారంటే అది చాలా విచారించవలసిన, సిగ్గుపడవలసిన విషయమని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను.

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న్నాను. ఈ శాసన సభలోని స్త్రీ సభ్యురాలందరూ ఈ సంస్కరణ విషయంలో తగిన శ్రద్ధ తీసుకొని, సభ్యులను, ప్రభుత్వమువారిని ఒప్పించి త్వరగా ఈ చిత్తు బిల్లును శాసనముగా చేయించుటకు సదుము కట్టుకొనవలసినది కోరుచున్నాను.

“గౌ. వరదాచారిగారు వారి ఉపన్యాసములో ఈ సంస్కరణను విమర్శించినారు. వారు ఉదాహరణగా వారు అనేక సందర్భాలలో ప్రథమ భార్యలు సంతానము కలుగలేదనే కారణంచేత తమ భర్తలను ద్వితీయ వివాహము చేసుకొనవలసినదని ప్రోత్సహించి పట్టుబట్టిన విషయాలు తమకు తెలుసునని చెప్పినారు. కాని ఇటువంటి విషయాలు సత్యదూరమని నా అభిప్రాయము. నాకు తెలిసినంతవరకు ఇటువంటి ఒక సంఘటనను గురించి మనవి చేస్తాను. నాకు తెలిసిన ఒకలాయరు భోదరుడు—ఆయన వేరునాకు తెలిసినను ఇప్పుడు వెల్లిడించను—తన భార్యను ఏ విధమైన సరక బాధలు పెట్టేవాడో మా కందరికీ తెలుసును. ఆతడు దక్షిణాది నుంచి ఇంకొక ఆమెను తెచ్చుకొని ఆమెను ద్వితీయ వివాహము చేసుకొనినాడు. ఆయన Bar Association లో తనను తన ప్రథమ భార్యయే బలవంతపరచి ఈ రెండవ వివాహము చేసుకొనునట్లు చేసినదని చెప్పుకొనేవాడు. ఇందులోని సత్యమును గౌరవ సభ్యులు గుర్తించాలి. నాకు తెలిసినంతవరకు ఏ స్త్రీగాని తన భర్తను వేరొక ఆమెను వివాహము చేసుకొన ప్రోత్సహించదు. దానివల్ల ఆమె బ్రతుకు ఆధోగతి పాలు అభ్యుత్పన్నమే అమె అనుకుంటుందిగాని ఏదో మహద్భాగ్యము వస్తుందని అనుకోదు.

“ఈ బిల్లులోని అంశములను చూచినట్లైతే అవి ఒక హిందువులకే వర్తించునట్లున్నవి. ఆ విధంగాకాకుండా ఈ సంస్కరణలు మన రాష్ట్రంలోని అందరకు క్రైస్తవులు, మహమ్మదీయులు, సిక్కులు, పార్సీలు వర్తించునట్లుగా చేయవలసినదని కోరుచున్నాను.

“ఇదివరలో శ్రీ శారదాగారు ‘శారదా చట్టము’ (Sarada Act) ను చేయించి మన సంఘమునకు అవకాశమైన ఉపకారము చేసినారు. దానివల్ల బాల్య వివాహాలు చేయడం, డబ్బుకోసాన్ని (కన్యాశుల్కం కోసము) ముక్కు పచ్చలారని చిన్న పిల్లలను అమ్ముకోవడం చాలావరకు తగ్గినవి. అదేవిధంగా ఈ సంస్కరణలనుకూడా ఎంత తొందరలో అమలు పరిస్తే అంత శ్రీఘ్రకాలములో అనేకమంది స్త్రీల బాధలను నివారించిన వారవుతారు.

“ఈ చిత్తు చట్టము శ్రీ డాక్టరు నుబ్బరాయగారి సహాయమువల్ల Select Committee వారిచేత వికస్థిరంగా ఆమోదింపబడినది. విడాకుల విషయంలో Stamp duty ని Select Committee వారు రూ 50 లకు హెచ్చించినారు. దీనివల్ల కొంతమంది దీదవారికి ఇబ్బందులు కలుగుతాయి. కాబట్టి ఆదిలో శ్రీ కాశేశ్వర రావుగారు ప్రతిపాదించినటుల దీనిని రూ 10 లకు తగ్గించినట్లైతే చాలా బాగుంటుందని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను. ఇది రూ 10 లు గానే కాకుండా ఇంకా తక్కువచేసిన కూడా మంచిదే.

“కొందరు సభ్యులు సంతతి కలుగనప్పుడు ద్వితీయ వివాహము చేసుకొనవచ్చునని అన్నారు. వారి అభిప్రాయములతో నేను ఏకీభవించను. సంతతి కలుగనప్పుడు దత్త స్వీకారము (adoption) చేసుకొనవచ్చును. వెంచుకొనిన పిల్లలు మంచి వారు కాకపోతే ఏమి గత్యంతరమని అడుగుచున్నారు. పుట్టిన పిల్లలు దుర్మార్గులైతే ఏమిచేస్తా

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రని వారిని నేను తిరుగ ప్రశ్నిస్తున్నాను. ఈ కారణాలచేత తగిన శ్రద్ధ తీసుకొని ఈ చిత్తు బిల్లును వెంటనే అంగీకరించవలసినదిగా సభ్యుల నందరిని కోరుచు ఈ సంస్కరణను నేను బలపరచుచున్నాను.”

* SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—“Madam, Deputy Speaker, it looks pretty plain to me that Sri Harbildas Sarda has come in the guise of Sri A. Kaleswara Rao to this Assembly to sponsor this Bill and alleviate the suffering of many helpless Hindu women of this Province. I am in general agreement with the provisions and I support the Bill. But it does not deter me from pointing out certain very grave defects in the drafting of the Bill. Though there was a sort of unanimous support to the Bill from all sections of society in the Province, there were also protests from many institutions and individuals. The protests are based on the assumption that the Hindu marriage is a sacrament and not a contract and that, as such, this sacrament should not be disturbed by conditions pertaining to contracting parties. In a society which has got many social evils, it is my firm conviction that the State must take the initiative to put an end to them and pass legislation necessary for the purpose.

“The provision made in item (g) of clause 5 is, in my opinion, a very dangerous one. My Friend, Dr. Samuel, pointed out this very clearly. When I adduce arguments in support of my view, I request that I may be viewed from the proper angle. Item (g) of clause 5 reads:

“Either party to a marriage . . . may present a petition . . . praying that the marriage may be dissolved on the ground that the other party has been suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form for a continuous period of not less than five years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition, the disease not having been contracted from the petitioner.”

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member may continue his speech after lunch.”

The House adjourned for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

(With Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, before we adjourned for lunch, I was referring to some of the defects in the Bill. While it is necessary that the State should step in to legislate when social evils adversely affect the progress of society, it is necessary, at the same time, to see that such a legislation does not disrupt or revolutionize the entire Hindu society. In referring to sub-clause (g) of clause 5 of this Bill, I am basing my argument on a very learned article published in the current issue of the magazine ‘People’s Health’. This article was contributed by an eminent authority of the Government of Madras, by

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Dr. R. V. Rajan, Venereal Specialist, General Hospital, Madras. A study of this article and the graph attached to it will disclose that, for each lakh of people in the City of Madras, the number of people affected either by syphilis or by gonorrhoea is 46,940, that is, roughly about 50 per cent of the population. I am also sorry to see that the prevalence of these venereal diseases in my district is equally bad. It is about 35,000 there and in many other districts it is not less than 10,000 for every lakh of population. Therefore, if a clause of this kind is allowed to exist in this Bill and if the prevalence of this disease is going to be the reason for granting divorce either to the wife or to the husband, then, I am afraid the whole society will be very much disrupted. After all, I quite see the need for remedying some of the defects in the Hindu society, but you should confine yourself to such of the defects as are very much adversely affecting the progress of the Hindu women in this Province. Now Sir, it is not a question of copying the western methods, i.e., the European methods or the American methods. Sir, we have read it from magazines and we have also seen it reported in the newspapers of the western countries, of wives rushing to divorce courts in England and America asking for a divorce on the ground that the husband was sneezing or that the husband was snoring or that he arrived late in the night. If snoring is to be a ground for divorce, then, I am afraid that many a stout people and pot-bellied persons ought to be divorced though such people may be very good husbands and may be effectively discharging their marital obligations. (Laughter.) After all, Sir, some of these diseases may not be contagious; they may only exist for a time and people may get cured if they are properly treated. So, I submit to the Chair and to the hon. Mover of this Bill that this clause ought to be deleted from this Bill.

"Sir, there is another reason why I want that this clause should be deleted and I hope the House will pardon me if the clause necessitates an argument which may be a bit offensive. The clause says—

'Either party to a marriage solemnized before or after the commencement of this Act who has completed 18 years of age may present a petition to the Subordinate Judge's Court, the District Court, or the City Civil Court, within the limits of whose jurisdiction the marriage was solemnized or the other party to the marriage actually and voluntarily resides, praying that the marriage may be dissolved on the ground that the other party—

(a) has been suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form for a continuous period of not less than five years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition, the disease not having been contracted from the petitioner; or'

"Sir, I should like to ask the hon. Mover of this Bill this question. If the wife or the husband goes to the court for obtaining a divorce, how could it be proved in a court of law as to who

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gave the disease to the other party. It is not a practicable proposition at all. If, suppose a wife sues her husband for a divorce on this ground, and the husband comes and says that it is not he who communicated the disease, then what will happen? I submit, Sir, it is practically impossible to enforce a provision like this and an infructuous clause like this ought to be omitted from the Bill altogether.

"Then again, Sir, under clause (c) another ground for divorce has been prescribed. It says, that the marriage may be dissolved on the ground that the other party—

'(c) has been an incurable lunatic for a continuous period of not less than five years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition; or'

"Sir, how is it possible to prove that this man has been suffering from incurable lunacy for not less than five years previously? After all this question arises only when either the husband or the wife approaches a court for divorce. Is it the intention that the party against whom a divorce is sought for should be subject to a medical examination in the court itself? The medical testimony can only be that either the party is a lunatic or not. I do not think it will be possible for the medical man to testify that the man or woman has been a lunatic for exactly the preceding five years. It may be possible for a medical man to diagnose a case of congenital lunacy, but it will be very difficult for him to decide a case of this nature. After all these matters will have to be decided in courts of law and they are solely guided by the language used in this Act. Therefore provisions of this nature which cannot be proved in a court of law, should be properly worded as to give effect to your intentions.

"Then again, Sir, with reference to clause 5 (b) also, I wish to reiterate the arguments advanced by my hon. Friend Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar. It says that a marriage may be dissolved on the ground that the other party—

(b) if a wife, is a concubine of any other man or leads the life of a prostitute; or

The word 'is' in this sub-clause is very much misleading and will lead to a lot of complications and absurdities. Suppose a wife was a concubine of another person all these years and suppose ten days before the Act came into force she discharged her concubinage, then would this provision operate against her? Is that the intention of the hon. Mover of this Bill? I am sure, Sir, it will lead to all sorts of absurdities. Sufficient care must be taken to properly word it. I submit, Sir, that there are very many defects like this in this Bill even from the point of view of language.

"As I have already explained, Sir, I take very strong exception to the retention of the provision under sub-clause (q) of clause 5 (1).

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"Then Sir, let me take up clause 5 (2) of this Bill, which says—

'A wife who has completed 18 years of age may also present a petition for the dissolution of her marriage on the ground that her husband had married again before the commencement of this Act and that the wife so married is living at the time of the presentation of the petition.'

"I should like to ask the hon. Mover of this Bill whether it is his intention to nullify or make void a second marriage that has taken place before this Act has come into operation. Is it the object of the Mover to give retrospective effect to this Bill? I cannot understand, Sir, how a legislation of this kind could seek to have retrospective effect, that is to say, to enable a party to rake up acts which have taken place before this Act has come into force. Suppose a man marries a second wife two days before this Act comes into force, which is a perfectly legal thing under the present law, is it the intention of this Bill that this marriage should be declared null and void, simply because this Act has come into force two days after?"

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"If the woman likes she can present a petition to declare the marriage null and void."

* SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—"For what reason should this retrospective provision be made? I think it is very dangerous to give retrospective effect in matters of this type. I can understand retrospective effect being given to certain matters in the Zamindari Abolition Bill, but here a wife who has completed eighteen years of age may present a petition for the dissolution of her marriage on the ground that her husband had married again before the commencement of this Act. Before this Bill comes into force, a man is at perfect liberty to marry two, three or even five wives if he could afford. When some party contracts marriages like that, I do not see any reason why his previous marriages should be declared null and void, simply because this Bill has come into operation. I submit, Sir, a provision of this nature is certainly very offensive.

"Again Sir, I have got something to say with regard to sub-clause (6) of clause 5. Sir, I was surprised when I read the proceedings of the Select Committee that the amendment effected here, namely, the raising the court-fees from Rs. 10 proposed under the original Bill to Rs. 50 was due to the motion of an hon. Lady member in the Select Committee. Our object in introducing a provision like this is to make a remedy available to the poor Hindu wife who has suffered by reason of her unhappy marriage and it is as if we are conferring a boon or privilege or right as it were on her. There is therefore no point in fixing a court-fee stamp on the petition at Rs. 50, or Rs. 100 or even Rs. 10. The remedy you make available under this clause cannot be taken advantage of by very many poor wives. I cannot understand what has made the hon. Lady member Mrs. Lakshmipathi

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move an amendment like this in the Select Committee. On the other hand, I would urge upon this hon. House that all applications or petitions of this kind by means of which any wrong or injury committed upon a poor wife is sought to be remedied in a court of law, should bear no stamp at all. They should be treated as if they are applications presented *in forma pauperis*. Even under the existing law, if a wife goes to a court of the Subdivisional Magistrate for the grant of a decree for maintenance, only a rupee stamp is affixed to her petition and there it ends. Suppose a poor Hindu woman who has been harassed by her husband wants to sue for a divorce, why should she be prevented from doing so by means of this extortionate levy of a stamp fee? Does it mean that the State wants to make some money out of the misery of this poor woman? I do not think so. The State does not want divorce money? I, therefore, submit, Sir, that the court-fee on such petitions should not be enhanced at all; on the other hand even the Rs. 10 which was originally fixed must be reduced to Re. 1."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Only twelve annas as in the case of ordinary petitions."

* SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—"Then Sir, take sub-clause 7 (a) of clause 5. This contains a provision which is somewhat extraordinary. Under the existing law, if a woman wants to sue for maintenance against her husband, she has to go to a court and present a petition either affixing a stamp or *in forma pauperis*, obtain a decree and get it executed against her husband. But here is an extraordinary clause which says—

'the court may on the application of the wife, order the husband to pay her (i) a sum to meet such expenses and (ii) every month until the petition is finally disposed of, such sum as the court, considering the circumstances of the parties, shall think reasonable, for her maintenance.'

"Sir, I am surprised and I cannot understand how this sub-clause could, in any way, fit in with the previous sub-clause which prescribes the court-fee stamp on the petition at Rs. 50. If you are so zealous and anxious to protect the right of this poor woman who goes to the court to obtain a decree for divorce against her husband, you must see that she does not affix any stamp at all. Do say that she can sue as a pauper. Or if you are so anxious to protect the rights of women, do say that the Government can provide for her expenses. I have no objection. But before it is decreed and before the husband is found to be at fault, why ask the husband to pay her expenses. Supposing the wife does not succeed tomorrow who is to reimburse the expenses. Is the wife who has gone away for some time and lived somewhere else and who has come back going to pay him back? If so from what resources? I submit that this clause also is not in the interests of the proper functioning of this Bill. .

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“Further sub-clause (b) of clause 5 says: ‘has been guilty of such cruelty as to render it unsafe for the petitioner to live with the other party’. I say that such general wording in matters of this nature is dangerous. Unsafe for what? Is it for the person or the property of the woman or for what? We want an explicit answer from the hon. Mover as to what he means by ‘unsafe’. Supposing the husband in a sort of mood or justifiable anger with his wife for something that has happened in the household does something—say beats her as is not uncommon in the Hindu society in rural parts—what happens then? (Interruption.) It is certainly common whatever you may say to the contrary; if it is not beating her in the literal sense it is a sort of chiding her. Then does it become unsafe for her? What does the word ‘unsafe’ mean there? This is very dangerous, Sir. This word ‘unsafe’ can be interpreted to mean anything which the judge who is called upon to decide the case thinks. That wording also has to be changed. We must specifically state ‘has been guilty of such and such cruelty as to render it dangerous for her person’ and such other wording as may be necessary for the protection of the person of the other party. So, Sir, I request that these things may be taken into consideration by the Mover of the Bill and necessary amendments made. Thank you, Sir.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would have welcomed this Bill had it been moved by a younger man than the Mover for the simple reason that a younger man knows the pangs of separation and the consequences of a divorce. (Laughter.) Still, Sir, the experience of an old gentleman should stand us in good stead now. I congratulate the hon. Member, Sri A. Kaleswara Rao, on his ingenuousness, because when the whole world is turning towards the relaxation of laws in this respect and the tightening of the laws in some other respects he has chosen one extremity. Perhaps it will be interesting for Mr. Kaleswara Rao and the House to know that what they call inhuman habits or aboriginal habits need not be looked upon with the same horror by modernists or by modern men. From the days of Mahabharata to the days of the Todas who are living in the Hon. Member Mr. Bokai Gowder’s place, polyandry is still in existence in this country and it has not been wiped out. Polygamy as it were has not proved a menace to the peace of the country. Why make such inroads into the honour of our womanhood? I think my hon. Friend will take the next chance of bringing a Bill for abolishing polyandry. (Interruption.) I do not know, Sir, if the Legislature takes a realistic view of this Bill. Simply because you get a notion from the west that having more than one wife is a primeval habit you should not run away with the idea that the custom has been inflicted upon us by a barbarous heritage. It is not so. Recently an esteemed friend of mine who was living in the Simla Hill station had a conversation with one of the husbands of a particular lady. The custom there is this. A woman can be a wife at the same time to four or five husbands. That is,

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a family marries a woman as it were. There is nothing wrong. In India it has been the recognized custom that the husband can have more than one wife. In the Simla Hill States which have now been formed into a separate Province, namely, the Himalaya Pradesh, there are some four lakhs of people living who have taken polyandry as their common habit. It is a hoary habit which has lasted for several ages. On this account are you going to look down upon Draupadi as being a prostitute? Therefore it is no reason why we should look down upon so many thousands and lakhs of Draupadis who are still spread all over India, not in one part only. If you go into the history of the aboriginal tribes you will find that in the Central Provinces polyandry is still in vogue. It is respected and adored by the people of that place. Many of the original people still living there do follow it and they do not object to that custom. If you want to go there and enforce this law they are likely to rise in revolt. I would therefore like to warn the Government that they would look foolish if they tried to execute the law immediately. Because they have got this Act in their hands, they should not go about executing it at once. Take for instance the case of the Yenadis. I know their history very well. Their marriages and divorces are informal. If a man takes a woman they live together very happily. You cannot come across such a happy life in any other country. They are very loyal to each other and so long as they live together they live happily. But the moment they want to separate they do not go to a court of law and put themselves in disgrace. They do not try to put the guilt on one another. They do not take the assistance of lawyers to prove that either of them has gone astray as they do in the Western countries. Ideas of decency and civilization have not prevented even great and learned people in the Western countries from washing the dirty linen of their homes in the courts. Is it the idea of the hon. the Mover of the Bill to reduce this ancient country of ours to this miserable plight to which many of the European countries have been reduced to-day? Recently I have been reading in the papers the story of a divorce case. This happened in England. It seems the wife was in the habit of compelling the husband to read her a few pages from a novel simply to lull her to sleep. She had that habit unfortunately. She was compelling her husband every day at 9 o’clock to read a few pages in order to lull her to sleep from a God-forsaken book. The man was doing that for a very long time because he was afraid of losing his wife. He was afraid of going to a court of law to prove this or that. He wanted to avoid all that misery. So he was patient for a long time and he read the book for her. At last he lost patience and one day he said he could not read any more for her. He went into a room and locked himself in. She banged at the door and by breaking it open she forced herself into the room. She shook him by the shoulders violently and compelled him to read the book. (Interruption.) That was held to be sufficient ground for a divorce

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in the English Court. (Interruption.) Mr. Brahmanandam Reddi seems to be more learned than myself in most of these matters. (Laughter.) He has just now cited several cases of divorce. I shall now refer to the section regarding cruelty. What is legal cruelty has been the subject-matter of many American decisions. England has not concentrated upon this but the American law has dealt exhaustively with this question. Kissing too strongly or too softly has been held to be a valid reason for divorce. My hon. Friend Mr. Kaleswara Rao has left us in the lurch. He has not told us what is cruelty. (Laughter.) He himself seems to be a lucky man who has never suffered cruelty and so he is now leaving us to the cruelty of the wives to come or those that are at present. There is no Indian law in this respect from which we can copy the definition for cruelty. In the absence of an Indian law in this respect we have to copy the decisions of the American Courts and we will be left in a miserable hole. I hope Mr. Kaleswara Rao will be good enough to expatiate on the various types of cruelty which will entitle a woman”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member has been using my name very often I am obliged to interrupt him at this stage. The wording of the Bill is quite clear. It seems Mr. Raghavayya has forgotten all law and all methods of arguing like a lawyer. He has been merely joking with the words ‘kissing’ and all that in a reckless way”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Order, order. He has not been joking.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“He has been trying to give a meaning to the word ‘unsafe’. As a lawyer let him say what is wrong with the wording. If there is anything wrong I shall correct myself. I do not know what he means by referring to kissing and all that talk here.” (Laughter.)

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“With great respect to my learned Friend the proposer of this motion, I would request him to be good enough to define ‘cruelty’. Does he mean by ‘cruelty’ danger to life? I would like to hear from him what he means by ‘unsafe’. Is it unsafe to life? If he wants to put it that way, I am afraid it would be the most strange definition of cruelty. Cruelty has been defined by some of the Divorce Courts as including some hundred or two hundred varieties of things done either by the wife to the husband or *vice versa* whereby congenial and successful family life has been torpedoed. Even when legal definitions of cruelty are not enough in Courts of Law. I do not see how Mr. Kaleswara Rao’s new definition which is not put on paper can save the poor husband or the wife when he or she is faced with a divorce case for cruelty. Anyhow I will pass over that and come to more important matters.

“I wish, Sir, that the India Government had dealt with this matter which affects society at large and which is likely to change the phase of society. This kind of legislation should not be

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rushed through. We should wait and request the India Government to take up a legislation of this type and legislate for the whole country. My learned Friend, Mr. A. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, has raised the point about the husband being in Madras and the wife belonging to some other province and *vice versa*. To avoid such difficulties and to have the advantage of the intelligence and experience of the whole of India and also to have the responsibility shared by other provinces it is better, even at this late stage that the mover should withdraw this Bill and the Government should request the India Government to frame a suitable Bill which could apply to the whole of this country.

“Here I would like to refer to the habit and usages prevailing among Harijans. I mean no insult to them. I know in the large Harijan community there is the habit by which a widow can live with the brother of her husband. It has been held in the aboriginal societies that it is the duty of the younger brother to live with the wife of his elder brother until she bears children. There is another habit also, and that is if the elder brother dies leaving behind his wife and children, it is the younger brother’s duty to take her in his house and live with her if she wants. If she does not want, he should maintain her. If you are going to apply the law of divorce and punish people simply because they are marrying without effecting divorce, you will simply be leaving thousands of people in utter confusion. There are two lakhs of Yenadis who cannot go to a court of law and get divorce. It is a very costly and complicated affair. I would rather say it is a very undesirable way. Why do you want Yenadis who lead a simple life in their cottages to get divorce and all that? They do not want anything at all like this. You do not care to know how they live. But why do you want to penalise them for an offence which they are alleged to have committed? Are you going to haul up all these two lakhs of Yenadis before a court of law? You cannot expect these Yenadis, Yerukulas, Maravars and Kallars to go to a court of law and get divorce. Again there is the question of polyandry prevalent among Todas. Clause 7 says—

‘Nothing contained in this Act shall be deemed to affect any right conferred by any special enactment, or recognized by any custom or usage, to obtain the dissolution of a marriage whether solemnized before or after the commencement of this Act.’

A dissolution by the person himself is no dissolution. It is not like the mere mention by a Muslim of ‘*talak*’ three times and effecting the dissolution after that. To enable him to get rid of the clutches of the marriage, he has to go to a court of law and obtain dissolution of the marriage. I say it is unjust, cruel, impolitic and unbecoming of a Government to expect thousands of families, who by usage and custom, have not been observing these rules, to go to a court of law to get divorce.

“Then, Sir, I should like to draw your attention to another fact, and that is the idea of divorce. You put the idea of divorce into the head of the man and woman, and this will be working

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in his and her mind. How many maintenance suits are there in the Hindu community and how many are there in those communities where divorce is permitted. The man and woman in the Hindu religion observe decorum. If the Hindu husband does not like to live with his wife, he would prefer to give her maintenance rather than see her living with another and thereby leading an unchaste life. He would say "let her live in peace and let me also live in peace." That is the Hindu sentiment. They respect the family ties. Marital tie in this country has been, as has been rightly observed by my hon. Friend Mr. Varadachari, a hoary one and much sanctity is attached to it. You are now reducing those principles to a contractual marriage unwittingly. God knows wherefrom Mr. Kaleswara Rao got this inspiration suddenly to impose these cruel laws upon this country. A man or woman could divorce his or her spouse simply because there are a good number of reasons which are impractical to be enumerated. My friend Mr. Brahmanandam Reddi referred to the question of communicable venereal disease. I think we will have to accept the instances cited by two learned friends in this matter, and take a realistic view. It may not be possible for us to prove or disprove the existence of venereal disease in either party. It has been growing in incidence as they said. It is filling the Western countries. Every war is bringing in more diseases. I wish to know why for every venereal disease there should be a divorce. Are there not many defects in the woman or the man? A finger may be lame or he may have some disease. Are you getting rid of all those troubles?

"Sub-clause (2) of clause 5 gives retrospective effect to nullify a marriage which took place before the commencement of this Act. This Bill has been on the anvil of the Legislature for a long time, and people have married, in the meantime, according to Hindu customs and rites. To say that a wife who has completed eighteen years of age may also present a petition for the dissolution of her marriage, as though it is a mere change of a petticoat, on the ground that her husband had married again before the commencement of this Act and that the wife so married is living at the time of the presentation of the petition, is against the Hindu custom. I think Mr. Kaleswara Rao has done a great cruelty to himself and to this land of ours by giving retrospective effect to this Act. I can understand retrospective effect being given to any other matter. You can hang people for offences that are committed ten years before on the ground that the present law is such. But you cannot corrupt society and cannot demoralize society. You cannot hold up the sacred thread of marriage as a thing to be cast away like worn-out clothes. Sir, if the Mover of the Bill is too anxious to retain this venereal disability, I would suggest to him that he might change the words 'communicable form of venereal disease' into 'incurable form' or at least 'dangerous form'. That is, the disease should be such as would imperil the health of the other partner. Some such condition may be put in for purposes of dissolution. There is no doubt

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that venereal diseases are, in a small degree, communicable. As has been put by one learned doctor and another learned lawyer, fifty per cent of the people of this country are suffering from venereal diseases. In European countries it may be 90 per cent. But that is no consolation for us. But my point is you will be putting a question mark in everybody's house hereafter. This question is a very dangerous, risky and unhappy one. I wish to request the hon. Member who has been so enthusiastic in pressing his motion from the beginning till now to pause and consider—and take plenty of time to consider—these matters, and if he cannot withdraw this Bill in its entirety, and leave it to the All-India Legislature, to at least remove the more dangerous and risky portions of this Bill so that people may live happily, blissfully, and contentedly. This is my request to the hon. Mover of this Bill."

THE YUVARAJA OF PITHAPURAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my very pleasant duty to congratulate my hon. Friend, Mr. Kaleswara Rao, on the very important measure that he has brought before this House. It is always very easy to criticize any measure, much more so when it happens to be a pioneering measure. I am almost jealous of my respected Friend Mr. Kaleswara Rao, for what he has done many of us would have loved to do. Loopholes there may be and lacuna there may be. But the loopholes and the lacuna and the defects are there to be attended to and amended. But those are by no means a condemnation of the measure itself. Therefore, I wish my hon. Friend, Mr. Kaleswara Rao, all success and God-speed with reference to this very useful legislation, a legislation which, I am afraid, is long overdue. My respected Friend, Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, made very useful suggestions, and I am sure the Mover of the Bill would bear those in mind and do the needful. Then again my learned Friend, Dr. Samuel, had something very useful to say, and I am sure that even those will not escape the notice of the hon. Mover of this Bill.

"Sir, I have to say that to me marriage is merely a social contract. To many others it may be a different thing. But even though it be a mere social contract, it is none the less sacred and important. To me the human relationship and human happiness are more important than dogmas and shibboleths. We are re-making our society. Let us re-make the social laws to suit the changed society. What I say might sound revolutionary. But I do not fight shy of facing such an accusation. The only suggestion which I would like to make with reference to this Bill is this. I know that it will not be acceptable to a majority of the people here. I would very much like to see the grounds on which divorce is to be granted very greatly liberalized. I would like to simply have one sentence whereby any of the contracting parties could, on a mere application to the Court, get a dissolution of the marriage. It might sound very immoral. But what I suggest is the highest morality, for, when we give that perfect freedom to the contracting parties it automatically becomes the best guarantee of a happy married life.

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"With these words, Sir, I once again congratulate Mr. Kaleswara Rao on this very laudable measure."

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMIAH:—"Sir, I wholeheartedly support this measure. It is unfortunate that at this stage of the Bill there are still people who rather in a joking manner criticize this Bill and do not talk seriously."

"Sir, our hon. Friend, the well-known Yenadi champion, described the aboriginal way of life and asked us why we are restricting the beautiful social system of that tribe about which he is very much acquainted. He also referred to a certain tribe in the Himalayas practising polyandry and he advises us to follow in the footsteps of those people whom we call barbarous. Sir, in these days, it is really very strange that we have such specimens as representatives in this Assembly. Unfortunately and inopportunistly, he mentioned one of the most sacred persons in our ancient scriptures, that is, Draupathi. I think he has not understood properly what the Mahabharata teaches us. He thinks that all that is described in the Mahabharata is a remnant of the practice of the aboriginal tribes. Sir, we are here to purify the Hindu society. As it is, the Hindu society to-day is not really peaceful, happy and contented. Then, Sir, he in his peroration said rather frivolously that fifty per cent of the people in this country are afflicted with venereal diseases. I ask, is it a happy state of affairs, if that is so?"

3-15 p.m. "Then, Sir, there was another speaker who said that want of a child should be sufficient ground for divorce. It is true that some *smritis* say so. But, Sir, the population in this country is alarmingly increasing. I think, Sir, it will do us good and it will reduce the population of the country if this Bill is given effect to. These early marriages and these polygamous marriages tend to increase the population. Sir, this is not the time to increase the population of our country. If we are unable to control ourselves and check the alarmingly rapid growth of the population in our country, it will only land us into very dangerous shores in the future. Then, Sir, it is given in the Bill that a divorce can take place where a party has been guilty of such cruelty as to render it unsafe for the other party to live with that party. It has been asked, 'Have you described every form of cruelty?' 'Or has any particular kind of cruelty been described in the Bill as being sufficient reason for the divorce?' True, it is very generally stated that a divorce can take place where one party has been guilty of such cruelty as to render it unsafe for the other party to live with him or her. Should the form of cruelty be described? Again, I ask, is not cruelty itself a sufficient ground for divorce whatever might be its form?"

"Sir, life means reproduction. Assimilation and reproduction are the qualities of life. We have curbed our reproduction and civilized society has put a limitation on reproduction of our species. Marriage is one of those devices of civilization for putting a limit to reproduction. Monogamy is considered to be the best form of marriage and the criterion for a civilized society

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which aims at regularizing their own life not only here but also in the after-life. Some of the members who were speaking for polyandry rather playfully pointed out that the sponsor of this Bill being old, does not realize the difficulties of young people. Sir, it is only old people that have once been young who are able to understand from their experience that it is good for young people to curb themselves and to control their desires and animal propensities, which would prove detrimental to the society. Sir, this provision of divorce is really foreign to modern Hindu society. But, it was explained, Sir, that even in very ancient times, that is, during the best times of the Hindu society some two thousand years ago when India was in the highest plane of progress and development, Hindu women had the full rights of divorce. Perhaps they had greater facilities for divorce than men and if we go into the ancient literature, we do find many such examples. We do find that it has been very well defined and clearly explained in Kautilya's Artha Sastra, which is an authoritative book and which is not a legendary Purana. It is a permissive legislation which enables a spouse to seek a divorce if her husband had been married already to another wife. There is nothing wrong in giving this permission. If a man has married two or three wives, and if one of the wives finds herself to be neglected or if she finds herself to be unwilling to be a spouse, what is wrong in permitting her to seek divorce? Sir, we are talking of progress; we are talking of giving rights to women and all that sort of thing. But, when we come actually to such things, we will not give those rights. Sir, it is also stated that we are foolishly and unreasonably copying what is considered to be the western ideal. This is not a western ideal at all. Whatever is good is good for all humanity. In this Bill itself, divorce is given for all men for all times and we are not simply copying what is considered to be a western ideal. It is simply absurd to say that.

"Sir, I am sorry to find that there are still people who oppose a piece of legislation like this. We want our society to progress; we want that this should be an ideal society. If we are not able to control ourselves, if we are not able to satisfy our own conscience, we cannot progress in a civilized manner. It can never be argued that we cannot lose our pleasures or the satisfaction of our physical inclinations. Therefore, Sir, I would subscribe to a certain idea or a certain dictum which is really good, which would do the society good and which is embodied in this Bill. Sir, I strongly support this Bill and I ask for the support of everyone in this House for this Bill. With these words, I resume my seat."

* SINNA KAZIAR, HAJI MOULVI S. A. F. IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it may be a surprise to you that I have come forward to speak on this Bill. I must speak on this subject because as an Indian I am also interested in the subject and I may suggest a few things which would help our Hindu

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Members of this House, so that they may not go wrong and so that they may not do things which may degenerate and demoralize the Hindu society. Sir, our old Friend, Mr. Kaleswara Rao—I really wonder why he has brought this Bill before this House—is old enough and still he has brought this Bill which is very controversial. (Laughter.) Sir, there are three kinds of marriages, Polyandry, polygamy and monogamy. Polyandry was a necessity in the primitive stage of society, where there ought to have been more males than females. Then comes the question of polygamy. Polygamy is neither compulsory nor is it essential. It is only optional. Polygamy is also essential in certain circumstances. I am not here speaking of physiology but there are certain physiological reasons which necessitates polygamy. Then comes monogamy. Thus, we have these three kinds of marriages. Polygamy is essential under certain circumstances. Monogamy is said to be sacred and many people hold monogamy to be the best kind of marriage because it is thought that polygamy is irreligious. But, why did Solomon have 500 wives and David have 99 wives? Lord Krishna and Rama also had many wives.”

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—“Sir, it is quite wrong to say that Rama and Krishna had many wives. They adopted ‘Eka-pathnivratham’.”

* SINNA KAZIAR HAJI MOULVI S. A. F. IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Sir, I am sorry. I withdraw that statement. Of course I may say that many Hindu spiritual leaders had many wives. For instance, we have heard that King Dasaratha had many thousands of wives. Whatever the reason was, it was the practice in those days with men of status and position to have more wives than one. But now in the existing conditions of society, this practice is being condemned.

“Sir, this Bill contains a provision that divorce should be allowed. You want divorce in one provision but in another provision, you do not want polygamy. What to do with divorced women? Polygamy alone will solve this issue. These two provisions can never go together. If you want to allow divorce, there must be provision for polygamy. Again in the matter of divorce, it is said, if it is proved that the husband has been a lunatic for five years, or has been having a concubine for five years, and so on, then this is sufficient reason for divorce. A man who may have a concubine for 4½ years may give notice to the concubine and get rid of her and may soon after have another concubine. Is this any solution of the problem at all? Mention was also made about the venereal disease. It is also very curious. Who is to go to Court, whether the husband or the wife? Who gave the disease to whom? This has also to be decided.

“There is more or less a desire to discourage polygamy. But I submit, Sir, that it is very very essential in certain circumstances to have it. A man may be physically strong, but his wife may

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be sick, and if he wants to satisfy his animal passion when the wife is weak, what is the other outlet for him? (Laughter.) If he is prevented from having another wife, only immorality will go on developing. There were certain cases cited where the wives themselves force or persuade their husbands to marry a second time for so many reasons, either because they may be weak or because they may not be a good match to their husbands. Under such circumstances, if polygamy or bigamy is completely prohibited, then immorality will be encouraged, and society will become degenerate and demoralized. The only solution under these circumstances is to allow polygamy. So many Members are talking about divorce. Suppose you divorce . . .” (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER:—“‘You’ refers to the Chair.” (Laughter.)

* SINNA KAZIAR HAJI MOULVI S. A. F. IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Suppose a husband divorces his wife, then what happens to the dowry he received from her, and what about her future life? Usually according to the status, either Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 5,000 is given as dowry to the husband, and this money will be returned when she is divorced.

“We must be practical also. It is very difficult to prove the various reasons that are given for divorce. We have got to devise methods by which it can be proved whether a person has been a lunatic for five years, or has been suffering from venereal disease.

“In regard to polyandry, Sir, it was said even the Pancha Pandavas were having only one wife. I have got a criticism to make on that. If polyandry is supported as one of our hon. Members has said, then the question has to be settled as to whom the child which is born to the woman belongs. In polygamy and bigamy these difficulties do not arise. Just a few minutes earlier, one hon. Member said that about 50 per cent of the men and women of this Province are suffering from venereal disease, and if polyandry is still allowed to continue, then I am sure, within three months’ time cent per cent of the population will become victims of it, and there can be no remedy to this. (At this stage, the Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.) The only thing I support is that there should be a provision for divorce; but in certain circumstances, polygamy also should be allowed.”

SRI KALLURI SUBBA RAO:—“అమా, శ్రీ కాశ్వర రావు గారు చెప్పిన ఈ విల్లును, నేటి సాంఘిక పరిస్థితులలో ఇట్టి సంస్కారం అత్యంత అవసరమైనదనే కారణమువలన, బలపరచుచు వారిని ఆధిపందించుచున్నాను.

“భారతదేశానికి వివాహము ఒక సాంఘిక సంబంధముగాకాక, అది ఒక ఋణానుబంధ సంబంధము నైతి ఆధిప్తాయము మనలో తరతరములనుంచి వచ్చుచున్నది. ‘ఋణానుబంధరూపేణ పశుపత్ని సుకాలయః’ అని అన్నారు పెద్దలు. భార్యాభర్తల సంబంధము పూర్వజన్మ ఋణానుబంధముకాని వేరొకటి కాదని అందరకు తెలుసును. కాని వివాహ సంబంధము పశు సుఖములకు మాత్రమే పరిమితమైనదిగాను జూచుచున్నది.

[Sri Kalluri Subba Rao] [15th July 1948]

ఈ కాలములో సంఘాభివృద్ధి తీర్చిదిద్ది సరిచేయు ధర్మము సంఘసభ్యులైన ఉన్నందున కనుకను చట్టముల అభివృద్ధికి వలయు సుస్కారము చేయుట అవసరము. నేను మన కంటివిడుట అనేక దినవారాలకు పడుచున్న బాధలు చూచుచుండుటవలన ఈ సంస్కరణ అత్యంత అవసరమైనటువంటిదని నేను ఈ బిల్లును బలపరుచుచున్నాను.

“ఎవరెన్ని చెప్పినప్పటికీ వివాహము పశు సుఖములకుమాత్రమే అనిన ఒప్పుకొనెడివాడనుకాదు—కాంతరు గృహస్థు ధర్మము సంతకారకు. ఒక సంతానప్రాప్తికి మాత్రమే భార్య భర్తల వివాహసంబంధము విర్వరుపబడినదనుట అవ్యక్తమని నా అభిప్రాయము. ఆరేణు, ధర్మ, కామ, సరిసమానమైన హక్కులనిచ్చి, అన్ని సాక్షిగా స్త్రీని వివాహమాడెడి జాతి మనది. కాని కేవలము పుత్రోత్పత్తికిమాత్రమే వివాహ నియమ మేర్పరుపబడిన దనుట మనజాతి నైతికధర్మమునకు విరుద్ధము. మనమందరము పురాణ పురుషుడుగ భావించెడి రాముడు ఏక పత్నివ్రతుడు. ఒక మాట, ఒక బాణము ఒక పత్ని అని నమ్మెడి జాతి మనది. ఈ నాడు శ్రీ కాళేశ్వర రావుగారు ప్రతిపాదించిన ఈ సాంఘిక సంస్కరణ మనమతధర్మములకు అడ్డర్దుములకు ఏ విధముగను విరుద్ధముకాదు. ఈ నాడు మన సంఘములో మొదటి భార్యకు ఇచ్చుచున్న గౌరవ స్థానము రెండవభార్యకు ఇచ్చుటలేదు. ఇదియే ఇందుకు గార్యకారణము ఏక పత్ని వ్రతము భారతజాతికి అనాది సిద్ధ ధర్మము. ఒకభార్య ఉండగా వేరొక స్త్రీని వివాహ మాచుటనుబహిష్కరించుటకుగాను ఉద్దేశింప బడిన ఈ బిల్లును అందరు ఆమోదించ గోరుచున్నాను.

“ఇంక విడాకుల విషయము రెండవది సభ్యులు కొందరు స్త్రీలకు ఇట్టి విడాకుల హక్కును కల్పించినవలె అనేక సుసారిములు పాడగుననియు, అనేకస్త్రీలు పతితలగుదురనియు చెప్పియున్నారు. వీరి అభిప్రాయములతో నేను ఏకీభవించను. ఇందులకు కారణము మనధర్మశాస్త్ర రీత్యాకూడా, భర్త నపుంసత్వమైనపుడు భర్తభార్యను ఎక్కువగా హింసించుచున్నపుడు, లేక భార్యనువిడచి చాలకాలము దూర దేశములకేగినప్పుడు స్త్రీ వేరు పెండ్లి చేసుకొనుట అంగీకరింపబడినది. ఆ ధర్మ శాస్త్రములలోని ఆంశములనే ఈ బిల్లునందు శ్రీ కాళేశ్వర రావుగారు చేర్చినారుగాని వేరెచ్చటనుంచియు తెచ్చి పెట్టలేదు.

“ఈ చట్టము వచ్చినంత మాత్రముననే భార్యలు భర్తలను, భర్తలు భార్యలను విడచె దని సందేహించుటవసరము. ఈ చట్టము భార్య భర్తల సంబంధవిచ్ఛిత్తుకన్న, వారుభయము మరిత్ర సేవాలిశయముతో జీవించుటకు ఉపయోగపడునని నేను తలంచుచున్నాను. ఈ చట్టమువలన ఇదివరలో వికారణము చేతనైనవలనను వాలన చేయక బాధించుచున్న వారు వారివడతవడి చక్కబరచు కొందురేగాని వేరు విధముగ ప్రవర్తించరని ఆశించుచున్నాను. ఇక నుండి ప్రతిఒకరు స్త్రీకి సరిసమానముగ సౌఖ్యములనిచ్చి ఆధర్మ దాంపత్య జీవితములను గడుపుటకు ఈ సంస్కరణము పనికి వచ్చును. ముఖ్యముగ అందరుగమనించవలసిన దేమన ఈ దినము భర్తలచేత నిరాదరింపబడి బాధలుపడుచున్న అనేకమంది అడపిల్లలు ఇకముందు సుఖముగా దాంపత్య జీవితము గడుపు కొనగలరు. ఈ నాటి కలిసిపోయిన అట్టి అనాధబాలికలు భర్తలచేత నిరాదరింపబడినను, హింసించబడినను వేరుగవ్యంతరము లేక దుర్భరజీవితములను గడువవలసి వచ్చుచున్నది. ఇటువంటి పరిస్థితులు ఈ చట్టమువలన నివారించబడును. ఇకముందు భర్తకు భార్యకు సరిసమానమైన అవకాశములుకలుగును. అనాధబాలికలుకూడ సనాధలేమియుగా సంతానప్రాప్తి పొందుటకు ఈ చట్టము అవకాశముమిచ్చుచున్నది. దీనిని అందరు బలపరచవలసినదని నేను కోరుచున్నాను.”

15th July 1948]

* SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“Madam, this piece of legislation I feel it has been too long delayed in our Province. After all, this Bill contains only two important provisions. One is that there must be no bigamous marriages, viz., a man who has married once whether legally, solemnly or as a matter of fact, should not take another wife. So also a woman who is already in effect the wife of another should not have another husband. That is what the section foresees. The Hindu society recognizes monogamy as its highest virtue and public opinion condemns concubines and polygamy, though law permits it. It is absolutely necessary we must take away all the hardships and anomalies that are now existing and also accruing as a result of permission of law for bigamy. We have only to see whether such a provision is good and we need not go into the other questions.

“There are certain cases where the husband with impunity takes to a number of women, because law allows it, custom allows it. It is high time for us to see whether such practices should be allowed to continue or not. Material happiness, decency, a contented married life and an amicable domestic home can be realized only as a result of monogamy. It is certainly the duty of the State to legislate in order to achieve this object. We are not taking away the privilege of anybody, but we are only trying to put a stop to things that are causing havoc to Hindu society.

“It is mildly stated that in the case of couples who are minors at the time of marriage, the guardians are held responsible. I am glad Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar has put in an amendment where the guardian is made liable only when he knowingly abets or brings about marriage between the minors concerned.

“Another question is, Madam, whether the right of divorce should be given. It is too late in the day to argue that divorce is against Hindu culture and customs. Look at the amount of misery suffered by a woman because the law says that when she has married a man, even though he is a brute or a drunkard and he ill-treats her, she is helpless. Madam, it is time we changed the law and gave the right of equality to women. The right of dissolution is the sanction so that the husband may know that there is some remedy for the wife if he misbehaves very badly. Even if the right of divorce is provided for no respectable lady will go to a Court unless the suffering is unbearable. It is necessary that the right should be given in cases of incurable diseases, cruelty and neglect. I say there are wives also who ill-treat the husbands and in such cases husbands also need protection. We need not go into the old customs. They have been allowed to remain so long because all these years we had no Government which will take the responsibility of social legislation. Of course social legislation must be undertaken with great care, but the State must come forward with legislation when it is decided that some social customs should be put an end to.

3-45.
P.M.

[Sri R. Raghava Menon] [15th July 1948]

"Madam, we must not have economic marriages, that is to say to marry a girl for her riches and with the money obtained thereby maintain a concubine. If we put a restriction on bigamy, marriages will be more happy as they will be based on love and not on economic considerations.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Raghavayya spoke of certain customs prevailing among certain communities. All these customs are recognized, such as the custom of the younger brother marrying the wife of the elder brother after his death. These customs are not touched if the law is not offended. But there must be no bigamous marriage. There must be the right of divorce. Clause 7 allows certain dissolutions without a petition. We need not be under the impression that for every dissolution we should go to a Court and put in a petition. All the customary dissolutions are allowed, but in certain cases where the law is on one side and gives all the privileges to the man and none to the woman, it is time that the state of affairs is changed. All the customs where free divorce is allowed among certain communities are treated as valid.

"There was one difficulty which has been sought to be removed by the amendment proposed by Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar. It is proposed that the law should apply not only when both the parties are domiciled in this Province but also when one of the parties alone is domiciled here and the other party not. Otherwise people from other provinces who come and marry here will be at an advantage. They also must be brought within the jurisdiction of the law. So also we must accept the amendment that the guardian must be made liable only when he does the thing knowing that there is a living spouse.

"Then there is a third thing. Suppose a husband keeps a concubine and at the time of the petition he does something and sends her away and the petition is dismissed. The husband goes scot-free. That will be a hardship. We must bring in amendments to this also. Of course, the Bill does not go far enough, but it is moderately satisfactory. I whole-heartedly support this Bill, for unless we give equality of rights and privileges, one side will dominate and there will not develop healthy homes in the Province."

SRI. P. KANDASWAMI :—"கனம் தலைவி அவர்களே, இந்த சமயத்தில் நாட்டிற்கு சுதந்திரம் கிடைத்த இவ்வளவு சீக்கிரத்தில் பார்வமென்புரி காரியதரிசியாக இருந்தவரும் வக்கில் தொழிலில் பெயர் வாங்கியவருமான ஒருவர் ஒரு சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டுவந்து அதைப்பற்றி பேசச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அப்படிச் சொல்லுவார்கள் என்று நான் எதிர்பார்க்கவே இல்லை. அவசியமானதும் நியாயமானதுமான சட்ட சபை காரியங்களையேதான் நாங்கள் எதிர்பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருந்தோம். ஆனால் இந்த மாதிரி சட்டம் கொண்டுவந்து அதைப்பற்றி பேசவேண்டுமென்று சொல்வதைப் பார்க்கும்போது ரொம்பவும் ஏமாற்றமடையவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஏன் அப்படி சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றால் நம்முடைய பெண்களில் படித்தவர்கள் நூறுக்கு எத்தனை பேர்கள் இருக்கின்றார்கள் என்பதை யோசனை செய்து பாருங்கள். ஆண்களில் படித்தவர்கள் நூறுக்கு

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17 பேர்களுடான் இருக்கிறார்கள். மற்றவர்களுக்கு படிக்கவே தெரியாது. கணக்கை எடுத்தால் நூறுக்கு 19 பேர்கள் கூட இல்லை என்று கணக்கில் தெரிகிறது. இப்படி ஆண்களில் இருக்கும்போது பெண்களில் படித்தவர்கள் எவ்வளவு இருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை இப்பொழுது தொழில் விஷயமாகவும் சட்ட சபை சம்மந்தமான வேலைகளைப் பார்க்கும்போது இந்த உத்தியோக பற்றற்ற நூலில் சாதாரணமாக கல்யாணம் செய்துகொண்டு ஒரு மனைவியை divorce செய்து தெருவில் விட்டுவிட்டுமென்று சட்டத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவருவது என்பது சரியாகவே இல்லை. அதைப்பற்றியும் பேசவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். தலைவி அவர்களே, மனைவிக் கவண்டும். இப்பொழுது கவனிக்கவேண்டிய முக்கியமான விஷயமென்னவென்றால் ஒரு மனைவின் கதொ காரணத்தால் அவன் இரண்டாவது விவாகம் செய்துகொண்டால் அது குற்றமா? இது சட்டமான பிறகு முன் கல்யாணம் செய்துகொண்ட பெண்ணை விவாகமும் போட்டு அவளை தன் மனைவி இல்லை என்று அப்படி ஒப்புக்கொள்வது. இதற்கு ஏராளமான எதிர்ப்பு இருக்கிறது. இதை யெல்லாம் பார்த்தால் நம்முடைய பெண்களுக்கு ஆச்சரியமாக இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது நம் சட்டசபையில் இருக்கும் இந்த 4, 5 பெண்களைக் கேட்டுப் பாருங்கள். வேண்டுமென்கிறார்கள் என்று பார்ப்போம். இது ரொம்பவும் அகிலாமமாக இருக்கிறது. இன்னும் divorce பண்ணவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. இங்கு இருக்கும் பெண்களைக் கேட்டால் அவர்கள் வேண்டுமென்று கையெழுத்திட்டுப் போட்டார்கள். படித்த பெண்கள்கூட இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களைக் கேட்டால் கூட அவர்கள் இந்த கல்யாணமான பிறகு இந்த divorce-க்கு ஒப்புக்கொள்ளவில்லை. இப்பொழுது இருக்கிற படி நம்முடைய சமூகம் எவ்வளவோ கட்டுப்பாடாக வாழ்ந்துவருகிறது. இன்னும் உலகத்தில் அநேக விதமான கல்யாணங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. இப்பொழுது அபிசினியாவில் பார்த்தால் பெண்களை கல்யாணம் செய்வதற்காக ஏலம் போடுகிறார்கள். அதிகமாக யார் பணம் கொடுக்கிறதோ அவன்தான் அந்த பெண்ணை கல்யாணம் செய்துகொள்வான். பிறகு தன் இஷ்டம்போல் மனைந்துகொண்டு வாழ்ந்துவருகிறான். அது சாதாரணமாகப் போய்விடுகிறது. ஆனால் நம் நாட்டின் கல்யாண முறை வேறு விதம். ஒவ்வொரு தேசத்திலும் மனை முறையானது மாறுபட்டிருக்கிறது. அவசியமானதைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். இங்கிலாந்து ரொம்பவும் முற்போக்கானவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். அங்கே பெண்களுக்கு சுதந்திரம் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்திலாந்தில் கூட கல்யாண காலத்தில் ஒப்பந்தம் உண்டு. புதுஷன் சொல்படி நடப்பது என்று கையெழுத்திடவேண்டுமென்கின்றார்கள். எல்லா கல்யாணமும் அப்படித்தான் நடக்கிறது. ஆனால் நம் வாழ்சே மாட்டோடப் பெண் மட்டில் அவ்விதம் கையெழுத்திடமாட்டேன் என்று சொல்லிவிட்டாள். தான் புருஷனுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்து நடக்கமாட்டேன் என்று சொல்லிவிட்டாள். மற்ற இங்கிலாந்து பெண்கள் எழுதி கையெழுத்திட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அது அப்படியே மனைந்து வாழ்ந்துவருகிறார்கள். எந்தெந்திலும் இந்தக்கல்யாணம் செய்து கொண்ட பெண் வேண்டாம் என்று சொல்லவில்லை. அம்முறை இருந்து கொண்டதான் வருகிறது. இந்த தேசத்தில் சமூகதாய கல்யாணம் நடந்து எவ்வளவோ குடும்பங்கள் சுபிட்சமாக வாழ்ந்துவருகிறது. இங்கிலாந்தில் குடும்பத்தைக் காப்பாற்றவும் குழந்தைகளை பாதுகாக்கவும் சர்க்காரே இன்று பார்த்துவருகிறார்கள். தலைவி அவர்களே, இந்நாட்டுப் பெண்கள் கௌரவமாகவும் கல்யாமாகவும் வாழ்ந்துவரவேண்டும். அவர்களிடத்தில் பொரு வாதார அபிவிருத்தி ஏற்படவில்லை. கல்வி அபிவிருத்தி ஏற்படவில்லை. அவைகள் எல்லாம் அபிவிருத்தியடைந்துவரும்போது அப்பொழுது பார்த்துக்கொள்ளலாம் என்று நினைக்கிறேன். பெண்கள் முன்னேற்றமடைந்த பின் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளலாம். நான் இப்படிச் சொல்வதால் பெண்களுக்கு சுதந்திரம் வேண்டாம் என்று சொல்லவில்லை. இந்த மாதிரியான சுதந்திரத்தைதான் ஆட்சேபிக்கிறேன். ஆனால் பெண்களுக்கும் மனைந்து கொள்ள அதிகாரம் இருக்கவேண்டும். நாம் சுதந்திரம் அடைந்த இந்த சமயத்தில் இந்த மாதிரியான சட்டம் நிறைவேறுவது என்பது அவ்வளவு சரியில்லை. புதுஷன் கல்யாணம் செய்துகொண்டு மனைவியை வேண்டா

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மென்றால் அதற்கு தனியாக ஒரு சட்டம் போட்டுக்கொள்ளலாம். அந்த சட்டத்தில் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளலாம் என்று தோன்றுகிறது. அங்கே மத்ய அரசாங்கத்தில் ரால் கமிட்டி உட்கார்ந்துகொண்டு ஹிந்துக்களுடைய சட்ட திட்டங்களை அவர்களுடைய வாழ்க்கைக்கு தகுந்தவாறு வகுத்துவருகிறார்கள். அது இந்தியா முழுவதும் பயன்பட ஏற்பாடு செய்துகொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். அந்த சட்டம் கொண்டுவந்த பிறகு அதில் ஏதாவது நம் சட்டத்திற்கு மாறுதல் இருந்தால் அப்பொழுது அதற்குத் தகுந்தாற்போல் நாம் மாற்றியமைத்துக் கொள்ளலாம். அவசியம் ஏற்பட்டபொழுது பார்த்துக்கொள்ளலாம் என்று தோன்றுகிறது. இப்பொழுது சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டுவந்துவிட்டு பெண்கள் டிஸ்ட்ரிக்ட் கோர்ட்டுக்கு என் போகவேண்டும். அவர்கள் பத்து ரூபாய் செலவு செய்துகொண்டு இந்த புருஷன் வேண்டாம் என்று சொல்வது என்பது ரொம்பவும் விபரீதமானது என்று பொது ஜனங்கள் நினைப்பார்கள்.

“பட்டாபிராமியா அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள், ஜனத்தொகை ஜாஸ்தியாகிவிட்டது என்று குறிப்பிட்டார்கள். அதைக் குறைப்பதற்கு இந்த சட்டம் அவசியம் என்று குறிப்பிட்டார்கள். இந்த சட்டம் ஹிந்துக்களைதான் கட்டுப்படுத்தும் கிருஸ்தவர்களையும் முகம்மதியர்களையும் கட்டுப்படுத்தாது. அவர்களுடைய சமூகத்தை கட்டுப்படுத்துவதாக ஆசை இல்லை, அவசியமும் இல்லை, அதைப்பற்றி பேச்சும் இல்லை. இந்த அரசாங்கம் ஒரு மதத்தைச் சேர்ந்த அரசாங்கம் இல்லை. எல்லா சமூகமும் சேர்ந்த அரசாங்கம். ஆகையால் மக்களுடைய சேஷமத்தைக் குறித்து சட்டம் செய்யவேண்டும். ஒரு வகுப்பிற்கு மட்டில் சட்டதிட்டங்கள் செய்து அதை அடக்கி ஒடுக்கிவிட்டு மற்ற சமூகத்திற்கு வளர்ச்சிக்கு சௌகரியம் செய்வது என்பது தவறு என்று சொல்லுவார்கள். அது மாத்திரம் அல்ல, சாதாரணமாக இப்பொழுது ஒரு புருஷன் ஒரு பெண்ணைக் கல்யாணம் செய்துகொண்டு வாழ்ந்துவருவதற்கு எவ்வளவோ கஷ்டங்கள் உண்டாகும். பெண்ணுக்கு காயலா வந்த பிறகு அதற்கு வேண்டியதை செய்வதாக இருக்கிறது என்று நண்பர் வரதாசாணியார் சொன்னார். அவர் ஒரு அனுபவம்வாய்ந்த வக்கீல் தான். ஆனா சந்ததி இல்லை என்றும் தன்னுடைய சந்ததி வளர வேண்டுமென்றும் பிரஜைகள் வேண்டுமென்பதற்காகவும் மறு கல்யாணம் வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. சந்ததி இல்லாமல் மிருக வாழ்க்கை யாகப் போய்விடும் என்பதற்காக ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. வெறும் இச்சைக்காக செய்துகொள்வது இல்லை. புத்திரப் பெருக்கு இல்லாததால் மறு மணம் அவசியம் என்று ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. பெண்கள் மலருகளாக இருக்கலாம். இப்பொழுது divorce சட்டம் செய்துவிட்டால் அந்த மாதிரி இல்லாமல் போய்விடும். ஒருவன் ஒரு அம்மையை கல்யாணம் செய்துகொள்ளுகிறான். குழந்தைகள் இருக்கின்றன. பிறகு காயலாவாதி விரகிடுகள். அவளை divorce செய்துவிட்டால் அவளுடைய கதி என்ன. அவளை யார் பாது காப்பார்கள். குழந்தையின் பாதுகாப்புக்கு யார். அவளுக்கு குழந்தையை பாதுகாக்க சக்தி இராது. ஆனால் மறு கல்யாணம் செய்துகொண்டால் அவளையும் காப்பாற்ற முடியும், குழந்தைகளையும் காப்பாற்ற முடியும். எத்தனையோ குடும்பங்கள் இவ்விதமிருந்து வாழ்ந்துவருகின்றன. ஆனால் இப்பொழுது பார்த்தால் இந்த சட்டத்தினால் அந்தப் பெண்ணை வேலியில் வீரட்டிலிடுவதற்கு சௌகரியமாக இருக்கிறது. இது அவசியமா என்று கேட்கிறேன். அவளுக்கு ஒத்தாசை ரொம்பவும் அவசியம். அவர்களுக்கு பொருளாதார சௌகரியங்கள் ஏற்படவேண்டும். எத்தனையோ மனைவிகளை மணந்துகொண்டு எவ்வளவோ குடும்பங்கள் சௌகரியமாக வாழ்ந்து வருகின்றன. சேலத்தில் உதாரணமாக ஒன்றைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். சேலம் முனிசிபாலிட்டியில் பெருவாரியான வகுப்பினர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அநேக மாக சில இடங்களில் மூன்று மனைவிகள் இருக்கின்றார்கள். ஒருவருக் கொருவர் கொஞ்சம்கூட சண்டைச் சச்சரவு கிடையாது. ஒரு மனைவி சமையல் வேலை செய்கிறாள், ஒரு மனைவி புருஷனுக்கு தொழிலில் ஒத்தாசை செய்கிறாள், இன்னொரு மனைவி வியாபாரத்தின் கணக்கு வழக்கு களைப் பார்த்துள்ளாள், ராஜா இல்லாமல் குடும்பம் நடந்துவருகிறது. அந்த மாதிரி 3, 4 மனைவிகள் வைத்துக்கொண்டு ஆண்கள் குடும்பங்களை நடத்திக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். தற்போதையபொழுது 125 மனைவிகளை

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மணந்துகொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லவில்லை. ஒரு மனைவி இருந்தால் ஒரு குற்றமும் இல்லை. அவசியம் ஏற்பட்டாலும் குடும்பக் கெடுமத்தை பாதுகாக்கவும், ஒற்றுமையை பாதுகாக்கவும் இன்னொரு மனைவியை மணந்துகொள்ளவேண்டியது அவசியமானால் அதை தவறு என்று சொல்வதா? இந்த அரசாங்கத்தில் ஒரு சௌகரியத்தை அடைபக்கூடாது என்று நான் சொன்னால் அவ்வளவு உசிதமாக இருக்காது. அரசாங்கமும் ஒப்புக் கொள்ளாது என்றுதான் நான் நம்புகிறேன்.

“அதுவுமில்லாமல் இன்னொரு விஷயம் இப்பொழுது நம்முடைய குழந்தை குட்டிகளுக்குக்கிறார்கள். விரகலில் சாமான்யமாக பார்த்தால், ஒருவன் ஒரு பெண்ணை மணந்து கொள்ளுகிறான். அவர்களுக்கு குழந்தைகள் இருக்கின்றன. பிறகு அந்த குழந்தைகளை விட்டுவிட்டு போய்விடுகிறான். பிறகு இன்னொரு மனைவியை மணந்துகொண்டு அந்த அம்மானுக்கும் குழந்தைகள் இருக்கின்றன. இந்த முதல் மனைவியின் குழந்தைகளை பூண்டாவது மனைவி தன்னுடைய குழந்தைகளோடு தன்னுடைய குழந்தைகள் மாதிரியே பாதுகாத்து அவைகளுக்கு வேண்டிய உபகாரமும் செய்துவருகிறாள். அந்த மாதிரி கொண்டுவந்து அந்த குழந்தைகளும் பெரிய அந்தஸ்திற்கு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். பெரிய மனிதர்களாகியிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால் இன்று அந்த மாதிரி மணந்துகொள்வது பிசகு என்று சட்டம் செய்தால் அதுசரியமா? இந்த சட்டத்தில் அதுமாதிரி சட்டம் அவசியமில்லை. இண்டாவது இந்த மாதிரி சட்டம் வந்தால் நம்முடைய பெண்கள் தினம் divorce court-க்கு சென்று வியாஜ்ஜியம் நடத்தி வருவார்கள். வியாஜ்ஜியம் நடத்த அவர்கள் படித்திருக்கிறார்களோ, இல்லவே இல்லை. வியாஜ்ஜியம் நடத்த அவர்களுக்கு பொருளாதார சௌகரியம் இருக்கிறதோ என்றால் அதுவுமில்லை. ஆகையால் இம்மாதிரி யான சட்டங்களை நாம் செய்வதை நிறுத்திக்கொண்டு மத்ய அரசாங்கம் யோசனை செய்து ரால் கமிட்டி நமது சட்டங்களை வகுக்கிறார்கள். அந்த சட்டம் வகுத்து நமக்கு தெரியப்படுத்தின பிறகு சட்டத்தில் குறைபாடுகள் இருந்தால் அப்பொழுது நிவர்த்தி செய்துகொள்ளலாம். அப்பொழுது சேலத்திற்கு ஏற்றவாறு சட்டம் செய்துகொண்டால் சௌகரியமாக இருக்கும். சமூக விஷயத்தில் தலையிடுவதாக இருந்தால் ரொம்பவும் யோசனை செய்து தலையிடவேண்டும். ஏற்கனவே முன்மாதிரி கானேஸ்வர ரால் இவ்வாறு பார்ப்புக்குக் கொண்டுவந்த காலத்தில் நாங்கள் அதைப் பேர்கள் இது போத தமாஷான சட்டம், ஸ்பது வந்தவர் கொண்டுவருகிறார் என்று சொன்னார்கள். இந்த சட்டம் சட்ட சபைக்கு வருமோ வராதினோ என்று சொன்னதால் நாங்கள் அதைப்பற்றிப் பொருப்படுத்தவில்லை. ஆனால் இப்பொழுது பார்த்தால் உண்மையிலேயே வந்து சட்டமாகிவிடும்போல் இருக்கிறது.”

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMIAH:—“Is the hon. Member in order in referring to the proceedings of the Party meeting when this Bill was discussed.”

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—“I was not able to follow what the hon. Member was saying.”

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMIAH:—“That will have a bad effect on the Tamil-speaking Members.”

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—“What about the Telugu-speaking Members?”

SRI P. KANDASWAMI:—“தலைவி அவர்களே, கட்டிக் கூட்டத்தில் நடந்தவைகளை பிரஸ்தாபிக்கவில்லை. சட்ட சபையில் நாம் நம் மனனில் செய்ய வேண்டியதைப் பற்றி பேசினோம். இங்கு சிலர் சொன்னார்கள். சாஸ்திர ரீதியாக ஒருவனை divorce பண்ணுவோ மணத்தை மறுப்பதற்கோ மாற்றிக்கொள்வதற்கோ சூல் இருக்கிறது என்று சொன்னார்கள். எந்த சாஸ்திர பூர்வமாகவும் நாம் மணந்துகொண்ட நம் மனைவியை பிரிக்க எந்த சாஸ்திரத்திலும் எந்த புராணத்திலும்

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இல்லை. மற்ற பழய காலத்து கதைகளிலும் இல்லை. ஆனால் நமது உபநிஷத்துகளில் சில கதைகள் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. அதில் ஒன்றைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். மன்னிக்கவேண்டும். தயவு செய்து மன்னிக்கவேண்டும். உபநிஷத்தில் என்ன சொல்லி இருக்கிறது என்றால் குழந்தைகள் இல்லாதவர்கள், அநேக வருஷம் குழந்தைகள் இல்லாமலிருந்தால், ஆண் மலர் ஏற்பட்டால், வேறு ஒருவனிடம் சென்று உற்பத்தி வாங்கிக்கொண்டு திரும்பி வருகிறது என்று கூட இருக்கிறது. அது இந்தக்காலத்தில் அசாதியமானது. இப்பொழுது அது அநாகரிகமானது. அவர்கள் பழய காலத்து பழக்க வழக்கங்களைச் சொன்னார்கள். ஜெர்மனியில் சென்ற யுத்தத்தில் மக்கள் நிறைய மடிந்த காலத்தில் அதற்காக அநேகம் சட்டங்கள் செய்தார்கள். ஒருவன் குழந்தை உற்பத்தி செய்தால் அவனுக்கு 6 பவுன் அதிக பென்ஷன் கொடுக்கிறது என்றும் அதிகமாக குழந்தைகள் இருந்தால் அதிகமாக கொடுக்கிறது என்றும் கொடுத்து வந்தார்கள். அதற்கு மாறாக பல தேசங்கள் நடந்திருக்கலாம். நம்முடைய தேசம் இப்பொழுது தான் சுதந்திரமானந்திருக்கிறது. ஜனக்குறைப்பு வேண்டுமென்று சொல்வது சரியல்ல. இனிமேல் உற்பத்தியாகும் குழந்தைகள் தான் நாட்டை காப்பாற்றவேண்டும். பெரிய ராணுவக்காரர்களாக வேண்டும். வெறும் சந்தியாசியாக இருந்து தன்னுடைய ஆயுள் பூராவும் சர்வமர்க்கத்தில் மனைத செலுத்தி வந்தால் மற்ற தேசத்தவர்கள் நம்முடைய சுதந்திரத்தை அடித்துக்கொண்டுபோய் விடுவார்கள். ஆகையால் தலைவி அவர்களே, இப்பொழுது இந்த சட்டம் நிறைவேற வேண்டாமென்பது எனது மனப் பூர்வமான நோக்கம். இன்னும் கொஞ்சம் நாளைக்கு இதை ஒத்திப்போட்டு வைக்கலாம். பிறகு மத்திய அரசாங்க ராவ் கமிட்டி திட்டம் வந்த பிறகு அதன்படி நாம் மாற்றியமைத்துக்கொள்ளலாம். ஏதாவது மாறுதல்கள் செய்வென்பது நுத்தாளம் செய்து கொள்ளலாம். தீவிரமாக இப்பொழுது இதைக் கொண்டுவருவது அவசியமில்லை. நாம் அங்கத்தினர்களாக இருந்து எவ்வளவோ அரசியல் சட்டங்கள் நிறைவேற்ற வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. அவைகளை கவனிக்கவேண்டும். இன்னும் கம்யூனிஸ்டு, சோஷலிஸ்டு தொந்திரவுகள் இருக்கின்றன. இவ்வளவு தொந்திரவுகளுக்கும் மத்தியில் சமூக கொர்ச்சிகளை விட்டுக்கொண்டு புறநகரம் பெண்பாட்டியும் சண்டை பிடித்துக்கொண்டு கொர்ச்சிக்குப்போவது என்பது சரியாக இல்லை. ஆகையால் இந்த விவகாரங்களை யெல்லாம் நிறுத்தி வைத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். கனம் பட்டாபிராமையா, ஏதோ தமாஷாக இருக்கிறது கேட்பதாக இருக்கிறது என்று சொன்னார்கள். அது தமாஷிலிருந்து இப்பொழுது சட்டமாக மாறப்போகிறது. இப்பொழுதே நிறைவேற்ற வேண்டுமென்ற சந்தர்ப்பம் இப்பொழுது வந்து விடவில்லை. நமக்கெல்லாம் வேறு பெரிய நோக்கங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. நமது தேசத்தின் சுதந்திரத்தை பாதுகாக்க வேண்டிய தவசியமாக இருக்கிறது. அதற்குத் தான் நாம் முன்னின்று நிற்கவேண்டும். கஷ்டம் வரும் சிலநேரத்தகாலங்கள் வரும். நம்முடைய பழக்கவழக்கங்களுக்கும் பொருளாதாரத்திற்கும் மாறுபாடு ஏற்படும். இது அவசியமானது இல்லை என்று சொல்லுகிறேன். நம்முடைய சட்ட சபையை அநேகம் ஊர்களில் அநேகம் பேர்கள் நம்பியிருக்கின்றார்கள். நாம் இந்த மாநிலியான சட்டங்களை நிறைவேற்றினால் அவர்களுடத்தில் நம்முடைய மதிப்பு குறையும். இப்பொழுது ஹிஜ்ரான்களில் divorce செய்து விடுகிறார்கள். அவசியமில்லாத காரணத்தினால் divorce செய்து விடுகிறார்கள். சில சமூகத்தில் இது கிடையாது. ஒரு புறம்தான் தன் மிலாபியை வேண்டாம் என்று சொன்னாலும் அன்னது ஒரு பெண் தன்னுடைய புருஷனை வேண்டாமென்று சொன்னாலும் அவர்கள் தனித்தனியாக வாழ்ந்துவந்தால் அதைப் பற்றி ஸ்பெஷல் இல்லை. அந்தந்த சமூகத்தில் இதை அந்தந்த மிலாபி மக்கள் தான் பார்த்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டும். சர்க்கார் தலையில் சமத்த வேண்டிய தவசியமில்லை. அது நியாயமும் இல்லை என்பதைப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். மேலும் நம்முடைய பொருளாதாரத்தையும், சாந்திரத்தையும், கல்வியையும் பார்த்தால் இது பொருத்தது. இன்னும் 50 வருஷம் கழித்து இதைப்பற்றி யோசித்துக்கொள்ளலாம். அப்பொழுது இருக்கும் சமூகம் எந்த மனோ

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பாவத்திலிருக்கிறதோ அதன் படி செய்யவேண்டியதுதான் அவசியம். அப்பொழுது இருக்கும் சமூக மக்கள் செய்து கொள்ளட்டும் நாம் யோசித்து நிதானமாகச் செய்யவேண்டும். ராவ் கமிட்டி சட்டம் வந்த பிறகு பார்த்து கொள்ளலாம் என்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

* SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, I am very glad that the venerable old gentleman Sri A. Kaleswara Rao has taken this very bold step. I congratulate him. Consciously or unconsciously, subjectively or objectively, he has contributed a lot for the building up of a new nation, of this free nation of India. Just go into the question of these marriages: A man marrying two or three women and producing weaklings! The children are not sturdy. In the 1914 and 1939 Wars we have seen that very few of the people in this part of the country were fit for recruitment. Only the people living in the mountainous places like Nepal and places like the Punjab were found to be sufficiently militant people. Of course, in this War Madras with their intellect proved also to be a sufficiently militant class. On account of the social evils, we have been a weak and slave nation. For 700 years we suffered under the Moghuls and for two to three hundred years under the British. Because of our weakness and the defects in the social system we lost our independence. By introducing this Bill, Mr. Kaleswara Rao has taken a practical step to improve the social structure and build a healthy nation."

"Madam, after all what is this marriage? It is a contract. Study the Pre-historic Age and the Stone Age. Was there this marriage ceremony? Why is this bridegroom hunting going on in Andradesa and other places especially among certain communities?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"In Malabar also."

* SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"May be, I do not know. Probably my hon. Friend, Mr. Gopala Reddi, knows better. If a father wants to have his daughter married, dowries of Rs. 10,000, Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 20,000 are demanded. Why is this? Human beings passed through the Stone Age, then the Feudal Age and now we are in the Capitalistic Age. The human race is growing and progressing. According to Darwin's theory, we progressed from monkeyism to humanism. Society is growing. Customs are changing. There is progress and there is no going back."

"Madam, our ancestors were very sturdy and healthy people. In South India you may have more women and less men. In the North-West Frontier Province there are less women and more men. In war-stricken countries like Germany, Britain and America and even China many men have been killed in the war and there are more women. Even there, there is no such custom as this."

"Madam, I appreciate the principles of Hindu society. They are fine principles. In the marriage ceremony as such, there are many *slokas*, some of which my hon. Friend, Mr. Subba Rao

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recited. They have some meaning. But those days are gone. In these days of scientific development when society is progressing, even marriage customs and relations between man and woman must change.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker took the chair.)

What harm is there, Sir, if you open a Marriage Registry Office in every street? A man may love a woman to-day and he may go to the Registrar's Office and have the marriage registered. Next day, he may go there and say that he wants a divorce. Of course, that may bring chaos and such a system has brought chaos in the early period of the Russian Revolution. Later on they had stricter marriage regulations.

"Sir, what Mr. Kaleswara Rao has brought forward in this House is really very welcome. I am surprised that my hon. Friend, Sri P. Kandaswami Pillai should in a way oppose the Bill by asking him to postpone it for fifty years. Sir, I want that the laws relating to the relations between man and woman must be changed in such a way that we may develop into a very healthy and sturdy nation and we may be able to conquer the whole world.

"Sir, if we go to the nooks and corners of the many villages, we find that among certain communities the provisions that are found in Mr. Kaleswara Rao's Bill are already being practised. Our Yenadis' friend Mr. Raghavayya said that the Yenadis have certain very easy rules of divorce. Let there be all this. Sir, the dowry system must go. There must be a society of free love where marriages are not only inter-caste but inter-provincial and international also. Why? Because we are growing chauvinistic day by day: My home, my children, my this and my that. Let there be international marriages. Then only we will be able to progress towards one human society in the world and one world Government. There must be a brotherhood of all human beings in all the continents. There should be no exploitation of man by man, no rich and no poor, no *haves* and no *have-nots*. It is sickening to hear of Harijans, the oppressed classes and the depressed classes, backward Non-Brahmans and forward Non-Brahmans and so on. There should be no religion, nothing of the sort. Let society be based on an economic basis. Morals, of course, there should be but they should not be on the old model. A man spends thirty or forty lakhs of rupees and builds a temple, but he happens to be absolutely corrupt in his moral character. He builds the temple because he has money and he sits in the temple and prays to God to give him more money so that he may enjoy more money and more wives. Let us not be narrow-minded, let us be broad-minded and have an international outlook. Let us not suspect our brother because he happens to be a Malayalee or a Tamilian or a Kannada or something else. Let us not have this racial arrogance. Everyone, whether he is a Tamilian or an Andhra or a Malayalee or a Hindustani or a Punjabee or a Bengalee or a Gujarathi, has contributed something for building up this great nation of India. Unless we adopt such reform measures like the one brought by Sri Kaleswara Rao, we will

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not be able to build a strong nation. I therefore welcome this Bill and oppose all the amendments. At this stage no amendments are necessary. The Bill has already gone through the Select Committee. One of my friends argued that if the Bill is passed, many women will be going to the courts. I do not think that will be the situation. Only the utterly unhappy women who have been forced to live with the second and third wives of their husbands and utterly unhappy men who have been forced to live with their wives without having any rights whatsoever, will go to the courts. They will be able to break their chains from to-morrow if this Bill becomes law. I support the Bill wholeheartedly and I request my friends to support it because it is a progressive legislation."

*BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not speak on this Bill earlier because this is a measure which aims to reform Hindu Society and deals with matters pertaining to Hindu religion. Nevertheless, as one interested in the well-being of the womanhood of the land irrespective of caste, creed and community, I feel that I must say a few words expressing my gratification that a measure such as this which aims to do justice to womanhood and uplift them from their downtrodden position has been brought forward in this House. In the past the social structure of Indian Society was so framed that woman found herself in a state of complete subjection to man. Many a wife was maltreated, oppressed and suppressed and yet was expected to bear the miseries without demur in a spirit of resignation to the 'ordained fate'. But, with the advance of education and enlightenment the woman of this land, have awakened to a sense of realization of their depressed condition and have ultimately roused the conscience of the men to the necessity to do justice to them. Women's organizations, particularly the All-India Women's Conference have, for the past several years been urging that the disabilities of women in regard to the existing marriage laws should be removed. To achieve this end a Bill similar to the one before us was introduced in the Central Assembly some years ago, but there was considerable controversy over the measure, particularly among the orthodox sections of the Hindu community, with the result that the matter was deferred—and ultimately left to the Rao Committee for solution. Now that India has attained her independence, it is necessary not to put off any longer the task of weeding out all that is unjust in our midst.

"It is gratifying that instead of a woman it is a man who has brought forward a measure that seeks to do justice to womanhood. Some hon. Members made remarks about the age of Mr. Kaleswara Rao. But, it is all the more creditable to him that in his advanced age, he has been able to free himself from the shackles of ancient traditions and fall in line with modern progressive ideas. The old conservative notions and prejudices die hard and it is most difficult for the older generations not to cling to the past. Mr. Kaleswara Rao, however, seems to be different. He should be complimented on his assertion that traditional

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values can no longer be allowed to eclipse justice, reason, logic and enlightenment. When moving his Bill he rightly declared that the days of conservatism were over and that the time for hesitation, doubts and questionings had gone."

DR. D. S. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—"Mr. Kaleswara Rao is not as old as it has been made out."

4-30 p.m. BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Whatever his age may be, he deserves to be complimented on his progressive outlook. Sir, I was sorry to note that some of the Members of this House dealt with this Bill in a spirit of levity and light-heartedness. This is indeed regrettable for his measure should have been discussed in all seriousness, because it affects the well-being and happiness of both the men and the women of this land. The remoulding and reordering of human relations is not a subject that should have been treated lightheartedly.

"Coming now to the Bill before us, we find that it contains two important provisions, one of which deals with the abolition of the custom of polygamy and the other with divorce. Polygamy which is repulsive to modern ideas is an anachronism from the dead past and can have no place in civilized society. The hon. Member, Mr. Raghavayya pleaded for the existence of the customs that are in vogue among the aboriginal tribes. But, Sir, India cannot remain aboriginal; she cannot continue to be primitive and repulsive customs can no longer hold sway in a civilized land. In the days of old polygamy was permitted because the population of the world was not large and women and children were regarded as a man's wealth, but conditions have now changed. India's population is increasing to an alarming extent and the call of the hour is not to add to her population but to take steps to diminish it. It was the change of social conditions that brought about monogamy in Europe and America. The change of social conditions in India calls for similar measures in this behalf. If woman has to be raised to the status of equality with man, the institution of polygamy which treats her as a chattel should be abolished. The fundamental truth vital to the health of society must be brought home to the nation that without the humanization of woman no society can be truly progressive.

"Mr. Kaleswara Rao made some reference to Muslim countries. In this connexion, I may tell him that Islamic law has been much misrepresented and maligned with reference to the institution of polygamy, particularly by Westerners. If the injunctions in regard to the institution of marriage are strictly observed, polygamy can have no place in Muslim society. But the trouble is that men transgress the limits of Islamic injunctions and interpret the law in such a manner as to suit their own ends."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"On a point of information, Sir. Is it not that Muslims are allowed to marry four wives?"

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"That is what I am referring to. Since plurality of wives to the extent of four is strictly conditioned by the capacity to do justice and since it has been definitely laid down in the Holy Quran that it is not possible for a man to do justice between wives, the correct interpretation is that plurality of wives can have no place in Muslim society. Those Muslim men who have more than one wife to-day are violating the injunctions of the Holy Quran because they do not and cannot act with impartial justice between the wives, it being beyond the power of an ordinary human being to do so. The Holy Quran itself declares this:

وَلَنْ تَسْتَطِيعُوا أَنْ تَعْدِلُوا بَيْنَ النِّسَاءِ وَلَوْ حَرَصْتُمْ (سورة النساء)

which means 'And you have not the power to do justice between wives, even though you may covet it.' In the 3rd century of the Hejira, the learned jurists belonging to the Mu'tazzalite school had expressly declared that polygamy was not legal in Islam. I regard their interpretation to be the correct exposition of the Islamic Law. The Mu'tazzalites were learned men, well-versed in Arabic and in Islamic Law, hence their opinion deserves due consideration. There can be no gainsaying the fact that if a correct interpretation is given to the injunctions as regards marriage, monogamy must prevail in Muslim society as in Western countries. (Interruption from an hon Member.) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member wants information as to whether the jurists I have mentioned were men or women. They were not women but men. As an institution of luxury polygamy has no place in Islam and hence steps may well be taken to abolish it. Just as Mr. Kaleswara Rao has brought a Bill for eradicating polygamy from Hindu society, I hope one of the men members of my party will bring forward a similar measure for eliminating the evil from Muslim society in strict consonance with the terms of the Shariat."

"SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Why not the hon. lady Member herself bring it forward?"

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"It is a matter of common knowledge that there is no chance of my succeeding in getting the Bill through unless the men members change their attitude towards the question.

"Now, Sir, in regard to the provision relating to divorce, one of the hon. Members of this House, namely, the Yuvaraja of Pithapuram, stated that he would like divorce to be made easy. I entirely disagree with him in this matter. While divorce should be made possible in certain hard cases, it should not be made easy, because we should be on our guard against the disintegration of family life and must not allow Indian Society to follow the path of America and Russia in this regard. Indians must maintain their equilibrium and not go beyond bounds. In Islam divorce is permissible but the Holy Prophet has condemned it in explicit terms by saying, 'Of all permissible acts divorce is the most

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hated by Allah.' Divorce is the most hateful of acts, which may be resorted to only when it is an inescapable necessity to afford relief in hard cases. Every nerve must be strained to maintain family stability on the bedrock of willing, enlightened co-operation, mutual understanding and respect and only when disruption is absolutely unavoidable that recourse may be had to the pernicious remedy of divorce. Some members have expressed the view that divorce is easy among Muslims inasmuch as the *mamul* 'the husband utters' *Talak, talak, talak*, his marriage is dissolved. But I may point out that divorce is not as easy among Muslims as it is supposed to be, for the moment a Muslim marriage is dissolved it becomes obligatory on the husband to pay to the wife the amount promised by him as 'Mahr' (Dower), which among middle class families runs to thousands and among the richer classes even to lakhs of rupees. This serves as a veritable check on the arbitrary exercise of the power of divorce by the husband. Under Islamic law there were provisions enabling Muslim women also to obtain divorce but there were practical difficulties in the matter, some ten years ago, an Act was passed in the Central Assembly enabling Muslim women to move the court for obtaining divorce in certain hard cases. I do not concur with the view that Hindu women will go beyond bounds and that the result of the passage of this Bill will be the break-up of the institution of the family in Hindu society. Though divorce is permissible among Muslims we do not hear of many divorce cases in that community. The reason is that Indian women, whether they are Hindus, or Muslims, are attached to their homes and the domestic instinct is predominant among them. So long as they preserve their ancient cultures and noble traditions, and do not *mimic* the social life of the West and fall a prey to exotic vices, there is no danger of Indian women perverting their freedom and losing their equilibrium.

"Sir, some hon. Members of this House opposed the Bill, but I am afraid they were not serious in their opposition, for in that case they would have brought forward amendments. I think it was Mr. K. Varadachari who stated that he did not have the forethought to move amendments, but if really he was serious in his objections. I do not see why his forethought should have forsaken him since this Bill has been pending in this House for a very long time. One objection that he raised was that the evil of polygamy was not rampant on a large scale, hence this Bill was not necessary. But, is he not a protagonist of prohibition and in favour of the anti-Betting Bill despite the fact that the evils which these measures seek to eradicate are not widely rampant in society? How then does he reconcile his attitude towards this Bill with that towards the abovementioned measures? The fact that an evil exists in society which is poignantly felt—though it may not be prevalent among a large section of people—is sufficient to warrant steps being taken for its eradication through legislation.

"Sir, Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar made certain sound suggestions. But when he was speaking, I wondered why he had not sent in

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amendments, because unless there are amendments before the House it is very difficult to act on mere suggestions. I am, therefore, glad to find that he has now sent in two amendments. One of these relates to the domicile of the parties. His view-point in regard to this matter seems to be correct. It is desirable that even if one of the parties to the marriage does not happen to be domiciled in this Province, the Act should apply to him or her as well. For instance, if a person happens to be a domicile, say of Bombay, and he marries a woman who is a domicile of Madras, there is no reason why the provisions of this measure should not be made applicable to him. In countries like England, the domicile of one of the parties is sufficient for action in cases such as are dealt with by this Bill.

"I am glad that Mr. Kaleswara Rao, the Mover of the Bill, has himself brought forward the other amendments seeking to reduce the court-fee for divorce petition from Rs. 50 to Rs. 10. The idea underlying this Bill is that it should help not only the richer sections of society but also the women of the poorer classes. If the court-fee for divorce petition is fixed so high as Rs. 50, it will mean that only the richer classes will be able to seek redress under the Bill. Hence I am of opinion that the court-fee should be reduced and I approve of the amendment that has been proposed by Mr. Kaleswara Rao in this regard on the suggestion of Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.

"Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to take more time of the House for I find that there are some others who wish to offer their views on the Bill. I also understand that there are some who intend to delay the measure by having recourse to long speeches and wish eventually to see that the Bill is not passed during this Session. In view of this I wish to cut short my observations because, the passage of this Bill has been long overdue. I hope it will pass into law without any further delay."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Mr. Speaker, yesterday, you promised to give the House an idea of the programme of the business of the House. I want to know if it will be possible for you now to give it."

MR. SPEAKER:—"To-morrow and the day after, the House is not sitting and we are meeting on the 19th.

"Regarding the Bill under discussion, it will be resumed on the next non-official day."

SRI N. ANNAMALAI PILLAI :—"கனம் சபா நாயகர் அவர்களே, இன்றைய தினம் இங்கு கொண்டுவந்திருக்கப்படும் கனம் காளேஸ்வர ராவ் அவர்களுடைய divorce bill-ஐ நான் எதிர்த்து பேசுகிறேன். ஏனென்றால் இந்த "பில்" லானது நமக்கு சம்மந்தம் இல்லாத ஒரு பில். இந்த மாதிரி சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டு வந்து அதை பாஸ் செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று தீர்மானம் அபாயமானதாகும். எலெக்ஷன் காலத்தில் நாம் இந்த பெண் களுக்கு divorce கொடுக்கப்போகிறோம் என்று சொல்லி இருந்தால் நமக்கு வோட்டுப் போட்டிருக்கமாட்டார்கள் என்பதை நிச்சயமாகச் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

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“இந்த எலெக்ஷனில் நாம் சொல்லாத சில விஷயங்களையெல்லாம் திடீரெனக் கொண்டுவந்து இந்த தேசத்திலுள்ள ஜனங்களுக்கு பொதுவாக இல்லாமலிருக்கிற ஒரு சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டு வந்து அதையும் ஜனங்களை பாதிக்கும் முறையில் சட்டம் செய்தால் அதுசரியல்ல. அந்தப் படி செய்வதற்கு எனது நண்பர் ஸ்ரீமான் காளேஸ்வர ராவ் ஒரு தீர்மானம் கொண்டுவந்து வருத்தத்தைக் கொடுக்கிறது. ஸ்ரீ காளேஸ்வர ராவுக்கும் எனக்கும் இனிமேல் கலியாணத்தைப்பற்றி யோசிப்பது அவசியமில்லை. எனக்கு இப்பொழுது ஒரு கல்யாணத்தை ஆரம்பித்து வைத்தார்கள். அந்தக் கல்யாணமும் எங்கள் இரண்டு பேருக்கும் இரண்டு நாட்களுக்கு முன் ஒரு கல்யாணம் செய்து கொண்டு நாங்கள் இருவரும் விடுதலை பெற்றிருக்கிறோம். 60 வயது கல்யாணம் முடிந்து விட்டது விசாரம் அற்றுவிட்டோம். இந்த சட்டத்தினால் ஏற்படும் கஷ்ட நஷ்டங்களை அனுபவிக்க முடியாமல் இருக்கிறோம். இந்த மாதிரி சட்டத்தைக்கொண்டு வந்து வாலிபர்களையும் வாலிபிகளையும் இந்த சமூகத்தையும் தொந்திரவுகளுக்கு ஆளாக்கி விடக்கூடாது. எனது நண்பர்கள் பலபேர் பேசி இருக்கிறார்கள். ஹிந்துக்களால் பூசிக்கப்பட்ட இராமனும் எகபத்தினி விரதம் “ஒக்கமாட்ட, ஒக்க பாணமு, ஒக்க பத்தினி” என்று அனுபவித்திருப்பதாகச் சொன்னார்கள். அவனுக்கு முன் மூன்று பெண்டாட்டிகளை கல்யாணம் செய்து கொண்ட தசரதனை பார்த்துக்கொள்ளட்டுமே. தசரதன் மூன்று பெண்டாட்டிகள் வைத்துக்கொண்டு பிள்ளை இல்லாமல் புத்திர காமேஷ்டியாகம் செய்து பிள்ளைகள் பிறந்ததாக சொல்லப்படுகிறது. மூன்று மனைவிகளுக்கும் ரத்தினங்களாகவும், மணி மணிகளாகவும், இந்த உலகமே புகழும்படியாகவும், மகா பராக்கிரமமுள்ளவர்களாகவும், மகாவீரர்களாகவும், உலகமே பிரமிக்கக்கூடிய பிள்ளைகளாகவும் அவதாரம் செய்தார்கள். இது இராமயணத்தில் இருக்கிறது. இராமாயணத்தில் இருக்கும்போதும் இராமனைப்பற்றி சொல்லும்போதும் அதற்கு கொஞ்சம் முன்னால் இருப்பதையும் சேர்த்துப் படித்துப்பார்க்கவேண்டும். மத்தியில் இருக்கும் சிலதை மட்டும் பேசக்கூடாது. இராமனை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள், கிருஷ்ணனை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். கிருஷ்ணன் மகா மேதாவி. மகாபாரதம் என்று சொல்லப்படும் பெரிய கதையில் அவனைப்பற்றி சொல்லப்படுகிறது. அது ரொம்ப சிறந்த கதை என்றும் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. இன்றைக்கு ஹிந்துக்களால் தெய்வமாக கருதப்பட்ட மகா புருஷர் அவர். அவருக்குக்கூட இரண்டு பெண்டாட்டிகள், ‘ருக்மணி, சத்யபாமை’ என்று (Interruption by Sri T. Viswanathan) அந்தப்படி கனம் வில்வனாதன் எட்டு மனைவிகள் என்று சொல்லுகிறார். அவர் சொல்வது என்னுடைய ஆர்க்யுமெண்டுக்கு துணையாக இருக்கிறது. இதெல்லாம் ஹிந்துக்களின் பெயரால் செய்யக்கூடிய சட்டமல்ல. இதனால் ஹிந்துக்களுக்கு சம்மதம் இல்லை. எலெக்ஷன் காலத்தில் அரசியல் விஷயமாக பிரசாரம் செய்து வேட்டு பெற்றோம். அதன் பின் சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். அதன் மூலம் இந்த சட்ட சபைக்கு நம்மை அனுப்பி இருக்கிறார்கள். அதனால் சமூகத்தில் நுழைந்து சமூகத்திலிருக்கிற பழக்க வழக்கங்களில் நுழைந்து மாறுதல் செய்வதற்கு முயற்சிக்கும்போது மிகவும் ஜாக்கிரதையாக முயற்சிக்கவேண்டும். கல்யாணம் செய்துகொண்டு புருஷனும் பத்தினியும் வாழ்வது என்பது மிகவும் உயர்ந்த தர்மம். இப்பொழுது நடை முறையில் எப்படி இருக்கிறது என்றால் ஒரு புருஷன் ஒரு பெண்ணைக் கல்யாணம் செய்து கொண்டு குழந்தை இல்லாமலிருந்தால் அவன் மறு பெண்ணை மணந்துகொண்டு அவர்கள் ஒருவரை ஒருவர் தெய்வமாக பாவித்து வருகிறார்கள், அப்படியே இனியும் கருத வேண்டும்.

‘தெய்வம்தொழால் கொழுநனை தொழுதெழுவன்
பெய்யெனப் பெய்யும் மழை’

என்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. அவர்கள் கடவுளென புருஷனை வணங்கி வருகிறார்கள். இது தருமத்தையும் அனுசரித்திருக்கிறது. இந்த வழக்கத்தை ஒரு முறையில் மாற்றுவது என்பது அபத்தமான காரியமாகும். இஷ்டமில்லாத ஒரு பெண்ணை புருஷன் வேண்டாம் என்பதும் இஷ்டமில்லாத ஒரு புருஷனை ஒரு பெண் வேண்டாம் என்று சொல்வதும்

[15th July 1948]

[Sri N. Annamalai Pillai]

ரொம்பவும் அபாயமான காரியமாகும். ஜனங்கள் ஒப்புக் கொள்ள மாட்டார்கள், ஒப்புக்கொள்ளவும் கூடாது. அப்படி செய்தால் மனித சமூகத்திற்கும் மிருக ஜன்மத்திற்கும் வித்தாசமில்லாமல் போய் விடும். மனிதனாக வாழ்வது என்பதை சிலவற்று உப நிஷேதங்களும் விதிக்கின்றன. மனித வாழ்க்கையைப்பற்றி ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அவை கனில் சொல்லி இருப்பதை மாற்றுவதற்கு எல்லாம் செய்வது என்பதும் சட்டம் கொண்டு வருவது என்பதும் கொஞ்சமும் பொறுத்தமானது அல்ல.

“அதுமாதிரமல்ல, மற்றொன்றுகூட இருக்கிறது. இஸ்லாமிய சமூகத்தில் கல்யாணம் செய்து கொண்டால் அவர்களுக்கு divorce செய்து கொள்ள உரிமை இருப்பதாகச் சொன்னார்கள். அவர்கள் கல்யாணம் செய்கொள்ளும்போது அவர்களுக்கு மகர் என்று ஒரு தொகை வைத்து வருகிறார்கள். பொருளாதாரத்தினால் அவர்களுக்கு கல்யாண காலத்திலேயே அவரவர்களுக்கு தகுந்தாற்போல் ஆயிரம், இரண்டாயிரம், நாலாயிரம், 10 ஆயிரம், 300, 400, 50 ரூபாய் என்று அவரவர்களுடைய சக்திக்குத்தகுந்தாற்போல் மகர் என்று எழுதி வைத்து விடுகிறார்கள். பிறகு பெண்ணைவேண்டாம் என்று சொன்னால் ஆயிரம் ரூபாய் கொடுக்கக் கடமைப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அதன்படியே சத்யபாமை செய்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் இன்றைக்கு “பில்” லில் ஒரு புருஷன் தன்னுடைய மனைவியை வேண்டாம் என்று சொன்னால் அவனுடைய கதிக்கு ஏதாவது வழி செய்திருக்கிறதா? அதற்கு ஒரு சட்டம் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்களா? இந்த சட்டத்தை ஒப்புக்கொண்டால் பெண்ணுக்கு வழி என்ன? அதைப்போல் பெண் ஒருவன் தன்னுடைய புருஷனை வேண்டாமென்று சொன்னால் அதற்கு என்ன ஜவாப் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். பெண்ணைக் கல்யாணம் செய்து கொள்ளும் போது 10 ஆயிரம், 5 ஆயிரம் என்று வாங்கிக் கொண்டு, 10 ஆயிரம், 5 ஆயிரம் கல்யாணச் சிலை செய்தபின் பெண்ணை வேண்டாம் என்று சொன்னால் அது நியாயமாக இருக்குமா? இந்த மாதிரி ஒரு சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டு வந்து ஜனங்களைப் போட்டு குழப்பலாமா? என்னடாது பிரமாதமாக இருக்கும் என்று நினைத்தேன். இவ்வளவு நன்மை செய்யவா இவ்வளவு பெரியவரும் படித்தவரும், சட்டஞானம் படைத்தவரும்வரவேண்டும். ஜனங்களின் நன்மையைச் செய்தால் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். சட்டத்தை இயற்றிவிட்டால் பெண்ணை வேண்டுமென்றால் வேண்டும் வேண்டாமென்றால் போகச்சொல்லிவிடலாம் என்பது ரொம்பவும் அபாயகரமானது. இந்த மாதிரி சட்டம் செய்வது கூடாது. இந்த மாதிரி பேசுவது என்பது ரொம்பம் கேவலம். அதிலும் காங்கிரஸ்காரர்களாக இருக்கிறவர்கள் சுதந்திரம் பெற்ற மூன்று நாட்களில் இந்த மாதிரி தீர்மானம் கொண்டு வந்து ஜனங்களைப் போட்டுக் குழப்புவது என்பது சரியான காரியமல்ல. பிரயோஜனமில்லாத குத்துக்கல் போய் மை மாதிரி வெளியில் பேசுவதற்கு இடம் கொடுக்கக் கூடாது. இங்கிருக்கும் ஒவ்வொருவரும் இடம் கொடுக்கக்கூடாது. அது அக்கிரமம்தான். நான் ஒரு சிராமத்தான் தான். நான் சிராமத்திலிருந்து வந்தவன், B.A., B.L., B.A., M.L. பட்ட ஆசிரியர் இல்லை. நான் ரொம்ப மட்ட ரகத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவன். சட்டசபை அங்கத்தினர்களுடத்திலும் மட்ட ரகத்தில் பேசுகிறேன். இப்படி பேசுவதிலிருந்தே நான் சிராமத்திலிருந்து வந்தவன் என்று தெரியும். என்னை அனுப்பிய ஜனங்கள் இன்னும் மட்டமாக இருக்கிறார்கள். நான் இப்படி இருந்தால் என்னைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்த அவர்கள் எந்த நிலையிலிருப்பார்கள் என்று நீங்களே தெரிந்துகொள்ள வேண்டும். அவர்களுக்கு இந்த மாதிரியான சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டு வந்து அவர்களைப்போட்டுக் குழப்பலாமா?

“அடுத்தபடியாக நண்பர் காளேஸ்வர ராவ் love marriage வேண்டும் என்று சொன்னார்கள். என்னையா, கடவுளை, விபரீதமாகப்போய் விட்டது! love marriage-ஆம்-love marriage. இது விஷயமாக ஒன்றை நான் குரூபப் படுத்துகிறேன். பாரதத்தில் ஒரு கதை இருக்கிறது. மகாராஜா துஷ்யந்தன் வேட்டைக்குப் போகும்போது சகுந்தலையை சந்தித்து அவளோடு சம்மதம் ஏற்பட்டு love marriage செய்து கொண்டார். சம்மந்தமான பிறகு கொஞ்ச நாட்களுக்கெல்லாம் அவளை விட்டு விட்டு வந்து விட்டான் பிறகு அவள் கர்ப்பவதியாகி அதன்பின் பிரசவித்து ஒரு பிள்ளை பிறந்தது.

[Sri N. Annamalai Pillai] [15th July 1948]

எழு வருஷமாக துஷ்யந்தன் அவனை எட்டிப் பார்க்கவே இல்லை. பிறகு சில ஆள்களோடு சகுந்தலையை துஷ்யந்தன் வீட்டிற்கு அனுப்பினார்கள். அங்கு சென்றவுடன் சகுந்தலை தன்னை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்று துஷ்யந்த மகாராஜனைக் கேட்டபோது நீ யார் உன் பெயர் என்ன என்ற பல கேள்விகளைக் கேட்டுவிட்டு அவனை வெளியில் போகும்படி சொல்லிவிட்டான். பாருங்கள் love marriage, ன் கதி என்ன என்று காதல் marriage-ஆம். ஒரு மகாராஜாவே இப்படி இருந்தால் மற்றவர்களைக் கேட்பானேன். அவர்களுக்கு பிறந்த பிள்ளைதான் பரதன் என்பது. அதனால் தான் நம்முடைய இந்தியாவிற்கு பரத கண்டம் என்று பெயர் வந்தது. கடவுளே, பாருங்கள், காதல் marriage-ன் லட்சணத்தை. பெரியவர்கள் எல்லோரும் பார்த்து இது ரொம்பவும் தப்பு என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள்.

“பொய்யும் வழியும் . . . என்று தொல்காப்பியத்தில் சொல்லப் பட்டிருக்கிறது. மனித சமூகத்திற்கு love marriage ஆனது ரொம்ப நாயகமாக இருந்தது.

MR. SPEAKER:—“இப்பொழுது நீங்கள் நிறுத்திக்கொள்ளுங்கள். பாக்கியை அடுத்த வியாழக்கிழமை பேசலாம். இப்பொழுது மணி ஐந்து தாவிவிட்டது.”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I suggest, Sir, that the House might sit till the hon. Member finishes his speech.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“He seems already very tired. He might continue his speech on the next non-official day.”

SRI N ANNAMALAI PILLAI:—“நான் பாக்கியை அடுத்த வியாழக் கிழமைபே சொல்லுகிறேன். துஷ்யந்த மகாராஜாவின் கதை கொஞ்சம் பாக்கி இருக்கிறது. அதைச் சொல்லவேண்டும். அதை அப்பொழுது வைத்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“I adjourn the House till 11 a.m. on Monday, the 19th July 1948.”

The House then adjourned.

15th July 1948]

APPENDIX.

[Vide page 196 supra.]

To

THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
MADRAS.

The SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to consider the Madras Hindu Bigamous Marriages Prohibition and Divorce Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 6 of 1947) has the honour to make the following report.

2. The Bill was published in English in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 18th February 1947.

3. The Committee was appointed on the 16th October 1947.

4. The Committee met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George at 12-30 p.m. on Thursday, the 11th December 1947 and at 5-15 p.m. on Wednesday, the 18th February 1948, and subjected the provisions of the Bill to a careful scrutiny.

5. The principal changes made in the Bill are as follows:—

(1) The definition of ‘Hindu’ has been modified on the lines of the Hindu Law Committee’s Code.

(2) Certain new provisions have been added to clause 4 on the lines of the Bombay Act XXV of 1946.

(3) The court-fee prescribed for a petition or memorandum of appeal under clause 5 has been raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50.

(4) Veneral disease, impotency and conversion to another religion have been added as grounds for divorce.

6. The Select Committee considered that it was not necessary to republish the Bill.

7. A copy of the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, is annexed.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
19th February 1948.

P. SUBBARAYAN,
Chairman.

[15th July 1948]

ANNEXURE.

L.A. BILL No. 6 OF 1947.

[Note.—The changes made by the Select Committee are shown in clarendon type and the portions omitted are shown by dots.]

A Bill to prohibit bigamous marriages among, and to provide for a right of divorce for, Hindus in the Province of Madras.

Whereas it is expedient to prohibit bigamous marriages among, and to provide for a right of divorce on certain grounds for, Hindus domiciled in the Province of Madras; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

Short title
and extent.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Madras Hindu (Bigamy Prevention and Divorce) Act, 1947.

Definition
and inter-
pretation.

(2) It extends to the whole of the Province of Madras.

2. (1) In this Act, "Hindu" means—

(a) a person professing the Hindu religion in any of its forms or developments, including a Virashaiva or Lingayat or a member of the Brahmo, Prarthana or Arya Samaj, or

(b) a person professing the Buddhist, Jaina or Sikh religion.

Explanation (1).—A convert or re-convert to the Hindu, Buddhist, Jaina or Sikh religion is a Hindu.

Explanation (2).—It shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, that a person who is not a Muslim, Christian, Parsi, or Jew by religion is a Hindu.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, the domicile of a Hindu shall be determined in accordance with the provisions contained in sections 6 to 18 (both inclusive) of the Indian Succession Act, 1925.

Central Act
XXIX of
1925

Application
of Act.

3. This Act applies to Hindus domiciled in the Province of Madras.

Bigamy to
be void and
punishable.

4. (1) Notwithstanding any rule of law, custom or usage to the contrary, any marriage solemnized after the commencement of this Act between a man and a woman either of whom has a spouse living at the time of such solemnization shall be void, whether the marriage is solemnized within or outside the Province of Madras.

Provided that a man or woman whose marriage has been dissolved by a final order of a Court of competent jurisdiction under section 5 or under any other law for the time being in force, or in accordance with any

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custom or usage permitting of divorce, may solemnize a valid marriage with another, after the expiry of six months from the date of such final order or from the date on which the marriage was dissolved in accordance with such custom or usage, as the case may be.

Explanation.—An order shall be deemed to be a final order within the meaning of the above proviso, if no appeal lies against such order or if the time allowed for filing an appeal against such order has expired without an appeal having been filed.

(2) If a party to a marriage which is void under sub-section (1) has completed eighteen years of age at the time of the solemnization of such marriage, he or she shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 494 or section 495 of the Indian Penal Code, as the case may be.

(3) If a party to the marriage which is void under sub-section (1) has not completed eighteen years of age at the time of the solemnization of such marriage, any person having charge of such party, whether as parent or guardian or in any other capacity, lawful or otherwise, who does any act to promote the marriage, or permits it to be solemnized, or negligently fails to prevent it from being solemnized, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine or with both.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, it shall be presumed that a person having charge of a party to a marriage as aforesaid has negligently failed to prevent the marriage from being solemnized, unless such person proves the contrary.

(4) Whoever performs or conducts, or abets the performance or conduct of, any marriage which is void under sub-section (1) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine or with both, unless he proves that he had reason to believe that the marriage was not void under sub-section (1).

5. (1) Either party to a marriage solemnized before or after the commencement of this Act who has completed eighteen years of age may present a petition to the Subordinate Judge's Court, the District Court or the City Civil Court, within the limits of whose jurisdiction the marriage was solemnized or the other party to the marriage actually and voluntarily resides, praying that the marriage may be dissolved on the ground that the other party—

(a) if a husband, has any other woman as a concubine; or

Provision
for dissolu-
tion of
marriage.

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(b) it a wife, is a concubine of any other man or leads the life of a prostitute; or

(c) has, without just cause, deserted the petitioner for a continuous period of not less than three years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition; or

(d) has been guilty of such cruelty as to render it unsafe for the petitioner to live with the other party; or

(e) has been an incurable lunatic for a continuous period of not less than five years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition; or

(f) has been suffering from a virulent and incurable form of leprosy . . . not contracted from the petitioner for a continuous period of five years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition; or

(g) has been suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form for a continuous period of not less than five years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition, the disease not having been contracted from the petitioner; or

(h) was impotent at the time of the marriage and continued to be so until the presentation of the petition; or

(i) has ceased to be a Hindu by conversion to another religion.

(2) A wife who has completed eighteen years of age may also present a petition for the dissolution of her marriage on the ground that her husband had married again before the commencement of this Act and that the wife so married is living at the time of the presentation of the petition.

(3) In any petition presented under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), whether defended or not, if the Court is satisfied that any of the grounds set forth in either of those sub-sections exist for dissolving the marriage, it shall, by order, dissolve the marriage.

(4) The procedure provided in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in regard to suits, shall be followed, as far as it can be made applicable in all proceedings in any petition presented under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2).

(5) Against any order passed on any such petition by the Subordinate Judge's Court, District Court or City Civil Court, an appeal shall lie to the High Court . . . ; and the decision of the High Court on such appeal shall be final.

(6) Every petition presented under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) and every memorandum of appeal presented under sub-section (5) shall bear a court-fee stamp of fifty rupees.

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(7) (a) Where any petition has been presented under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) by or against any wife, if she has no independent income sufficient for her maintenance and the necessary expenses of prosecuting or defending the petition, the Court may, on the application of the wife, order the husband to pay her (i) a sum to meet such expenses and (ii) every month until the petition is finally disposed of, such sum as the Court, considering the circumstances of the parties, shall think reasonable, for her maintenance.

(b) The Court may also pass an interim order making suitable provision for the custody, guardianship and maintenance of minor children, if any, born of the marriage, pending the passing of final orders on the petition.

(c) The Appellate Court may also exercise the powers conferred by clauses (a) and (b), pending the disposal of the appeal.

(8) The Court, when ordering the dissolution of a marriage under this section, may also make suitable provision—

(i) for the maintenance of the woman until her remarriage with another man, if the marriage is dissolved under clauses (a), (e), (f), (g) or (h) of sub-section (1), . . . , under clause (c) of that sub-section on the ground of desertion by the husband, under clause (d) of the same sub-section on the ground of the husband's cruelty, under clause (i) of the same sub-section on the ground of the husband's conversion to another religion, or under sub-section (2);

(ii) for the custody, guardianship and maintenance of the minor children, if any, born of the dissolved marriage;

(iii) for the disposal of the property belonging jointly to the parties to such marriage and presented to them at or about the time thereof.

6. (1) The Provincial Government may, by notification, in the *Port St. George Gazette*, make rules to carry into effect the purposes of this Act. Power to make rules.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for—

(a) the form and contents of petitions or appeals under this Act;

(b) the period of limitation within which such appeals may be presented;

(c) the payment of any costs incurred by any party to any such petition or appeal;

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(d) the circumstances in which any provision made under section 5, sub-section (8) may be rescinded or varied ; and for appeals, if any, against any order directing such rescission or variation ;

(e) the hearing of any petition or appeal under this Act, with closed doors ;

(f) any other matter for which no provision or no sufficient provision is made in this Act, and for which provision is either made in the Indian Divorce Act, 1869, or considered to be necessary by the Provincial Government for giving effect to the purposes of this Act.

Statutory or
customary
rights of
divorce not
affected.

7. Nothing contained in this Act shall be deemed to affect any right conferred by any special enactment, or recognized by any custom or usage, to obtain the dissolution of a marriage whether solemnized before or after the commencement of this Act.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, the 19th July 1948.

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

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—“ After the question hour is over shall we adjourn the House, Sir, because of the elections to the Constituent Assembly? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Each member can go and vote as the debate is going on. All of them need not go simultaneously.”

I.—SWEARING IN OF A NEW MEMBER.

N. Abdul Rahman Sahib Bahadur was sworn in.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

The ‘ Ghiriar Scheme.’

* 41 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN (on behalf of Sri L. S. Karayalar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations have been received by the Government for reopening the ‘ Ghiriar Scheme’ in Sankarankovil taluk, Tinnevely district;

(b) whether it is a fact that thousands of acres of arid lands could be irrigated if the scheme is brought into existence; and

(c) what prevents the Government from starting the scheme immediately?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ (a) Yes.

“ (b) No; a maximum of only about 1,000 acres could be irrigated by the scheme.

“ (c) The Ghiriar runs entirely in Travancore State and that Government’s consent is necessary for taking up the scheme. They have not given their consent to it so far.”

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—“ May I know whether the Government have taken up further negotiations with the Government of Travancore, Sir? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ We are in correspondence with Travancore State, Sir.”

SRI S. K. PALAIYA KUDUMBAR :—“ கீரை யாற்றின் திறப்பு விஷயமாக சர்க்காரால் ஏதாவது நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா? அதைத் திறந்துவிட்டால் ஆயிரக்கணக்கான நிலமானது நஞ்சை சாகுபடிக்கு உபயோகமாகி உணவு பஞ்சத்தை நிவர்த்தி செய்யக் கூடியதாக இருக்கிறது. அதைத் திறப்பதற்கு வேண்டிய ஏற்பாடு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்படுமா? ”

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறோம். ஆனால் அது முடிந்தால் ஆயிரக்கணக்கான நிலம் இல்லை. ஆயிரம் ஏக்கர் நிலம் மட்டும் சாகுபடி செய்யலாம். அதற்கு 20 லட்சம் ரூபாய் செலவாகும் என்று தோன்றுகிறது.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“Do the Government anticipate any difficulty in arriving at a mutual agreement with Travancore?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“There is no question of mutual agreement, Sir. The Travancore Government have not given permission to our staff to go to the spot and to do the investigation. That is the position.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know, Sir, whether it is worthwhile taking this scheme which costs twenty lakhs for the purpose of irrigating only thousand acres?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“We have to examine that aspect.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“Just now the Hon. Minister said that the scheme would cost twenty lakhs for irrigating thousand acres. What about the relation with the cost and the area to be irrigated?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“It is in relation to that figure we have to examine whether it is worthwhile to spend twenty lakhs to irrigate thousand acres.”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“The Hon. Minister had just now said that Travancore State does not allow our staff to carry on the investigation in their territory. May I know what steps the Government propose to take in the matter?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“We propose to contact the Ministers of Travancore Government directly and further the negotiations.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know whether there are other schemes that are pending priority within this Province and within the immediate control of Government which might be pursued instead of the negotiations of the present nature?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“We are taking up all possible schemes in every district. We are certainly examining less costly and more easily feasible schemes.”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know how the Government arrived at a big figure of twenty lakhs when it was not possible for the staff to investigate the scheme on the spot? May I know whether it is not a bit of an exaggerated figure?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“I admit it may not be an exact figure. All the same we must have an idea of the rough cost and the rough view of the possibilities.”

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SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—“Is it not a fact, Sir, that generally these estimates are very conservative and not in accordance with the amount that is proposed to be spent on them?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“I do not know whether the estimate arrived at by the Department is conservative. I do not mind erring on the side of conservativeness. If we prepare an exaggerated estimate of the ayacut, it might happen that adequate results are not obtained.”

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware of the comment made on in the speech of the Hon. Premier that the estimates of the Public Works Department are four hundred or five hundred times much more than what they ought to be. If so, what he has to say on the matter?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“I am not aware of the statement quoted by the hon. Member.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I have a statement from the Hon. the Minister for Public Works that as a matter of policy of the Government the schemes in this Province will be given priority before taking up such negotiations and settlements with other Governments?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“We are naturally taking up schemes which present no hurdles.”

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, whether all is well with the Public Works Department?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“The Government have no information.”

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“The speech of the Hon. Premier was made while opening of a conference of engineers. May I know how it is that the Hon. Minister is not aware of it particularly when the ‘Madras Mail’ has editorially drawn pointed attention to it?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“I have no time to go through every item of news in the newspapers, Sir.”

Widening of the bridge at Kaveripatnam, Salem district.

* 42 Q.—SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a proposal to widen the bridge at Kaveripatnam, Salem district, across the river South Pennar on the road from Krishnagiri to Dharmapuri of the Madras-Calicut Trunk Road;

(b) whether it is a fact that it is a National Highway;

(c) the length of the bridge and its breadth at present;

(d) the breadth to which the bridge would be widened; and whether foot-paths would be provided for on both sides;

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(e) whether it is a fact that number of accidents are happening owing to its narrow space and also obstruction of traffic is often caused on such an important road; and

(f) whether it is a fact that railings which were fixed on either side for support and protection was removed and carried away for war purposes and consequently the bridge is in a dangerous condition without proper protection on the sides?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“(a) Yes. Estimates are under scrutiny by Chief Engineer (Highways).

“(b) Yes.

“(c) The present length of the bridge is 626 feet and width of roadway is 9 feet.

“(d) It is proposed to widen the roadway to 22 feet exclusive of foot-path and foot-paths will also be provided on both sides.

“(e) It is reported that a few accidents have occurred. A fair weather diversion has been provided to relieve congestion of traffic.

“(f) Yes. The hand railings on either side of the bridge were removed during war time and even at that time instructions were issued to provide suitable alternative side protections to prevent accidents. It is learnt that some protection were provided but the temporary railings were not quite effective particularly because the bridge is narrow. Accidents will be avoided when the bridge is widened.”

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—“May I request the Government to provide the road with railings on the side in order to make the bridge safer?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“It is a request to the Government.”

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“In all matters, whether it is opening or widening of a bridge, should not the Minister read what the public opinion is as expressed in the newspapers?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“We know how to ascertain public opinion.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“Will it not be possible, Sir, to provide the bridge with railings so that it will be safer for the pedestrians?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“We shall be taking necessary steps and we are asking them to provide the railings.”

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—“The Hon. Minister in charge of Public Works is also in charge of portfolios like Information and other things. How is it that he is discharging the duty without any time to read the papers and know the public opinion?”

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MR. SPEAKER:—“This is on a previous question.”

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Is it a fact, Sir, that he has got exclusive rights of getting news from the papers?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“It is not so.”

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—“Is it not a fact, Sir, that the road requires immediate attention after coming under the control of the National Highways?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“It is not so. The road was bad even before it came to the Highways Department. Because of the war it got worsened. We are paying the necessary attention.”

Condition of the Great Northern Trunk Road.

* 43 Q.—MOHAMED RAFAEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Great Northern Trunk Road is in a state of disrepair for a number of years; and

(b) whether in view of its importance the Government propose to convert it into a cement or macadamised road between Madras and Nellore?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“(a) Yes. The road was taken over by the Government only in 1945 and hence was not improved on a large scale as a war measure.

“(b) Yes. The road is a National Highway. Under the Revised Five-year Plan, the following proposals for improvements to the road have been made:—

(i) Cement concrete surfacing in M. 4/6 to 11/8, i.e., for replacing worn out portions of block top (Rs. 3 lakhs).

(ii) B.T. surfacing in appropriate reaches, in built up areas (Nellore district, Rs. 2 lakhs).

(iii) Cement concrete surfacing from M. 110 to 112 near Nellore (Rs. 2 lakhs).”

MOHAMED RAFAEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Can the Hon. Minister give an idea to this House when this work of repair will be taken?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—“We have already taken it up as indicated in the answer.”

MOHAMED RAFAEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Is it not a fact, Sir, that after this road was transferred to the Highways Department, it has suffered and if so, will this Government take up the matter with the Government of India, urgently?”

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"It is not a fact that it has suffered after being taken up by the Highways Department. During the war it was not attended to. Arrears have fallen and it is so difficult to clear them up all at once."

11-15
p.m

MOHAMED RAFEEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it a fact, Sir, that this road although it is called the Great Northern Trunk Road, it is neither great nor it is a road at present?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"It may not be great and it may not be northern but still it is a road proceeding towards the north. It is no doubt great compared to other roads."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I know the reason why the trunk roads are in a very bad condition?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"It is because there is too heavy a traffic on those roads."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact that the Great Northern Trunk Road covers only the Andhra area?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"It covers the Tamil area also."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister to the effect that the roads are in a bad condition on account of heavy traffic, may I know whether the Government have not made adequate provision for repairing the roads then and there?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"We are making provision year by year and we have adequate provision this year."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know the circumstances under which this road has been taken up by the Government as the Great Northern Trunk Road, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"I do not know if my hon. Friend wants to know the origin of the name; if that is so, I am not aware of it."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware, Sir, that many parts of the Madras-Bangalore Trunk Road happen to be the worst in this Province?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"That is another road and I would like to have notice."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"The Hon. Minister said that the road was taken over by Government only in 1945; I want to know the circumstances under which it was taken over by the Government?"

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"It was taken over during the War; at that time some important roads were taken over by them and the Highways was formed."

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—"May I know, Sir, when the Government propose to cement concrete this trunk road?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"We are doing it by and by."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have considered the desirability of macadamizing the road up to Vijayavada?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"We shall examine that proposal."

SRI K. LINGA RAJU:—"In view of the strategic importance of this trunk road, have the Government considered the desirability of cement concreting the road up to our provincial border?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"We are examining this proposal in consultation with the Government of India?"

M. S. ATAULLAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The general condition of these roads being bad as it is accepted by the Government, will the Government see that the allotment for this road is enhanced and the condition of the road is improved as early as possible?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"These trunk roads are not so bad as the hon. Member has described them; the Bangalore Trunk Road is comparatively good when compared to so many other roads in the interior; still we are making adequate provision for the maintenance of these roads."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact that when they cover Tamil areas, they are maintained very well but when it extends to Andhra area, it is not properly maintained?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"This kind of unwarranted insinuation does not warrant any answer."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Do the Government propose to appoint a committee to go into the matter?"

Scheme to drive out illiteracy.

* 44 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any scheme under contemplation of the Government to drive out illiteracy; and

(b) if so, what it is and when it would be implemented?

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

“(a) & (b) The Government have introduced a scheme of adult education under which grant will be given to Adult Literacy schools opened throughout the Province. Arrangements have also been made to train teachers for Adult Literacy work.

The Government have also introduced a scheme of compulsory elementary education in selected villages in each district. The scheme will be extended to other areas in due course.

By these measures the Government propose to eradicate illiteracy in the long run.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“If the Government have a scheme to introduce compulsory education throughout the Province, may I ask why they have ordered the closing down of existing compulsory elementary schools at present?”

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

“No, Sir; only the beginning has been made this year. The Government of India have got a big scheme for adult education and the Government expect to launch upon this big scheme after some experience is gained of its working this year.”

SRI B. S. MURPHI:—“May I know what the areas selected so far are?”

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

“There is no question of selection of areas; the scheme provides for the Government institutions as well as private institutions. Wherever there are people to run these institutions with trained teachers, they will be given grants.”

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to say whether adult education will be introduced on the lines of the basic education or on the basis of the old methods?”

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

“No, Sir. But in the rural colleges certain crafts are contemplated.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, within what period the Government expect the plan of driving out illiteracy from this Province to be completed?”

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

“It is for that purpose that the Cabinet Sub-Committee has been constituted to go into the matter and finalise their plans; it is expected that within ten years, we must drive out illiteracy from this land.”

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Does the scheme include a provision of night schools for the education of adults?”

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

“Yes, Sir; they come under adult literacy scheme schools.”

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B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know on what basis the Hon. Minister calculates that it is ten years within which the whole Province will become literate?”

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

“That is the target on the basis of which we are going to plan this scheme.”

MAHIN SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, why no higher elementary schools have been opened in those villages where sufficient number of students are forthcoming?”

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

“I am afraid that it does not arise from this question.”

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“In answer to a supplementary question the Hon. Minister said on the basis of experience gained this year, he will proceed further, are we to take, Sir, that whatever reforms he is introducing he does only in the light of experience gained in the past?”

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

“Yes, Sir.”

M. S. ABDUL MAJID SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Before creating new compulsory education areas, may I know whether the Hon. Minister is satisfied that all the children of school-going age in compulsory areas find a place within the schools?”

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

“These are matters which were discussed only the previous day and I do not think I need repeat those answers now.”

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Inasmuch as only one-twenty-fourth of the children of school-age not under instruction have been brought under instruction every year, may I ask how it is that within ten years, he expects to complete the cent per cent literacy scheme?”

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

“That is the old scheme; the idea with which we are planning the new scheme is to bring it within ten years.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Is it not a retrograde step to suspend the extension of compulsory education? In the face of this how does the Hon. Minister expect to liquidate illiteracy within ten years?”

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

“It is not the intention of the Government to suspend compulsory education altogether; we find it is working inefficiently and now we want it to work efficiently. There has been a lot of wastage and it will take some time to take up the matter and set it right and this is only a temporary measure but after the planning is completed, we expect the speed to be greater.”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know whether the plan for the spread of literacy includes women also?”

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

“Yes, Sir. It is both for boys and girls.”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“My question was, Sir, whether the scheme includes the plan for the spread of education to women also?”

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

“Yes, Sir. We have provided for boys and girls and men and women.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“Arising out of the reply given by the Hon. Minister to the effect that a Cabinet Committee has been constituted to go into the question, may I know, Sir, whether any plan is being prepared by the Government to enlist the co-operation of experts on the question of removal of illiteracy?”

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

“I do not understand the question. I presume that Mr. Murthi is an expert and I would very much like his co-operation in the matter.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“Surely, Sir, there are men like Mr. Harisarvottama Rao and Mr. Roche Victoria who have been giving their attention to this matter of removal of illiteracy in this Province for the last ten to fifteen years; I wish to know whether the Government have asked for their co-operation in order to galvanize their efforts in this direction?”

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

“The hon. Member would be glad to hear that we are working in collaboration with Mr. Harisarvottama Rao who has been put in charge of this work in the Andhra area.”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, whether there is any school already in existence for the adult education of women and whether the Government have got in view any scheme to be started in the near future for that purpose?”

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

“The Woman Welfare Department is doing adult education among women to-day. The rural colleges contemplated under this scheme has got separate syllabus so that women might get particular benefit out of this scheme.”

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—“May I know, Sir, what is the sort of aid or help that is proposed to be given regarding the removal of illiteracy?”

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

“The hon. Member may put a separate question. I believe, for rural colleges it is two-thirds of the net cost under certain conditions and for night schools also, it is on the basis of the number of teachers.”

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SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—“Sir, may I ask how the Government expect to attract the requisite number of qualified teachers to take up the scheme? Is it by advertisement or through the Public Services Commission or through what channel?” 11-30 a.m.

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

“No, Sir. Existing teachers or pupils who have undergone Adult Training Scheme may become teachers. It is not confined to merely teachers. Many others who have undergone this training can take up to this adult literacy work. They will be given grants. If I remember right, it is eight rupees per teacher per month and four rupees for expenses.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Sir, arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister that within ten years they will drive out illiteracy completely, do not the Government think that ten years is too long a period. Is there not any possibility of reducing that period?”

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

“Sir, I shall be glad to have the illiteracy wiped out even to-day. But certain things have to be done and things are not done by merely putting questions. Hard work has to be done. I think ten years is a sufficient period and it will be creditable if we can do it within that period.”

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that there are certain poor districts where expansion of education is held up for want of finance and what particular scheme or method does he propose to introduce there so that education may spread?”

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

“Yes, Sir. Finance is a big hurdle in our way and I am looking forward to our Finance Minister to help me in this matter. The Government also intend to appoint a special committee to go into the finances of the local boards so that new methods of taxation can be devised for the spread of education. We are trying to investigate the matter.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Government have a scheme of making it compulsory for every young man and woman who want to take a degree in the University to carry on adult education among men and women for some time before they are given degrees?”

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

“Sir, many Universities are against this proposal. I tried another experiment during the last vacation. We invited volunteers from various colleges for adult literary work. During the holidays about three hundred boys and girls offered themselves as volunteers for this work and we gave them training for one week in adult literary work and they went to villages and did work. I am awaiting the report of

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the work that they have done. On receipt of that report, the Government intend to use students in the colleges during the vacation for this purpose."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Are the Government aware, Sir, that in the Nagiri Development Firka all night schools have been ordered to be closed by the district educational authorities?"

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

"Yes, Sir. It was in the old days. Now we have made provision for opening all these adult literacy classes. There will be night schools and there will be day-schools and they will be given grants if they work under this scheme."

MR. L. C. PAIS:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is the general policy of the Government to introduce shift system in the schools run by local boards?"

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

"Sir, that question does not arise out of this question."

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—"Sir, will the Government consider the desirability of engaging the elementary school teachers only in the mornings in elementary schools for the children and engage those teachers for the adult education in the evenings so as to get over paucity of teachers in liquidating illiteracy?"

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

"Sir, for the whole day they have to work for five hours.

Unless they do it, they will not be entitled to any remuneration for the voluntary extra work that they do."

SRI P. KAKKAN:—"Sir, will the Government take necessary steps to open schools in villages having a population of more than 500 people?"

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

"Sir, in this matter we want the co-operation of the hon. Members. I have written to some of them and I have drawn their attention to the various villages where there are no schools. The Government are prepared to aid them on a generous basis and will be glad to have their co-operation to open schools and to maintain them. But, as far as the local boards are concerned, their main obstacle is finance. Their finances are well known and it is difficult. The Government will be glad to assist them if schools are opened in those areas where adult schools do not exist at present."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Sir, is it a fact that during the Advisers' regime certain special grants were given to poor districts and afterwards—even though expansion of education has taken place—the grants have not been increased by this Government proportionately?"

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

"Sir, that is a separate matter. Let the hon. Member put a separate question."

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SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"Sir, am I to understand that the last two years were found insufficient by the Hon. Minister to modify and rectify the compulsory elementary education scheme to suit the purpose as desired?"

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

"Sir, I have explained the matter. I have nothing more to add."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, in view of the fact that this is a very serious and urgent problem, has the Hon. Minister taken counsel from experts on this matter and if it is so, has he been able to formulate a real scheme for liquidating illiteracy in this country particularly in this Province and if it so, whether he is prepared to place the detailed scheme on the table of the House in order that Members, whose co-operation the Minister seeks, will be able to give him the help that is necessary?"

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

"Sir, the Government will consider it when the committee finalises its report. I hope it will be soon. Apart from discussions, I think it would be of help if the Members do their work in their own constituencies and in villages and get schools established there."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have considered the advisability of taking under their control elementary education from the management of the district boards and also from the management of private bodies and conduct the whole elementary education themselves and expand it as quickly as possible so as to drive out illiteracy completely in as quick a period as possible?"

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

"Sir, this is a very important question of policy. It will be considered by the Cabinet Sub-Committee."

M. S. ABDUL MAJID SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, will the Hon. Minister give us an assurance that he would liquidate illiteracy in areas where the scheme of compulsory education is in operation?"

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

"Sir, I can only try my best. If Members instead of putting merely questions, give us their co-operation, it would be of much use."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, in view of the extreme paucity of teachers and of the scarcity of school buildings and equipment, will the Hon. Minister be pleased, in order to accelerate the scheme of compulsory education, to provide for a shift system by reducing the curricula content and at the same time providing for as best a scheme of education as possible?"

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

"We will consider that point of view, Sir."

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Sir, may I know what specific measures the Government are taking to liquidate adult illiteracy among men and women apart from the grants that they have promised to adult schools?"

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

"Sir, that itself is a specific measure."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Sir, may I know what the Government are doing themselves in the matter and whether they are establishing any adult schools?"

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

"Wherever possible, they will also conduct those schools."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, whatever the objections of certain Universities, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to take into consideration the agitation on behalf of so many public bodies that there should be conscription of undergraduates and S.S.I.Cs. for this purpose before they are allowed to take their degrees?"

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

"Sir, that is largely a matter for the Universities. I would like to have their co-operation and I will certainly bring to the attention of the Universities the view expressed by the hon. Member."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Sir, in reply to a question put by my hon. Friend Mr. Majid, the Hon. Minister said that Members should not only put questions but should also help him. Surely, the help is there but is it not a fact, Sir, that on account of these questions put by various Members of this House, he emerges wiser and stronger?"

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

"Sir, I am not quite sure about it. The Members must satisfy themselves for their wisdom."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, how the Members will help in the matter when they do not know the details and particulars of the scheme which the Hon. Minister has got before him?"

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

"Sir, I am circulating a letter giving details of the scheme. The hon. Member will get it very soon."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Seeing that the Hon. Minister for Education does not depend upon any information or knowledge but upon his own, may I know whether he is having any expert advice on this very important question of adult education at all?"

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

"Sir, we are taking help from anybody. As a matter of fact, every scheme that has been introduced, has been through more than one body. It may be that everything

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that we do is not considered by experts but we are taking all available expert advices as and when necessary and it is referred to the respective department of education."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Sir, in view of the fact that the Government of India has a definite plan to liquidate illiteracy, may I know whether this Government have received any plan from them or any assurance of contribution from the Centre in order to liquidate illiteracy?"

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

"Sir, I am not aware of any definite plan from the Centre. Only we are requesting them for money."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, in spite of the fact that the Hon. Minister for Education has been in both the Ministries for two years, why it took two years for him to discover that the compulsory education scheme is not working satisfactorily?"

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

"Sir, I think that this question has been answered previously. I have nothing more to say."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I know, Sir, whether they propose to introduce compulsory adult education throughout the province?"

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

"No, Sir. There is no proposal to that effect. We have already enough trouble to have elementary education compulsory. It will be impracticable. I would like the hon. Member to try it in his own village and he will know the result."

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is necessary that qualified teachers alone should conduct adult education classes to receive grants?"

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

"Sir, the qualification prescribed is very little—VII Standard—and the training contemplated is only six weeks, and these people will get a little more than what people with basic qualifications but who have no training."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—"Sir, may I know the method and the technique adopted in these adult literary training schools?"

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

"Sir, it is usually called the *Laubach* method."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, whether it would go a long way to drive out illiteracy if we pursue the present compulsory education system with suitable modifications and adjustments?"

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

"Yes, Sir."

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SRI D. DURAIRAJA PANDIAN :—“ Sir, is it not a fact, that the Maravar Reclamation Scheme of Education in Tinnevely has been given up? ”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—
“ Sir, let the hon. Member put a separate question. I think it is the Labour Department to which it must be addressed.”

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI :—“ Sir, what is meant by the *Laubach* system? ”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—
“ Sir, let the hon. Member ask the question outside the House and I will answer it.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ Questions 45 and 46 will be taken up later.”

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Re-appointment of an officer in Salem district.

1 Q.—SRI A. SUBRAHMANYAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a superannuated person has been appointed Development Officer of Salem district;

(b) whether it is a fact that his term has been extended more than thrice; and, if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to state the number and names of superannuated persons re-employed in different departments and the reasons for doing so?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. He was re-employed on the specific recommendation of the Board of Revenue and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

(c) The number of officers (gazetted and non-gazetted) retained in service on account of re-employment is 142.

The Government do not consider it necessary to print the list of such officers in the interest of economy in stationery and printing. A copy of the list has been placed in the Legislative Library for reference by Members of the Legislature. As a matter of policy, retired Government servants are generally not granted extension of service or re-employment. It is only when suitable qualified candidates with the necessary technical qualifications and experience are not available for appointment to the posts that re-employment of retired personnel is resorted to and that too for short periods not exceeding one year at a time.

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Recruitment for the post of Police Sub-Inspector.

2 Q.—MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) when was the selection made for recruiting Sub-Inspectors of Police in 1947;

(b) how many recruits joined the Vellore Police Training School—communitywar; and

(c) whether selections were made on the basis of the old communal G.O. or the new communal G.O.?

A.—(a) The preliminary selections were made between 26th August 1947 and 14th September 1947 and the final selections were made between 15th September 1947 and 30th September 1947.

(b) Eighty-four candidates joined the Police Training School, Vellore, as shown below:—

Non-Brahman Hindus (including Backward Hindus)	...	...	...	...	44
Brahmans	...	...	...	...	15
Harijans	...	...	...	...	11
Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians	...	...	...	...	14

(c) The candidates were appointed according to the rule of communal representation prescribed by Government in November 1947 with the exception of Muslims who are already over-represented in this category.

Termination of the services of the Director of Information and Publicity.

3 Q.—SRI T. VISWANATHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) why the contract for service with the Director of Information and Publicity has been terminated long before the stipulated time; and

(b) whether the Government will advertise before making a fresh appointment?

A.—(a) The contract was terminated in the exigencies of the public service.

(b) It is proposed to recruit an officer in the service of Government of India.

Purchase of cars by gazetted officers.

4 Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) how many gazetted officers have been found to have purchased motor cars during the control period; and what are their names and how did they dispose them of;

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(b) whether Government loans were taken for the purchase of these cars;

(c) how it was possible for them to secure these cars; and whether the Government have caused an enquiry to be made regarding the circumstances under which the purchase and sale took place; and

(d) what is the result of the enquiry?

A.—The information is not readily available and cannot be secured without elaborate enquiries and search in different offices.

Backward communities.

5 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of communities which the Government consider as backward for the purpose of education and scholarship; and

(b) the names of the communities?

A.—(a) Eighty-six Harijan communities and 155 non-Harijan communities.

(b) The names of the communities are given in Appendix 17-A to Rule 92 of the Madras Educational Rules.

Economic development of Rayalaseema.

6 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) what the recommendations are of the Rayalaseema Economic Development Board;

(b) at what stage the consideration of the recommendations is;

(c) when the recommendations will be put into practice actually; and

(d) which of the recommended items will be included in next year's budget?

A.—(a) There is no Rayalaseema Economic Development Board at present. But a Development Commissioner was appointed for preparing a co-ordinated plan for the economic development of Rayalaseema. He has submitted his report.

(b) The report is under the consideration of the Government.

(c) & (d) Do not arise now.

Number of bus routes in the districts.

7 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of bus routes and buses that were granted ever since the Congress Government came into power, districtwar;

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(b) whether there were any applications from the co-operative concerns; and

(c) if so, from what district and how many?

A.—The information is not readily available and cannot be secured without considerable search all over the Province. Information, if required, can be obtained and supplied on particular cases specified.

Committees constituted for the recruitment of Home Guards.

8 Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the names of the members of the committees constituted for recruitment of Home Guards in the various districts of the Province; and

(b) the number of Home Guards recruited in each district from among (i) Caste Hindus, (ii) Muslims, (iii) Christians and (iv) Harijans?

A.—(a) A list * is annexed.

(b) Recruitment of Home Guards has not yet been completed.

Number of estates to be abolished by the Zamindari Bill of 1947.

9 Q.—SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of estates including inams, etc., that are to be abolished by the proposed Madras Estates Bill of 1947;

(b) the number of estates in which the rates of assessment are higher than the adjoining ryotwari area and the number in which it is less;

(c) what has been proposed to be done in the case of those estates in which the rates are less; and

(d) what are the several important benefits to the ryots of these estates by the conversion to ryotwari system?

A.—(a) About 2,810 estates and 7,000 whole inam villages.

(b) The Government have not the information.

(c) The hon. Member apparently wants to know what will be done under the Madras Estates Land (Reduction of Rent) Act, 1947, in the case of the estates referred to by him. In these estates the rates will be left as they are.

(d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Statement of Objects and Reasons to the Madras Estates (Repeal of the Permanent Settlement and Conversion into Ryotwari) Bill, 1947, published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 13th

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September 1947. The estate ryots will be placed on the same footing as registered holders in ryotwari areas. They will hold their land directly under the Government paying land revenue to the Government and will become eligible to all the privileges which ryots in ryotwari areas are now entitled to.

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

III.—ANNOUNCEMENT *re* ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

MR. SPEAKER:—“ I have to announce to the House that the following candidates have been nominated for election to the House Committee:—

1. Srimathi V. Lakshmi Ammal,
2. Srimathi A. V. Kuttimalu Amma,
3. Sri K. Brahmanandam Reddi,
4. Sri S. Nagappa,
5. Sinna Kaziar Haji Moulvi S. A. F. Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur, and
6. M. S. Ataullah Sahib Bahadur,

As the number of candidates nominated is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, viz., six, I hereby declare them to have been duly elected to the House Committee.

“ In addition to the above, under rule 152 of the Madras Assembly Rules I nominate the following two members to be members of the said Committee:—

1. Srimathi Rukmani Lakshmipathi.
2. Srimathi K. Lakshmi Ammal.”

IV.—REPORT OF THE HARIJAN WELFARE COMMITTEE, MADRAS.

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move that the Report of the Harijan Welfare Committee, Madras, be taken into consideration.

“ Sir, after the Members of the Legislature have expressed their opinion, I wish to speak on the report.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“ May I know, Sir, the time allowed for this discussion.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“ The whole day.”

SRI K. LINGA RAJU:—“ Sir, we were not told that this will be discussed to-day.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“ I have already told the House three days before that this will be taken up to-day.”

SRI K. LINGA RAJU:—“ Sir, my point is that nothing is given in the agenda.”

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MR. SPEAKER:—“ The agenda was sent to the Madras address.”

SRI K. LINGA RAJU:—“ Sir, may I request the circulation of copies.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“ It will be circulated.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“ Sir, it is published in the papers that it will be taken up to-morrow.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“ You need not care about what is contained in the papers. The agenda was circulated to hon. Members to their Madras addresses. Who is going to initiate the debate?”

* SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“ The other day, when the Hon. 11.45
Minister for Harijan Uplift was answering questions, many a.m.
Members expressed their willingness to give their opinion on a very important question like the Harijan uplift. Harijan uplift is indeed a nation-building effort and any neglect in this matter will not only create disruptive forces but will also go a long way to hinder the national progress and will ultimately result in chaos. Therefore, I appeal to the hon. Members to take interest in a cause like this and do their bit of help in reclaiming the Harijan who has been neglected for centuries. Sir, many a time you have given me an opportunity to voice forth, the grievances of my community; you have been kind enough to allow many Members to ventilate the grievances of the Harijan community on the floor of this House. But I must tell you that all our efforts have proved futile because the Government have woefully neglected to take note of the facts which we placed before them. Sir, the Government are not in a mood even to investigate certain allegations that were made. The Government seem to be very unmindful and apathetic. I must warn the Government that this sort of apathy and unwillingness to face facts will prove fatal not only to the Government but also to the amity and concord that exist among the various communities residing in this Province.

“ Coming to the Report I would like to state that it contains the considered opinion of all the Harijan Members as well as the Harijan institutions in this Province on Harijan uplift. We have been very careful to recommend to the Government only such proposals as may be translated into action immediately. Sir, the plight of the Harijans has been vividly described by Miss Mayo and Mr. Beverly Nichols. We may say that Miss Mayo and Mr. Beverly Nichols are anti-Indian. Whether comments emanate from friendly quarters or from quarters opposed to us, we must sift the facts and find out whether there is any truth in them or not. Congressmen especially are wedded to truth and non-violence. Mahatma Gandhi is dead and gone and I hope that we have not buried truth and non-violence along with him. The assassination that took place on the 30th of January was directed against two great principles dear to India, namely, truth and non-violence. In the name of Mahatma Gandhi and in the name of truth and non-violence . . . (There was much noise in the House.) Sir, I want order to prevail.”

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MR. SPEAKER:—"Order, order."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"This is always the fate of a Harijan question. Whenever a Harijan question is discussed, Members are either absent or go here and there, thereby showing contempt. I warn the hon. Members of this House that such a thing cannot go on."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member should also bear in mind that some of the Members have left the House to vote in the Constituent Assembly election."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"This may be a day of election for others but this is a day of mourning for Harijans in the sense that they want to weep, weep and weep so as to make the Ministers know the atrocities that are perpetrated on Harijans in the mufassal. We have not come here to make speeches and see them published in the press. We appeal to the Ministers but they are very unmindful. Therefore, I appeal to you Sir, to maintain order in the House."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The House is in order. Let the hon. Member continue his speech."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"I want to give certain concrete examples to show the need for adopting the report as it is. To-day Harijans everywhere are being subjected to Caste Hindu harassment. The inhuman system called 'lynching' about whose prevalence in America we have heard, is being selulously practised in many parts of this Province. Last time I brought to the notice of the Leader of the House, the Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi, how things were going on in his own district. This time I crave your indulgence and the indulgence of the Members of this House to point out how things are happening in another place, namely, in Antharvedipalem firka, Razole taluk, East Godavari district. This is a place where the Harijans leave for Burma to earn their livelihood. Because the Harijans leave the shores of India to go to Burma to learn things and become independent, the Caste Hindus of Sakinetipalle are very furious with them. Due to Caste Hindu harassment, several thousands of Harijans of that place have long ago embraced Christianity. The Caste Hindu is always relentless and whenever his attempts are foiled, his anger increases. He has been waiting for an opportunity and an opportunity presented itself in 1942. I want the Hon. Leader of the House to listen attentively to the inhuman drama that has been enacted in Sakinetipalle in 1942, when we were all busy marching to the jail or to the gallows at the command of Mahatma Gandhi uttering the 'Quit India' manthram to remove the yoke of British Imperialism and to win independence so that all Indians may be free and happy. As I said, the Caste Hindus of Sakinetipalle were anxiously waiting for an opportunity to harass, lynch and kill the Harijans there."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"Sir, I submit that it is better to confine ourselves to the discussion of the Report, instead of speaking elaborately about the atrocities."

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SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that the Committee was constituted on a request from the Harijan Members who pointed out that the Harijans were being subjected to suffering. I am now bringing to the notice of the House certain concrete examples of the sufferings inflicted on the Harijans. I am not wasting the time of the House."

"In Chakalipalem there was a quarrel among Chetti Baligas. They are not Harijans but they belong to the Backward Communities. One family set fire to a house of the opposite party and as a result some people died. Immediately the Caste Hindus of Razole taluk got several people arrested with the help of the Police and beat Harijan men, women and children for a number of days. Not satisfied with this, they demolished the houses and burnt the clothes of Harijans. They went from place to place striking terror into the hearts of the Harijans. False cases were foisted and as many as nine Harijans were sent to the gallows. Then all of us were behind the prison bars. That was in 1942."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may simply refer to the incident in a few words and suggest how a part of the one crore of rupees may be spent to alleviate the sufferings. Let the hon. Member not give seriatim all the woes of the Harijans."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"My intention is to give a few examples and then suggest how a part of the one crore may be spent. I am not going out of the purview of the subject under discussion."

"On 1st May 1948, some Caste Hindus held a meeting in Tekichettipalem in Razole taluk in connexion with the May Day celebration. Labourers from all communities attended the meeting. At that meeting I was told that a police reporter was beaten. Immediately the Caste Hindus with the help of the Police got the Reserve, caused an order under section 144 to be issued, went to each and every Harijan house at the dead of night and beat men, women and children. While I was in Bangalore, I received a telegram. I came to Madras, acquainted the Hon. Minister for Harijan Uplift with the position and told him that I was proceeding to the place. The Hon. Minister said that he also received a telegram. I reached Narasapur on the 16th. Myself and Sri G. Venkanna, another Member of this House, crossed the river and went to Sakinetipalle. I knew that an order under section 144 was promulgated. The Harijans of twenty villages fled for their lives and only old people were there. I asked them not to run away and told them that they were harassed perhaps because they were suspected to be Communists. I advised them to go to Government officers and assure them that they were neither Communists nor Communist sympathizers and said that they would be safe afterwards. From there I went to another place and there I met the Police Inspector and the Revenue Divisional Officer. At my request they came to Sakinetipalle where I also met them and advised the people not to get frightened. This is all that happened. I never went there to defy the order under section 144 or to

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do any subversive act. After my return, and after a send-off was given to me and to Sri G. Venkanna by the police officials the village munsif was compelled by the Inspector of Police to write a report that Sri Murthi and Sri Venkanna held a meeting in defiance of the order under section 144. The police officials reported the matter to the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate. I sent a memorandum to the Hon. Premier on the 7th of June and on this an enquiry was held by the very same persons who were responsible for beating the Harijans. Sir, I have not seen any instance where the Government have taken action to see that justice was meted out to the Harijans. We have on ever so many occasions brought to the notice of the Government serious allegations of illtreatment and cruelty committed on Harijans by the Caste Hindus, but no action was taken by the Government to enquire into such allegations. I have known many instances where Caste Hindus entered the Harijan cheris, beat the womenfolk and children with sticks and sometimes burnt their huts and committed all sorts of atrocities. But when these were brought to the notice of the Government or the Police, these Caste Hindu leaders are given opportunities to come and ask 'Did I come to your village? Did I beat you with the stick?' and so on. Sir, I should like to ask this Government, 'Are this Government and their police administering this Province only for the benefit of Caste Hindus? Have they no responsibility for any other communities at all?' Otherwise such horrible occurrences as I have described would not have occurred in Sakinetipalle. All those who were responsible for those acts should have been brought to book. If the Government is so incompetent, let them relegate their function to others. If the Ministry is so incompetent, let them give up their office. I submit, Sir, it is the elementary and fundamental duty of the Government to afford protection to the poor and the oppressed and if the Government are unable to do so, it is better that they quit office. Let them not proclaim that they are a friend of Harijans and allow these things to go on unchecked. Sir, my heart is so filled with pain and grief that I am not able to give full expression to my thoughts. I have seen with my own eyes even pregnant women being kicked and molested and teachers and pupils in cheris being beaten and manhandled by the Caste Hindus. They showed their bruised bodies to me, but to whom can they complain? Sir, I see my hon. Friend, Mr. Gopala Reddi, looks at me with a smile on his face. It seems as though he laughs at me. If he understands my feelings alright and if he knows the feelings of the Harijans, he would not do so. There may come a day when he will have to settle accounts with them. That day will not be far off. I do not think, Sir, that if this Ministry goes out of office, it will ever be able to return, or secure any of the Harijan votes. It is not for this sneering smile that we have voted this Government to power. It is not for this thing that we, Harijans, had gone into jails or that Mahatma Gandhi had asked us to go. Mahatma Gandhi has taught people to follow the path of ahimsa and non-violence. But what do we see before our very eyes? This is nothing but goondaism. This must be put down by the Government. Whether

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the Government are ruling us or whether they are allowing these people to rule us is the question. Sir, I am bringing out all these things in cold print and I am going to send a copy of the same to the Government as well as to other quarters where the Harijans can hope to get justice. If nobody is going to pay any heed to their cries, then there is God to whom alone we will have to make our appeals. I suppose that God is not also burnt or buried like our Mahatma. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be pardoned for having spoken at such a strain with such emotion."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I can quite understand the difficulty of my hon. Friend, because he is full of feelings and they come from his heart."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"I may tell you, Sir, that I have no ill-will against any individual. Even to-day people have the audacity to enter my cheri and commit all sorts of atrocities against my poor brothers and sisters. Their actions are not in any way checked either by the police or by the Government. I only pray that they may have sufficient commonsense to understand the feelings of these poor Harijans. Let them at least be afraid of God. Let not this Government give them any unnecessary importance and make them another Razvi. I have seen Hindu Razvis who are worse than the Hyderabad Razvi and there are two such Razvis in my own taluk of Sekkinetipalli."

"Now, Sir, let me come to the Report proper. No doubt, I share the blame along with my hon. Friend the Minister for Harijan Uplift Mr. Kurmayya and other members of the Committee for having presented the Report rather very late. But, Sir, I must submit that the Harijan question cannot be brushed aside or neglected in any manner. It cannot be treated piecemeal or lightly. Therefore that responsibility that has been shouldered by us must be discharged satisfactorily and well. So, with the permission of the Hon. Minister we have taken a little more time to prepare the Report and present it to the House. We have made many recommendations in it with regard to Harijan Uplift and the manner in which this sum of one crore of rupees set apart for Harijan Uplift should be utilized and there are three or four things which are more important and urgent from the point of view of Harijan Uplift. Sir, we are very sorry to notice that the same generosity which was shown by Mr. Prakasam, the first Premier was not shown by the present Ministry headed by the Hon. Mr. Omandur Ramaswami Reddiar."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"But the money has not been spent."

* SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Sir, I know my Hon. Friend Mr. Gopala Reddi is a very clever Finance Minister. He is ingeniously clever. He says that the amount has not been spent. Whose fault is it? If it was in my hands, I would certainly have spent it. I would not allow it to go unutilized. Why has he not taken the Minister to task for not having spent the amount?"

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It does not lie in the mouth of the Hon. Finance Minister to say that the amount has not been spent, because the Government have got no schemes in their minds as to how to spend it. The Government have now asked us to prepare a five-year scheme for the utilization of the amount of Rs. 1 crore, set apart by the then Premier Mr. Prakasam. I submit, Sir, that if the Government are really intent upon promoting the lot of Harijans in this Presidency, then this sum of Rs. 1 crore is not enough, because there are more than 80 lakhs of Harijans in this Province. They have absolutely no proper houses to live in and even for housing them alone, this one crore of rupees will be scarcely sufficient. Let alone proper houses, they are not provided with any house-sites at all worth the name. They live in a corner of a village, in low-lying places, mostly in uninhabitable areas segregated from other members of the village. There is no drinking water, no road leading to the places, nor any other conveniences worth mentioning. If you go to any of these cheries, you can see for yourselves under what conditions they are living. These Harijan boys and girls are asking, 'Please show us a place where we can get our education'. There are no schools for them and none of them are admitted in Caste-Hindu schools. There is another peculiar disability under which these Harijans are also suffering. There is no place for them to bury their dead. (Interruption.) Sir, we are not like super-Hindus accustomed to cremate our dead. Our custom is to bury them. Therefore, Sir, leaving aside all these various disabilities under which we are suffering, this problem of housing is a burning question of the day with us. For the last 25 years the Labour department has been trying to offer some help for those people who want house-sites, but what is the sort of house-sites that have been provided for them? Most of them lie in poramboke lands, in marshy places and uninhabited by men. These sites were given so generously by the Government as a gift and these poor Harijans have to live in those unhealthy places. But many of those places have now been abandoned and deserted, because they are most uninhabitable. That is why we want habitable places to be given as house-sites.

"Sir, as I said, the Government wanted the Committee to prepare a scheme for five years. I submit that we need not have to wait for five years to spend Rs. 50 lakhs which we intend to allot for this purpose. These Rs. 50 lakhs can be spent in one year. Even within this financial year, it can be spent. Once the Government make up their minds to provide them with good and suitable house-sites wherein one can live comfortably, I am sure, somehow or other these Harijans will be able to construct some huts or abodes and try to live in those places.

"Sir, we have also suggested that the Government might allot Rs. 15 lakhs out of this Fund to build one model Harijan colony in each district. In the course of a year, we will be able to build at least one colony in each district. Our proposal in this respect is this. Each deserving person should be given one-third the value of the house as a grant from this Rs. 15 lakhs

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and one-third as loan from a co-operative building society to be paid in easy instalments and one-third to be by himself. In the course of five years, we will be able to have five colonies in each district, in this Province. But the Government do not seem to be very serious in tackling this problem. In 1937, I wrote a letter to the then Premier Mr. C. Rajagopalachari and in that letter, I worked out a thesis as it were, about the housing grants given by the Labour department. I worked out, that according to the Government's plan of housing grants to the Harijans, it would take 351 years before the existing number of Harijans could hope to have house-sites of their own, provided, of course, they did not procreate any more children in the meanwhile. That was the policy that was adopted by the Labour department in the year 1937-38 under the previous Congress Government. Sir, I am afraid, the same policy is being followed by the present Government even to-day. I submit that that policy must be changed and men with drive, imagination and sincerity in the cause of the Harijan community must be placed at the helm of affairs. That is why the Harijan Committee thought it right to recommend the creation of a new department known as the Harijan Uplift Department and to place a Director in charge of it, who should be a well-known Harijan worker and who has spent some years of his life for the cause of Harijans. It is only then that there is some hope for the department to thrive. There is no use in merely giving some money-grant in the form of Governmental help. That is not enough. The Government must create a separate department for this purpose and put enthusiasm into its officers to see that untouchability is liquidated as soon as possible. It is only then that it would go a long way towards liquidating untouchability in this Province. Therefore, Sir, this is a report that has been submitted by us in the hope that if its recommendations are implemented by the Government, it would go a long way towards achieving the object that we have all in our heart, namely, the uplift of Harijans.

"Sir, I do not want to take much of the time of the House in dealing with the details contained in this Report. My point is this. The Government should not be satisfied with this One Crore Fund that has been created by the Government in 1946. Another crore, or at least a substantial amount must be added to the Fund each year, so that the community may be lifted up to the level of the caste-Hindus. As you know, it is stated in Baghavatham that if you have a bad or broken limb, the whole body will be affected. So is the case with untouchability. So long as this untouchability lasts in the Hindu community, so long will it remain a standing disgrace to the community and a festering sore in the body politic; and so long as you neglect one community and allow it to suffer, so long will the major community also suffer. Therefore, in order to consolidate the Hindu community, it is the duty of both the leaders of the caste-Hindus and of the Government to make all speedy efforts to see that this neglected disease does not spread to the body-politic and eat into the very vitals of the whole community. Therefore, Sir, this grant of

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one crore should not be thought as a special grant made to one particular community. Then you will be treating this community as a separate community. Then you will be doing us wrong. If you want to treat us all as Hindus, then do not stint us the necessary money. Money must be spent lavishly to see that illiteracy among the Hindus as well as the Harijans is liquidated, lock, stock and barrel.

"Sir, the next point I should like to touch upon is about the grant of house-sites about which I have already spoken at some length. It is a major item of Harijan uplift and must be taken up by the Government at once. Next to house-sites is the provision of educational facilities. I must thank the Government for the special educational facilities which have already been given to the Harijans by them. Not only the present generation of Harijans, but also the posterity will thank the Ministry for having come forward to afford them all the facilities in the matter of secondary and higher education. But this is not enough. There is a lot yet to be done if the Harijan boys are to occupy their rightful place among the citizens of the Province, and if necessary, to become leaders of men.

12-15 p.m. "I want to stress these three points on the Government in order to see that no negligence or apathy is shown by them.

"One word more, Sir, and that is about the Police. The Police are becoming the worst enemies of the Harijans. The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi says that the Police are the enemies of the society. I would accept his statement, Sir, if the Leader of the House is serious. But it is a fact that the Police to-day are the worst enemies of the Harijans. Therefore I request the Government to see that early precautions are taken so that the Policeman will perform his duty and be a friend, philosopher and guide of the helpless people of the village.

"Again, Sir, we have passed two Acts here. Those two Acts have become dead letters under the very nose of the Hon. the Leader of the House, Mr. Gopala Reddi, the stalwart of the caste-Hindu young men. (Laughter.) (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi: 'A very poor compliment!') The Government must be serious, Sir, and they must be mindful of their duties and they must think of their responsibilities. They must perform their duties willingly. If they do not do so the harm that will be done to posterity will be much more. Therefore the Madras Government, like the Bombay Government should appoint Pracharakas and see that the provisions of the two pieces of legislation on the Statute Book are strictly enforced.

"We also wanted recently in our meeting of the Harijan Welfare Committee, Sir, that a day should be set apart in each year, called the Removal of Civil Disabilities Day, when all persons, all parties and all Government servants may take part in it and see that the Day is celebrated with a view to remove all the civil disabilities suffered by the Harijans.

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"Here, Sir, I must also pay a tribute to my friend the Hon. Sri V. Kurmayya. I congratulate him for having had the opportunity to preside over the destinies of the Harijans of this Presidency. Well, Sir, it is a trust and a trust must always be very carefully administered. The Hon. Sri Kurmayya has taken this trust and it is due to his efforts that we have got this report. It is also due to his efforts, Sir, that we have got a number of other facilities which are now being enjoyed by our community. But having paid him this tribute for all that he has done, I must also tell Hon. Sri Kurmayya through you, Sir (when love ripens epithets are forgotten) that he must not rest assured and leave no stone unturned until all the difficulties and the shortcomings that are now circumscribing the progress and advancement of the Harijans are removed. I appeal to the House and the Hon. the Leader of the House, my good old friend, Mr. Gopala Reddi, and the Hon. Mr. Kurmayya, our Harijan Minister, to see that this Report will not share the fate of other reports to adorn the archives of Government libraries. Thank you, Sir."

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been only watching always the debates with regard to the Harijans in the Assembly because, myself being the President of the Harijan Sevak Sangh in the Tamilnad and intimately connected with its activities. I thought it better to stand aloof. Now on the day when the Harijan Welfare Committee's Report is to be presented to this House, while stressing that the recommendations be carried out by the Government as soon as possible, I have also to say a few words about the difficulties, particularly felt in the Harijan Welfare work. We must first remember that the community as a whole has great economic difficulties in its life and that is marked from the commencement of its life. Right up in all the working of the departments; wherever the Harijan goes he is handicapped. In the first place only those who have had some touch with the Harijan Welfare Work can see the enormous difficulties facing the Harijans.

"I may tell you that so far as the Harijans are concerned one of the vital difficulties they are suffering from is want of drinking water wells and the modest demand that is made from village after village is: 'Let us have a good drinking water well.' At present, in spite of the Civil Disabilities Removal Act—and it is supposed to have come into force—the Harijan is not yet allowed to approach the good drinking water wells in the villages and he is generally compelled to take water from refuse tanks where all the drainage water of the village gathers. The necessary consequence is that it has its reaction on the village community as a whole. This year when cholera was rampant throughout the Madura district generally it used to start only from the Harijan quarters of the village itself because their well is never protected. Water from all over the village goes there and stagnates in some pool and in the middle of that a ditch is dug which is supposed to supply water. Even when the river water or the channel water comes the difficulty is still

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there because that pit is dug always in a place where the channel water or the river water overflows and therefore wherever the river water or the channel water is contaminated with the drainage water, it simply floods that well and the well water also at once gets contaminated with the cholera or other germs and cholera begins in the *cheri* of the villages. At that time when we press upon the Government or the District Board or the Harijan Welfare Officers about the immediate necessity of having a proper and well-protected well opened, an officer goes there, prepares a plan and sends an estimate. By that time the cholera season is over and everything is forgotten about them. This very primary necessity which has not been supplied has been the cause of the greatest trouble to the Harijans. I have been flooded with applications every month which are now simply distributed to the Harijan Welfare Officers who have been appointed by the Government. It was easy to carry out these things themselves with the J. K. Birla's Harijan Welfare Fund. But in spite of the fact that the Special Officer appointed by the Government is of the grade of a Deputy Tahsildar, in our district what he has achieved for the whole of last year is that about five wells have been proposed to be taken on hand for work this year. That is all the finality that has been reached. The wells are yet to be dug there. When I discussed this with the Collector and the higher officers they gave me certain reasons. But nobody has ever taken the pains to remove the difficulties. Supposing on a petition the Harijan Welfare Officer goes to a village and marks out a particular place which has to be acquired and a well dug there, he at once sends his recommendations. But the person who is to take the acquisition operations, namely, the Tahsildar with his manifold duties of his taluk, could not for months together take this particular document which has been sent by the Harijan Welfare Officer and it is never attended to at all. Even at the end of a year the proposal for acquisition never gets completed. In my own taluk I have yet to find a single acquisition that has been completed by the Taluk officers. After that acquisition is made the other operations have to go on continuously.

"I have also to point out another thing. This Harijan Welfare work is almost like a step-child in every Government. The person who is appointed as Harijan Welfare Officer must be a competent man who has already had some experience in Harijan Welfare work. Now the newest hands are appointed as Harijan Welfare Officers, namely, persons who are just being tried as Deputy Tahsildars. Generally the rawest recruit is appointed and he hardly functions as a Harijan Welfare Officer for more than three months. By the time he knows about the conditions of his work he is shifted to a higher job and the newest aspirant to the Deputy Tahsildar's post is again pitched upon for the post. Thus there is no continuity in the scheme. There is no possibility of the acquisition being completed by the normal method by which things go. Ordinarily we have seen that whenever first priority is given to any work Government can get the work

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done much quicker than any individual man can. We know the cases of lands that have been acquired for aerodromes; we know of aerodromes that have been built; we know of springs that have been dug and water brought from unheard of places; we know of buildings that have grown up in no time. We have seen for instance one of the biggest roads put up between Kashmir and the Union of India but nevertheless in the matter of Harijan Welfare work, though we have given the first priority and we have the necessary means of implementing it, it has always been kept in the region of promises never fulfilled and it has not been given due priority in the matter of practice.

"For the purpose of seeing that the wells in the Harijan quarters are dug what should have been done has been urged repeatedly on the officers in charge of Harijan Welfare work. The Harijan Welfare work should not be removed from the Deputy Tahsildar. There must be continuity of the officer for the purpose of seeing that the well is necessary, and that officer must have power of marking out the plot, publishing notifications for acquisition and for seeing that the thing is put through. He must have all the powers so that the well might become an accomplished fact at least in the course of three months. But that is hardly done. We know in the case of district boards and municipalities they have got power under some section whereby they can carry through urgent works at a cost not exceeding Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 and at the end of that sanction is given as a matter of routine. We are not yet in a position to know why such powers are not given to these Harijan Welfare Officers in the matter of digging these wells.

"This Report contains a recommendation which they have put as the first thing, viz., that the Harijan quarters should be provided with good protected drinking water wells. If they are really going to make it a fact I would request the Government to make it necessary condition that any officer who is entrusted with this work must be entrusted with all the powers to acquire and see that the thing is put into practice and the well is dug that is the whole thing must be in his hand until the matter is completed.

"There are certain things which a Government should require of its officers to do. The Government should say I want this to be done; I do not care what time it takes or what money it costs". That ought to have been the attitude with regard to this Harijan welfare work, and the Government should have insisted upon their officers, saying "well this is a petition received from each and such a *cheri* in such and such a village; within three months I want you to have a well dug there". That should have been the way in which work should have been insisted upon. I would therefore request Government that in trying to implement the report they should devise such methods that would enable officers in charge immediately to see and also hold them responsible for seeing, that whenever they are directed to carry out the works, they do it within the specified time. 12.30 p.m.

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The second matter which is recommended in the report is about house sites for Harijan. Anybody who has gone into the village parts will know what quarters for Harijans are not selected to suit the convenience of the Harijan themselves. Their quarters are generally selected by those who employ them as their *pannai* servants or labourers. Wherever they can find it convenient to pitch these Harijans or give them some space with the least inconvenience to themselves, that place is generally selected as a house site for them. You will find that most of these places are within wet lands surrounded on all sides by water and marsh. Generally Harijan quarters have no pathway to them. The pathway lies through a channel or *odai* which, whenever there is water, one will have to wade through. Another peculiarity about the Harijan house site is this. They have no exit-out through any pathway for any one of their burial grounds. Not merely had they no places as their own in which they can burn their corpses, but very often, in fifty per cent of the cases, Harijan burial places have always been a matter of dispute. In which village, I ask the place called the Harijan burial ground is not claimed, at this time when land commands much value, as a cultivating land by the adjoining landholder, a caste Hindu? It is claimed as his own patta land with the result the poor Harijan is denied even the place for his burial. What I am saying is no exaggeration. Last year in Coimbatore district, a place was acquired by Government for Harijans. They had built their own houses. But unfortunately (I should say so), the Temply Entry Act then came in and was about to be given effect to. The local village Gounders thought that these people were likely to enter their temples and so some of the Gounders, who owned the surrounding sites, and who were influential men, closed the exit from that habitation site to the main road. An old lady in the Harijan quarters died and her corpse could not be taken out anywhere. Several appeals were sent to the village munsif. But the village munsif dared not cross the richest among the villagers. The Harijans sent appeals to the Revenue Inspector. He was also in the same position. All appeals fell flat, and ultimately they buried that lady within the habitation itself. This is the first instance. Within a month of this incident, a child died. The same thing took place and the child was buried within the house itself. As a third instance, I may inform this house that the Harijans transported a sickly woman outside the Harijan quarters so that she might have the consolation of being buried in another place after her death. I am only relating facts. I am not exaggerating. After that incident took place, somebody came to me with a petition from Coimbatore. I asked Mr. Morris, Collector of Coimbatore, 'What is this joke of giving some land to Harijans by acquisition proceedings without even a pathway having been marked out for them to enable them to carry their corpses out of their quarters.' Mr. Morris fortunately had some conscience. He immediately sent his Tahsildar to acquire a plot at once for pathway and also had some place marked out for the burial of Harijans. Thereafter Harijans in that particular *cheri* had the consolation that after their death there would

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not be a row as to where their corpses would be buried or whether their corpses would be buried at all. This is not the only difficulty with regard to the Harijans there alone. This is a matter of general occurrence with regard to most of the villages in all the taluks. We know that. But why is it not rectified? The fact is that it has not become a matter of first priority with the Government.

"I have been watching how the Hon. Minister for Education has been answering questions on adult literacy. There are certain things which cannot be done by individual benefactions or individual patronage. The question of relieving the economic distress of the Harijans is not a matter which people by themselves could do. This should be given the first priority, and the Government should make investigations in each and every village. They should get all the information within a month, and take suitable action in the next month. They may possibly put forth the plea that they have no funds. The Government are prepared to spend 12 crores or 20 crores of rupees to purchase the *melwaram* rights of people on their hands (who already possess *kudiwaram* rights), and without payment of a pie are prepared to make a free gift of it to other people. I ask how many Harijans are going to be benefited by the zamindari legislation. It is only the middle classes that will be benefited, and most of them are likely to be caste Hindus. You are prepared to spend 20 crores or even 100 crores of rupees for the purpose of acquiring lands and making a free gift of them to others. Why not that same spirit of interest and charity prevail in this question also? You must go the whole course and not take up bits here and there. If we are to see that only children who cry shall be fed and the rest shall fast, how many children will die out? Unfortunately children belonging to Harijan community derive no benefit. They only get their throats dried up. Therefore, Government should, if they really mean business, create a department, and see that everything is properly surveyed. It may be said that survey will cost much. You are having surveyors for crores of acres under the Zamindari Abolition Bill and the Rent Reduction Act. You are appointing Settlement Officers. You are appointing Special Officers for each estate. Deputy Collectors and Collectors are going to adjudicate with regard to every acre of the land. But when it comes to Harijans, how is it you cannot take courage in your hands and say that this shall be so. I can only say that the people who benefit are the people who exert pressure. You are afraid of them. The Government are apparently afraid of the pressure by others. They do not feel the pressure exerted by Harijans. The pressure is not sufficient for the purpose of seeing that ultimately all their grievances are redressed within a limited time. The Advisers' Government thought they had done enough by giving doles to these Harijans. You have not come to recognize that Harijans are an essential part of the Independent India. The Harijan is an absolutely essential and basic part of Independent India. He is poor; he is penniless; and he is unable to make his voice heard. You should see them

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literally raised to the level of yourself and myself. I have been watching to see the adult literacy programme. I know many Harijans cannot even sign their names. I have now got a petition with me which bears mostly thumb-impressions. If you are really serious about adult literacy, how do you expect anybody to train himself for this job on the magnificent sum of Rs. 8 plus Rs. 4. At this rate how many teachers will take up this work? Who will have the enthusiasm for it? I have been watching Mr. Subbaraman making pathetic appeals to his intimate friend, the Minister for Education, to see if some loophole cannot be found to engage men who do not bear the mark of Government trained adult literacy teachers. Such persons do not find scope in this adult literacy work. If Government really want to have some millions and crores of people actually made literate, it is not sufficient to pick up a handful of teachers for that purpose and then get them trained at the adult literacy centre. For purposes of adult literacy, persons, with some ideas instilled into them, should easily suffice. It is no good saying that anybody can take up this work. Member after member has been asking what is the Government portion of the amount. The Government portion consist in Rs. 8 plus Rs. 4. The work will have to be done by the members themselves with the chance that when they put an inconvenient question, they are likely to be asked 'what have you done in your constituency; instead of putting this question you could take up adult literacy.' I do not blame the Government for being in a tight corner. I am not at all displeased or unhappy with them. But I say if you really want to tackle that question, tackle it on a broad basis. When once we try to tackle the problem, we should do it completely, and we should not pretend tackling it. This literacy question is absolutely essential to the economic well-being of the Harijans. We know that adult franchise appears to be a big monster. In the minds of every person today there is the question of adult franchise and what might happen when adult franchise is introduced. As a matter of fact, I have been watching the discussion of the recommendations of the Constituent Assembly, regarding fundamental rights, when member after member was saying 'adult franchise is very good, but people may be easily deluded by communists or socialists.' Therefore, if Government want that they should be safe, they should see that the people have political knowledge. Political knowledge can hardly be implanted if there is not sufficient amount of literacy. Therefore, in the interests or morals, in the interests of the Government themselves, and in the interests of the country at large, Government should take courage in their hands and see that a well in every *cheri* is dug. Let us do it in the course of three or six months. Let there be house-sites for Harijans. Let the Government make a complete survey and see that the disabilities are not there. It is not as if wells cannot be dug quickly. You have tens of thousands of applications for land from *thyagis* who have sacrificed everything. Whenever the tahsildars would not give them the necessary information, there have been complaints to the Premier and Land Revenue Minister.

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There have been messages of S.O.S. asking the Premier why these *thyagis* had not been supplied with the requested extent of land —lands which are good, not hills or stones.

"You know, Sir, there is that chief of the department or some other officer who is asked to assign the land for these poor people. But, whenever they are asked to assign the lands, the chief of the department, as a matter of fact, says, this is a piece of land which is required for a tuberculosis hospital and that piece is an European poramboke and so on. Thus, in actual practice, the poor Harijan is not able to check the correctness of the statement made by this officer and is not able to get the land. Sir, he is a poor man. You cannot expect him to go to the office concerned and find out the actual truth. He has only to submit a petition to find out the truth. As I have already said, many of the Harijans are not having burial-ground and pathways. You do not know the real difficulties to which the Harijan is subjected to.

12-45
p.m.

"Then, Sir, of course, you are giving the facility of free scholarship. But the poor Harijan has no hostels to live in in the City. Moreover, he has no clothes. In his own village, he can get on with a 'Kaupeenam' and wear a dirty cloth. But with his fellows in the college, you expect him in decent dress. So, we must provide him with clothes. The Harijan welfare committees in the villages were for some time doing welfare work and providing them with clothes. Somehow or other, on account of the desire of some Harijans to regard education as more important, the amount set apart for giving clothes and for helping them with books and running hospitals has been diverted. Therefore, certain amounts should be strictly earmarked apart from education, for giving scholarships and clothing and for the purchase of books to these poor Harijan students.

"Then, Sir, when a Harijan boy comes for a seat in a hostel, you do not know the tragedy that takes place. The father sends some amount for the maintenance of the boy. He cannot afford to pay the money that the boy may require. Suppose he comes from an out-of-the-way village from Madura, and wants the boy to be admitted into the hostel. He finds that the hostel has reached the maximum strength that is allowed because the boy that is studying in the I Form and put up in the hostel continues in the hostel for the next year and so on up to the VI Form with the result that actually there are only a few seats, three or four, for new-comers. Moreover, these hostels charge a few rupees extra from these poor students. Even in Harijan hostels, some Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 extra has to be paid as overhead charges. Frequently I made requests to the Hon. the Minister in charge to sanction the pay of the wardens in these hostels. But for some reason or other, Government seem to expect that the hostel should pay the salary of the warden from out of the fees charged on the residents of the hostel. When I asked the Hon. the Minister in charge, Mr. Kurmayya, how can there be a hostel without warden being paid properly, the Minister said that he was helpless in the matter and took shelter under the existing rules. The rule made by

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the Government is there of course. We are the Government who make these rules and the rules can be changed by us. The rules are made in the Secretariat and they can be changed by an order in the Secretariat. The warden in a hostel does not remain there for two years. Because their salary is not fixed by the Government, they leave the job and change every now and then with the result the poor students in the hostel suffer, and if they are made to pay some amounts extra for paying the warden, it is very hard on them. I can give an instance of a man who has come walking several times in gruelling heat for admitting his boy into a hostel. The man said 'I have walked 32 miles. I cannot go back to my place because I have been fasting since yesterday; please give me just one meal so that I may be able to walk back home and also some place for me to halt for some time; I cannot admit the boy because I cannot pay the hostel charges.' Imagine a man walking 32 miles in gruelling heat for admitting his boy in the hostel and starving for days! That is the fate of these poor Harijan parents. Fortunately by dint of urgings and representations on the Government year after year, the Government have now been pleased to allow the failed students a second chance in order to make them eligible for the scholarships which they were drawing. If my boy fails in one year, he can have the pleasure of continuing the study but if the Harijan boy fails once, his scholarship will be stopped and he has no chance of continuing his studies.

"Then, Sir, there is one more difficulty which the Government have to take note of. We have a hospital near Madura which is run by the district board but the poor Harijans have great difficulties in getting treated there as in-patients as they have no place to stay. Suppose a Harijan patient from the mufassal wants to get admission into the hospital. One such patient approached me and wanted a letter to be given to the District Medical Officer to get admission into the hospital. I said that the District Medical Officer here is an officer who will say that you must have such a disease as will immediately require you to be taken in. Then came the difficulty whether I am to leave him or specifically recommend him as an out-patient. The poor Harijan is not tempted to be an out-patient but wants only to be an in-patient because it will cost him very much to be an out-patient in that place. He is rather prepared to die than be an out-patient, because he has no other place to stay. Sir, we thought it necessary to provide a hospital costing about thirty lakhs of rupees, I mean the Erskine Hospital, with nice building and so on. But it is only the rich man who can take advantage of that hospital and the poor Harijan is left in the lurch. The poor Harijan is not able to pay Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 per day and therefore these poor Harijan patients have to huddle themselves in some hut uncared for.

"Then, Sir, about the housing conditions of these Harijans, the house of a Harijan, more often than not, consists only of a single chamber wherein the husband, the wife and the children have to accommodate themselves or in the alternative live on the open earth for want of more facilities or rooms.

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"Then, Sir, another point which I wish to stress is that the poor Harijan is not an equal with members of the other community in litigation. I have got a petition which I just now been handed over to me by registered post from a village in my taluk. In a village, called Vadapalanje in my taluk, the Harijans have written that about 120 houses of Harijans have been set fire to by the Caste Hindus and that 120 houses have been burnt to ashes by the Kallars and that they are suffering homeless at present. They have also lost properties amounting to about Rs. 24,000. Sir, in such matters, a Harijan is absolutely helpless. I have myself seen in one case which I received from a Harijan quarter in Chintamani, which is five miles from Madura. I received information that in that place some Caste Hindus were going to set fire to their houses at midnight. I at once rang up the Police station in charge of Thirupparankunram Sub-Inspector and made a complaint that the Caste Hindus were going to set fire to the poor Harijan quarters. I was told that I must ring up the next station and unless a messenger was sent there was no likelihood of action being taken. At midnight there was a desperate call on the telephone asking for help. Some man has desperately phoned to me stating that the poor Harijan houses are being burnt to ashes. Then, I phoned to the District Superintendent of Police and actually woke him up from his bed and also arranged to send an ambulance from Madura for the purpose of extinguishing the fire. Still, in spite of all these, about forty-four houses have been burnt to ashes completely. Even when the Police were in the place, the Caste Hindus began to throw big stones on the Harijans. So, we again phoned up the Police and they saw that actually big stones were being thrown on the helpers. Sir, many such cases are still pending before the Courts and no conviction has yet been made. Previously, once, in a village called, Nagamalai Pudukottai, just when I returned from my tour, I found at 12 o'clock midnight, that some houses were being burnt. I phoned up the Sub-Inspector, woke him up and sent him to the place. He went but still, a hundred houses had already been burnt to ashes. The District Superintendent of Police went at 5 a.m., and again a case was launched as well as counter-case. Both these cases came up before the Court but both the cases were dismissed because there were some counter-cases against the Harijans. The action of the caste people in both cases has been most callous. In fact about the latter case where one hundred houses have been burnt, my hon. Friend, Nagappa, had received a telegram the other day and I said I would enquire into the matter. As a matter of fact, in these cases, the courts could not get the real truth because the relevant witnesses were absent. Because the Harijan is economically poor, he could not get justice in courts of law and the poor policeman does not take up the case because he gets some amount from rich people. I am afraid—Dr. Subbarayan is not here just now—once in his presence while he was the Minister in charge of Law, he found a poor Harijan's head broken. A Harijan worker accompanied along with him. This man had to give four annas to a policeman in order that he might register the case. The Minister for Law was actually present on the spot but the man did not know that he was the Minister. Many cases were not

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registered because the necessary cash was not forthcoming. That is the way in which the police administration is going on. I at once wanted Harijan police constables to be sent to that area. But unfortunately with regard to the particular police station, the Harijan policemen were always guilty of getting some money from the caste Hindus and hushing up the matter. What the policeman wants is only money. As a matter of fact, due to the economic poverty of the Harijans, their cases are not taken up. Even the Police Prosecutor finds witnesses get some money from the interested parties and the cases are dismissed. So, the policeman says, what is the use of my taking the complaint if it is going to be dismissed. That will only prove that in such and such a police station so many unprovable cases were dismissed and it will reflect on the policeman. The Prosecutor who is not an ordinary man also arranges to pay some money to the witnesses so that the case may ultimately succeed. In most of the cases, the prosecution failed because the other party was able to purchase the witnesses.

1 p.m. "Now, Sir, what is the defect behind all this? Of course, it is want of economic background. About one Harijan in hundred has got some land in the village. As for the rest, they are dependent upon ploughing the lands of others. And the Harijan has not got the wherewithal for the same. Unless this man ploughs his own land, on a profitable margin, he cannot lay by anything for the purpose of becoming a man with some money in his pocket. For a man who ploughs the land merely as a wage-earner, as a sort of coolie who does not own even the kudiwaram in the land, nothing remains out of his earnings. Now the millenium seems to have come, when it is proposed to hand over all lands to the actual tillers of the soil. The Government have time and again said that they shall allow the land to be owned by the man who is the lessee, the man who is the actual person, the man who is put as the cultivator on paper. But is he really the cultivator? If the Government tries and sees, the man takes ten acres of land or five acres of land on lease. But who is the person that ploughs, and takes water to the land? Who is the lady who transplants the seedlings? Who is the person that is in charge of the land, day to day? The Harijan is there in charge mostly. I do not say that other classes are not also acting as *pannaigars* or as agricultural labourers, and yet it is these people who form a substantial majority. To the south of Madras, I do not know of any other class of persons who are acquainted with the work of transplanting the seedlings, as the Harijan ladies. Now it is likely that the larger interest in the land would go down and filter from the owners of the land, at least in the zamindaris and inams, to the cultivators so-called. But is the Harijan who is the actual cultivator, the man who goes and fights the battles with the various elements, going to get any benefit out of that? No, because it has been assured to us that *ryotwari* pattas once granted in the zamindaris and the inams,—in fact the Hon. the Revenue Minister has assured us at Musiri, at Madura, and in various other country places—will not filter down below those people. And the Harijan will have to remain as a mere wage-earner.

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"Sir, oftentimes I used to get angry whenever Harijan students in college classes turned entirely to the Ambedkarite view. Now I think if I were there in their position, I would also turn like them. I hope that the independence would have as a matter of fact given some amelioration. Yet, in many places after the 15th of August last, I must say in the three districts of Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely, the position has become somewhat harder for them. The people who are the actual kudiwaram owners happen to be mostly persons like Kallars, Maravars, etc., who always have the work of tilling, etc., in the soil done by Harijans—I do not say in all cases. Now there is a feeling of fear among those persons who originally opposed Harijan uplift work in 1932, and temple entry afterwards. Now the ordinary landowner feels, "Well, some day this man may refuse to cultivate the land as a wage-earner, and then we may have to give up the land." This kind of feeling has been responsible in a large number of cases, for starting minor kinds of troubles. The Harijan has now become conscious that he is also a man, a Hindu and a citizen of India. The old world customs which in olden days probably economically helped him, are now becoming matters of contempt for him. There is an old custom in our place in the villages that at the death of any caste Hindu, 24 Harijans in that place should take their drums and be beating them for the whole day, attend the funeral and spend the day in drumming and taking the deceased man to the burning ground. And the magnificent sum that is paid to the whole lot is Rs. 1-6-6. In the modern days, when even Rs. 1-6-6 or even Rs. 2 of wages is not sufficient for a single man to purchase even his daily rice, how is it possible for them to get Rs. 1-6-6 and manage the whole day with that paltry sum? Naturally the Harijans refuse to follow such old customs nowadays. The present feeling among them in that there is no necessity for all of them to be drumming, one man could do the drumming and receive Rs. 1-6-6 in all. And the villagers get offended by this attitude and in the cultivation season, they give no lands for cultivation to these Harijans. Then the Harijans have to go 4 miles to an adjoining village and work under some other man there; because the Harijans there are also helpless they come and cultivate here. The very consciousness of their freedom has now become the immediate cause of trouble for them. In another village, called Panakulam, 10 miles from Madura, there are about 24 Harijans, who cultivate the land in the village. The village tank was put up for auction for Rs. 1,700. There are some Mussalmans who reside there. They took some money from this for their pallivasal. The Harijans wanted to start a reading room. They have also got an idol to worship. When the village Harijans asked for the reservation of about Rs. 100 for their temple and reading room, the money was refused. And the lands have not been leased to them. Matters are in such bad condition to-day that the Harijans have to go a long way for the purpose of getting their ordinary day-to-day food. So long as the Harijan has no background of land ownership either in whole or in part, he cannot get a profitable balance by virtue of cultivation, and so long as he has not got that balance, he cannot stand as an equal and

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fight with the other people for his rights. The result is that he is not now able to get even his daily rice. The feeling of identity that they are also part of the Hindu community has in a few places enabled the other persons who till now neglected them, to take part at least in some quarrels in the matter of some of the rights of these Harijans. That by itself will not solve the problem.

"In fact that is the reason why I said the first charge upon the Government is to make out a list of all the lands now available whether it be in the zamindaris or the inams or wherever land could be got, and these people should be provided with land at the rate of two to five acres. Only then they will be able to safeguard their rights by themselves. They are a hard working lot. They are a very patient set of people. They have received all kinds of rebuffs with tolerance. Now that they have discovered they are also citizens, there is an attempt on the part of the caste Hindus to put them to all the troubles and hardships of the olden days. Young men who are fiery and impetuous appear to be stirring up or creating trouble. It is our duty to go to the countryside and see why such things are there. We must see the disease and not the symptom. Friends like Mr. Nagappa and Mr. B. S. Murthi have said that they are very much carried away, but we have to see what the actual disease is, which leads to all these troubles. And having found the disease, there is no use putting it in an ice-packet and refrigerate it for future Governments or future generations to deal with. We must deal with it as the first problem. I would give next place only to the other agrarian, etc., problems, all of which are of recent origin. As our Mahatmaji put it, this problem had been requiring solution for a long time, and yet we have not grappled with it. It is very unfortunate that our venerable leader, who worked night and day for the betterment of the Harijans' lot is not to-day with us to see that the problem is solved. We have got to solve it with all the force that we can command. We have got to put into practice the lessons that we learnt from him, who to some extent ranked next to God, as a visible God, and taught us the right way in which we should proceed. It is foolish on our part to think, now that we have attained independence, our work is over and all this is only subsidiary, and the only thing that we have got to do is to pluck the fruits of independence, to distribute the land, and to fight communally, territorially or linguistically. Can we not see before our very eyes Mahatmaji's words trickling down at the top, our honourable Prime Minister of India saying that we should not have all these differences between ourselves, but should look at the more fundamental problems. The same thing was said by the ex-President of the Congress a few days back in our place. In the same way I would say let all our differences be sunk, let all these Brahmin, Non-Brahmin, the Dravidasthan, the Andhra and the Tamil, controversies disappear. Let us solve the problem of Harijans first. Let us see that they get their rights, they are placed in their proper position. If only we could tackle with it in that spirit straightaway, we could aid the Harijans.

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Therefore in commending the Harijan Welfare Committee's Report for your acceptance, I say, let us really strip the veil and see what lies behind. And while we tackle it, I would recommend to place all other problems next and deal with the Harijan problem first and foremost, in the following spirit. Whenever there is a partition dispute in any house, usually the cooking pot is taken and placed down on the floor, and unless the dispute is solved, the food is not prepared. I would request Government to go on with that spirit, postponing all other problems. Let us first make a survey of what all is required, of the various recommendations made by the Harijan Welfare Committee. Let us see to it that an efficient machinery is set up, to carry out most of the things at the end of six months, say, with the firm resolve, that by December, the problem should be solved. This should infuse into the Harijans a spirit of confidence and give them an economic background. Yesterday, I was talking to the Commissioner of Kodaikanal Municipality. He was saying, while I was commenting on the fact that there is no land available for the Harijans, that straight from the Observatory up to Naidupet, there was a big stretch of land, which could be given to the Harijans at the rate of about 10 acres of land. There is so much of land, but who is to tell us all that? I would suggest that this Government take the recommendations of the Harijan Welfare Committee and carry them out in the manner stated, with that drive and determination, which is necessary to short-circuit all other problems, and to defy red-tapism.

"I may tell you another thing. The Agriculturists' Relief Act has been extended to those owning lands. But do all of us know that in the village, the Harijan is paid only two kalams of paddy that would amount to Rs. 60, at the present day? Somehow or other, time and again when agricultural labourers' relief is referred to, his cause gets postponed on account of the urgency of others who are more vocal.

"I would request the Government to take courage into their hands and see that something real and truthful is done in the shortest possible time, for the Harijans."

SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM :—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, Harijan Welfare Committee Report-ன் பேரில் கனம் வைத்தியநாதய்யர் இங்கு நன்றாக பேசிவிட்டார். அதை திருப்பிச்சொல்ல வேண்டியதில்லை. புகாரான விஷயங்களை மாத்திரம் குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன். மாகாண ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்ற கமிட்டி ஏற்கனவே லேபர் கமிஷன் தலைமையில் நடந்துவந்தது. அப்பொழுது எம். சி. இராஜா, ஸ்ரீநிவாசன், இன்னும் என் போன்றவர்களும், வி. ஜ. முனிசாமி பிள்ளை, பாஷ்யம் அய்யங்கார், தர்மலிங்கம், வெங்கிடசுப்பராவ், சிவராஜ், மீனும்பான் முதலியவர்கள் மெம்பர்களாக இருந்தார்கள். ஆனால் இப்பொழுது பெரும்பாலும் இந்த அசெம்பிளியில் இருக்கும் மெம்பர்கள் அங்கத்தினராயிருந்தால் தேர்தல் எல்லையிலுள்ள குறைகளை எடுத்துச் சொல்லி நிவர்த்தி செய்ய ஏதுவாயிருக்கும். கமிட்டியில் M.L.A.-க்களை போடாததால் குறைவுகள் இருக்கின்றன.

"மேலும், இந்த ஹரிஜன Welfare Committee Report சரியானதாயில்லை. கமிட்டியின் சரியான வரவு செலவு விவரத்தை இன்னும் பிரசுரிக்கவில்லை.

[Sri A. S. Sahajanandam]

[19th July 1948.]

வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தில் கணக்கு காணப்படவில்லை. ரிபோர்ட்டில், 5, 6 திட்டங்கள் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். வருஷத்திற்கு ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் செலவு செய்வதற்கு திட்டங்கள் போட்டிருக்கவேண்டும். லேபர் டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் நார்ப்பது லட்சம் ரூபாய் செலவுசெய்த பிறகும் இன்னும் பாக்கி 20 லட்சம் ரூபாய் சேர்த்து செலவு செய்ய லேபர் இலாக்காவால் முடியுமாதால் இதற்காகத்தனியே ஒன்று சிருட்டிக்க வேண்டாம். 5, 6 திட்டங்கள் போட்டால் யாதொரு பிரயோஜனமும் இல்லை. நாங்கள் கேட்பது என்னவென்றால் வருஷத்திற்கு 11 கோடி ஒதுக்கவேண்டுமென்பது தான். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு, காங்கிரஸ்காரர்கள் இரக்கம் காட்டுகிறார்களே ஒழிய பங்கு உண்டு என்றும் உரிமையுண்டு என்பதையும் உணரவில்லை. பங்கு கொடுங்கள் என்று கேட்பதுதான் நியாயம். 1939-வது ஆண்டிற்கு முன் வருமானம் 16 கோடி. அந்த காலத்தில் ஒரு கோடி ஒதுக்க வேண்டுமென 1937-ம் வருஷம் ஜூலை மாதம் 15-ம் தேதியில் யான் கேட்டேன். இப்பொழுது சர்க்காருக்கு 56 கோடி ரூபாய் வருமானம் வருகிறது. அதில் ஐந்தில் ஒரு பங்கு ஒதுக்கினால் ஹரிஜனங்கள் சீக்கிரத்தில் முன்னுக்கு வருவார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கி வைத்து அதற்கு 5 வருஷ திட்டம் என்று சொல்வது அது நியாயமற்ற சமாசாரம். அதுவே என்னுடைய வேண்டுகோள்.

“மேலும், ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு அந்த ஒரு கோடியிலிருந்து வீடுகள் கட்டிக்கொடுப்பதற்கு 15 லட்சம் என்பதும் நிலங்கள் வாங்கிக்கொடுப்பதற்கு 20 லட்சம் ரூபாய்கள் என்றும் ஒதுக்கி இருப்பது போதாது. சென்னை சேரிகளைப் பார்த்தால் ரொம்பவும் ஊழலாக இருக்கின்றன. ஆள் போகிற அளவு வீடுகள் இல்லை. கனம் மந்திரிகள் கூர்மையாவும் டேனியல் தாமஸ்-ம் நானும் சென்னையில் ஆழ்வார் சேரியைப் பார்த்தோம். பன்றி கொட்டில் போலிருந்தது. பார்த்தும் இது வரைக்கும் இரண்டு வருஷங்களாகியும் இன்னும் விமோசனம் கிடைக்கவில்லை. இன்னும் வாழைப்புச்சேரி பூக்காரச்சேரி இவைகள் இருக்கின்றன. அவைகள் மெண்ட் ரோட்டிலும் புரவாக்கத்திலும் இருக்கின்றன. அந்த இடங்களை கனம் ஸ்பீக்கர் அவர்களும் இப்பொழுது மதறால் மேயராக இருக்கும் கனம் கிருஷ்ண ராவ் அவர்களும் இன்னும் நமது கனம் அமித்கான் அவர்களும் பார்வையிட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அங்கே இன்னும் விமோசனம் ஏற்படவில்லை. வாழைப்புச்சேரியில் ஹரிஜனங்கள் குடிசை கட்டிக்கொண்டு உட்கார்ந்திருந்தார்கள். இடம் வேண்டுமென்று நிலத்திற்குச் சொந்தக்காரர்கள் வீடுகளை இடித்துவிட்டார்கள். ஆகையால் அவர்களுக்கு வீடுகளை வாங்கிக்கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இன்னும் பூக்காரத் தெருவு இருக்கிறது அங்கே இடம் இருக்கிறது. அவைகளை அவர்களுக்கு கொடுக்க வேண்டும். புரவாக்கத்தில் இடம் இருக்கிறது. அவைகளை வாங்கிக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். அங்கே இருக்கிறவர்கள் வாங்கின கடனை கொடுக்க முடியாமல் இருப்பதால் வீடுகளை எலம் போட்டுவிட்டார்கள். இவர்களுக்கெல்லாம் சர்க்கார் மனம் இரங்கி மனைகள் வாங்கிக்கொடுக்க வேண்டும். இந்தமாதிரி இப்பொழுது நடந்துகொண்டு வருகிறது. மாம்பலம் தியாகராயநகர் கீழ்ப்பரத்தில் சன் தியேட்டர் சம்பத்தில் 300 வீடுகள் கட்டிக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். அவைகளை கார்ப்போரேஷனில் பார்த்திருக்கிறார்கள். கார்ப்போரேஷன் சிப்பந்திகளைக்கொண்டு பிரித்து விட்டார்கள். கார்ப்போரேஷனிலேயே இவ்விதம் இருந்தால் மற்றவர்களை கேட்பானேன். சுதந்திரம் கிடைத்த கவர்ன்மெண்டில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு சர்க்கார் நிலத்தில் வீடு கட்டிக்கொள்ளும் உரிமை இல்லாதிருந்தால் வேறு என்ன இருக்கிறது. இந்த சென்னை மாகாணத்தில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு குடியிருக்க வீடுகள் கட்ட இடம் வாங்கிக் கொடுக்க வேண்டும்.

“தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவிலும், சிதம்பரம் தாலுகா முதலிய இடங்களிலும் காவேரி, வெள்ளாறு கொள்ளிடம் ஆறு பாசனங்கள் இருப்பதால் மிராசதார்கள் குழ்ச்சியால் மனைக்கட்டுகள் இல்லாமல் இருக்கின்றன. அவைகளை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு வாங்கிக்கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இன்னும் இந்த ஊர்களில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு வீடுகள் சொந்தமாயிருக்க மிராசதார்கள் விடுவது இல்லை. ஏனென்றால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு வீடும் பூமியும் இருந்தால் மிராசதார்கள் சொல்படி கேட்கமாட்டார்கள் என்றும்

[19th July 1948] [Sri A. S. Sahajanandam]

அவர்களுடைய வேலைக்கு வரமாட்டார்களென்றும் அவர்களுக்கு வீடுகள் இருக்கவிடுவது இல்லை. அப்படி ஏதாவது இருந்தால் பண்ணைக்கு வரமாட்டான் என்று வீடுகளைப் பிரித்து எறிந்துவிடுகிறார்கள். இன்னும் தொழிலாளி தனக்கு வீடு சொந்தமில்லை என்றும் மிராசதார்களுக்குத்தான் சொந்தமென்றும் ஹரிஜனங்களிடமிருந்து எழுதி வாங்கி வைத்துக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். இவ்விதமாக ஹரிஜனங்கள் வீடின்றமையால் மிராசதார்களுக்கு அடிமையாகின்றார்கள். இந்த ஹரிஜனங்களை மாட்டுக்கு மூக்கங்கயிறு போட்டு நடத்துவதுபோல் வீடின்றமையென்னும் கயிற்றால் கட்டி தங்கள் இஷ்டம் போல் நடத்துகிறார்கள். இதனால்தான் ஹரிஜனங்கள் மிராசதார்களுடைய நிலங்களில் குடியிருந்து அவர்களுக்கு பயந்துகொண்டு நடந்து வருகிறார்கள். இப்படி இருப்பது நியாயமா என்று கேட்கிறேன். ஆகையால் இந்த ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு மனைக்கட்டுகளையும் வீடுகளையும் சொந்தமாக்க வேண்டும். இந்த லேபர் டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் இந்த ஹரிஜனங்கள் முன்னேற்றமடையும் பொருட்டு மனைக்கட்டுகள் வாங்கிக்கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இன்னும் இந்த மிராசதார்கள் நிலங்களுக்கு சுற்றிலும் மனைக்கட்டு இருக்கக்கூடாது. இதற்கு முன் கொடுத்ததை யெல்லாம் Grow more food காலத்தில் இந்த மிராசதார்கள் அவைகளை தாங்களே வாங்கிக்கொண்டு தங்களுடைய சொந்த உபயோகப்படுத்திக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். சர்க்கார் அவர்களே பிடிங்கிக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். புறம்போக்கு நிலங்களை இப்பொழுது இந்த மிராசதார்கள் ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய உதவியால் பயிரிடும் நிலமாக மாற்றிக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றார்கள். இதன்படியே உத்திரவு போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது தாசில்தாருடைய உத்திரவு இருக்கிறது. கீழ் நெடுமபூர் கிராமத்தில் நடந்திருக்கிறது. ஹரிஜனங்கள் தற்போது வீடு கட்டியிருக்கும் நிலங்களை காலி செய்யும்படியும் வீடுகள் கட்டியிருந்தால் அவைகளை பிரித்து விடும்படியும் உத்திரவு போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இது நியாயமா? இவ்விதம் கீழ் நெடுமபூரில் மிகவுயர்ந்த வீலைக்கு சர்க்கார் வீலைக்கு வாங்கிக்கொடுத்த மனைகளை தூத்து வீடு கட்டமுடியாமல் மிராசதார்கள் செய்து அந்நிலங்களை சர்க்கார் புறம்போக்காக்கி சர்க்கார் 13 பேர்களுக்கு நோட்டீஸ் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். லேபர் டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் பணம்போட்டு வாங்கிய நஞ்சை நிலத்தில் வீடு கட்டிக்கொள்ள முடியாமல் செய்து கிராம அதிகாரிகள் ஆழ்ச்சியால் பிறகு அதை காலியெய்ச் செய்து முடிவாக மணியக்காரரே அடினைப் பயிரிடுகிறார். ஆகையால் நஞ்சை நிலங்களில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு வீடுகட்டிக்கொள்வதற்கு நிலம் கொடுக்கக்கூடாது. மேட்டுப்பான்மையான இடங்களில் அவர்களுக்கு இடம் விட்டுக்கொடுக்கவேண்டும். தஞ்சாவூர், சிதம்பரத்தில் புறம்போக்கில் வீடுகட்டி விட்டார்கள். இன்னும் வீடு கட்டிக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றார்கள். அது தனம் புறம்போக்கு அதனால் வீட்டைப் பிரித்துவிட்டு நிலத்தை காலிசெய் என்று சர்க்கார் சொல்வது நியாயமா? ஆகையால் மேட்டுப்பாங்கான இடங்களில் வீடுகளை சொந்தமாக கட்டிக்கொள்ளச் சொல்வது ரொம்பவும் நியாயமாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் கட்டின வீடுகளை பிரிக்கச் சொல்லக்கூடாது. ஒரு மிராசதார் ஊரெல்லாம் நிலம் வைத்துக்கொண்டிருப்பதோடல்லாமல் ஏழை, வீடு கட்டிய மேட்டு பூமியை பொது புறம்போக்கென்பது நியாயமா? ஒருவர் 10 நாட்கள் கனம் போட்டுக்கொண்டு வருவது பொதுவா ஏழைகள் 100 பேர் வருஷ முழுதும் வசிப்பது பொதுவா? சிந்தித்துப்பார்த்துப் பலருக்கும் பயன்படும்படி செய்யவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் stay order கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இன்னும் நிலங்களை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு சொந்தமாக்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இப்பொழுது ரிபோர்ட்டில் வீடுகட்டிக்கொள்வதற்கு 15 லட்சம் ஒதுக்கி வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். மாகாணம் பூராவும் வீடு கட்டிக் கொடுப்பதாக இருந்தால் இது போதாது. எளிய வீடுகள் கட்டிக்கொடுக்கவேண்டும். ஆஸ்பெஸ்டால் தகடுவெய்ந்த வீடுகள் கட்டி கொடுக்கவேண்டும். 15 லட்சம் ரூபாயை வீணா சிலவுசெய்யாமல் எளிய நடைமையில் அவர்களுக்கு வீடுகட்டிக்கொடுத்தாலும் வெள்ளத்திற்கும் நெருப்புக்கும் இரையாகாத வீடுகள் கட்டிக் கொடுத்தால் அவர்களுக்கு பிரயோஜனமாக இருக்கும்.

[Sri A. S. Sahajanandam] [19th July 1948]

“பொது சுகாதாரத்திற்காகவும் ஜல வசதிக்காகவும் மாகாணத்தில் கோடிக்கணக்காக ஒதுக்கி இருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு அதற்காக 10 லட்சம் ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கியிருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது கிணறுகள் வெட்டு வதற்காக 10 லட்சம் ஒதுக்க வேண்டாம். பொது நிதியிலிருந்து கிணறுகளை வெட்டிக்கொடுக்கலாம். இன்னும் குடிசைத் தொழிலுக்காக 10 லட்சம் ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கி இருப்பது போதாது. இப்பொழுது முக்கியமாக ஒரு விஷயத்தைக் குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன். அதைப்பற்றி இதுவரை ஒருவரும் சொல்லவில்லை. அதாவது வெள்ளையர்கள் இந்த நாட்டைவிட்டு போவதற்கு முன்னால், அவர்கள் வீட்டுத் தொழிலாளர்களாகப் பலர் பிழைத்திருந்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது காங்கிரஸ் சர்க்கார் ஏற்பட்டது. காங்கிரஸ் ஆட்சிக்கு வந்தபிறகு இந்தச் சேரியிலுள்ளவர்களுக்குச் சர்க்கார் மூலம் ஒன்றும் உதவிசெய்யவில்லை. வெள்ளையர்கள் இங்கு ஆட்சி செய்தகாலத்தில் அவர்கள் இந்த ஹரி ஜனங்களை தங்களிடம் வேலைக்கு வைத்துக் காப்பாற்றி வந்தார்கள். அவர்கள் போனபிறகு இந்த ஹரி ஜனங்கள் வேலையில்லாமல் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் இப்பொழுது வேலை மில்லாமல் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். காங்கிரஸ் ஆட்சி ஏற்பட்டும் பிரிட்டிஷ் ஆட்சி யொழியவும் அநேக காங்கிரஸ் தொண்டர்கள் தியாகம் செய்தார்கள் இப்பொழுது சர்க்கார் அவர்களுக்கு நிலங்கள் கொடுக்கப் போகிறார்கள். காங்கிரஸ் ஆட்சி ஏற்பட்டு பிரிட்டிஷ் ஆட்சி போனதால் உண்மையில் பிரிட்டிஷார் வீட்டுத் தொழிலாளர்கள் உணவின்றிக் கஷ்டமடைகிறார்கள். இவர்கள் உண்மையில் சோழிமுத்த தியாகிகள். இந்தமாதிரியான ஹரிஜனங்களைக் காப்பாற்றவேண்டும். கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் அவர்களை தங்களிடம் வேலைக்கு வைத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும்.

“விருதாஜலத்தில் அநேகம் பணக்காரர்கள் அங்கே காங்கிரஸ் தியாகிகள் என்று அநேகம் பெரிய பணக்காரர்கள் நிலத்திற்காக விண்ணப்பம் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த நிலங்களை காடுகிறதே இந்த ஹரிஜனங்கள் தான் 50 வருஷமாக பயிர் செய்து வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். விருத்தாஜலம் தாலுகா, ஆவினாக்குடி, கோடிக்காளம் கிராமத்தில் 55 ஏக்கர்கள், 40 ஏக்கர்கள் இவர்கள் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இவற்றை 150 ஹரிஜனங்கள் 20 வருஷமாக பயிரிடுகிறார்கள். இவர்களுக்கு காங்கிரஸ் தியாகிகள் தொந்தரவுகள் கொடுத்து வருகிறார்கள். இந்த ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு தாழ்வு செய்யக்கூடாது. பிரிட்டிஷ் ஆட்சியில் 40, 50 ஏக்கர் நிலம் வைத்துக்கொண்டு பிழைத்து வந்த ஹரி ஜனங்களை தொந்தரவு செய்பவர்கள் தியாகிகளாவார்களா? அது தியாகமா? என்று கேட்கிறேன். உண்மையாக தன்னுடைய பொருள்களை இழந்து தேசத்திற்கு உழைத்தவர்கள் தான் தியாகிகளாவார்கள். இந்த மாதிரி ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு தொந்தரவு கொடுத்து 40, 50 ஏக்கர் நிலம் வைத்து ஜீவனம் செய்துவருபவர்கள் தியாகிகளாவார்களா? ஏழைகளுக்கு தொந்தரவு கொடுப்பவர்கள் தியாகிகளாவார்களா? தியாகிகளுக்கு சர்க்கார் நிலம் கொடுப்பதாக இருந்தால் வாஸ்தவத்தில் ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்குதான் நிலம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும் ஆகையால் நிறைய நிலம் வைத்துக்கொண்டிருப்பவர்களுக்கு தியாகிகள் என்று நிலம் கொடுப்பது சரியல்ல. ஏழை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குத்தான் நிலம் கொடுத்துத் தவ வேண்டும். இன்னும் இந்த வெள்ளையர்கள் குடியேறினபிறகு அவர்கள் ஒவ்வொருவரிடமும் 10 ஹரிஜன சிப்பந்திகள் வேலையில்லிருந்தவர்கள் இப்பொழுது வேலையில்லாமல் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது அந்த மாதிரி ஒரு வெள்ளையன் போனதால் 10 பேர்கள் விசித்தலில் ஜீவனம் போய் விட்டது. அவர்கள் உபகாரம் வேண்டுமென்று சர்க்காரை வேண்டிக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களிடம் கொஞ்சம் கவனம் செலுத்தவேண்டும். இந்த அசெம்பலியில் அவர்களைப்பற்றி சொல்வதற்கு ஒருவரும் இல்லை. அப்படிப்பட்டவர்கள் சென்னையில் அநேகம் பேர்களுக்குக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு விமோசனம் தேடவேண்டியது சர்க்காருடைய கடமையாக இருக்கிறது. கனம் மந்திரிகளும் அவர்களை தங்களிடம் வேலையில் வைத்துக்கொள்ளலாம். ஒரு வெள்ளைக்காரனால் ஒரு பத்து வீடுகள் பிழைத்துக்கொண்டிருந்தான். இது விஷயத்தில் மந்திரியவர்களும் லேபர் டிபார்ட்மென்டும் கவனம் செலுத்தவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

19th July 1948] [Sri A. S. Sahajanandam]

“உணவு பொருள் விஷயமாக புரம்போக்கு நிலங்களை ஹரிஜனங்கள் செப்பனிட்டு பயிர் செய்து சாகுபடிக்கு லாயக்காக்கி வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். தாங்களே செலவு செய்து சாகுபடி செய்து வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கே அந்த நிலங்களைக் கொடுப்பது நியாயமாக இருக்கிறது. மிராசுதார்களுடைய நிலங்களை ஹரிஜனங்களே பண்படுத்தி பயிர் செய்து வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். அதுதான் அவர்களுக்கு ஜீவனம். கால நிலைமையை உத்தேசித்து கூலியை சிறிது உயர்த்தி-தா என்று கேட்டால் இவைகளை மிராசுதாரர்கள் பிடுங்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் இது நியாயமாகாது. இது விஷயமாக சர்க்கார் கொஞ்சம் கவனம் செலுத்த வேண்டும். மேலும் ஏழை தொழிலாளர்கள் தொழில் இல்லாமல் கஷ்டப்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இதைப்பற்றி கனம் வைத்யநாதய்யர் ரொம்பவும் விரிவாக எடுத்துச் சொல்லிவிட்டார்கள்.”

“இப்பொழுது விவசாயத்தில் கூலி விஷயமாக தகராறுகள் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. கூலியைக் குறைத்துக் கொடுப்பதால் ஹரிஜனங்கள் மிராசுதாரர்களிடம் வேலைக்குச் செல்லமாட்டேனென்கிறார்கள். அதனால் மிராசுதாரர்கள் வேலையாட்களை வெளியூர்களிலிருந்து கொண்டுவந்து விவசாயம் நடத்துகிறார்கள். உள்நூர் ஆட்களை வேலைக்குச் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளமாட்டேன் என்கிறார்கள். இது சரியல்ல. அதனால் உள்நூர் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு பிழைப்பு இல்லாமல் போய் விடுகிறது, வெளியாட்களுக்கும் உள்நூர் ஆட்களுக்கும் கலகமுண்டாகிறது. இதற்குச் சர்க்கார் உடனே ஒரு அவசரச் சட்டம் பிரப்பிளிக் வேண்டும். வெளியூர்களிலிருந்து வேலையாட்களைக் கொண்டு வரக்கூடாது என்றும் உள்நூர் வேலையாட்களையே வேலையில் வைத்துக் கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்றும் ஒரு அவசரச் சட்டம் சர்க்கார் போடவேண்டும். இதைப்பற்றி கனம் ரிவினியூ மந்திரியைக் கேட்டால் அவர் சென்ற வருஷமே சட்டம் எழுதி பிரதமர் மேஜையில் வைத்தாய் விட்டது. அவர் இன்னும் கையெழுத்துப் போடவில்லை. மேஜையில் அப்படியே இருக்கிறது என்கிறார். பிரதமர்தான் இன்னும் கையெழுத்துப் போடவில்லை. ஏழைப் பங்களாகிய நம் பிரதமர் வந்து கூட ஏழைகளுக்கு செலாகியம் கிடைக்கவில்லையென்றால் ஏழைகள் என்னதான் செய்ய முடியும். அவர் தயவு உண்டாக வேண்டுமென்று நினைத்தால் தாமதமாக வந்து விடும். ஆகையால் உடனே ஒரு அவசரச் சட்டம் பிறப்பித்து ஏழைகளுக்கு சௌகரியம் செய்யவேண்டும். கிராமந்திராங்களில் அந்தந்த ஊர் ஆட்களை வைத்துக்கொண்டுதான் வேலை செய்யவேண்டும்.”

“இன்னும் கோவில் நிலங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. 5,000, 6,000 ஏக்கர் நிலங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. இந்த நிலங்களில் வரும் வரும்படியை மத்தியில் இருக்கும் தரகர்கள் எடுத்துக்கொள்கிறார்கள். ஆதினங்களில் ஒரு ஒப்பந்தம் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஒரு ஏக்கருக்கு 10 கலம் கொடுத்து விட வேண்டும் என்று ஒப்பந்தம் செய்து கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். இந்த மத்தியில் இருப்பவர்களே. இந்த மத்தியில் இருப்பவர்கள் அதே நிலங்களை ஹரி ஜனங்களிடம் ஒப்பந்தத்திற்கு விட்டு ஏக்கர் ஒன்றுக்கு 30 கலம் நெல் வாங்கிக் கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். இதனால் இந்த மத்தியிலுள்ளவர்கள் 20 கலம் நெல் லாபம் அடைகிறார்கள். தர்மகர்த்தாவுக்கு கொடுக்கும் டிபாசிட்டிக்குமேல் இவர்களுக்கு கிடைக்கிறது. இதை உடனே நிறுத்தவேண்டும். இதில் சர்க்கார் தீவிரமாக சிரத்தை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு கொஞ்சம் கவனிக்க வேண்டும். இப்பொழுது ஜமீன்தார், இனாம்தார் இவர்களை ஒழிக்கும் சமயத்தில் இடையில் இருந்துகொண்டு லாபம் அடைகிறவர்களை லாபமடையவிடக்கூடாது. இது ஒரு முக்கியமான காரியம். இதையும் உடனே கவனிக்கவேண்டும். நிலத்தில் உழும் தொழிலாளர்களை 2 அல்லது 3 ஏக்கர் வீதம் பிரித்து டிப்பாசிட் இல்லாமல் கொடுக்கவேண்டும்.

“சுகாதார கிராமங்களில் பெண்களுக்கு வேண்டிய கக்கூஸ் கிடையாது. சேரியில் குப்பை கூளங்களைப்போவதற்கு இட வசதி கிடையாது. இவைகளை யெல்லாம் உடனே

MR. SPEAKER :—“நங்கள் இப்பொழுது முடித்துக்கொண்டு பாக் கியை 2½ மணிக்குமேல் பேசுங்கள்.”

[19th July 1948]

The House will now adjourn for lunch and meet again at 2-30 p.m.

The House adjourned.

(After lunch---2-30 p.m.)

SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, சேரியில் பெண்களுக்கு மறைவும் குப்பைகள் கொட்டுவதற்கு இடவசதியும் கிடையாது. மேலும் மயானத்திற்கு போவதற்கு கூட வழி கிடையாது. எவ்வளவோ குடிகள் பலமுறைகளில் பல கிராமங்களில் அபராதம் கொடுத்து வருகிறார்கள். ஆகையால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு மயானத்திற்கு வழி ஏற்படுத்திக் கொடுக்க வேண்டும். இன்னும் மற்ற அம்சங்களிலும் ஹரிஜனங்களை தாழ்வுபடுத்துகிறார்கள். என்னென்றால் அவர்கள் கோ மாமசம் சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள் என்பதற்காக. நாட்டில் செத்துப்போன மாட்டை எடுக்கும் விஷயத்தில் தன் மரியாதையை உத்தேசித்து நாட்டில் ஆலயப் பிடுவேசம் ஏற்பட்டிருப்பதாலும் சத்திரம், சாவடி, ஒட்டல்களில் போக அனுமதி கிடைத்ததாலும், மற்றவர்களிலும் தான் வேறுபடக்கூடாது என்று கோ மாமிசம் சாப்பிடாமலும் எடுக்காமலும் அப்படி செய்வது இழிவேனென்று செய்யமாட்டேனென்கிறார். அதனால் கலகம் உண்டாகிறது. மது விலக்கு திட்டம் சர்க்கார் ஒன்று கொண்டு வந்தது போல் இதற்கும் ஒரு திட்டம் வகுக்கவேண்டும். அவர்களுக்கு இஷ்டமில்லாவிட்டால் அவர்கள் செத்த மாட்டை சாப்பிட்டுச் சொல்வது கூடாது. அவர்களுக்கு இஷ்டமிருந்தால் தான் அவர்களை செத்த மாட்டை எடுக்கச்சொல்லலாம். இதையொட்டி ஒரு சட்டம் சர்க்கார் போடவேண்டும். நிர்ப்பந்தம் செய்யக்கூடாது.

“**கல்வி.**—மேலும் கல்விக்காக ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு பணம் ஒதுக்கவேண்டும். பல இடங்களில் கல்விக்காக சர்க்கார் பணம் ஒதுக்கி இருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது ஹரிஜன நிதியில் கல்விக்கு பணம் ஒதுக்கவில்லை. சிதம்பரத்தில் நந்தனார் பள்ளிக்கூடத்திற்கு கட்டிடம் கட்டிக்கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டேன். கமிட்டி பணம் ஒதுக்கவில்லை என்று சொல்லிவிட்டார்கள். அந்தப் பள்ளிக்கூடம் 30 வருஷமாக நடைபெற்று வருகிறது. அந்த ஸ்தாபனம் இப்பொழுது ஹை ஸ்கூலாக நடக்கிறது. அங்கே 200, 300 பிள்ளைகள் இலவச உணவு பெற்று இலவசமாக வாசித்து வருகிறார்கள். குடிசைக் கட்டிடத்திலிருந்து வாசித்துவருகிறார்கள். சர்க்காரில் கட்டிடம் கட்டிக்கொடுக்க வேண்டும் என்று திட்டம் எழுதியனுப்பினேன். இந்த நிதியில் கல்விக்குப் பணம் ஒதுக்கவில்லை. திருப்பியனுப்பிவிட்டார்கள். ஆனால் தர்க்கர் பாபா வித்யாலயத்திற்கு லட்சத்து என்பது ஆயிரம் ரூபாய் வரையில் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் நந்தனார் பள்ளிக்கு கொடுக்கவில்லை என்பதற்காக தர்க்கர் பாபா ஸ்தாபனத்திற்குக் கொடுக்கக்கூடாது என்று நான் சொல்லவில்லை. ஒதுக்கிய ஒரு கோடி ரூபாயிலிருந்து அதற்குக் கொடுத்தாற்போல் நந்தனார் பள்ளிக்கூடத்திற்கும் கட்டிட நிதிக்காகக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்றுதான் கேட்கிறேன். இதைப்பற்றி விண்ணப்பம் செய்திருக்கிறேன். மேலும் இந்த ஒரு கோடி ரூபாயைப் பற்றி தகவல் ஒன்றும் தெரியவில்லை. பட்ஜெட்டில் இருக்கிறது என்று பார்த்தாலும் ஒன்றும் தெரியவில்லை. ஏதோ மூலையில் இருப்பதாகச் சொன்னார்கள். அதில் எவ்வளவு செலவாகி இருக்கிறது என்பதும் தெரியவில்லை. இந்த நிதியிலிருந்து கல்வி இலாகாவிற்கு 5, 6 லட்சம் எடுத்துக்கொண்டிருப்பதாகவும் தெரிகிறது. அது எதற்கு என்று விசாரித்தால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு scholarship கொடுத்து வருவதற்காக இந்த ஒரு கோடி ரூபாயிலிருந்து எடுத்துக்கொண்டிருப்பதாக தெரிகிறது. இந்த விஷயம் ஹரிஜன் மாகாண கமிட்டிக்குத் தெரியாது. அந்த முறையில் education department நடக்கிறது. இவ்விதம் அந்தந்த இலாகாவிற்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்வது என்பது சரியல்ல. அது உண்மையாக இருந்தால் கமிட்டிக்குத் தெரிவிக்காதது பெரும் தவறு. அப்படி இருந்தால் படிப்புக்கு என் ஹரிஜன நிதியிலிருந்து பணம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும் அப்படி செய்வதாக இருந்தால் நாங்கள் ஐந்தில் ஒரு பங்கு இருக்கிறோம். அதற்குத் தகுந்தாற்போல் ஐந்தில் ஒரு பங்கு பணம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். வருமானத்தில் ஐந்தில் ஒரு பங்காகிய 11 கோடி ரூபாய் எங்களுக்கு

[19th July 1948]

[Sri A. S. Sahajanandam]

ஒதுக்கவேண்டும். இவைகளைப்பற்றி கனம் வைத்யனாதய்யர் வெகுவாக சொல்லிவிட்டார். இது தவிரான விஷயம் வேறு ஒன்றுமில்லை. மேலும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு தனியாக பள்ளிக்கூடம் வேண்டாம் என்று சர்க்கார் கல்ய சற்றறிக்கை விட்டிருப்பதாக தெரியவருகிறது. சில ஆபீசர்கள்கூட சொன்னார்கள். அங்கு இருக்கும் District Educational ஆபீசர்கள்கூட தனிப்பள்ளிக்கூடம் வேண்டாம் என்று சொல்வதாக தெரியவருகிறது. அப்படி இருந்தால் ஹரிஜனக் குழந்தைகள் 1½, 2 மைல் தூரம் சென்று பள்ளிக்கூடம் போகவேண்டியதாக இருக்கும். அப்படி குழந்தைகளுக்கு போய் வருமுடியுமா? ஆறு கடந்து குளம் வாய்க்கால்கள் கடந்து சென்று படித்துவருமுடியுமா? சேரிகளில் அவர்களுக்கு தனியாக பள்ளிக்கூடம் இருந்தால் அங்கே குழந்தைகள் படித்து முன்னுக்கு வரலாம் என்று சொல்லுகிறேன். அப்படி தனிப்பள்ளிக்கூடம் வேண்டாம் என்று சொன்னால் அது அறுபவத்தில் வரக்கூடியது இல்லை. கிராமங்களில் 20 or 30, 40, 50, வீடுகளும் இருக்கின்றன. இங்கு தனியாக ஒரு உபாத்தியாயர் இருந்து நடத்தலாம். சில இடங்களில் 50-க்கு மேல் 100, 200, 300, 400 வீடுகளிருக்கின்றன. இங்குள்ள பிள்ளைகளுக்குத் தனிப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள் வேண்டாமென்றால் ஊர் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் 2, 3, 4 வாத்தியார்கள் அதிகமாக நியமிக்கவேண்டும். குழந்தைகள் நலனை உத்தேசித்து ஹரிஜன் சேரியிலேயே பள்ளிகளைமைக்க வேண்டும். சமமான அந்தஸ்து வேண்டுமென்றால் தனிப்பள்ளிக்கூடம் வேண்டாமென்பதில்லை. ஹை ஸ்கூலுக்கும் தனியாக பள்ளிக்கூடம் வேண்டியதில்லை. ஆனாலும் இன்னும் மார்க்குகள் கொடுக்கும் விஷயத்தில் இந்த உபாத்தியாயர்கள் ஹரிஜன குழந்தைகளுக்கு வேண்டிய மார்க்குகள் போடுவதில்லை. முன்னெற்றமடைத்து விடுவார்களென்று நினைத்து அப்படி போடுவதில்லை. ஆகையால் ஹரிஜன குழந்தைகளைப் படிக்கப்போவதற்கு முடியாமலிருக்கிறார்கள். ஹரிஜன குழந்தைகளுக்கு கொஞ்ச நாளைக்கு தனிப்பள்ளிக்கூடம் கட்டிக்கொடுக்க வேண்டியதவசியமாக இருக்கிறது. அப்பொழுதுதான் அவர்கள் முன்னெற்றமடைவார்கள். மேலும் ஒவ்வொரு கிராமங்களிலும் உயர்தர பாடசாலை ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். பூலாதாரப் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தோடு மத்யதர உயர்தர பள்ளிக்கூடங்களும் அமைக்கவேண்டியதவசியமாக இருக்கிறது. அதற்கு வேண்டிய ஹாஸ்டல்களும் ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். ஜாதி ஹிந்து இன்னும் சூழ்ச்சியாகவே வேலை செய்துவருகிறார்கள். அதனால்தான் ஹரிஜன முன்னெற்றமடையாமலிருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் சென்னையில் ஒரு பெரிய ஹாஸ்டல் ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டுமாய் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“மேலும் பயிர் தொழிலாளர்கள் விஷயத்தில் கொஞ்சம் குறைகளை இருக்கின்றன. நெல் உண்டாகும் நாட்டில் இப்பொழுது பஞ்சம் அதிகமாக ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதற்குக் காரணம் விலை வாரிகள் அதிகமாக இருக்கின்றன. ஆனால் தானியத்தின் விலைமட்டும் ஏராமல் இருப்பதால்தான் இந்த பஞ்சம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இதனால் தொழிலாளர்களிடையே சம்பளத்தை உயர்த்துவதற்கு சந்தர்ப்பம் வந்திருக்கிறது. அதற்காக தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லா, சிதம்பரம் டிவிஷன் முதலிய இடங்களில் கலகங்கள் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. இந்த கலகங்களில் அநேகம் அகிராமங்கள் நடந்திருக்கின்றன. தஞ்சாவூரில் குப்புசாமியைக் கொன்றுவிட்டார்கள். சிதம்பரம் தாலுகாவில் எளநாங்கூர் கிராமத்தில் திருப்பதி, சவாமிக்கண்ணு என்று இரண்டு பேர்களையும் கொன்றுவிட்டார்கள். அதன்மேல் போலீஸ் enquiry நடப்பதாக தெரிகிறது. ஆனால் கோர்ட்டில் நடக்கும் விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி பேசக்கூடாது என்று சொல்லுவார்கள். கோர்ட்டில் நடவடிக்கை இல்லை. போலீஸ்தான் விசாரணை நடக்கிறது. அதனால்தான் அதைப்பற்றி பேசுகிறேன். ஆனால் இப்பொழுது நடைமுறையில் பார்த்தால் கொலை செய்தாலும் கோர்ட்டில் தண்டனை கிடைப்பது இல்லை. இப்பொழுது நடந்த கொலைகளுக்கு மிராசதாரர்கள் 60, 70 என்று வருலித்து கேசை ஒன்று மில்லாமல் செய்ய ஏற்பாடு செய்துவருகிறார்கள். இதனால் போலீசார்களும் அவ்வளவு சிரத்தையாக வேலை செய்வதாக இல்லை. ஆகையால் இந்தக் கேஸ்கள் கடைசி வரையில் நீலைக்குமா என்பதுதான் என்னுடைய சந்தேகம். மேலும் நான் ஒரு கம்ப்யூனிஸ்டும் அல்ல, சோஷலிஸ்டும் அல்ல. ஏதாவது கலகம் நடந்தால் நான் அங்கே சென்று யோசனை சொல்வது வழக்கம். தகராறுகளையும் தீர்த்துவைப்பது உண்டு. நம்முடைய Prohibition

[Sri A. S. Sahajanandam]

[19th July 1948]

Minister கூட சிதம்பரம் வந்த காலத்தில் மிராசுதாரர்களோடு கூடாது கூட்டி தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் மிராசுதாரர்களுக்கும் ஏற்பட்ட தகராறுகளை தீர்த்துவதற்கு சமாதானம் செய்து வைத்தோம். கூலித்தகராள் இருக்கிறது. அவர்களுக்கு குறைந்தபட்ச கூலி கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லிவந்தோம். அதற்காக மிராசுதாரர்கள் என்னைப்பற்றி வேறு விதமாக நிலைக்கிறார்கள். நான் அசெம்பிளி மெம்பராக இருப்பதால் இங்கே வந்து எதோ கூச்சல் போட்டு மந்திரிகளை அழைத்து வந்திறேன் என்றும் மந்திரிகள் வந்த இடத்தில் அவர்களோடு கலந்து கூச்சல் போடுகிறேன் என்றும் அதனால் மந்திரிகள் ஒருபக்கமாக இருந்து மிராசுதாரர்களுக்கு சிதம்பரம் தாலுகாவில் பல கொலைகள் ருசுவாகாமல் போய்விட்டன. அதனால் பாதகம் ஏற்படுகிறது என்றும் அதற்காக என்னைக்கூட கொலை செய்வதற்கு திட்டம் போட்டிருப்பதாகவும் தெரியவருகிறது. இவர்களின் பண்டாச்சிகள் ஜாஸ்தியாக இருக்கின்றார்கள். நான் இதைச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்று கனம் பரமபந்தராயர் வருத்தப்பட்டக்கூடாது. இந்த மிராசுதாரர்கள் கையாள்களாக பண்டாச்சிகளை வைத்துக்கொண்டு இந்த மாதிரி கொலை செய்வார்களென்றால் இந்த மாதிரி கொலை செய்வதற்கு துணிவு வந்ததெல்லாம் கார்த்தியை கொலை செய்ததின் பிறகு சர்வ சகஜமாக வந்திருக்கிறது. இவைகளைத்தடுக்க சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். ஏழைதொழிலாளர்களுக்கு சர்க்கார் பாதுகாப்பு கொடுக்கவேண்டும். முக்கியமாக வெளியூர் லிருந்து ஆள்களை கொண்டுவந்து வைத்து வேலை நடத்துவது என்பது கூடாது. அப்படி செய்வதால் கிராமத்திலுக்கும் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு வேலை கிடைக்காமல் ஒழிச்சைப் படுகிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு சரியான கூலி கிடைக்காததால்தான் வேலைக்குப் போவதில்லை. அதிகக் கூலி கொடுக்காததால்தான் சிசான் தகராறுகளும் கம்புனியின் தகராறுகளும் ஏற்படுகின்றன. அவர்களுக்கு கூலி கொஞ்சம் அதிகமாக கொடுத்து விட்டால் கலகம் உண்டாகாது. இதற்கு வேண்டிய சட்டம் சர்க்கார் பரப்பணை வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். ஒரு அவசர சட்டம் போட வேண்டும். தேசிய கவர்ன்மென்ட் வந்த பிறகு இந்தமாதிரியான தகராறுகள் நடக்கக்கூடாது.

“தேசிய கவர்ன்மெண்டு வந்தபிறகு அநேகம் கோவில்களை திறந்துவிட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இன்னும் பல ஊர்களில் தீண்டாமை போகவே இல்லை. ஒரே விஷயத்தை மாதிரம் நான் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். திறந்த கோவில்கள் மூடிக்கிடக்கின்றன. நம்முடைய சபாநாயகரும் மந்திரிகளும் கோவில்களை திறந்துவிட்டபிறகு இன்னும் பல கோவில்கள் திறக்கப்படவே இல்லை. அதனால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு விடுதலைவே இல்லை. சாதாரணமாக மக்களால் கோவில்கள் திறக்கப்படவே இல்லை. திறந்த கோவில் களில் ஒன்றில் அதாவது நாங்கூர், திருநகரி முதலிய கோவில்களில் பெரிய உதவையாகத் திறுத்திவிட்டார்கள். ஆகையால் இது விஷயமாக சர்க்கார் கொஞ்சம் தீவிரமான முயற்சி எடுத்துக்கொண்டு எல்லா கோவில்களையும் திறந்துவிடவேண்டும். இன்னும் சில ஊர்களில் கோவில்களில் போனவர்கள்மேல் நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு அவர்களுக்கு நிர்பந்த மும் கொண்டுவந்துவிட்டார்கள். ரேஷன் மூலம் அவர்களுக்கு உணவு பொருள்கள் கொடுப்பது இல்லை. இதைப்பற்றி அநேகம் விண்ணப்பங்கள் வந்திருக்கின்றன. இது விஷயமாக சர்க்கார் கொஞ்சம் கண்ணைத் திறக்க வேண்டும்.

“தொழிற்கமிஷன் இலாகாவில் உதயோகங்கள்.—மேலும் ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு லேபர் டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் மேலிருந்து கீழ்வரைக்கும் ஹரிஜனங்களாக இருந்தால்தான் அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டியதைச் செய்வார்கள். மந்திரி கூர்மையா இப்பொழுது இருக்கிறார். லேபர் கமிஷனர் ஒரு ஹரிஜனாக இருக்கவேண்டும். தொழிற்கமிஷனருக்கு பல தொழில்கள் இருக்கின்றன. ஆகையால் ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு ஒவ்வொரு அபிச்சும் ஹரிஜனமாக இருக்கவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது திரு. பாலசுந்தரம் P. A. ஆக இருந்தவர் அவர் லண்டன் சென்று தொழிலாளர் இயக்கம் கற்றுவந்தால் அவரை கமிஷனராகவேண்டும். அவரைப்போல் மற்றவர்களையும் போடவேண்டும். டிபடி கலெக்டர்கள் ஹரிஜனமாக இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் லேபர் டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் ஜில்லா ஆபீஸராக

[19th July 1948]

[Sri A. S. Sahajanandam]

போடவேண்டும். டிபடி தாசில்தாரும் ஒரு ஹரிஜனமாக இருக்கவேண்டும். புதிதாக போடவேந்தால் வேலைசெய்வது முடியாது. எத்தனையோ B.A. படித்தவர்களுக்கு இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களை ஒவ்வொரு வேலைக்கும் போடவேண்டும். தென்னாற்காட்டில் லேபர் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் B. So. கள் வேலை செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஒருவர் Accountant-General Office-ல் இருக்கிறார். அவர் ஹரிஜனர். இவர்களைப் போட்டால் நன்றாக வேலைசெய்வார்கள். ஆகையால் எல்லா ஆபீசர்களும் ஹரிஜனாக இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“இன்னொரு விஷயத்தை ரொம்பவும் வருத்தமுடன் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். இப்பொழுது Cabinet-ல் கூட ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்றத்தை புறக்கணிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இதுவரையில் தமிழ்நாட்டு ஹரிஜனத்தில் ஒருவரை மந்திரியாகபோடவில்லை. இப்பொழுது காலிவந்தபொழுதுகூட அப்படி நியமிப்பார்கள் என்றிருந்தோம். ஆனால் அப்படி செய்யாமல் இந்த சட்டசபையில் அங்கத்தினராக இல்லாத ஒருவரை நியமித்திருக்கிறார்கள். மேல் சபையில் ஒருவர் இருக்கிறார். கீழ் சபையிலேயே 7, 8 மெம்பர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களில் ஒருவரையாவது நியமித்திருக்கலாம். ஆனால் கிருஸ்தவர் என்பதாக நியமித்திருக்கிறார்கள். இது ஜனநாயக முறைக்கு சரியாக இல்லை. இதை கவனித்தால் ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்றத்தை புறக்கணிப்பதாகத் தோன்றுகிறது. இன்று ஒரு Constituent Assembly தேர்தலில் கூட ஹரிஜனங்களை நியமிக்கலாம். இப்பொழுது ஹரிஜனங்களை கவனப்படுத்த இல்லை. கார்த்தியை இருந்தால் நாங்கள் அவரிடம் சென்று முறையிட்டிருக்கொள்வோம். ஆனால் அவர் இப்பொழுது இல்லை. அதனால் கார்த்தியின் பக்தர்களாகிய உங்களுடன்தான் எங்களுடைய குறைகளை சொல்லிக்கொள்ளுகிறோம். எவ்வளவோ கூச்சலும் போடுகிறோம். கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் என்னென்ன செய்யப்போகிறாரோ தெரியவில்லை. இன்னொரு குறைவுகூட இருக்கிறது. நாங்கள் சொல்வதை யெல்லாம் குறித்துக்கொண்டு பதில்கூட சொல்லவது கிடையாது. ஏனென்றால் நான் தமிழில் பேசிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறேன். அதனால் பதில் கிடைப்பது இல்லை. ஆகையால் ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக நமது சர்க்கார் கொஞ்சம் தீவிரமான நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக பாடுபடும் கனம் வைத்தியனாதய்யனாப்பார்த்து அதன் பிரகாரம் எல்லோரும் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நான் இத்துடன் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

“Sri V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, 2-45 P.M.
the other day when a supplementary question was asked on a question about the inter-dominion agreement on the protection of minorities, the Hon. the Leader of the House said that with regard to the boycott of minorities there was a provision by which it is the duty of the Government concerned to see that minorities were protected. When the Hon. Mr. Gopala Reddi was questioned further, he said that he was not aware of the fact and he only knew about things spoken in this House and not outside. It is a serious matter, Sir. The provisions of the Civil Disabilities Removal Act are not applied in the villages. As my hon. Friends Mr. B. S. Murthi and Mr. Sahajanandam said there are many cases where the poor Harijans are harassed for doing what is permitted under the Civil Disabilities Removal Act. The Hon. the Leader of the House, who is absent from the House just now, may kindly make a note of this and see that Harijans are treated properly in the villages.

“Secondly, Sir, the other day my Hon. Friend Mr. Kurnayya was telling us that in matters relating to Harijans this Province

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was far ahead of the other Provinces. I do not agree with him, Sir. The other day in the Dominion Assembly I had occasion to move the following resolution:—

'This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of India should spend at least one crore of rupees each year for the next ten years for the amelioration of the condition of the scheduled castes by way of providing them with house-sites and drinking water and also by way of supplementing the educational grants sanctioned by Provincial Governments.'

Sir, this resolution was supported practically by all the responsible members coming from the various provinces. Finally the Hon. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur said in her reply:—

'... But I am painfully aware of the fact that while these Acts do obtain and are on the statute book, they are observed in the breach rather than in the observance, and for that I do feel that the Provincial Governments as well as the Centre should have some machinery to see that the law is not disobeyed. I shall not hesitate from the Centre to give this directive to all the Provinces, and I hope that not only Provinces, but all the States will also bring these laws on to their Statute Books.'

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member need not quote at length."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"I am only quoting a small portion of her speech, Sir. The Hon. Minister then said:—

'But I do want to say this to the mover of the original resolution that in the development schemes that the Government has in view, I am quite sure that the scheduled castes will get all the financial need that is necessary, and I hope it will be more than what he asked for in this Resolution.'

"Sir, this shows the mind of the Central Government. They are prepared to go so far as to assist the Provincial Governments in the matter of financing all the ameliorative schemes they may be undertaking.

"Again, Sir, Sri A. S. Sahajananda said that none of the Members in this House has taken up the cause of the domestic workers who were formerly employed by the Europeans. But the hon. Member forgot the fact that these Europeans were getting emoluments which were 10 to 12 times the emoluments our Hon. Ministers are getting. Therefore it is no comparison, Sir. I know that the claims of the domestic workers were urged in this House and the Hon. the Revenue Minister the other day said that in the case of domestic workers he will see what could be done by way of granting them lands.

"Sir, coming to the Report now before the House, it is a most important one as far as the amelioration of the Harijans is concerned. The Committee constituted by the Government was composed of Members who have a thorough knowledge of the life, difficulties and all the other circumstances in which the Harijans are placed. Sir, the other day, the Hon. Minister said that the

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Committee did not submit its report in time. I do not want that either myself or any of the Members who composed that Committee should bear the blame for this. I would like to remind the Hon. Minister, Sir, that the Government Order constituting the Committee is dated 16th June 1947. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 10th July 1947. It was necessary for the Committee itself to appoint a sub-committee. The Committee met on the 7th October and decided to go round the Province—Tamil Nad and Andhra—and know for themselves the difficulties of the Harijans. They had to visit 54 places and meet deputations at 34 centres. Therefore, Sir, without any hesitation I may say that the Committee has worked day and night and did not spare themselves in doing their duty to their own satisfaction and to the satisfaction of this House. I may point out, Sir, that when Mr. Prakasam was the Premier the Government appointed a Committee called the Aboriginal Tribes Enquiry Committee. So far, I do not think any report, whether interim or final, has seen the light of day. But the Harijan Committee which was constituted in June 1947 has been able to submit a report containing so many statistics which would ordinarily take two or three years to collect. Therefore, Sir, I feel honestly and earnestly that the Committee which the Hon. Minister and his Colleagues have chosen for this work have done their duty well.

"Sir, in the Report itself there are certain points raised by the Committee. First of all the Report says:—

'The village Harijan is perhaps the same old untouchable.'

Secondly it says—

'Many reforms were undertaken by the Government. Though there has been an appreciable awakening amongst some Harijans, yet in all other respects the old state of things still continues.'

Again with regard to water-supply facilities, it is said 'they hardly exist.' We have been also told that there is a certain amount of slavery obtaining between labourers and masters and that this is responsible for the hereditary bondage. Again, Sir, the report says—

'Judged from whatever standards—social, cultural, economic, educational, or health—there can be no doubt that the Harijan occupies the lowest place.'

That is the finding of the report.

"Sir, as regards the allocation of one crore of rupees the Committee has given certain figures and shown how it should be done. It is admitted on all hands that the hovels in which the Harijans live are very bad from hygienic and sanitary point of view. The Committee has recommended at least three cents of land to be given for each house-site. If the Government wants to increase the extent of land none of us will have any objection. We have to make a start. When myself and other Members of

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the Committee visited Malabar we saw for ourselves the worst conditions in which the people there were living. Mr. Sahajanda said that there must be some law by which occupancy rights of people who have been living in a place for years should be confirmed. Sir, without having a site for living in, one cannot be called the citizen of this great country which has been able to obtain freedom. Though freedom has been very much spoken of, the Harijan is in the lowest rung of the ladder of society. He must be made to feel that he also belongs to this soil and must have a small place to live in. With regard to house-sites the Committee has been very considerate. They have pointed out that about 120,000 house-sites should be found immediately. They have also proposed how the houses can be built in the course of five years, according to a five-year plan.

"Sir, as regards water-supply my hon. Friend Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar from his practical knowledge has told this House about the great difficulties suffered by the Harijans in the villages. Not only Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar but everyone knows the great difficulties suffered by the Harijans for water. I am sure the Government will adopt in entirety the proposals of the Harijan Welfare Committee as far as water-supply is concerned.

3 p.m. "Sir, coming to medical facilities, the report clearly says that the death rate amongst these people is very heavy and that it is high time that some way must be found to improve the health of these people. Even with regard to water-supply the report says that at least 2,000 wells must be dug every year for five years. If the Government find that they could not do it with their present finances, as I have already pointed out, the Central Government will come to our aid, since they have accepted the resolution and given the assurance that not only in the Centre but also in the Provinces they will extend their help.

"Sir, in this Report we have left out the matter of education, because according to the Poona Pact every Provincial Government is expected to spend necessary money for giving proper education to the Harijans.

"Next, Sir, coming to another point that the Committee has recommended, namely, the establishment of a separate Department for Harijan Welfare, I have been pleading in this House for years together that any Government, which has got a real heart for the elevation of the depressed classes, must have a dynamic programme. Sir, even at the time when His Excellency Chakravathi Rajagopalachari adorned the Treasury Bench as the Premier of this Province, he stated that the question of Harijans is a Himalayan one and needed very much money and also energy. Now, Sir, it has been possible through the kindness of my hon. Friend, Mr. Prakasam, to set aside one crore of rupees to improve the lot of the Harijans and I am glad that our Hon. Premier, Mr. Omandur Ramaswami Reddiyar and his Colleagues have decided that the money must be spent for the Harijans. I understand that some of the money set aside has already been spent and I am sure they will not merely satisfy themselves with this

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but will add the amount actually spent to make up one crore of rupees. I hope they will implement the five-year plan which the Committee has prepared in a very satisfactory manner and that they will find the necessary amount to set aside at least during the next five years the disabilities of the Harijans are gradually washed out, so that they may take an equal place along with the other communities. Now, Sir, it has been admitted on all hands, that either socially or economically the Harijan is in the lowest rung of the ladder and if only the recommendations made in the Report are given effect to, I am sure that something tangible will be done and that these poor people will be satisfied. With these observations I strongly support the motion before the House."

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN :—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, ஹரிஜனங்கள்தான் சமூகத்தில் மிகவும் தாழ்மையான நிலைமையிலிருக்கிறார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்கள் முன்னேற்ற மடைந்தால்தான் சமூகமே முன்னேற்றமடைய முடியும். இதை நன்றாக அறிந்து நம்முடைய சர்க்கார் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கென்று தனியாக ஒரு திட்டம் வகுத்து முதலாவதாக அதற்கென்று ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கிவைத்தார்கள். இந்தப்பணம் எப்படியாவது செலவாகிவிடும் என்று அஞ்சி ஒரு திட்டம் வகுக்கவேண்டுமென்று நினைத்து ஒரு கமிட்டியை நியமித்தார்கள். இந்த கமிட்டியார் நன்றாக ஆராய்ந்து விசாரித்தறிந்து தங்களுடைய அறிக்கையை சமர்ப்பித்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த அறிக்கையைப் பார்த்த ஒவ்வொருவரும் இதைவிட சிறந்த அறிக்கையை சமர்ப்பிக்க முடியாது என்றுதான் நினைப்பார்கள். கமிட்டியார் வேண்டிய சரத்தை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நம்முடைய மாகாணம் பூராவும் சுற்றி ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய குறைகளை நேராக அறிந்து ஒரு அறிக்கையை தயாரித்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த அறிக்கையில் கண்ட விஷயங்கள் அனைத்தையும் சர்க்கார் கூடிய சீக்கிரத்தில் நன்றாக பரிசீலனை செய்து அவர்கள் சொல்லிய திட்டங்களை அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த ஒரு கோடி ரூபாயை எவ்விதம் செலவு செய்யலாம் என்றும் ஐந்து வருஷ காலத்தில் என்னென்ன வேலை செய்யலாம் என்றும் கமிட்டியார் தங்களுடைய திட்டத்தில் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவைகளின் பிரகாரம் கூடிய சீக்கிரம் சர்க்கார் நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அநேகம் வருஷங்களில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்காக செலவு செய்யவேண்டுமென்று ஒதுக்கும் பணங்கள் அந்தந்த வருஷ முடிவில் பார்க்கும்போது அந்தப் பணத்தின் பெரும் பகுதி செலவு செய்யாமல் அப்படியே விட்டு விடப்படுகிறது. அதுமாதிரியாகாமல் இந்த ஒரு கோடி ரூபாயை செலவு செய்ய ஐந்து வருஷ திட்டமில்லாமல் ஒரு வருஷத்தில் முடிக்கவேண்டும். அதோடு ஐந்து வருஷத்திற்காக என்னென்ன செய்யவேண்டுமோ அதைச் செய்ய பணம் ஒதுக்கவேண்டும் என்று நான் சர்க்காரை கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய குறைகளெல்லாம் அநேகமாக எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும். அவர்கள் படுக கஷ்டங்களில் முதன்மையானது வீடு வசதி குறைவு. கிராமங்களில் போய்ப்பார்த்தால் அவர்கள் வசிக்கும் நிலைமையாருக்கும் இரக்கத்தை உண்டாக்கும். சீர்கெட்டிருக்கும் அந்த வீடுகளில் அவர்கள் குடி இருக்கின்றார்கள். அதிலுள்ள குடும்பங்கள் ஆறிவிருந்து எட்டுக்குமேல் இருக்கின்றன. ஒரே குடிசையில் அவர்களுக்கு படுக்கை சமையல் சாப்பாடு. அங்கேயே படுக்கவும் வேண்டும். அப்படிப்பட்ட நிலைமையில் அவர்கள் நிலவு கதவு இல்லாத வீட்டில் இருந்துவருகிறார்கள். ஆகையால்தான் முதலாவதாக இந்தக் கமிட்டியார் நல்ல செளகரியமான இடம் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று முடிவு செய்து ஒரு கோடி ரூபாயில் பாதினை அதற்கு வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லி இருக்கிறார்கள். இதுதான் முதலாவதாக எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டிய விஷயம். ஏற்கனவே அநேக இடங்களிலிருந்து நிலங்கள் வாங்கி கொடுப்பதற்காக விண்ணப்பம் வந்திருக்கிறது. இந்த விண்ணப்பம் வந்து வருஷக்கணக்காகியும் இன்னும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு நிலம் கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை. உதாரணமாக ஒரு விஷயத்தைச் சொல்ல முடியும். மதுரையில் நிலக்கோட்டை தாலுகாவில் நாச்சி

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குளம் கிராமத்தில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குச் சின்னங்கள். அவர்களுக்கும் நிலைமை நான் முன்னால் சொன்ன பிரகாரம் மிகவும் பரிதாபகரமாக இருக்கிறது. அவர்கள் நல்ல வசதியில் வீடு கட்டிக்கொள்வதற்கு நிலம் கேட்டு விண்ணப்பம் செய்து பத்து வருஷங்களுக்கு மேலாகிவிட்டன. 1938-ம் வருஷம் விண்ணப்பம் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்டது. 1939-ம் வருஷம் வரைக்கும் முடியாமல் விருந்து பிறகு யுத்தம் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டதால் அந்த யோசனை விட்டுவிடப்பட்டது. மறுபடியும் விண்ணப்பம் செய்துகொண்டு இரண்டு வருஷங்களுக்கு மேலாகிவிட்டது. அவர்களுக்கு இன்னும் நிலம் கிடைக்கவில்லை. இதை உதாரணமாக எடுத்துச் சொன்னேன். இதேமாதிரி எல்லா கிராமங்களிலும் நடந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு நிலம் கொடுப்பதில் காலதாமதம் இல்லாமல் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். அதற்காக வேண்டுமானாலும் அவசியமானால் ஒரு அதிகாரியைப் போட பாவது அதைச் செய்யவேண்டும். மூன்று மாதங்களுக்குள்ளாக கிடைக்கும்படி ஒரு வழி கண்டுபிடிக்கவேண்டும். காலதாமதமானால் பயன் கிடைக்காது. இந்தமாதிரி வீடுகள் கட்டிக்கொடுப்பதில் கமிட்டியார் யோசனை கூறி இருக்கிறார்கள். அதற்காக ஒரு கூட்டுறவு கட்டிட சங்கம் ஆரம்பிக்க வேண்டும். கமிட்டியார் கொடுத்திருக்கும் யோசனைகள் எல்லாம் மிகவும் நல்ல யோசனைகள். ஹரிஜனங்கள் கூட்டுறவுசங்கம் மூலம் கோரிக்கைகள் கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்று காத்துக் கொண்டிருக்காமல் சர்க்காரை தகுந்த அதிகாரிகளை வைத்து இந்த திட்டத்தை அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவர வேண்டும். இதேமாதிரி எல்லா காரியங்களும் ஹரிஜனங்களிடமிருந்து வேண்டுகோள் வரவேண்டுமென்று காத்துக்கொண்டிருக்காமல் சர்க்காரை எல்லா காரியங்களையும் செய்யவேண்டும். இனி செய்யவேண்டிய காரியங்களை கமிட்டியார் சொல்லியபடி செய்யவேண்டும்.

“கிணறு விஷயம் : மதுரை ஜில்லாவைப் பொறுத்த வரைக்கும் ஹரிஜன Advisory Committee-ல் தாலுகா ஒன்றிற்கு ஒரு வருஷத்திற்கு ஆறு கிணறுகளாவது வெட்டவேண்டுமென்று தீர்மானம் செய்து அனுப்பினோம். அது பெப்பரிஸ்தான் இருக்கிறது. அதை நிறைவேற்றமுடிக் பதற்கு பல காரணங்கள் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. உத்தியோகஸ்தர் இல்லை. என்டிமேட் தயார் செய்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் சுகாதார அதிகாரியிடமிருந்து பதில் வரவில்லை என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இன்னும் பதில்கூட கிடைப்பது இல்லை என்றால் காலதாமதமாகாமல் ஏதாவது வழி ஒன்று கண்டுபிடிக்கவேண்டும். கிராம புனரூபணத்தாரணாடிபார்ட்டுமெண்டில் கூட திட்டம் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு கிணறுகள் வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அதற்காக ஒரு Engineer-ஐ நியமித்தால் மிகவும் உதவியாக இருக்கும். கிணறு வெட்டுவதற்கு ஒரு பெரிய எஞ்சினியர் வேண்டியதிட்டலை. சாதாரணமான ஒரு Overseer போதுமானது. காலம் தெரிந்து பூமியின் நிலைமை தெரிந்து அனுபவமுள்ள ஆபீசராக இருந்தாலும் போதுமானது. அப்படிப்பட்ட ஆபீசர்களை நியமித்து நாம் அவசியம் வேண்டியமைக்கவேண்டும். குடி தண்ணீர் விஷயத்தை அதிகம் முன் பேசியவர்கள் எடுத்துச் சொன்னார்கள். அதைப்பற்றி நான் அதிகம் சொல்லவேண்டியதிட்டலை.

“அதற்குமேல் பள்ளிக்கூட விஷயமாக கமிட்டியார் ஏறக்குறைய ஏகோபித்து ஒப்புக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஒரு அங்கத்தினர்மட்டும் அபிப்பிராய பேதம் காட்டியிருக்கிறார், தனியாக பள்ளிக்கூடம் வேண்டியதிட்டலை என்று. இதை நாம் ஒன்றி சிந்தித்துப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு தனியாக பள்ளிக்கூடம் ஏற்படுத்தினால் தீண்டாமை என்னும் வியாதியை விரைவில் அகற்றுவதற்கு அவ்வளவு சௌகரியமாக இருக்காது. எவ்வளவுக் கவனவசூலு சிறு குழந்தைகள் முத்தகொண்டே மற்ற ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்களோடு பழி படித்து வருகின்றனவோ அவ்வளவுக்கவ்வளவு தீண்டாமை நீங்குவதற்கு வேதவாக இருக்கும். ஆகையால் நாம் தனியாக பள்ளிக்கூடம் நடத்த வேண்டுமா என்பதைப்பற்றி நன்கு யோசிக்கவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். தனியாக பள்ளிக்கூடம் அமைக்காவிட்டால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு சலுகை யெல்லாம் போய்விடும் என்று சந்தேகம் ஏற்படலாம். அது இல்லாத வகையில் அவர்களுக்கு மத்தியாசனப்பாடு, புனித உதவி, சம்பள உதவி முதலியவைகள் செய்து

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கொடுக்கலாம். ஆகையால் பொது பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் சிறு குழந்தைகள் முத்தகொண்டே ஜாதி வித்யாசமில்லாமல் பழகுவதற்கு பெரும் சௌகரியமாக இருக்கும். அவ்வாறே ஹரிஜன வகுப்புத் தலைவர்கள் ஒப்புக்கொள்வார்களென்று நினைக்கிறேன். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஏதாவது செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று இருந்தால் எவ்வளவு சீக்கிரமாகச் செய்யவேண்டுமோ அவ்வளவு சீக்கிரமாகச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஹரிஜனங்கள் படும் கஷ்டம் பொதுவாக தெரிந்திருந்தாலும் நம்முடைய அதிகாரிகள் அதை தெரிந்துகொள்ளவில்லை என்று சொல்வேன். இந்த சர்க்காருக்கு இருக்கும் அக்கரை அதிகாரிகளுக்கு இல்லை. சர்க்கார் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களில் முக்கியமாக ரெவின்யூ, போலீஸ் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் ஹரிஜனங்களிடம் எவ்விதம் நடந்துகொள்வதென்றும் என்று அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு விதமான எண்ணம் வரும்பட்சத்தில் கிராமங்களில் வரும் புகார்கள், குறைகள் வெகு சீக்கிரத்தில் நீங்கிவிடும். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு இப்பொழுது புது உணர்ச்சி, புது விழிப்பு உண்டாகி இருக்கிறது. இதைக் கண்டு ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்கள் சந்தோஷமடைய வேண்டும். இன்னும் அவர்க ளிடத்தில் நமக்கு பற்றுதலும், அன்பும் ஏற்படவேண்டும். பல இடங்களில் ஹரிஜனங்களால் கொண்டுவரப்படும் புகார்களும், குறைகளும் போக வேண்டும். எல்லா இடங்களுக்கும் ஹோட்டல்களுக்கும் கோவிலுக்கும் போகலாம் என்று உரிமை கொடுத்திருப்பதால் அவர்களுக்கு ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்களிடம் நம்பிக்கையும் அன்பும் உண்டாகி இருக்கிறது. அதற்காகவே அந்தக் காலத்தில் ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்கள் திட்டங்களை தாராளமாக செய்தார்கள். ஆனால் இந்த புகார் விஷயங்களில் ரெவின்யூ அதிகாரிகளும், போலீஸ் அதிகாரிகளும் அதிகம் நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் கிராமங்களில் தகராறு இல்லாமல் இருக்கும். இந்த உரிமைகளை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு அப்படியே கொடுத்து அவர்களிடமேல் அக்கரை எடுத்துக் கொண்டுவந்தால் பல கிராமங்களில் தகராறுகள் ஏற்படாமல் பார்த்துக் கொள்ளலாம். அதிகாரிகளும் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களும் அவசியம் வேண்டிய அக்கரை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும்.

“ஹோட்டல்களில் வெறும் ஹரிஜனங்கள்மட்டும் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்வது அவ்வளவு நல்லது இல்லை. பள்ளிக்கூடத்தைப்பற்றி சொன்ன வார்த்தைகளையே இதற்கும் வைத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். இதுவரைக்கும் ஹரிஜனங்களை தனியாக வைத்து நடத்தவேண்டுமென்ற நிர்ப்பந்தமும் அவசியமும் இருந்தது. இப்பொழுது அந்த நிலைமை மாறுபட்டு இருக்கிறது. அதனால் ஒவ்வொரு ஹோட்டலிலும் ஹரிஜனங்கள் மட்டும் இருப்பது என்பது அவ்வளவு நல்லது இல்லை. ஹரிஜனங்களுடன் ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்கள் இருப்பது; என்பது ரொம்பவும் நல்ல காரியம். நூறுக்கு பத்து பேர் இதர வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் இருக்கவேண்டும். அவர்களுக்கும் நாம் எவ்வாறு உதவி சம்பளம் கொடுக்கமுடியும் என்று கேட்கலாம். ஆனால் தீண்டாமையை விலக்குவதற்கு செய்யக்கூடியவைகள் அல்லவா? ஆகையால் மற்ற சமூகங்களும் ஏழை குழந்தைகளாக இருந்தால் அவர்களை யும் சேர்த்துக்கொள்வதில் தவறே இல்லை. தீண்டாமையை விலக்குவதற்கு செய்வதால் அதில் தவறே இல்லை. இவைகளை யெல்லாம் அவசியம் செய்து முடிக்கவேண்டும். எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் மேலாக கமிட்டியார் பல சிறந்த யோசனைகளை கூறி இருக்கிறார்கள். அவைகளை சீக்கிரத்தில் அமுலுக்கு கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக் கொள்கிறேன்.”

* Sri M. S. PATTABHIRAMIAH :—“ Mr. Speaker, after the masterly exposition of the Harijan problem made on the floor of this Assembly by the veteran worker in the Harijan cause, the hon. Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, if the Government do not move from this lethargic state, I think the divine hand will have to bring down a catastrophe and raise them from their slumber. This discussion of the subject will be the final warning to the Government. The Harijan problem, Sir, is staring in the face of this Government. It is said that the Madras Government have

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tackled the problem of Harijans a little earlier than other Provinces, but the problem in Madras is more complicated and more dangerous. The untouchability is, in practice, in a more terrible form in this Province than anywhere else in the other Provinces. Therefore, we cannot take pride in the fact and congratulate ourselves by saying that we have done this thing and that thing to the Harijans. It is no cause for congratulation or complacency to say that every year the Government have given a few scholarships to a few Harijan students, the Government have sanctioned a few thousand rupees for digging a few wells in different districts for the Harijans and that the Government have passed the Civil Disabilities Act. It is all true, but they have not really changed the phase of the country in the relationship between the caste Hindus and Harijans and the general condition of the Harijans has not at all changed. The Harijans have not raised an inch from their position. (Sri S. Nagappa: 'Hear, hear.') Here according to the Report itself they have realized that the position of the Harijan is very bad and that this state of things continued till the year 1932 when a sudden turn was given to this problem by the *epic fast* undertaken by Gandhiji to put an end to the system of separate electorates, etc. It is on page 2 of the Report itself. If at all there is any change it is only in the political field but not in other respects. We have tried to put this Harijan problem in the show case; we are exhibiting it but it is not for sale and we are not doing any business with it. In our manifestoes, we say, we have passed the Civil Disabilities Act and so on, but really speaking, have the Government taken care to see that its provisions are enforced in the country? They have not; they never care and when questions are asked about it they simply twit us and reply light-heartedly and frivolously. I can add one more example to many such given by the previous speakers. Thiruvudagam is a well-known temple in our parts where the Government did not care to see that the Harijans were allowed there or not. Anyhow the Harijans were taken there a few days before the declaration of Independence, i.e., about the 13th or 14th August last year. Afterwards, Sir, during the marriage season when the Harijans went there a few weeks before to celebrate a marriage, they were refused permission and the local village munsif refused to give a report to the Police. The next day, I was told of this and that they had apologized to the Harijans but I do not know if the Harijans were allowed to perform the marriage there. That is how Harijan uplift is working. Even within a few miles radius from the place where we are talking, in this very Corporation of Madras, hundreds of families are being evicted from their huts. What is the Government doing; is it sleeping; is it really caring for the Harijans? They are simply satisfied, self-complacent that they have put in something on paper, they are going to spend some money, that some instructions have been given to certain officers, that they must be doing it and that it would be enough. Hundreds of families are being evicted from their huts; they are not living in houses; they are thrown out even from their huts and what is the Government doing? Is it how the Government is

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tackling the Harijan problem? I need not remind the House and the Government that if a country is at war, we pay our soldiers well, keep them satisfied, we care for them, give them good food, we promise them pension, we clothe them and we ask them to fight. Now, we are in a bad famine condition; we are talking so high about the Grow More Food Campaign. We must remember the person who is fighting the famine, it is the labourer who produces the grain, who works in the field and he is the soldier who fights famine. What is the Government doing for him? He is going down and down. We find from the Report that the debt of the agricultural labourer has not been reduced in the last decade. We can take it that the landless agricultural labourers are the Harijans and they have a debt of about five crores and a half and that amount has not been reduced. Do you know what the rate of interest is; it is the very modest rate of a pie for a pie for a month as it is commonly said in Tamil, 'பை பை' (pie pie). If he is an agricultural labourer, the money-lender or the landlord lends him the money; if he is a scavenger, the maistri lends him the money; if he is a small landholder, the bigger landholder lends him the money. The poor man is working in the field; there is no medical attention and he is being fed but very sparingly and he does not get his full meal. He works like a slave though in name he is not a slave and he lives and works like a slave and the caste-Hindus behave like their masters. The Government say that they have set apart so much money for house-building schemes. They are spending some ten lakhs of rupees for helping people in the cities and big commercial magnates and other big cinema houses are being built everywhere. Big buildings are being raised in big cities for commercial purposes and for the amusement and recreation. But here there is no place for him to live in. According to the latest census, we have in our Province eight millions of Harijans; out of this seven million and a quarter live in the country side and three-quarters of a million are living in big cities and panchayat areas. Only in certain districts, like Madura, the sites on which the huts are built are owned by Harijans. As it has been pointed out in Tanjore and other deltaic areas, such land somehow has become the property of landholders of adjoining lands. It has been represented over and over again that the lands might be acquired and be given over to the Harijans but I am sorry to say that Government have not moved in the matter and if they had moved, it has not progressed and there is a standstill and things have not moved an inch forward. It has been pointed out that they are experiencing difficulties with their landlords not only that, the Police have been characterized as the enemies of the Harijans and the Revenue officials are unable to do anything in the matter. If the Government had cared for them they can set apart some three hundred thousands of acres of waste land all over the Province for the Harijans and every Harijan family can own 3 cents and they will be able to put some construction upon it. It cannot be costly and when compared to other things it will be very cheap. To-morrow they can pass an order. They are bringing Ordinances for questionable purposes which

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ought to be debated in this House. Why not bring in an Ordinance to give house-site for every Harijan family; will anybody object to it or there are no waste lands in the country and are they unable to acquire the lands and even if it is to be acquired, will it be so very costly? I think it is easy. The Government are relinquishing 16 to 17 crores of rupees over the drink reform and it is the one thing which has done something good for the Harijans. It is the only reform which we have undertaken though it has yet to be fulfilled as there are eight districts to go dry this year. It has really done good to the Harijans as a class in the districts and we are thankful for it. Unless we provide them with house-sites, it is no good our talking about the grant of scholarships, our opening hostels somewhere for Harijans and our giving them a few Government appointments does not serve any purpose at all. They are living in cheris and those cheris are as they were thirty, fifteen or ten years ago.

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"Sir, there has not been any change in their position. We need not classify the Harijans. There are some whose position is miserable and there are others who are a little more civilized and they are approaching the Caste Hindus and they will become some time hence Caste Hindus themselves. I hope it will be very soon. For instance, the Chaklars, not one of them owns a plot of land on which they can build a hut. The trade which they were carrying on is the tanning industry and it is perishing because factories are built up and it is started as a large-scale industry and cottage industry has gone out of existence. We are trying to encourage cottage industries and one very good cottage industry of our province is tanning. Unless we encourage cottage industry, there is no use for Harijans. We may not wait for the Harijans to be educated and enable them to enter service. The value of service will become very low after some time. Those who are clerks and gazetted officers may like to exchange their places with them after five years or a decade. Harijans should not be encouraged to enter Government service or become a Government servant or a clerk or an officer but they should be made self-reliant. Cottage industries should be developed and agriculture also must be developed. Every agricultural labourer should be assured of his health and his family should be taken care of. Unless we do that, we would not be helping them. It is not only for the sake of Harijans we must do it but any Indian patriot, any citizen of our Province should see that the uplift of the Harijans is the uplift of the whole nation. We may be told that we are expressing our ideas in this Assembly and that we can do that and not more than that. (At this stage the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.) If the Government expect that there should be a stronger reminder, I give them a warning that God will bring down his hand and awake this Government."

* SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, I congratulate the members of the Committee who have taken one year and one month to produce this report and my hon. Friend Mr. Muniswami Pillai was stating that he has been able to collect all the statistics within the shortest possible time! If that is the shortest

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possible time, Madam, I do not know how long will the Government take to implement this report. No doubt, the Government have come forward budgeting for one crore of rupees. This one crore has been there for the last two years. The Hon. Mr. Prakasam was kind enough to set apart not only one crore of rupees but also three crores for rural development. God alone knows how this Government is going to spend these four crores of rupees!

"Now, Madam, coming to the report, I see that they have classified the report under six items. The first item relates to the provision of house-sites for Harijans. Fifty lakhs of rupees have been allotted for this item. I think the Government are aware that there are eight million Harijans in this Province. For instance, if you take every Harijan family consisting of five members, imagine how this paltry sum is sufficient to meet that heavy demand. I ask the Government how long this fifty lakhs of rupees will last? You know, Madam, they have been living in hamlets, not houses. Ever since August 15th, the Harijans are also feeling that they are Indians and a new spirit sprang among them and they began to assert their rights. My hon. Friend Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar was telling about the incident where 120 Harijan houses were set on fire. This is occurring not only in Tanjore or Madura, but also in other places. To-day I have received a registered letter from a village in my constituency, saying that Harijans are not allowed to draw water from a pond or tank. One Caste Hindu man, by name Golla Madduloti, had the courage and boldness to come to the rescue of the Harijans and he allowed them access to draw water. The Caste Hindus got enraged and threatened him that his life would be in danger if he continued to help them. Madam, I want to know how long these conditions are going to prevail in this land? The Harijans have tolerated enough and I am sorry to say that they will not tolerate hereafter. They have exhausted their patience. They expected that their country will do what they require but they are disappointed. Everywhere, the poor Harijans have been dragged to courts. Even the magistrates and police are not doing justice to these poor Harijans. Even those Harijans who are in those posts are feeling that their position will be awkward if they help their own community.

"Now, as regards the house-site problem, I would ask the Government to concentrate on one and one point alone. Let it be a three-year plan or five-year plan or ten-year plan. Let the Government provide house-sites for these people. For instance, sixteen lakhs of families are there. Let each family contribute Rs. 100 and let the Government give another Rs. 100 so that the share capital may be made up of Rs. 200. By this sum, they can run co-operative building societies, which will be most useful for the construction of houses for Harijans. Instead of spending the amount in one year, let the Government undertake a five-year plan for this purpose.

"The Government can very easily solve the water-supply problem. There are already so many wells used exclusively by the Caste Hindus. Let the Government constitute their own

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machinery and see that every common well is used by Harijans as well. Of course, the Civil Disabilities Act is there. What is the use of this Act? Though the Act is there, it is not put into practice. Let the Government take courage in their own hands and enforce the provisions of this Act strictly without fear or favour. Let them not be afraid of Caste Hindus. No doubt, it is a great task. I do agree. But if the Government are really sincere and earnest in their professions and sympathize with the Harijans, I do not think it is a great task. It can be easily solved in no time.

"Now, Madam, coming to health and sanitation, I would ask why amounts should be set apart for medical health. Why do you spend this sum out of this fund on the public health? The Hon. Minister for Public Health is there to look after this subject and a special grant is given to that department. It is to be used for all the people. If you had provided for house-sites from the allotment under 'Public Health' you would have done at least one programme for the uplift of the Harijans.

"Now, Madam, as regards cultivable waste lands, the Government can provide five cents of land for each Harijan family. Madam, we are going to abolish the Zamindari system. We are going to abolish the Inamdari system. What are we going to do with this land? By removing one zamindar you are going to create innumerable zamindars. Every landholder will become a zamindar. These Harijans will not get even an inch of land. They have to till and produce. So, I would ask the Government to take away these cultivable waste lands and distribute them among the Harijans.

"There are so many Harijans unemployed. Whenever Harijans apply for posts in the Government service through the Public Service Commission or not, on some pretext or other they are denied appointments. Therefore Government should issue instructions to the Public Service Commission not to reject any Harijan application but to appoint them all. At the same time, Government should open Employment Exchanges in every district so that the Harijans may be able to apply on the spot.

"Madam, I ask why Harijans are not recruited to the Police Department in large numbers? Instead of asking the police people to help the poor Harijans—these police people harass and put them in prison—why not you appoint large number of Harijans in the Police Department. There are so many able-bodied persons in the Harijan community. I ask the Government, how many Sub-Inspectors were recruited and appointed from among the Harijans since the Government came into power? The Government may say that there are no qualified Harijan candidates. If the Government want it, I can give a number of suitable Harijan candidates for various posts in the Police Department. Therefore, I ask the Government to give them special concessions until they come to the level of other communities in this field. It is said that after ten years the Harijans will be enjoying all the facilities which the other communities are enjoying now. I do not know

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what will come about after ten years. God alone knows it. You must be definite in your plans and programme. You must provide for all the requirements of the Harijans. Mahatmaji was responsible for uniting us with you. Simply because Mahatma Gandhi is not with us, you want to cheat us. I say the Congress-wallahs have changed their caps but not their hearts. I would request them to purify themselves and be true to their pledge to the Congress, the Harijans and the masses. 3-45 p.m.

"My Hon. Friend, Sri B. Gopala Reddi, said that the Government were not able to spend one crore during the last two years. What does it show? Does it not show the incapacity, the inability and the inefficiency of this Government? You have not got a programme and it is for you to chalk out one. You know what the sufferings of the Harijans are. You have got the departmental machinery and you can prepare a programme in three or four months, and spend the amount.

"I request the Government not to put a Harijan Minister to be in charge of the Harijan Uplift portfolio. Just as I am one out of two hundred and fifteen in the Assembly, he will be one out of twelve in the Cabinet. Let him be a non-Harijan Minister. A person like the hon. Sri A. Vaidyanatha Ayyar or any other gentleman who can work with a zeal must be in charge of Harijan uplift. Or let the Hon. Premier, who is very much interested in the cause of Harijans, take up this portfolio, and allot the police portfolio to the Hon. Sri Kurmayya. Then we will see how the police will hunt after the Harijan Minister. Whenever we point out defects, the Government point out that a Harijan Minister is in charge. That is the lame excuse that is given. It is a very clever method of depriving the Harijans of any benefit. The Government must come forward with a zeal to uplift the Harijans. The Harijan of to-day is not the Harijan of yesterday. He is politically conscious and he knows that he is going to rule this country one day or the other. You don't drive us to exasperation. Be sincere in your attempts and do what all you can. There is no use in simply making a show and advertising without doing anything. That policy must be changed.

"The Harijan failed S.S.L.C. holders, who served the country as clerks and in other capacities when all the educated people were serving in war, are not considered to be of any use to-day simply because they failed in the final examination. In the case of a war service candidate, the Government relax the rule and exempt him from the prescribed qualifications. Cannot the Government show this much concession to the poor Harijans in whom they are so much interested? The Hon. Minister should see that all the failed S.S.L.C. Harijan candidates are provided with jobs relaxing the prescribed qualifications if necessary.

"The Hon. Minister for Education wants ten long years to drive out illiteracy from this Province! God only knows how long he will be here. The Harijans do not realize the value of education. The provision of mid-day meals will give an impetus to Harijan

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children to attend the school and to their parents, who expect something from their children, to compel them to attend the school. This concession, which was allowed during the Advisers' regime, has been withdrawn by a Congress Government, a popular Government, which boast of uplifting the Harijans. How are we to believe that the Government are really interested in the Harijan problems? (The Hon. Sri V. Kurmayya rose to speak.)

"Sir, I am not yielding. Let the Hon. Minister remember that he owes a duty to the one crore of Harijans in the Province. It is his duty to see that every Harijan is educated, employed, and provided with a house-site and other amenities. I want that not a single pie should be spent from the one crore fund for the provision of house-sites to Harijans. The Rural Development Fund and similar other funds should be utilized for the purpose. Every Harijan who is prepared to pay, say one hundred rupees should be made a regular member of a co-operative house-building society, the Government paying the other hundred rupees if necessary. The Government should see that every Harijan in the Province is provided with a house. If 15 crores are necessary and the programme is spread over five years, 3 crores only will be required every year. The Central Government are prepared to bear half the cost. You neither undertake the work nor approach the Central Government. I should like to say to the Hon. Finance Minister that this is the only way in which he can solve the Harijan problem.

"I am not in favour of separate elementary schools for the Harijans. I want every district board and municipality to locate the elementary school in the cheri and make the non-Harijans go there instead of making the Harijan children, who are suffering from inferiority complex, to go to a non-Harijan locality. This will at least give an opportunity to the non-Harijans to see how the poor Harijans are suffering under the aegis of a popular Government. If a Harijan goes to a school located in a non-Harijan locality, he is persecuted by the non-Harijans. We have been receiving complaints to this effect every day. I request the Hon. Minister to take note of this point and see that every elementary school is located in a cheri or a Harijan locality. I do not mean to suggest that others should not be provided with facilities; they should also be provided. The non-Harijans can educate their children otherwise but the poor Harijans cannot afford to do so. Besides, this will go a long way to abolish the caste system.

"While answering a question, the Hon. Minister said that the report of the Harijan Welfare Committee was under the consideration of the Government. I do not know when the report was submitted. The Hon. Minister for Harijan Uplift himself was the Chairman of the Committee and the Committee's recommendations are more or less his own recommendations. Such being the case, he can finish the consideration in a few hours. I think he has already taken three long months to consider and I do not know how much more time he will take. The question

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of action arises only after consideration. At least he has given an assurance that he would implement 99 per cent of the recommendations. There too he wants to leave out 1 per cent. I do not object to the spending of 40 lakhs on water-supply, 10 lakhs on cottage industries, 5 lakhs on health and sanitation and 10 lakhs on medical relief as recommended by the Committee. But I do not want that even a single pie should be touched from the one crore fund for these purposes. I am told that the Government have already spent 22 lakhs. But no Harijan has been benefited by their spending.

"One fine morning the Government designated the Labour department as the Harijan Welfare department. By so doing the Government think that they have done everything that is possible. What better things have they done than the Advisers' Government or the Justice Party Government? We could not question the Advisers or the Justice Party; they never gave us any pledges or solemn assurances. Having given pledges and solemn assurances, this Government have simply converted the Labour department into the Harijan Welfare department. The Harijan Welfare Officer takes two years to acquire an inch of land. All this is simply an eye-wash and this sort of jugglery will not carry us any further. The Government must be sincere in their attempts. There must be a Harijan Welfare Officer for each district. My district is 250 miles long and 100 miles wide. There are 800 villages and each village is in need of some amenity or other like water-supply, housing, etc. If the Harijan Welfare Officer visits a village on the first day, he can pay a second visit only after the 800th day. When that is the case, what can one Harijan Welfare Officer do? I say there must be an officer of the grade of the Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar for every taluk if possible. If he wants to acquire a particular land, he must be able to do it within a very short time. Then only he can provide the Harijans with house-sites. There must be a Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies solely entrusted with improving the economic condition of Harijans. He must start co-operative credit societies, non-credit societies, house-building societies, weavers' societies and societies for cottage industries. Unless such societies are started, I don't think the Government will be able to improve the economic position of Harijans.

"The Government have been saying all these days that they will admit Harijan boys in common hostels. When a Harijan gets admission to a hostel, he has to shell down money. Wherefrom can he get the money? Why should not the Government ask the management to admit him and send the bill to the Labour department or the Harijan Welfare department? Why should the management insist on a poverty certificate, as though any Harijan is rich?

"There are very many other difficulties also. The Harijan students generally come from rural parts, and they cannot understand the rules and regulations. If the Government are really sincere to uplift the Harijans, there is only one way. They must

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ask the schools and hostels to admit Harijans on application and to send the bill for the school or college-fee and the hostel-fee to Labour department direct. The Government give only Rs. 15. In common hostels, the charge per head comes to Rs. 30 or 40. If the Harijans are in a position to pay the difference, they would not have applied for Government scholarship. If the Government are really sincere about uplifting the Harijans, let them take my advice and do as I have suggested.

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"Now, Madam, as regards the indebtedness of the Harijans, even then Rajaji was kind enough to bring forward a measure for scaling down the debts of the agriculturists. But who is the man who is actually in need of Government help? It is not the agriculturists who are holding lands, but it is the agricultural labourers who have got no lands of their own and who are perpetually in debts either to the money-lenders or to their landlords. Ninety per cent of these agricultural labourers are Harijans. We have been agitating for a long time that the indebtedness of these agricultural labourers should be wiped off. But the Government have not moved an inch in that direction. Even to-day we are agitating on that question and we want to know whether there is any measure under contemplation by the Government for the redemption of the debts of these poor agricultural landless labourers who are mostly Harijans. Not only should their debts be wiped off, but the Government must also provide them with banking facilities, so that they can get ready money loans easily whenever they want without resorting to these individual money-lenders. You know, what is the fate of these poor Harijans and especially those living in towns who have come under the clutches of these money-lenders, the Kabuliwallas and the Pathans, who hunt after them and harass them like anything. As my hon. Friend and Guruji, Mr. Pattabhiramiah has pointed out, they charge interest at the rate of one pie for one pie. Cannot the Government bring forward some legislation to redeem the debts of the poor agricultural labourers?

"Then, Madam, as regards the Removal of Civic Disabilities Act, I have already pointed out that there must be some machinery to implement the legislation. Without such a machinery, there is no use in having passed that measure. For the enforcement of Prohibition you have got a machinery. What is the machinery that is in vogue to carry out the provisions of the Removal of Civic Disabilities Act? You have passed the Temple Entry Act. Who are the people who enter into these temples? Only when the Hon. Minister for Harijan Uplift or the Hon. Speaker goes there that the temple is opened. That day will be a pompous day and it will be published in all newspapers. But the moment these gentlemen leave the temple, we do not know what will happen and whether the same temple will be thrown open from the next day onwards to the Harijans or not. Some of the Harijans are still doubting about the *bona fides* of this legislation, because in some places Harijans are not allowed to enter into the temples and it is not possible for the poor Harijans to make their voices heard by the authorities. Is it not the duty and

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responsibility of the Government to see that all legislation which have been passed in this House are implemented? If they are really sincere, they must have set up a machinery for the purpose. Otherwise there is no use in passing such a legislation. So, Madam, I would request the Government to set up a separate department for the uplift of Harijans which must be manned by suitable officers and all powers, including police powers, if necessary, must be given to these officers for the implementation of these Acts. Whenever any Harijan family is attacked or a Harijan cheri is in danger of being attacked or their huts being set fire to, by the caste Hindus, the Police must rush to the spot and protect their lives and properties. My hon. Friend Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar was saying just now that in spite of his repeated messages and calls from a village, the Superintendent of Police and the Sub-Inspector arrived there only after 50 per cent of the huts had been reduced to ashes by fire. When such is the interest and responsibility shown by the officers of the Government in matters affecting Harijans, how can you expect these poor Harijans to thrive under your administration? Therefore, Madam, the Government must take courage into their hands and set up this separate department. Perhaps they may incur the displeasure of non-Harijans, but they must be prepared to face it and bring about a machinery not merely for propaganda, but also for carrying out the provisions of these various Acts which are calculated to remove the disabilities against Harijans and see that they are raised to the level of the caste Hindus, both economically and socially. But if the Government proceed at this rate, I am afraid it will take many many years before the Harijans of this Province could hope to lift up their heads among society.

"Lastly, Madam, I submit that in the case of the failed S.S.L.C. Harijan candidates, the Government must relax the service rules in the same way as they have done in the case of demobilised and ex-military personnel and provide them all facilities for entry into Government and other services.

"Before concluding, Madam, I would once again request the Government not to spend any money out of this one crore fund for drinking water facilities or medical help or sanitary facilities for these people. These must be met out of the Rural Welfare Fund. This Harijan Uplift Fund should be utilized only for such of the purposes as are recommended in the report. With these observations, Madam, I commend this report for the immediate consideration and implementation by the Government."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, if I intervene in this debate, I do so because I want to express my appreciation of the labours that the Committee has put in in producing this report which is intended to promote the welfare of Harijans and to raise their status. Madam, this is a very great and important matter that has been agitating the minds of the Harijan community for a very very long time. For millions of years, this particular community has been suffering under various disabilities and hardships, but in recent times, one

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political party or another has been trying to make out that it has been helping these unfortunate people. Of course, the Justice Party did their best to help them; and then the Government under the British Bureaucracy also tried to do something for them. But the disease had gone so deep into the body politic that it was impossible for any Government or organization to eradicate the evil by a single stroke of the pen. Such a large mass of people, numbering about 80 lakhs in this Province have been treated as untouchables, they are people who should not even go to the village to draw water from the common well; they are people who should not walk on the streets where caste Hindus reside, not to speak of inter-dining or inter-marrying in the same Hindu society. They have been treated worse than people belonging to other religions and other communities, although they are said to belong to a section of the same Hindu community. Yet they have lived somehow or other and on account of the social custom that has been in vogue from the very early times, they have been relegated to the last ditch in the body politic. They have been shunned, oppressed and suppressed from the very ancient times and treated as untouchables. Then came the British rule and they in their turn tried to give them some education and other special facilities for entry into Government service and thus helped to raise their status. But the problem, as I have said, was so big and the disease has gone so deep, that they were merely tinkering with it and could not take any effective action to root out the disease altogether. What is needed is a thorough overhaul of the entire Hindu social system from the bottom, so that there is no distinction between one section of the community and the other and that the Harijan community which is occupying the lowest rung of the ladder is enabled to rise up to the level of other communities which have been more fortunately placed. The Harijans, as you are aware, Madam, have also made equal sacrifices in the struggle for the freedom of this country along with other people and they naturally expected that after the attainment of freedom and independence, their lot would be improved and that the social ills and disabilities from which they had been suffering for a long time would be removed and that they would be able to occupy their rightful place in the body politic. Somehow things have not yet changed. I am glad, Madam, that the hon. Mr. Prakasam during his regime was good enough to allot a crore of rupees for this fund, to be utilized for improving the lot of the Harijans in this Province. But unfortunately that one crore of rupees has been so solid in its content that not a rupee was spent out of it. Its total amount remained as it was for a very long time. Then a committee was appointed and this committee which sat to consider the ways and means of spending that amount for the betterment of Harijans has come forward with various suggestions. I shall not go into the recommendations contained in seriatim. Its report is already in the hands of the Members of this House and it is being considered by the Harijan community itself. What is required is not paper recommendations, but what Gandhiji has very often pleaded, namely, a real change of heart on the part of those Caste Hindus who had

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been keeping these people down for a very long time. Mere tinkering with the problem will not do. After all, what is it that this Congress Government have done during the last two years of its regime to raise the Harijans socially or improve their lot even in the political sphere? I am afraid, Madam, the Government have not been sincere in dealing with this question. If at all they have attempted to do anything, it was done more out of political necessity rather than discharging their duty and responsibility towards this down-trodden community. Political necessity has been found to be so important and so pressing that there was no other alternative, but to take this very large community, containing as it does about 80 lakhs of people along with them, because they have votes and these votes could be used by those who wanted to exploit them. Madam, what they have been doing hitherto is nothing more than simply exploiting these poor Harijans for their own purposes. Gandhiji has always been shunning and deprecating this idea. He wanted them to tackle this problem on its merits, as what one human being should do towards another human being in distress and as how one person who is placed in more fortunate circumstances should behave and help his brother who is less fortunate than himself. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government and also of the Caste Hindu community to see that the standard of living of these Harijans is raised and their lot improved both socially and economically. Of course, as has been known, these Harijans were claimed to belong to a section of the Hindu community and therefore attempts were made to raise their position in the religious sphere, by throwing open the temples. I know there are many members of the Harijan community who are not satisfied with this reform or this concession. Some of them would have liked to have their own temples, because there are so many caste and sub-caste in the Hindu community itself, each having its own temples and Gods for worship. Therefore, they consider that this opening of the temples to the Harijans is merely a political stunt, for it does not in any way raise them either socially or economically. Then came the legislation for the removal of civil disabilities and after all, what did that legislation do? Complaints are coming from all sides of the House and from members of the Harijan community itself that that legislation is more or less a dead letter, for no effective action has been taken by the Government to implement that measure.

“ Even to-day the disabilities are there. Even to-day they are in the same social position as they were. Therefore it is up to the Government to find out ways and means with the aid of the Police and laws and with the aid of publicity and all the other institutions which are available to them and see that the people come to know about the two pieces of legislation. Even the Government servants seem to be ignorant of the existence of the legislation. They must be informed that such legislations do exist and that they should be given effect to willy nilly. That is what the Harijans want. There is the question of temple entry. There is also the question of entry into hotels run by caste people. I have

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always believed that this particular community is economically very poor and it is in the last rung of the ladder. If at all the condition of this community could be improved or ameliorated, their economic position should first be taken into consideration by the Government or the society. If they are economically raised they will be religiously and socially raised and everything will follow. After all a Harijan Minister or a Harijan Collector or Deputy Collector is no longer a Harijan because he gets everything he wants and gets equal treatment as any other officer gets. (Interruption.) I am sorry to hear from the Hon. Mr. Kurmayya that it is not always true. Even the Hon. Minister and the highly placed officers appear to be in the same position as they were though they are economically better off. Even there I have to stand corrected. I thought that by improving the lot of the Harijan economically they would improve socially also. Even that appears to be denied to them. Then I don't know how to help the community. God alone should help them.

"While I am on this subject I should like to point out that the Government would have done well if they had at least two Harijans as Ministers. One is certainly not a satisfactory arrangement. They are a fairly large number, say about 80 lakhs of people in the society. The community is still growing and their social position is such that unless you have two or three Ministers from that community it will not help them. After all what is the position assigned even to the one Minister who is here in the Government. In my opinion he should have been given a very important department. He should be in charge of a very important portfolio, say the Home Department or the Education Department or any other Department which is not in charge of other Hon. Ministers. Instead of that, he has been relegated to the position of a Rural Development Minister. Even in the Cabinet he is an untouchable. (Interruption.) My hon. Friend says that he is what he is always even in the Cabinet. That, Madam, is certainly not a desirable state of affairs. I think it will be well for the Government, particularly our Hon. Premier who is a very good man, a very honest man, a very sincere man, all that is good can be said about him, to see that the Minister belonging to the Harijan community is given an important portfolio.

"If this question was not dealt with on a political basis I cannot understand the answer that was given the other day about helping the members of the Scheduled Classes who do not belong to the fold of the Hindu community. If a Harijan becomes a Christian tomorrow he is outside the roll of the class of people who could be served or who should automatically get the support of the Government. If really this State is a secular State as the claim is made from time to time, how is it that the Government, if the Government is not a Hindu Government, gave such an answer."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"We cannot divert the privileges which are intended only for the Harijan community to other communities."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am sorry, Madam, I am not convinced. If any help was given to the community it was on the basis of its economic condition. If a man changed his religion he did not economically become better off."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"When I answered to a question yesterday I said that some concessions were shown to the Harijan community who were socially backward. The same concessions cannot be shown to other communities who are not Harijans."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"One hon. Member should not address another hon. Member directly. They should address the Chair."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"I am sorry, Madam."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I must thank, Madam, my hon. Friend for pointing out a difference between 'economically' and 'socially'. I don't see any difference. After all being backward either economically or socially is one and the same. When you think of helping a particular community socially, their economic uplift goes along with it. Change of religion should not make any difference to the person or to the community. That is my view.

"My hon. Friends of the Harijan community who are about 30 in number here, if they really want to have a little more initiative, a little more self-assertion, a little more freedom even though they belong to a particular political party they should be allowed to have them. I remember the words of Mahatma Gandhi who, I think, told the Leaders of the various Provincial Congress Parties to give the Harijans more independence and more freedom in the party so that they might act in the interests of the community as a whole. That, I am afraid, has been denied to them. I think it is better that these gentlemen should take the initiative and act as a body. Thirty of them is not a small number. They can do something to their own community if they unite together.

"As far as their education is concerned various propositions have been adumbrated. So far as the problem of education in our Province is concerned it is in complete chaos. When even we who are placed in a better position are treated like this I do not know what will be the condition of our friends belonging to the Harijan community who are in the last rung of the ladder and whose education should be the first care of any State. I know that 10 per cent of the seats in the Colleges have been reserved for the Harijan community. But that is not the remedy for the evil. My own view is that separate schools and separate colleges should be opened for them, not for keeping them as a separate community. But in these institutions the principle that should be followed should be that seats should be reserved not for the Harijan community but for the caste people. The minority position should be assigned to the caste people and not to the Harijan community. It is only then that the superiority complex will go.

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That, Madam, is the practical way of looking at this problem. I, therefore, suggest that there should be separate schools for the Harijans and seats should be reserved for the other communities and castes. It is only then that the Harijan community will feel more self-respectful and that they are equal to any other caste. I, therefore, suggest that this might be done. The same thing will have to be done with regard to the hostels also. If there are ten Harijan boys in a common hostel to-day they are looked upon as a minority and belonging to a separate caste. Therefore, separate hostels should be opened for them and seats should be reserved in those hostels for pupils belonging to other communities, say, the Muslims, the Christians and the Hindus. It is only then that we will raise them economically and socially also.

“My hon. Friend, Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, gave a long history not only about the sufferings of the Harijans in his district but also in other places, and all the services that he has rendered for that community. We must sincerely thank him for all his services. He suggested that wells should be opened for the Harijans separately. I say that that is not the proper way of doing things. The only way by which you can bring about equality and remove untouchability is to throw open the common wells to the Harijans although they may be at a distance from the so-called cheris. The so-called Harijans should be allowed to take water from those wells. Separate wells should not be opened for the Harijans in the cheris. The first need is, of course, to give them drinking water. We must also make the caste Hindu water available for them. We must have in the first instance a change of heart and we must shed our superiority complex. Because we are economically better off, we should not think that we are superior people and that the Harijans are inferior. Equality should be recognized in the first instance before we deserve our Independence so that we may be in a position to sustain that Independence. Gandhiji has been aspiring to bring about that feeling in us which is necessary. There should be no difference between man and man. We are all equal in the eyes of God. He is our Father and we are all sons of the one God. I cannot understand why because a man is born black or because a man is born white he should be treated this way or that way or he should be considered inferior or superior. My hon. Friend, Mr. Kaleswara Rao, is very anxious about my mentioning the rights of women. His Bill is enough for answering that question. I was referring, Madam, to the general suffering of the Harijan community in the villages to-day.

“I am shocked to hear that in districts like the Kistna, the Godavari and other places the Police go into the villages and are indulging in lathi charges and breaking of vessels and things like that on a large scale. I got information from a Christian friend who belongs to the Harijan community and now he is a Christian and a member of the Legislature. He told me how they are treated: they are manhandled, their women are badly treated and are deprived of their poor belongings. I do not know if my Hon.

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Friend, the Minister has any information about these things particularly as it comes from the Andhra districts. (Interruption.) I would request my hon. Friend who gave me the information to pass on the information to the Hon. Minister. It is high time, he asserted himself, and told the honest and upright Premier: ‘You continue to hold the portfolio of Police and yet make the Harijan community suffer.’

“I do not wish to say anything more except to appeal to 4-30
Government that not only they should implement the recommenda- p.m.
tion of this Committee without the least delay but also help the
community to sustain themselves for all time.”

* SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI ANNAL:—“தலைவர் அவர்களே, இன்று ஹரிஜன விஷயமாக பேச என்னக்கு சந்தர்ப்பம் கிடைத்ததைப் பற்றி சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன். நம்முடைய நாட்டில் ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக, கங்கணம் கட்டிக்கொண்டு வேலை செய்து மகாத்தமா காந்தியவர்களே. சென்ற 25 வருஷ காலமாக நாம் நிறைய பிரசாரங்கள் மூலமாக ஹரிஜனங்கள் முன்வர என்னென்ன வசதிகள் செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டுமோ அது விஷயமாக செய்து வந்திருக்கிறோம். ஆனால் இந்த பிரசாரங்களை யெல்லாம் ஹரிஜனங்களிடையே பண்ணவில்லை. மேல் ஜாதிக்காரர்களிடையே அவர்களுடைய மனம் மாற்றிக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்பதாக செய்து வந்தோம். இப்பொழுது (cries of order, order as one member crossed the Chair) காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டு வந்ததிலிருந்து ஹரிஜனங்களின் முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கிவைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அந்த ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கிவைத்திருப்பது காணாது. இன்னும் ஒவ்வொரு வருஷமும் ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கிவைக்கவேண்டுமென்பதாக நமது ஹரிஜன சகோதரர்கள் கேட்கிறார்கள். நான் ஒன்று கேட்கிறேன். இந்த ஒரு கோடி ரூபாயே ஒரு வருஷத்தில் செலவு செய்தால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு எவ்வளவோ சௌகரியங்கள் ஏற்படும். அது இல்லாமல் அந்த ஒரு கோடி ரூபாயும் சிலவிடுவதற்கு இன்னும் சில வருஷமாகும். இந்த ஒரு கோடி ரூபாயும் ஒவ்வொரு வருஷமும் சிலவாகாமல் வருஷக் கடைசியில் reserve fund-க்கு போய்விடும். இம்மாதிரி பணத்தை ஒதுக்கி வைத்தால் மாத்திரம் போதாது. அவர்களுக்கு எது செய்யவேண்டுமோ அவைகளை வெகு சிரத்தையுடன் நாம் செய்ய கடைம்பட்டிருக்கிறோம். அதற்கு சர்க்காரிலிருந்து உத்தரவுகள் போடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அவர்களுக்கு கிணறுகள் ஏராளமாக வெட்டிக்கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்றும் சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. கல்வி கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்பதற்கு 10 லட்சம் ஒதுக்கி இருக்கிறது. ஆனால் இவைகளெல்லாம் நம்முடைய மனது எவ்வளவு சீக்கிரத்தில் நினைக்கிறதோ அம்மாதிரி செய்கையில் ஆவதில்லை. நமது நண்பர் நாகப்பா அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிற மாதிரி, இப்பொழுதே சிலவு செய்துவிடவேண்டுமென்றால் அம்மாதிரி கிரியாமையில் நடப்பது இல்லை. நடை முறையில் ரொம்ப மெதுவாகப் போய்க்கொண்டிருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் இப்பொழுது ஹரிஜன கமிட்டி ஒன்று போடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஹரிஜனங்களுக்காக தனியாக டிபார்ட்மென்டும் ஏற்படுத்தி அதற்கு ஒரு மந்திரியும் நம் கவர்ன்மெண்டில் ஏற்படுத்தி இருப்பதை நாம் பாராட்டாமலிருக்க முடியாது. ஆனால் இந்த விஷயங்களை சரிவர நிறைவேற்றப்படவேண்டுமென்றால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கிடையே பொது ஜனங்களும் நாமும் வேலை செய்யக் கடைம்பட்டிருக்கிறோம். நாலு நாட்களுக்கு முன் நமது நண்பர் கண்ணியப்பன் அவர்கள் ஹரிஜன கமிட்டியில் எல்லாம் அய்யங்கார்களையும் அய்யரையும் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் இல்லாமல் ஹரிஜனங்களையே ஏன் போடக்கூடாது என்பதாக கேட்டார்கள். இப்பொழுது ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு சில சில இடங்களில் தீங்குகள் செய்யப்படுவதாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. அவைகளை எல்லாம் அய்யரும் அய்யங்கார்களும் செய்யவில்லை. மற்ற மேல் ஜாதி பிராமணரல்லாத ஹிந்துக்கள்தான் செய்கிறார்கள். பிராமணரல்லாத மேல் ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்கள்தான் இந்த கிணற்றில் ஜலம் எடுக்கக்

[Srimathi V. Lakshmi Ammal] [19th July 1948]

கூடாது, இந்த குளத்தில் ஜலம் எடுக்கக்கூடாது என்று பலவிதமாக தொந்தரவுகள் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால் பிராமணரல்லாத மேல் ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்களின் மனம் தான் மாறவில்லை. பிராமணர்கள் இருந்து வேலை செய்து வந்ததால் தான் அவர்களுடைய மனம் இப்பொழுது மாறுதல் அடைந்திருக்கிறது. அவர்கள் இப்பொழுது எந்த இடத்தில் ஹரிஜனங்கள் ஜலம் எடுத்தாலும் எந்தக் கொவிலுக்குப் போனாலும் அவர்கள் யாதொரு குறையும் சொல்லமாட்டார்கள். அதே விதமான மனப்பான்மை மற்ற இதர ஜாதிக்கும் ஏற்படவேண்டும். இன்னும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குள்ளேயே மனம் மாறுதல் ஏற்படவில்லை. எங்கள் ஊரில் பரையர்கள் இருக்கிற இடத்தில் ஒரு கிணறு இருக்கிறது. அந்தக் கிணற்றில் பள்ளன் ஜலம் எடுக்கமாட்டான். செக்கிலியர் போய் எடுக்கக்கூடாது. நாடார் இருக்கிற இடத்தில் கிணர் இருந்தால் அதில் ஹரிஜனங்கள் போய் எடுக்கக்கூடாது. இவ்விதம் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குள்ளேயே மனம் திருந்தாமலிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் அவர்களை குறை கூறிப் பயன் இல்லை. அவர்களிடம் நாம் செய்யவேண்டிய வேலைகளை நாம் பிரசாரம் மூலம் செய்யவே இல்லை. சாதாரணமாக இங்கு ஒவ்வொருவரும் அழகாகவும் வெகு திறமையாகவும் எல்லாருடைய மனதிலும் படக்கூடிய நிலைமையிலும் வெகு உறுக்கமாக பேசக்கூடிய நண்பர்களைல்லாம் ஹரிஜனங்களிடையே போய் இவ்விதமாகப் பேசி அவர்களைக் கொஞ்சம் திருந்தச் செய்தால் எவ்வளவோ நன்றாக இருக்கும். அவரவர்கள் தாங்கள் வேலைக்கு வரவேண்டும் என்பதற்காகவே பேசுகிறார்கள். எல்லா உத்தியோகங்களும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கே கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்று பேசப்படுகிறது. கிராமங்களில் பார்த்தால் ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய நிலைமையானது 50 வருஷத்திற்கு முன் இருந்த நிலைமையிலேயே இருக்கிறது. அந்த நிலைமை கொஞ்சமும் மாறுபடவில்லை. அவர்களுக்கெல்லாம் நாம் என்ன செய்தோம் என்பதை ஒவ்வொருவரும் மனதில் கைவைத்து பார்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். படிப்பு விஷயத்தை எடுத்துக்கொள்வோம். அந்தக் காலங்களில் ஜில்லா போர்டுகளும் முனிசிபாலிட்டிகளும் சேரிகளில் பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள் கட்டி வைத்தார்கள். அந்தப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களெல்லாம் இப்பொழுது நின்றுவிட்டது. எல்லோரும் ஒரே பள்ளிக்கூடங்களுக்குப் போகவேண்டும். அந்த மாதிரிப்போய் படித்தால் தான் மேல் ஜாதியினருடைய பழக்க வழக்கங்களை கற்றுக்கொள்ள வழி ஏற்படும் என்பதாக நினைத்து அந்தப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களை எடுத்து விட்டார்கள். ஆகையால் சேரியிலுள்ள குழந்தைகள் பூராவும் வாசிக்க வசதியில்லை. அநேக இடங்களில் இப்பொழுது அந்தப் பள்ளிக்கூட கட்டிடங்களில் புழுதி அடைந்து கழுதைகளும் போய் அடைகின்றன. மனா கிழந்து கிடக்கின்றன. அந்தப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களை இப்பொழுது திறந்து வைத்தால் நூறுக்கு நூறு பிள்ளைகள் வாசிக்க பயன்படும். பள்ளிக்கூடம் பக்கத்திருந்தால் தான் ஹரிஜன குழந்தைகள் போகமுடியும் என்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். தனிப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள் நடப்பதால் பழக்க வழக்கங்கள் ஏற்படாமலிருந்து கெட்டுவிடாது. நமக்கு படிப்பு கொடுக்கவேண்டியது தான் அவசியம். அவரவர்கள் இருக்கிற இடத்தில் தனியாக ஆரம் பப்பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள் இருந்தால் குழந்தைகளை அனுப்புவார்கள். பிறகு மேல் படிப்புக்கு மேல் ஜாதிக் குழந்தைகளுடன் படிக்கப் போய் கொள்ளட்டும். இல்லாமல் போனால் இரண்டு மைலுக்கும் ஒரு மைலுக்கும் அப்பால் போய் அவர்களால் வாசிக்க அக்கனாகொள்ளாது. நமது நண்பர் நாகப்பா சொன்னார் மேல் ஜாதி குழந்தைகள் சேரியில் வந்து படிக்கட்டோம் என்பதாக. அது சாத்தியமா? வேகமாக பேசி விடலாம். அந்தக் காரியம் சாத்தியமா என்பதை யோசிக்கவேண்டும். எந்த முறையிலும் நாம் ஒரு முன்னேற்றத்தை மேல்கொண்டு வர முயற்சி பண்ணவேண்டும். ஆகையால் இது பரிசுந்தம் தனியாக சேரிகளின் மத்தியில் இருந்த பள்ளிக்கூடங்களைத் திறந்து அந்தக் குழந்தைகளை அங்கேயே வாசிக்கும்படியாக இருக்கவேண்டுமென்பதாக கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். இப்பொழுது பாருங்கள் பாதிரிகளெல்லாம் அந்தச் சேரியிலேயே ஒரு பள்ளிக்கூடம் வைத்து இந்த இடத்தில் அவர்கள் வசித்துக்கொண்டு அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய நன்மைகளை சொல்லிக்கொடுத்து குழந்தைகளின் நன்மைகளை கவனித்து வருகின்றார்கள். அந்த மாதிரி ஹரிஜனங்களின் நன்மை தீமைகளில் ஈடுபட்டு வேலை செய்கிற

[19th July 1948] [Srimathi V. Lakshmi Ammal]

வர்களிடத்தில் அவர்களுக்கு அன்பு ஏற்படுகிறது. அந்தச் சேரிகளில் ஏதாவது பிரசவம் ஏற்பட்டால் பள்ளிக்கூடம் வைத்திருக்கும் பாதிரியார் வந்து டாக்டரையோ, மருத்துவச்சியையோ போய் அழைத்து அதற்கு உதவி செய்கிறார்கள். இன்னும் வழக்குகள் வந்தால் அவர்களே அதை தீர்த்து வைக்கிறார்கள். இம்மாதிரி அவர்களுக்குள் ஒருவராக இருந்து வேலை செய்கிற மாதிரி நாம் நம்முடைய ஹரிஜன சேவையை அம்மாதிரி செய்தால் அவர்களுக்கு மேல் ஜாதியினரிடத்தில் மனம் மாறுதல் ஏற்படும். இவர்களுக்கும் மன மாறுதல் ஏற்படும். இம்மாதிரி மற்றவர்கள் வாழ வேண்டுமென்று உணர்ச்சி ஏற்படும். ஆகையால் படிப்பும் இன்னும் இந்த மாதிரி எந்தக் காரியத்திலும் முன்னேற்ற மடைய முடியும். படிப்பைக் கற்றுக் கொடுப்பதற்கு சேரியிலேயே குடியிருந்து ராஜ்யம் பகலும் அவர்களுடன் பழகி பெரியவர்களுக்கும் சிறிய குழந்தைகளுக்கும் கல்வி கற்றுக் கொடுக்க வசதியை உடனே செய்ய வேண்டுமென்பதற்கு திட்டங்களை ஹரிஜன கமிட்டியானது வகுத்து அதை சீக்கிரத்தில் அமுலுக்குக்கொண்டு வரவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அம்மாதிரி நாம் இப்பொழுது வேலை செய்யாமலிருப்பதால் தான் அவர்களை அநேகம் பேர்கள் தங்கள் நன்மைக்கு உபயோகப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். உதாரணமாக சொல்லுகிறேன். இப்பொழுது நம் நாட்டில் விவசாயத்திற்கு பல விதமான கெடுதல்களும் இடஞ்சல்களும் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. அவர்களிடம் போய் சில கஷிக்காரர்கள் சுத்தவாரம் தராத போனால் உழாநீர்கள் எப்பதாசச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அதை அவர்கள் கேட்கிறார்கள். கிணர் தகரார் வருகிறது. ஆனால் அந்தக் கஷியார்கள் பட்டினி கிடக்கவில்லை. ஹரிஜனங்கள் ஒரு நாள் விவசாய வேலை செய்யவில்லையானால் ஒரு நாள் பட்டினி ஏற்படுகிறது. ஹரிஜனங்கள் விஷயம் தெரிந்து மற்றக் கஷியார் சொல்வதைக் கேட்கவில்லை. அவர்கள் ஏதோ பசப்பு வார்த்தை சொல்லுகிறார்கள். கேட்டுவிடுகிறார்கள். விவசாயத் தகராறுகள் ஏற்படுகின்றன. ஹரிஜனங்களிடத்தில் போய் நாம் உண்மையைச் சொல்லவேண்டும். துஷ்பிரசாரத்தின் கெடுதல்களையும் எடுத்துச் சொல்லவேண்டும். இன்னும் ஹரிஜனங்களை பல விதமான சமூக ஏற்பாடுகளில் அவர்களை மற்றவர்கள் உபயோகப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். சில தகராறுகளில் அவர்களை மாட்டிலிடுகிறார்கள். பணம் கொடுத்து வாங்குவதில் வாட்டி அதிகம் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். மற்ற மேல் ஜாதிக்காரர்கள் 10 ரூபாய் கடன் கொடுத்து ஒரு ரூபாய் வட்டி வாங்குகிறார்கள். சென்ற காங்கிரஸ் சட்ட சபையில் 1 வட்டிக்கு மேல் கொடுக்கக்கூடாது என்று நாம் சட்டம் போட்டிருக்கிறோம். அந்த சட்டம் அவர்களுக்கு பிரயோஜனப்படவில்லை என்பதாக நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். எங்கள் ஊரில் முஸ்லீம் சகோதரர்கள், இன்னும் சில மேல் ஜாதி சகோதரர்கள், ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு சில்லறையாக கடன் கொடுப்பார்கள். ஒரு ரூபாய் வட்டி வாங்குவார்கள், முஸ்லீம் சகோதரர்கள் வட்டி வாங்குவதற்கு அறுவடை காலத்தில் ஹரிஜனங்கள் வீட்டில் போய் உட்கார்ந்துகொண்டு அவர்களுடைய பாணியில் உள்ள நெல்லை வட்டிக்காக கொண்டு போவார்கள். நாம் சட்டம் போட்டாலும் அந்த சட்டம் நம் போன்றவர்களுக்குத்தான் பிரயோஜனம். எளிது ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு கொஞ்சம் கூட பிரயோஜனம் படவில்லை. இம்மாதிரி சட்டங்கள் இருக்கிறது. இம்மாதிரி நடந்துகொள்ளவேண்டும் என்று அவர்களிடத்தில் சொன்னால் கூட அவர்கள் எங்களுக்கு அக்சரை இல்லை என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இவ்விதமாக ஒரு சட்டம் இருக்கிறது இந்த தேசத்தில் என்று புரிந்துகொள்ளாமல்கூட இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு இம்மாதிரி உரிமைகள் இருக்கின்றன என்றுகூட அவர்கள் நினைக்கவில்லை. இன்னும் அநேகம் இடத்தில் போய் பார்த்தால் கோவில்கள் திறந்திருக்கிறதேயொழிய அவர்கள் தைரியமாக போவது இல்லை. என் போகக்கூடாது என்று கேட்டால் எங்களுக்கு எப்படி கோவிலுக்கு போக முடியும். நாங்கள் எல்லாம் இங்கே உட்கார்ந்து கொண்டு வேலை செய்கிறோம் என்பதாக சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஆகையால் அவர்களுக்குள்ளே உரிமையை பிரயோஜனப்படுத்திக்கொள்ள தெரியவில்லை. நாம் இங்கிருக்கின்ற அனைவரும் அங்கு சென்று போதனை செய்து வருவார்களானால் இங்கு பேசுகிற பேச்சில் அர்த்தம் இருக்கிறது என்பதாக கருத வேண்டும். இல்லாமல் அவர்கள் முன்னேற்றமடைய முடியாது. இன்னும் நமது நண்பர் வைத்தியநாதய்யர் சொன்னார்கள் போலீஸ்காரர்கள்

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ஹரிஜனங்களிலேயே போட்டாலும் அவர்களும் காசு வாங்குகிறார்கள் என்று அவர் சுட்டிக் காண்பித்தார். ஆகையால் அவரவர்களை நன்மையைத் தேடிக்கொண்டால் இந்த நாடு முன்னேற்ற மடைய முடியும். சமூகம் முன்னேற்றமடையும். மகாத்மா காந்தி சொன்ன பிரகாரம் நாம் முன்னேற்ற மடைவோம் என்பதை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். ஆகையால் என்ன சட்டம் செய்து இருக்கிறோம் என்பதை இங்கு இருக்கும் அங்கத்தினர்கள் அதை கங்கணம் கட்டிக்கொண்டு பிரசாரம் செய்ய முன்வரவேண்டும் என்பதை நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இவ்விதமாக ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு சர்க்காரில் பல சட்ட திட்டங்கள் இயற்றி இருக்கிறார்கள். அவைகளை ஹரிஜனங்கள் பயன் படுத்திக்கொள்ளுமாறு கிரியாமையில் செய்யவேண்டும் என்பது அதிகாரிகளுடையவும் பொது ஜனங்களுடைய கடமையுமாகும். இங்கு நாம் போட்டுகள் வாங்கி வந்திருக்கிறோம். ஆகையால் அவைகளைச் செய்வது நம்முடைய கடமையுமாகும் என்பதை தெரிவித்துக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இன்னும் அவர்களுக்கு வைத்திய வசதி செய்யவேண்டுமென்றிருக்கிறது. வைத்திய வசதிகளுக்கு ஆஸ்பத்திரி இருக்கிறது போங்கள் என்று சொன்னால் அங்கே போக மாட்டார்கள். அவர்கள் தங்கள் பழைய பழக்க வழக்கங்களை தான் அனுசரித்து வருகிறார்களே ஒழிய நாம் சொல்லுகிறபடி செய்வது இல்லை. எவ்வளவு வந்தாலும் அவர்கள் எங்கே போகவேண்டுமென்று கூட தெரியாமல் இருந்து வருகிறார்கள். இம்மாதிரி இருந்தால் அவர்கள் ஒரு நாளும் முன்னேற்றமடைய முடியாது. ஆகையால் இப்பொழுது போட்டிருக்கிற சட்டங்களை அவர்களுக்கு பிரயோஜனப்படுத்த நாம் ஒவ்வொருவரும் வேலை செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

(The Hon. Speaker resumed the chair.)

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, first I must congratulate you because it is your presence as Speaker of this House that has led the Harijans of this Province to ventilate their grievances on the floor of this House with so much vehemence and with utmost frankness. It has been stated by the Hon. Minister for Rural Uplift that in no Province of our country has so much been done for Harijan uplift as in our own. But I wish to ask has there been so much of oppression in any other Province as we witness in our own Province. Taking a comparative view of things, our Harijans have been suppressed through centuries, and to provide for their uplift now, I know, is a Himalayan problem. It is a problem of problems. It is essentially a problem of poverty. It was George Bernard Shaw, who said so well ‘ what is crime—a murder here, a bestiality there; only fools fear crimes—we all fear poverty, the crime of crimes ’. That is the essence of the problem. I am very happy that the Government of Madras have in right earnest constituted a Harijan Welfare Committee which has at last come with this report. I am equally happy to see that although this committee is invested with powers to go into the problems of Harijans it has yet been broad-minded enough to think that not only Harijans but also other communities there are in our Province who should come up for consideration at the hands of this Government. I am not at all concerned whether this Harijan uplift is a political, social or economic problem. To me it is a problem which is essentially a problem of humanity, and whoever has got that milk of human sympathy must naturally try to do his best even as our esteemed friend and one of the most respected Members of this House the Hon. Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar has been doing. His heartrending

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speech giving a narrative account of the conditions of Harijans in the districts set us thinking whether we are still living in Independent India. His speech was so heartrending that it moved some of us to tears. I was wondering whether we are still living in a land of freedom, of equality and of liberty. Such monstrosities have been perpetrated against a particular set of people whose only fault was that through centuries they have been suppressed. Mr. Speaker, one thing should be said to the credit of the Congress Government and of the powers-that-be that, better late than never, they had at last come face to face with the situation and have realised that they now owe a debt in this twentieth century of Jesus Christ to redeem the wrongs that had been done to Harijans through centuries. No doubt in elevating you to the Chair and in providing a place for the Hon. Mr. Kurmayya on the Treasury Bench, they have really done something. I would like to tell them now that it is high time that they stop thinking in terms of this or that portfolio or this or that favour for a few individuals in the Harijan community. That is not going to solve the problem actually. If I should be asked how best we can solve this problem, I can only say ‘ let all the communities who feel that they have advanced themselves in different walks of life withdraw from fields of competition imposing a self-denying ordinance, and allow our Harijans, both men and women, to step in and occupy positions of trust not only within the Province or at the Centre, but also in overseas.’ Let them go out as diplomats. I do not think that they are so very deplorable from the point of view of talents. We can only keep them in backwaters of progress for another decade or two to come if we are going to raise the complex of merit against the progress of that community. I would say that even in this House we have got ever so many Members qualified and brilliant. If only we have the attitude to encourage them and not merely patronise them, so many could be found prominent in different walks of life and also responsible for the cause of our freedom and our national progress in different countries of the world. That in fairness, Mr. Speaker, has to be done if we want to feed the instinct of self-respect and if we want to remove the wrongs and damage that had been done to Harijans. The one remark from Mr. Nagappa touched me to the quick. I felt that they are essentially suffering from an inferiority complex. That is because they are placed in circumstances which cannot but warrant that complex. The only way by which we can improve their condition is to trust them with positions of honour and see that they are able to maintain their heads in all counsels of wisdom. I was wondering whether that one crore of rupees fund, which had been earmarked by the Hon. Mr. Prakasam, when he was the Premier, would come in here for admiration. We see that for quite a long time this fund had been left untouched as if even this fund was untouchable. Your friends, who had given tall assurances that they would give this and that and do so many things, have not been able to do anything. They have not even tried to meet the elementary rights of our Harijans. It has been said that our Province must try to do something with regard to

[N. Muhammad Anwar Sahib Bahadur] [19th July 1948]

housing. That is a problem which undeniably is the foremost of their problems of poverty. Our friends are accustomed to consult Shakespeare for tragedies. My place of living is surrounded by hamlets of different sorts. As we pass through these places in an evening walk, we see the tragedies before our very eyes. One need not go to Shakespeare for tragedies. In our villages, we have got those tragedies, and that mostly springs from the fact that they have not got even a house to live in. I am not at all surprised that this committee should have recommended an allotment of Rs. 50 lakhs out of that one crore of rupees fund towards housing. My point is that it is not as if you are going to solve everything by simply providing houses for Harijans in their colonies. A brilliant suggestion has been made by my hon. friend Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan that colleges, schools, hostels, and public institutions should be thrown open, if necessary, and be staffed and managed by Harijans under the auspices of the State. The whole process must be so reversed that when it comes to a question of providing a certain percentage for other communities, it should be said that these institutions are run by Government and that 10 or 15 per cent are thrown open to other communities. Let the rest, I mean, a preponderant percentage of numbers on the rolls of these different institutions be mostly Harijans. Because it is only then they will know how best to mete out justice. I am sure however much we may try to speak here with regard to considerations of justice and fairplay, it will never be possible for us to render justice unless we have gone through the experiences through which Harijans are daily going. Only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches, and that is the essential reason why I feel that Harijans should, for a time, be allowed to occupy positions of honour. Let there be a moratorium. Let all the other communities agree that for 15 years to come they shall withdraw. Let Harijans become Deputy Collectors, Collectors and Superintendents of Police. Let them become Ministers and let them become the rulers of this Province. I know they are going to be the rulers because adult franchise is going to give them not only a voice, but a decisive voice in the affairs of men. If you are really serious that we must secure their co-operation and that we must earn their goodwill, it is better that we voluntarily withdraw and allow them to step in. Let the inferiority complex be wiped out from the minds of Harijans.

"Then, Sir, with regard to education. This is the greatest of the problems. Elementary education in our country has still got to be considered as a luxury. It is only 7 to 8 per cent of our people that can be considered literates, and we are yet to go a long way to effect cent per cent literacy in our country. I make an earnest appeal to the Government to see . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will continue his speech to-morrow. I now adjourn the House till to-morrow 11 a.m."

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

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APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 8 asked by P. K. Moideen Kutty Sahib Bahadur at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 19th July 1948, page 267 supra.]

Names of members of the Committees for the recruitment of Home Guards.

Districts.	Names.
Madras City ..	(1) Sri T. Bhaskara Rao, I.C.S. (Retired). (2) „ G. Rajagopalan. (3) „ K. Venkataswami Nayudu, M.L.C.
Anantapur ..	(1) „ G. Venkata Reddi, B.A., B.L., M.L.C. (2) „ G. Ramasastry. (3) „ M. N. Aswarthanarayana Chetti. (4) „ Haresamudram Narasinga Rao.
Arcot, North ..	(1) „ W.S. Srinivasa Rao, M.L.A. (2) „ Ramanatha Reddiyar. (3) „ P. S. Rajagopala Nayudu.
Bellary ..	(1) „ H. Linga Reddi, B.A., B.L. (2) „ B. Anantachar, M.L.A. (3) „ T. Subrahmanyam, B.A., B.L.
Chingleput ..	(1) „ C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar, M.L.C. (2) „ R. Subbier, M.L.A. (3) „ P. Balasubramania Reddiyar.
Coimbatore ..	(1) „ V. C. Palaniswami Gounder, M.L.A. (2) „ R. M. Kumaraswami Gounder. (3) „ Velappa Naicker.
Cuddapah ..	(1) „ C. L. Narasimha Reddi, B.A., B.L. (2) „ M. Chennappa. (3) „ M. V. Gangadhara Siva. (4) „ N. Ranga Reddi, M.L.C. (5) „ K. Balanarayana Reddi, M.L.A.
Godavari, East ..	(1) „ M. Narasanna. (2) „ Pydah Venkatanarayana, M.L.A. (3) „ P. Satyanarayana Raju. (4) „ Mupparti Venkataratnam.
Godavari, West..	(1) „ R. V. Rama Rao, B.A., B.L. (2) „ M. Kummareddi Suryanarayana. (3) „ Vuddaraju Suraparaju. (4) „ Nadimpalli Tirupatiraju. (5) „ M. Sitaramadas.

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Districts.	Names.
Guntur ..	.. (1) Sri C. Hanumantha Rao. (2) „ M. Venkataraju, M.L.A. (3) „ P. Brahmananda Reddi, M.L.A. (4) „ A. Subba Reddi.
Krishna ..	.. (1) „ Marupilla Chitti. (2) „ Gottipati Brahmayya. (3) „ Kakani Venkataratnam. (4) „ Vallabhaneni Ramabrahmam.
Kurnool ..	.. (1) „ Giri Rao, B.A., B.L. (2) „ Ranga Reddi. (3) Dr. Samuel, M.L.A.
Malabar ..	.. (1) Major P. K. Karunakara Menon. (2) Sri Samuel Aaron. (3) „ K. Kelappan. (4) „ P. Damodaran, B.A., B.L. (5) „ C. K. Govindan Nair, M.L.A.
Nellore ..	.. (1) „ A. C. Subba Reddi. (2) „ P. Punniiah. (3) „ Dodla Venkataramireddi. (4) „ K. Shanmugam. (5) „ N. Chenchurama Nayudu.
Salem ..	.. (1) Dr. P. Varadarajulu Nayudu. (2) Sri K. V. Venkatachala Reddiyar. (3) „ K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder, M.L.A.
South Kanara ..	.. (1) Dr. U. P. Mallayya, M.L.A. (2) Mr. L. C. Pais, B.A., B.L., M.L.A. (3) Sri K. Iswara, M.L.A.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 20th July 1948.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Supplemental Examinations for Engineering College.

* 46-A Q.—MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before the Government to have supplemental (September) examinations for Engineering College?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“No. It is a matter for the Universities.”

Detention of R.S.S.S. persons and Muslim National Guards.

* 47 Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of R.S.S.S. persons and the total number of Muslim National Guards detained at present; and

(b) the number of releases in each?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier)

“(a) One R.S.S.S. and 20 Muslim League National Guards are under detention at present.

“(b) 365 R.S.S.S. and 31 Muslim League National Guards have been released.”

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know how the Government can account for the low percentage of releases of the Muslim National Guards in comparison with the R.S.S.S. men?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“It is obvious, Sir, from the figures I have given.”

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—“In view of the fact that most of the Muslim National Guards have been arrested practically without any charge except perhaps that they were once connected with the Muslim National Guards, will the Government take courage to prosecute them if they have any other charges?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I do not accept the premises, that they were arrested because they once belonged to the Muslim National Guards. The charges were given and their explanations were received.”

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P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the fact that the President of the Indian Muslim League has declared the Muslim National Guards organization stands dissolved and in view of the fact that the organization has no activities at present, will the Government be pleased to consider the question of their early release?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"A formal dissolution or a declaration of a dissolution by the President does not mean anything. You must take into consideration their previous activities and their general attitude."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR: "Will the Hon. the Minister be pleased to state the charges that were communicated to the various detenus and whether they have repudiated those charges?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"May be, but it is not in the public interest to publish them."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In respect of some of the Muslim National Guards who have been released by the High Court and subsequently arrested within two hours were any offences committed by these persons?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"About nine of them have been arrested, for some other activities with which they were connected."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"What is the name of the only R.S.S.S. detenu and whether the Government are contemplating to release him?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not think I can give it out straightway. I want notice."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether the President of the Munagala and Lingagiri Congress Committee and the Working Committee Member of the District Congress Sri Venkatanarasayya was arrested by the police and the arrests are going on indiscriminately?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not accept that the arrests are going on indiscriminately. Particular persons may have been arrested and fresh notice may be given with regard to that."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"Is it a fact, Sir, that some of the National Guards released by judgment of the High Court have disappeared and gone underground to evade arrest?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not know."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Is there an impression in the Krishna district that some Congressmen are interfering with the arrests of some men and release of others at their sweet will and pleasure?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"There are charges and counter charges to that effect."

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MR. L. C. PAIS:—"May I know, Sir, how long these people will be detained without trial?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"As long as it is necessary in the public interest."

SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:—"Is it a fact, Sir, that the Rashtriya Sevak Sangh and the Rashtriya Seva Dal are entirely two different organizations with different objects of pursuit?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It may be that they are different organizations."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Is the Leader of the House aware that the only charge given to the Muslim detenus was that they were connected with the Muslim League? Did the Government have sufficient reason other than that? Will they prosecute them in an open court and have an open trial?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not accept that. If there is enough evidence to prosecute we could have done it already."

SRI B. ANANTACHAR:—"May I know whether an undertaking is taken before release?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am not quite sure. In some cases some undertaking may be taken."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Is it a fact, Sir, that in several of the Andhra districts especially Nellore and East Godavari agricultural labourers were being arrested indiscriminately at the instigation of vested interests and caste-Hindu ryots?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I repudiate the suggestion that any arrests have been made indiscriminately in Nellore or East Godavari district."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the fact that these arrests of the Muslim National Guards were undertaken as a result of the ban that was placed by the Government of India on the organization and it is this Province that has arrested larger number of National Guards than in any other Province are not this Government more for punishing the Muslims for having at the one time been members of the Muslim League than on any other ground?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not accept the suggestion that because once they belonged to the Muslim League they were arrested. It may be that the Government have taken the precaution when it was pointed out to them. The matter is there. This Province has a more vital interest in the Hyderabad affair and we have to take necessary precaution with regard to that."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"If a person is arrested immediately after his release is it not circumventing the law and a fraud on the constitution of the Province?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"This is not the first time. Previously also these arrests were made."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Is it not necessary to insist on these people to give an undertaking for good behaviour before they were released?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If such an undertaking was necessary we would not have released them. Where we considered it was safe we released them."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the fact that the only charge against them was that they were once connected with the National Guards and now that the organization itself had been dissolved, will the Government be pleased to consider their release generally?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"An advisory council consisting of two High Court Judges and two eminent lawyers reviews these cases periodically."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Are the Government aware that Mr. Abdul Hafeez, an advocate, who was connected with the National Guards in 1940 and in spite of his repudiation that he had nothing to do with it is still under detention for more than six months and will the Government see that he is released when practically there is no charge against him?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The fact that he disavows his connexion with the Muslim League is not everything. It relates to his general activity and attitude of the person."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Are the Government aware, Sir, that the several cases in which Government have tried to circumvent the decision of the High Court only make the intelligentsia and populace here lose their confidence in the Government?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The intelligentsia will take care of themselves, and I am not bothered about the intelligentsia."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, how many Muslims have been arrested in Vijayawada out of suspicion and how many released?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"A separate question may be put."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"Are the Government aware that hundreds of Muslims in Kurnool have crossed the border and gone over to Hyderabad State and that there is a feeling that the Government are not taking sufficient action?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If Muslims are afraid of their lives I do not know how the Government could help them." ('Hear, Hear.')

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know the reason why the Government repudiate the statement made by Sri Murthi as regards the indiscriminate arrests in Nellore and East Godavari?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not accept the statement that any indiscriminate arrests were made in any district."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the fact that some of the Muslims belonging to border districts and having relations in Hyderabad have been arrested, may I know whether any Hindus who are having relations in Hyderabad have also been arrested?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not think they were arrested because they have relations in Hyderabad. They were arrested because they were having relations with subversive activities with Hyderabad."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Are the Government aware that a memorial was sent to the Government that indiscriminate arrests have been going on in Anterwedipalem firka of Razole taluk of poor Harijans and agricultural labourers and is it not a fact that these arrests were due to the instigation of caste-Hindu people in the place?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"A memorial was received but it does not mean that indiscriminate arrests were made."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I^{11-15 a.m.} know from the Hon. the Leader of the House whether the families of those persons who are detained under this Ordinance are being given any allowances? Even in the days of the Britishers, some sort of allowances were being given to the families of the detenus."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Some orders were recently passed sanctioning some little allowance. A separate question may be put."

K. M. HAJI AHMAD KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Government constitute committees to go into the question of these arrested people and if so, whether the Government will take as far as possible non-official members of each district on these committees?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Just now there is a proposal before the Government. Already District Advisory Committees are functioning and they are sending reports to the Government periodically."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"If past attitude and past action are the sole criteria according to the Leader of the House for detaining these persons, may I ask the Leader of the House whether he is prepared to prosecute these people in open

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court so that they may have open trial to establish their innocence and the Government may also establish their guilt before they are detained?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is again begging the question. If we had been in a position to arrest and prosecute them, we would have done so long ago. It was not merely for their past attitude they were arrested but also for their attitude which is continuous."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know from the Hon. the Leader of the House whether the Government are aware that one Mr. K. K. Abu of Malabar was arrested even though he is a Burma evacuee and was away in Burma at the time of the organization of National Guards though he had nothing officially to do with the Muslim National Guards?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is not necessary that one should have any official relations with the Muslim National Guards for being arrested. It is enough if he is merely connected with the organization."

High-level channel under the Tungabhadra Project.

* 48 Q.—SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Nizam's Government have been approached for an agreement over the construction of the high-level channel under the Tungabhadra Project;

(b) what is the area proposed to be irrigated by the high-level channel and whether the investigation has been made or has been started; and

(c) if not, what is the delay due to?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" (a) No.

" (b) It is not possible at present to give any reliable figure of the area that can be brought under irrigation by the high-level channel. A high-level canal scheme was already investigated but only as an alternative to the low-level canal scheme. Since however the latter has actually been taken up and is under execution, the former has to be reinvestigated for being taken up in addition to the latter. In the present design of the plan sufficient capacity has been provided to take off a high-level canal and the necessary sluice for letting out water for this canal, is being built in, even now, in the masonry structure of the dam. It may be hoped that even before the completion of the present project, it would be possible to reach the necessary agreement with Hyderabad so that work on the high-level canal may be taken up in continuation of the low-level canal. In this connection the attention of the hon. Member is also invited to the answer furnished to clauses (f) and (g) of starred question No. 43 answered on 27th February 1948.

" (c) Does not arise."

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SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"Is the Hon. the Minister aware that the high-level channel commands an area which is more famine-stricken than the area commanded by the low-level channel and therefore the high-level channel should be given the highest priority?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"I do admit that there are large possibilities of development in the high-level channel and we can bring substantial ayacuts under cultivation under this high-level channel in parts of Kurnool and Bellary. The canal will also provide for some portions of the Anantapur district. I am not advised to give any further information about this at this stage. As I have already answered, the question of pursuing the high-level channel can be taken up only after final allocation of waters between the Hyderabad Government and the Madras Government."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I ask the Government whether this question of allocation of waters was not settled in the original agreement between the Nizam's Government and the Madras Government?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"Under that agreement only, we have provided for the high-level channel."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether it is proper for the Government of Madras to negotiate with an enemy Government?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"I do not yet know of any enemy Government here in this country."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI:—"In view of the agreement already arrived at with regard to the high-level channel, is it not necessary for this Government to proceed with that high-level canal at the earliest possible date in the interests of the Province?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"There is no specific agreement regarding the high-level channel. Only the allocation of waters has been provisionally agreed upon."

SRI B. ANANTACHAR:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister where we can hope to have the high-level channel and whether the Hon. Minister can give some kind of assurance that it will be taken up at a later stage?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"I can certainly give large hopes to my hon. Friends representing the districts of Bellary, Anantapur, and Kurnool."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask the Government what stands in the way of giving fuller information regarding the high-level canal and the places that it is supposed to serve than they are able to do at present?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"The negotiations are not finalised and therefore, I am advised not to give any further information."

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SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—" Pending negotiations, cannot the preliminary investigation be done? Because it takes some time, it is better to complete the preliminary investigation."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" As I have stated in the answer, this will be taken up and completed even before the low-level project is completed."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Have not this Government agreed upon the high-level channel in a specific agreement with the Nizam's Government and if so, whether they are prevented by the Nizam's Government from proceeding with the construction of the high-level channel? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" Proceeding with the construction of the high-level canal would depend upon the final allocation of the waters between the Hyderabad State and the Madras Government. We have now only a limited allocation agreed to provisionally."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—" May I ask the Government how is it that the project has been evolved without this question of the allocation of waters being finalised? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" The project has been constructed on the provisional allocation of 65,000 million cubic feet of water for Madras and the same for Hyderabad."

Proposal to concrete the road between Sankaridrug and Tiruchengode.

* 49 Q.—SRI T. S. PATTABHIRAMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a proposal to concrete the road between Sankaridrug and Tiruchengode in Salem district; and

(b) if so, when the work is likely to be taken up?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" (a) Yes. There is a proposal to cement concrete the Sankari-Namakal road via Tiruchengode between M. 1/6 and 7/1.

" (b) Orders sanctioning the work are expected to issue shortly. Arrangements will be made by the Chief Engineer to start the work as soon as possible thereafter."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—" May I know the policy on which the roads are being taken up in the districts for concreting? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" That would depend on the intensity of traffic."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—" Is there any definite scheme of cement concreting of roads in the municipalities in the Province or is it only roads in certain municipalities that are taken and not roads in all municipalities? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" We are not taking roads that vest in the municipalities."

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SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—" May I know from the Hon. Minister if there are other roads for concreting in the districts along with this road? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" Yes. There must be a good number of proposals along with this."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI:—" Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. the Minister, may I know, Sir, the latest date on which this road will be ready? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" It is not possible for me to give that information, Sir. It depends on the final scrutiny of the estimates. We have to call for tenders and the tender must be acceptable to Government. There are also other factors such as materials which must be available for executing the work in time."

Retrenchment of peons.

* 50 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether many peons working in various departments under the gazetted and non-gazetted officers in the Province were discharged recently; and

(b) if so, the reason for discharging them?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) The Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee recommended the adoption of a standard scale for the employment of peons to work under officers and in Government offices. These recommendations with some modification have been accepted by Government and Orders issued in G.O. No. 326, Finance, dated 5th April 1948. Certain further modifications have been sanctioned and Orders are under issue. With reference to the standard scale prescribed, peons who are found surplus to requirements have been or will be discharged. It is not known yet how many peons will be discharged.

" (b) The reason for discharging the peons is that they are found surplus to requirements with reference to the standard scale prescribed."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—" May I know from the Hon. the Leader of the House why these poor peons who are getting a meagre salary have been made the victims first rather than the officers who are getting fat salaries? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" It is not a question of peons alone being affected. We have found that certain officers have surplus number of peons to their requirements and so, they were retrenched."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I know, Sir, why the Government are particularly hard upon their poor employees and whether they have any scheme for the re-employment of the peons who have been deprived of their jobs? "

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Whenever the posts are filled up again, those who were discharged will be taken up. It is not a question of hitting hard on these poor peons. We found that certain officers were having surplus number of peons and so, we have retrenched the surplus number of peons."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"As there are certain literate men among the peons, will the Government see that before they undertake retrenchment, the educated peons are retained?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The matter will be considered."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Is it a fact that in the Legislature Department the services of some peons who have put in eight years and nine years of service have been dispensed with?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Each Department is taken as a unit and the juniormost people only were retrenched."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI:—"May I ask the Government, Sir, whether out of the many recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, is this the only recommendation that is taken up on hand or are there other recommendations to be taken up?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am sorry to say that this is not the only recommendation that has been accepted. There are several other recommendations that have also been accepted?"

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask the Hon. the Leader of the House whether it is a fact that representations have been received from the district officers that retrenchment of peons in their Departments is working considerable hardship and that they have asked for additional peons to be employed?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We have received representations from some Collectors. We have gone into the question and have modified our orders and they are under issue."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know under what circumstances the surplus peons were employed under the various officials?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The previous regime thought that District Collectors and District Judges and other Heads of Departments must have a number of peons but now we think that that number is not necessary."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know the circumstances under which these surplus peons were engaged and whether it is not a fact that those circumstances still exist and that these peons have to be continued?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It was not a mere question of necessity, but it was a question of pomp and grandeur of these officers."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI:—"May I ask the Government that this retrenchment of peons is found necessary because they were engaged otherwise than with official duties?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"For instance a District Collector had eight peons. We thought that number was unnecessary for a District Collector."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"May I know the number of peons so far retrenched?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is in the neighbourhood of 3,398."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it considerations of pomp and grandeur that necessitated the appointment of a battalion of peons for every Tahsildar?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is not the Tahsildar that gets a number of peons but the head of the Department."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"What would be the saving to the Government as a result of the retrenchment effected among the peons?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We have not finalized our proposals. We are still revising some of our orders and when we finalize, we will be able to know what our savings will be."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Do not the Government realize that not only in the case of the present Retrenchment Committee but in previous cases also, it was only the poor peons that suffered and not the Deputy Collectors and Personal Assistants to high officials and that their number is increasing from time to time?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The hon. Member does not evidently know the number of Personal Assistants to Collectors that were retrenched. Retrenchment in the various departments also is gradually being given effect to. So, it is not a question of hitting the poor peons alone."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Have the Government given instructions to officers not to engage any peons for domestic service, and if so, how many such peons will be retrenched?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Orders are there for a very long time that these peons should not be used for domestic purposes and, therefore, there is no use of renewing these orders once again."

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know from the Government whether they are aware that the work of the taluk offices is impeded very much on account of the retrenchment of peons?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"That is why we are reconsidering our proposals."

MR. L. C. PAIS:—"May I ask the Government whether as a result of discharging these peons, the work in the departments had suffered and whether there have been many complaints by the heads of departments?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Certain officers have complained that their work suffers on account of retrenchment of peons but there are certain other officers who had voluntarily surrendered their surplus peons."

SRI P. KAKKAN:—"May I ask the Government whether they will give instructions to the Revenue Divisional Officers and Tahsildars that the peons who belong to the Harijan community will be given preference for re-employment?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am not aware of any specific instruction that Harijans should be given preference but the officers will take care to see that from among the discharged people, Harijans will be taken up for re-employment as far as possible."

SRI P. SUBBIAH:—"May I know the nature of the modified orders that have been issued by the Government?"

11-30
a.m.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We are giving an increased number of peons to some of these officers."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask, Sir, why this Government in these difficult days when poor people are suffering more than anybody else, thought it fit to dispense with the services of poor people like the peons in such large numbers, and what guarantee is the Government giving them for their maintenance and future livelihood, as they have not yet devised ways and means of throwing open many avenues of service for the poor labourers?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, on several occasions, hon. Members have complained to the Government that during the war-time there was a lot of recruitment of officers, peons and establishment, and that steps must be taken to retrench, whether it be in the case of officers, clerical staff or peons. And in response to such complaints, we are taking steps to retrench as far as possible."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Government have considered that by throwing out of employment 3,000 peons, they are swelling the number of unemployed? Have the Government considered the question as to what would be the economic and financial condition of those poor people after they have been retrenched?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We did take that aspect of the question also into consideration. But we had to see that no surplus peon or staff remains in any office; and

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we had to take all possible steps to effect the necessary retrenchment of the poor as well as the rich, when there was a surplus."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Have they considered, Sir, any alternative employment for these 3,000 peons so that they may live in India?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"At that rate, we cannot take up any new work, especially the question of prohibition, because a large number of tappers will be thrown out of employment. All these things are necessarily involved in this issue, and whenever there is retrenchment, some people have to get away."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I ask the Government to give effect to the retrenchment of the peons at a later stage, giving effect to that of officers first? And will the Hon. the Leader of the House be pleased to place a statement on the table of the House, or give us an assurance to that effect?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"When we accept the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee with regard to officers, they are retrenched. Likewise with peons and clerical staff also. So the Government need not be bound to begin at one end and not from the other."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Arising out of the answer of the Hon. the Leader of the House, that Government have revised their orders in the case of retrenchment of peons, may I ask whether they could postpone further retrenchment work, until the Retrenchment Committee's Report is finally submitted so as to enable them to consider it as a whole and then give effect to the recommendations as a whole?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, Sir, the recommendations are given piecemeal to the Government; any proposal is sent to the Department for scrutiny and examination, and whenever it is ready for final orders, we are passing them."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMY PILLAI:—"Are the Government aware that some of the peons in the Legislature Secretariat Library have been sent away, and consequently the members are put to a lot of inconvenience?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If it is brought to the notice of the Government that a lot of inconvenience is being experienced on account of the retrenchment of the peons, certainly steps will be taken to re-instate them."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are the Government aware that much money is spent for the grandeur and pomp of Ministers and if so, what are the recommendations of the Committee on this?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The hon. Member may await the final report of the Committee."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"As there are many contingent menials in the mufassal known as punka-pullers and masalehis, will the Hon. the Leader of the House be pleased to see that before peons are retrenched, these peons are reverted as punka-pullers and retained as contingent menials in District Officers?"

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Sir, I object to the word 'menial'."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It is an official expression."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We shall consider the proposal."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know whether it is wise on the part of the Government to add to the large number of the unemployed? The Hon. Minister has not yet given any specific answer to questions put to him as to what he intends to do in regard to providing employment for those who have been discharged. Will the Hon. Minister inform us about his proposals in this regard?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If I were to accept this proposal, then no retrenchment is possible at all. I suppose it is not the intention of the hon. Member to suggest that there should be no retrenchment in the offices."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"May I know whether the Leader of the House is aware that these poor people who have been retrenched owing to their bad economic conditions are likely to join the Communist party and create more troubles for the Government? Have the Government taken that aspect also into consideration?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am sure, they will not join the Communist party."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"From the numerous representations that have been received from the mufassal by the Government, may I take it that the Government now feel that the scale of retrenchment proposed by the Committee is not desirable?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"To a certain extent, Sir."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is the Government or the Retrenchment Committee that has erred in their conclusions, by removing these peons, inasmuch as by one order the peons have been removed wholesale and by a subsequent order they have been re-appointed?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The original proposal that emanated from the Committee was examined by the

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various Departments, and orders were issued, but later on, District Officers and Heads of Departments made certain representations and we are reviewing our own decisions."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"Does the Leader of the House, who is also the Finance Minister, believe that he cannot effect savings by other means than by retrenchment of these poor peons? Can he not make some adjustment in the Budget, when he is dealing with crores of rupees?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"When there is the necessity to retrench the officers at the top, we do it. So also with the peons."

SRI P. SUBBIAH:—"How much do the Government propose to save by the retrenchment of peons?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I said earlier that when we finalize our decisions, we shall be able to give an estimate of the savings."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Have not the Government thought it high time that they tackle the question of unemployment, and solve it especially now that 3,000 poor peons have been retrenched and thrown out of employment?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"These 3,000 peons are not going to create the crisis in the Province. We are undertaking many new works such as Irrigation, etc., and we do want a number of people to work under these schemes. Certainly these people will find employment there."

Salary of the Commercial Instructors.

* 51 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding the enhancement of the salary of the Commercial Instructors; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
" (a) Yes.

" (b) The scale of pay of Commercial Instructors was raised from Rs. 30—2/2—50 to Rs. 50—2—90 with effect from 1st January 1947. The Government considered the question of further increasing the scale of pay and issued orders disallowing the request."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask what the qualifications of these Instructors are?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"The hon. Member may put a separate question."

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Administration of the excluded areas.

* 52 Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have decided to constitute an advisory body for the administration of the excluded areas; and

(b) if so, the names of such members?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) No.

“(b) Does not arise.”

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know whether these excluded areas include the islands near the West Coast?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The excluded areas are the islands in the West Coast, while the partially excluded ones are the Agency Tracts in East and West Godavari.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“May I know why the report of the Aboriginal Tribes Enquiry Committee, which by the way have ordered to cover even partially excluded areas has not been put up till to-day, even though it was submitted by the Secretary a year and a half ago?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“We have been asking the Superintendent, Government Press, very many times for it, and yet he is not able to get it ready. I was really anxious to give it to the members who wanted it, at the re-opening of this session, but it was not possible to do so.”

SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:—“May I know whether the Government intend to constitute an advisory board for the betterment of excluded areas?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“For the excluded areas, no. For the partially excluded areas, yes.”

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—“Arising out of the answer of the Hon. the Minister, may I ask whether a copy of this Report will be made available to the members, and as it seems to be an important one, will the Hon. the Leader of the House be pleased to place a copy on the table of the House?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“When it is ready, it will be given to those members who ask for it.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“May I know whether the partially excluded areas have not been brought under the regular administration of the Provincial Government?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Thirty-seven villages in Polavaram taluk have been brought under the Provincial Government. The rest of it remains as it was.”

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know how many of the members of the Committee so constituted happen to be from this area?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“We have not yet constituted the Committee, Sir.”

SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:—“May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that one Pusuluri Kothandaramayya, a prominent selfless Congress leader of the Andhra Desa has been devoting all his time in working for the betterment of backward classes in excluded areas for the last 25 years, and if so, whether the Government intend to consult him and utilize his services in constituting such an Advisory Board?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I am very thankful for the very high compliments paid by my hon. Friend to Pusuluri Kothandaramayya. When the Committee is constituted, certainly we shall be taking his advice.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“Into what district, have these 37 new villages that have come under the Provincial Government been taken?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“In the same Polavaram taluk in West Godavari but only the method of administration will be different.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“May I know whether the Government have approved of the report of the Aboriginal Tribes Enquiry Committee, and if so what portions thereof? Will the Government issue a statement as to how they propose to implement the recommendations of the Committee?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“There are various recommendations, and we are trying to implement them as far as possible.”

SRI M. BAPINEEDU:—“Is it not desirable to exclude also the other villages from the Polavaram taluk and include them under the civil administration?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“No, Sir, it is not desirable because there are many hill tribes. It is undesirable that they should be clubbed together under the Provincial Administration.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“When the Committee is constituted, will the Government bear in mind including the members from such areas also in the Committee?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Then there will be representatives of the hill tribes also.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“The report of the Committee was submitted about two years ago. In answering a supplementary

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question on the floor of the House, it was stated that the Government Press was not able to get the work done. I ask cannot the report be printed outside by any other press, so as to get the report into our hands within the shortest possible time?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Proofs have been sent by the Government Press, and the report will be ready shortly."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI:—"Arising out of the answer given a little while ago, are the Government aware that the delay in the printing of the report leads to adverse conclusions against them?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It does not matter, Sir."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Government constitute an Advisory board for the excluded areas also?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If the hon. Member really makes a suggestion we shall certainly consider the proposal."

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

II.—ELECTION TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

11-45
a.m.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have to inform the House that the following candidates were nominated for election of 9 members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the fifth Session of the Madras Legislative Assembly:—

1. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliar,
2. Sri D. V. Ramaswami,
3. Dr. M. J. Samuel,
4. Dr. U. Padmanabha Mallayya,
5. Sri B. Parameswaran,
6. P. K. Moideen Kutty Sahib Bahadur,
7. M. Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur,
8. Sri T. S. Pattabhiraman,
9. Mr. John Moses Wilson.

As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, viz., nine, I hereby declare them to have been duly elected to the Committee on Public Accounts."

III.—REPORT OF THE HARIJAN WELFARE COMMITTEE—cont.

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday I was referring to the educational facilities for the Harijans. We need not view this problem from the standpoint of the Harijans alone. In our country, particularly in our Province where literacy is spread only to a limited extent one of our biggest problems is how best and how soon to attain cent

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per cent literacy. When we attain that goal, I am certain that the Harijans even as others will have the utmost realization of their ideals.

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, only yesterday I was glad to hear from the Hon. Minister for Education that the period for the attainment of cent per cent literacy has been reduced from 20 years as visualised in the Sargent scheme to 10 years in the plan he has got before him. I wish that he implements that programme very soon and realizes the goal. Sir, there are many hurdles to be overcome—paucity of teachers, scarcity of school buildings and equipment. With regard to paucity of teachers, let me reiterate what I said yesterday regarding the proposal for conscription . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have fixed 15 minutes as the time-limit for each speaker."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, whatever our pandits may say with regard to the requirements of the teaching profession, I believe that anyone who has passed S.S.L.C. can be entrusted with the task of elementary education. At least for this period of ten years during which cent per cent literacy is hoped to be attained let not the Hon. Minister insist on teaching qualifications. Let him go ahead with his schemes for the eradication of illiteracy. Let there be a national conscription, that is, before anybody enters life after his education career is over, he should be asked to put in a probation of national service in one field or other. Every S.S.L.C. or a matriculate or an undergraduate, before he is given his certificate or degree should be required on a stipendiary basis to work in the cause of education. That incidentally, Mr. Speaker, will not only spread enlightenment in the cheris but will also bring about the uplift of the Harijans.

"Sir, with regard to school buildings of which there is a considerable shortage in the province, the Hon. Minister should establish the shift system. The curriculum content and the compulsory period of attendance can be reduced to three hours a day and three shifts a day can be provided for—morning, noon and evening. With the present staff and a little addition to it and with conscription we will be able to realize cent per cent literacy in ten years.

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, several of our Harijan friends have been speaking with the utmost vehemence and righteous indignation about the slow progress of Harijan uplift. Let me give them this word of caution. Within the last 10 or 12 years we have been able to make such vast strides for which there is no parallel in world history. I can say with utmost confidence that if such leaders as the late C. R. Das and S. Srinivasa Ayyangar, dropped from heaven to-day and witnessed the signs of the times, they will be struck with the vast strides made in the matter of Harijan uplift in this country and in our province. It is true that there are impediments and obstacles placed in the way of Harijan uplift because social prejudices die hard. But measures like prohibition;

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temple entry legislation, social disabilities removal legislation and even this zamindari legislation, are all steps in the direction of Harijan uplift. After all it is the labour force which will benefit most from these reforms.

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must utter one word of caution to the Caste Hindus, as well. Let them take time by the forelock and not stand in the way of the Harijans on account of certain prejudices which have been handed down to them for centuries. Let them understand that very soon with the extension of adult franchise the Harijans will constitute in our province and in our country a terrible force to be reckoned with, which cannot be ignored. They may join the labour forces or even join the Communist Party and tilt the scales against the Congress Party now in power to-day. It is therefore in the interests of the Congress Party itself that they should implement the policy and programme laid down by the architect of our freedom and the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi. He has by a shrewd analysis of the situation tried to lay secure foundations for the prosperity of our country, so that a huge edifice may be built on it. If the Congress Party do not follow that programme they will only be feeling sorry for the day when they will be creating conditions of insecurity and even the freedom which we have been able to achieve in recent months will be lost. Therefore in the name of freedom, progress, prosperity and humanity, I plead with all the sections of this House to see that we pool all our resources in the cause of the uplift of the Harijans.

"Mr. Speaker, for one thing which has been referred to in the report I must feel really very sorry. Certain sections of Muslims in Malabar are reported to have joined hands with others in trying to put obstacles in the way of Harijan uplift. I condemn such Muslims severely. It is against the fair name of Islam which stands for equality and liberty. It is indeed a crying shame that some Muslims in a way should have stood in the way of the Harijans. Muslims should set an example to others by fraternising with the Harijans because Islam teaches liberty and equality. Mr. Speaker, let me narrate a personal anecdote."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has five minutes more."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I myself owe much gratitude to a Harijan mother. When I was a babe in arms and when the problem was to be or not to be, when I was in a state of coma and struggling between life and death, it was a Harijan foster-mother who administered milk to me, so that to-day I am able to speak for the cause of Harijans. I am not alone in that experience. Even the oldest member of our Party, Mr. Schammad Sahib was telling us the other day that he himself in his early infancy was having the benefit of a Harijan mother's milk and that that was probably the reason for his vitality and vigour even in his advanced age. (Laughter.) Mr. Speaker, such has been our fraternisation. I know from practical experience in our tanneries and our households we share the elementary comforts of our life and we have partaken of many things

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which have been prepared by Harijans. Is it not now an established fact that Venkatachalam's sauce of international reputation is the product of a Harijan industry? I would ask this Government to promulgate a rule that every hostel and hotel should as far as possible employ Harijans either for attending on the customers who patronize them or for preparing the menus in the kitchen. I am suggesting this because I know we must carry our tirade into the very citadels of the households. Our women-folk are the sinners in that respect because they are carrying on the traditions of the caste system from time immemorial. I am very sorry the hon. the Lady Member Begum Amiruddin nods her head in disapproval of this observation."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"I want to correct the hon. Member. So far as Muslim women are concerned, they have absolutely no prejudice. They have every sympathy with the Harijans. There is no caste system in Islam."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I was only referring to women-folk in general, who have been from time immemorial carrying on the traditions of the caste system. I want that the fight should be carried to the kitchen also so that there may be no distinction between man and man."

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, one word more before I close. I know that so many institutions and individuals are coming forward to give encouragement to Harijans not only for elementary education but for higher education also. I am happy to note that several institutions managed by Muslims are extending such facilities to them. The South Indian Muslim Educational Association is one of these institutions which has ear-marked certain amounts for the grant of scholarships and hostel charges for the Harijan students. Not only should we throw open the door of temples, schools, colleges, hostels and hospitals, we should also throw open the doors of our hearts and minds, the inner recesses of our hearts so that we may be worthy of the father of our nation. The reform is not an easy reform because it has to tackle prejudices and traditions which have come down through centuries. Let us redouble our efforts and support the Government and the party in power and see that the Harijan is treated not only as an equal but even as a superior. Let them be put in positions of trust and authority from the head. Let them be put in positions of trust and authority from the head of the State down to the village officer. Let them be Collectors and District Superintendents of Police and Ministers. You may one day, Sir, be the Premier of this Province. Did not Mahatma Gandhi say that the first Governor-General of India should be a Harijan girl? I wish, Sir, that the first President of the Indian Republic at least is a Harijan. It is only by such exemplary acts that we will be able to put an end to the inequality and suffering which they have been undergoing for centuries."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, I am glad the much-expected report of the Harijan Welfare Committee has come into our hands. This is a very useful document with very many

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good suggestions and I am glad that such a report has emerged out of the Committee consisting of members who have been mostly Harijan workers throughout their life.

"Sir, in order to remove this untouchability from the society that has been ridden with so many defects, great men like Mahatma Gandhi have taken up this question and very seriously too. I remember, Sir, in the year 1921—22 when the great Non-Co-operation Movement was going on, Mahatma Gandhi preached the removal of untouchability and he made it one of the conditions for Swaraj. In those days itself, enthusiasm ran high in villages and towns and—men, women and children—all welcomed this move. But unfortunately the enthusiasm lasted only for that moment. Afterwards, the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi have been forgotten and his preaching was never put into practice. Even today, as many of our speakers have pointed out, this demon of untouchability is still haunting the populace in the villages. I know, for instance, in the year 1926 in Mantenavaripalem there was some movement to open a temple for the Harijans when my friend Mr. Venkata Raju took the lead and got the temple opened for Harijans. Soon after all the Congress workers and the leaders left that place after the function. There was a great fight between the orthodox people and the Congressmen and Congressmen were beaten and there was *punyavasnam* in that temple and since then no Harijan was allowed.

"Sir, in the southern parts of America—though Abraham Lincoln, the greatest leader had preached for the emancipation of the underdog, the Negro—that superiority complex still prevails and the colour prejudice is still rampant there. So also, here even after Mahatma Gandhi's death, this sentiment of untouchability is still haunting our people. Of course, after the Congress came into power they have passed so many laws and the Civil Disabilities Act is one of them. What is the use of this Act? This Act is not put into practice. I think, in the world as it exists today, the mentality of the orthodox section of the people cannot be changed by one stroke of the pen. Only by enforcing that law, we will be able to do something. Take for example, Turkey. In Turkey under the leadership of Kemal Pasha, they had passed a law imposing death penalty for observing *purdah*. So also here, I wish the Government could enact a similar legislation by imposing death penalty for those who observe untouchability. Then only, I think, we can remove this untouchability altogether.

"Sir, mere enforcement of law is not enough. Side by side there must be propaganda. What propaganda you are doing today? You have got certain Harijan Welfare Officers. They are not at all doing their work properly and they are not at all doing propaganda in the villages. Propaganda comes only when there is a certain movement like the Salt Satyagraha, individual Satyagraha and so on, and in those days you also included as one of the items in your propaganda, the removal of untouchability. But afterwards, what is happening? Nothing is happening. So, Sir, I would advise the Government that they should not only enforce the law that they pass but also organize propaganda side

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by side. Propaganda Committees must be formed in every district, every taluk and in every nook and corner of the villages. Paid propagandists would not be fit for this job. For this purpose, Government should seek the co-operation of men like our venerable leader, the hon. Member Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar who has devoted his whole time for the Harijan uplift. If you leave everything in one man's hands, he will be able to organize propaganda throughout the length and breadth of the Province. At the same time I would advise the Government to set up a Propaganda Board immediately. Side by side, Welfare Officers must be appointed in every district and those Welfare Officers must not necessarily be Harijans. They may also be non-Harijans who are social workers. What is the harm if non-Harijans or non-officials are appointed as Welfare Officers? Because we had been under the British rule for more than 200 years, our slavish mentality has not changed and we are still following their own system of Government. Sir, there must be a training camp for all these people. On what basis they should do their propaganda, must be taught to them and qualified men must be mobilized for this purpose.

"Sir, it is a fact that when any Government comes into power, it likes to catch the imagination of the most oppressed people and make them their supporters. So also when the Moghuls and the British ruled this country, they wooed these oppressed people and created a class of people to support their Governments. But today, we are not doing in that spirit but in the real spirit of removing the demon of untouchability, the greatest blot on our Hindu society. We must organize in such a way that we will be able to remove this blot for all time to come. Sir, how can you do it? Is it by organizing mere schools, libraries, hostels and such other things? No. In this connection, I would really appreciate Mr. Gopalaswami's dissent appended to this report. He is not for separate schools and I agree with him. Those days are gone when they should have separate schools, separate wells, separate hostels, separate cheris and so on. That means you are stamping them as Harijans and you are creating a separate class as such. All these things must go. Even the word 'Harijan' must disappear within five years. They must be absorbed into the great Hindu society and the great Indian nation. So, Sir, this separation must go. Why not the Education Minister issue an order that no hostel will be given a grant unless it has on its rolls Harijan students. Absorb all the Harijans in all the schools and hostels. When you give them good education, they will become powerful builders of our nation. They must be posted in responsible positions. They must be given a blank cheque. Let all the eleven Ministers be Harijans. I say it very sincerely. We have been sinners. We have oppressed these depressed people for such a long time and we have not allowed them near us and even near our streets. So to atone and to wash off our sins we must give them a blank cheque for twenty years to come. Only then you will be doing real service to the Harijans. When they are posted in such responsible positions, they will discharge their duties with a new zeal. Just

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like an oppressed man who gains freedom or a man from the dark who comes to light, he goes forward rapidly without must assistance. So also if you trust them they will be of much use.

“Sir, what is it you have done? You may have given them a small hostel and a small school and that too from the Harijan Fund of Mahatma Gandhi. You have given a pittance of one crore of rupees for this purpose. Five crores of rupees must be allotted every year for this programme. Make their cheris beautiful hamlets and beautiful places and build up skyscrapers if you have no place to build houses.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“One more minute for the hon. Member.”

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—“Sir, this one crore of rupees is not sufficient. I am really sorry that members have not pressed this question still further for raising it to five crores. To put into practice all the proposals contained in the report, it will take ten years. So I honestly and sincerely feel that we have done a great injustice to this great oppressed community. Let a blank cheque be given to them to do as they please. I wish that one more Harijan Minister be appointed so that he will be able to tackle this question more successfully. There must be a drive in every village and town for the eradication of this untouchability. As compared to other parts, it is only in the South that they have been oppressed for a very long time and hence we must do all that we can in order to blot out this demon untouchability.”

12-15 p.m. * SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the report which has been placed before us is a very valuable one from many points of view. For one thing, they have collected statistics which will certainly be useful for the Government to act upon. The report has really clarified the position as regards Harijans in the villages in the rural as well as the urban areas. The real question is how the problem affecting the Harijans in these two places can really be tackled. Of course, one may well say that the Committee has after all told the Government and the people what is known to them already and what is very obvious. From that point of view, of course, the Committee's work will not be of much use. But, as I said, they have collected statistics and that will indeed go a long way for helping the Government to implement the recommendations contained in the report.

“Sir, one thing, however, I would like to point out. While the Committee have gone through all the various needs of the Harijans and made recommendations as regards how they are to be met, they have not laid sufficient stress upon the propaganda value of the Harijan cause. Sir, the greatest propagandist of the Harijan, Mahatma Gandhi, is dead and after him there is no such person so exalted to take up this cause and therefore, I cannot but say that the Harijan cause has suffered and is suffering, not perhaps from the material point of view, for, each Government is now trying to vie with each other to set apart amounts for Harijan welfare. But, that is not enough. I want the whole psychology to be changed and I want the social upliftment of the Harijans urgently. That cannot be done by Statutes, by setting

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apart funds for the purpose, by houses to be built for them and by wells to be dug for them but the question of elevating them from their present social scale and making them equal to the other Hindus in society is a task which cannot be attempted by Statutes and Governments. That has to be done only by the people themselves and intense propaganda is necessary for that purpose, as has been suggested by more than one speaker on the floor of this House. How is that to be undertaken? That is the question. For instance, you have got the Social Disabilities Removal Act passed. The Statute is no doubt good and anybody who breaks the law is liable for punishment. But, we hear almost every day on the floor of this House cases of ill-treatment of Harijans, of disabilities and distinctions made between one caste and another and there is also distinction made among the various grades of Harijans by themselves. That also I find. I would therefore like the Government, if possible, to set about the task of real and effective propaganda for their social upliftment. Material uplift there may be, but that is not social contentment and how that can be achieved is a matter which has not been touched by the Committee in any effective form. Why I mention this is, there are various Sabhas and Sanghams which have come forward for the purpose of doing propaganda in respect of this matter and they have been carrying on their work silently and efficiently. I should like the Government to gather materials in respect of the work done by these Harijan Sevak Sanghs and Sabhas that are really there for the purpose of doing work among the Harijans and bring them all together for the purpose of this propaganda which has been advocated before this House.

“Then, Sir, in regard to the other matter so far as the material advancement of the Harijans is concerned, I think the Committee has gone wrong in really perpetuating segregation to which they have been so long subjected. There must be a real approachment between the community and the vast Hindu community. I think the Committee has not gone far enough in regard to that matter. They say that the cheris must be improved and for this purpose houses must be built separately; they must have schools there but there must be separate schools for them and other such things should be specially provided for them. But, I am afraid, all these make for difference and class distinction being perpetuated. Therefore, in the matter of improvement of these cheris—of course, I do not call them cheris because after all a cheri is nothing more than a pattinam—I should like to have a commingling of this community with the rest of the Hindu community in some form or other. How is that to be brought about? The Committee has not tackled this question. On the other hand, they have gone back, I think Mr. Natesan, member of a majority community, with his large-heartedness and benevolence, can do something in the matter without caring to hear what I am saying. That is, of course, a different matter. What I am going to point out in this respect is, a good deal of work has to be done and that too by non-official agencies but the Government have to stimulate those non-official agencies.

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"Sir, after the 15th August we have been merely dissipating ourselves upon many reforms, for instance, agricultural reforms, land reforms and all such things but I do not think that much after all has been done so far as Harijan welfare is concerned. There is one aspect of the matter which must be placed before the non-Harijan communities clearly. The Harijans form a large proportion of the agricultural proletariat; they are responsible for most of the cultivation in our country; they are the tillers in the field; they are the persons who are the producers of our food and they are the main-stay of the whole agricultural occupation in the whole country. That fact has not sufficiently been brought home to the other communities and if once this fact is realised by the higher castes and the other persons concerned, I am sure that really will mean the betterment of the condition of the Harijans. We are giving industrial labour all sorts of privileges, while agricultural labour is left severely alone. And, the agricultural labour consists mostly of Harijans. The actual tiller of the soil must be benefited in the very first instance and it is therefore, necessary to have the Agriculturists Wages Bill brought forward at an early date. Apart from the other reforms, for instance, the abolition of the zamindaris or the inams, the first reform that is essential for the common man, for the actual tiller of the soil and the person who is the actual cultivator, should be in the nature of regulating the wages payable to the agricultural labourer. If once that is done, I am sure, much of the difficulty that has been experienced by the Government in respect of the kisan trouble and such other troubles would have disappeared long ago. I think the Government are putting the cart before the horse in introducing land reform and other reforms without having a contented peasantry and contented cultivators of the soil. Therefore, I am impressing on the Government to take up this question of the Agriculturists Wages Bill as early as possible so as to secure to the various agriculturists and the actual cultivators of the soil a fair share of the produce which they are getting out of the land. If this is done, their economic position will be considerably improved and it will also mean easier work for the Government in respect of implementing the other recommendations of the Committee, because it is only by the economic improvement of the Harijans you can also raise their social standard. Therefore, I am pressing on the Government that the very first thing they should do if they really want to improve the lot of the Harijan is to bring in an Agriculturists Wages Bill which will secure him a very fair amount of the produce of the land, instead of implementing the other recommendations of the Committee which really mean spending some money, appointing certain officers for the purpose with all the necessary paraphernalia.

"Apart from all these, I wish to make an appeal to the Harijan community themselves. They are always asking for this favour and that favour. I think it is not good for them as a community to be always going about with the begging bowl and asking the Government for such favours. They must be able to stand on their own legs; they must be able to help themselves

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and then come forward and say, we have achieved certain results and help us a little more. That is the way of doing things properly. I would therefore appeal to the leaders of the community to set an example by their own propaganda in raising the standard of living of the community and the higher ideal of better living conditions among the Harijans themselves.

"Next, Sir, the question of providing house-sites for the Harijans is another difficult matter. It costs crores and crores of rupees. This is a problem which is much more difficult than the others. Of course, it has also to be solved. There is much of poverty in the country, including the Harijans, there are also many others who are poorer than they. Therefore, this question is one hanging on with the other problems of dealing with poverty and employment and providing work for the large masses who are otherwise unemployed or half employed. I am glad to find that this Committee has made various suggestions but the only question is how the Government are going to implement them and how they are going to spend the one crore of rupees. If only they could achieve results as early as possible it will be happy for all concerned. I hope this Committee's report will not be a mere piece of paper but will certainly be implemented by the Government so that the Harijan community may come forward and take its due share in the responsibility of the Government and take their proper place in the country."

SRI M. P. PERIASWAMI:—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, ஹரிஜன welfare கமிட்டி ரிபோர்ட்டை ஆதரித்து சில வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல ஆசைப்படுகிறேன். வருஷா வருஷம் ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் கொடுப்பதாக நாங்கள் நினைத்துக்கொண்டிருந்தோம். ஆனால் ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் என்று சொல்லிவிட்டு அதை இரண்டு வருஷமாக அப்படியே வைத்துக் கொண்டிருந்தால் அது யாருக்கும் பிரயோஜனம் இல்லை. அதற்காக, எங்களுக்கு சர்க்கார் ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கி வைத்து விட்டார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு Civil Disabilities சட்டம் பாஸ் பண்ணிவிட்டார்கள், 'ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கெல்லாம் சமமாக வாழ்கிறார்கள்' என்று எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்கள் சொல்லிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு இனிமேல் தீண்டாமை என்பது கிடையாது என்றும் சில இடத்தில் கூறி வருகிறார்கள். ஆனால் இன்றைக்கு இருக்கும் நிலைமை ரொம்பவும் மோசமாக இருக்கிறது. ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு கோவில்களை திறந்து விட்டு அவர்கள் தாராளமாக போய்க்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்களென்று ரிபோர்ட்டுகள் வந்துகொண்டிருக்கின்றன. மினிஸ்டர் வந்தால் ஆலயங்களை திறந்து விடுகிறார்கள். அப்போ பொழுது ஹரிஜனங்கள் தரிசனம் செய்து வருகிறார்கள். ஆனால், கிராமங்களில் கோவில்களை திறந்துவிட்ட உடனேயே ஹரிஜனங்கள் போகக்கூடாது என்று தடை செய்து விடுகிறார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்கள் ஹோட்டல்களுக்குள் போகக்கூடாது என்று தடை செய்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் ஹோட்டல்களுக்குள் மீறி போன ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்கள் அவர்களுக்கு ஜாதிக்கட்டு தடை செய்து விடுகிறார்கள். இந்த மாதிரி தடை, செய்வதை போலீசுக்கு ரிபோர்ட்டு கொடுத்தாலும் அவர்கள் action எடுத்துக்கொள்வதில்லை. கனம் மந்திரியவர்களுக்கும் ரிபோர்ட்டுகள் வந்திருக்கின்றன. அவர்களும் அதிகாரிகளுக்கு அனுப்பி இருக்கிறார்கள். போலீசார் சரியான நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கவே இல்லை. ரிபோர்ட்டு செய்தவர்களை விசாரிக்காமல் சமரசம் வந்து விடும் என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்கள் கொடுக்கும் ரிபோர்ட்டை யாரும் அங்கீகாரம் பண்ணுவதில்லை. ஏதாவது ரிபோர்ட்டு அனுப்பினால் சாட்சி விசாரித்து சம்மன் அனுப்பி விசாரிக்காமல் சமரசம் ஆகிவிடும் என்று சொல்லி விடுகிறார்கள். தடை செய்தவர்கள் ஹரிஜனங்களை அதிக இம்சை செய்ய துடங்குகிறார்கள். கஞர் தோட்டக்

[Sri M. P. Periaswami] [20th July 1948]

குறிச்சி கிராமத்தில் இதே மாதிரி நடந்திருக்கிறது. அங்கே இரண்டு தடவை ஹோட்டலுக்குப் போய் தடை செய்து. அவைகளை போலீசாருக்கு எடுத்துச் சொல்லியும் அவர்கள் அதை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளாமல் திரும்பவும் மூன்றாவது கேஸ் கொடுத்தும் அதை மட்டும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இதே மாதிரி திருச்சி, மசிரி தாலுகாவில் காட்டுபுத்தூர் அம்பா சமுத்திரம் என்ற கிராமத்தில் இதே மாதிரி நடந்து ரிபோர்ட்டு கொடுக்கப்பட்டும் விசாரிக்க மறுத்து விட்டார்கள். அப்பொழுது இருந்த போலீஸ் மந்திரி கணம் டாக்டர் சுப்பராயனிடம் சொல்லியும் போலீஸ்காரர்கள் கேஸ் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவில்லை. ஏதோ சமாதானம் விடுவார்களென்று சொல்லியும் இன்னும் விமோசனம் பண்ணவில்லை. திரும்பவும் எனக்கு ரிபோர்ட்டு வந்தது. நாம் சட்டம் போட்டும் கீழே இருக்கும் அதிகாரிகள் அவைகளை கவனிப்பது இல்லை. 'சட்டமிருப்பதால் ஹரிஜனங்கள் சமத்துவமாக போய் விட்டார்களென்று சொல்லிவிடுகிறார்கள்.

“இப்பொழுது ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய், வீடு கட்டுவதற்கு என்று திட்டம் போடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்று நினைத்துக்கொண்டிருந்தோம். இப்பொழுது வீடு கட்டும் திட்டமானது எப்படி இருக்கிறது என்று கேட்டால் ஹரிஜனங்கள் நிலம் வாங்குவதற்கு ரூபாய் 170 புஞ்சைக்கும் ரூபாய் 350 நஞ்சைக்கும் என்று சர்க்கார் உதவி வருகிறார்கள். ஆனால் நிலத்தை வாங்கும் போது பார்த்தால் ஹரிஜனங்கள் இருக்கும் இடத்திற்கு பக்கத்தில் விலையை விசாரித்தால் புஞ்சை நிலம் ரூபாய் 1,500, 1,000 என்றும், நஞ்சை நிலம் ரூபாய் 2,500, 3,000 என்றும் விலை சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இவைகளை வாங்குவதாக இருந்தால் ஹரிஜனங்கள் சர்க்கார் கொடுக்கும் தொகையிலிருந்து எப்படி வாங்க முடியும். ஆகையால் சர்க்கார் புராதனங்களையும் கொடுத்து உதவ வேண்டியதவசியமாக இருக்கிறது. இன்னும் பார்த்தால் ஒரு பர்லாங்கு இரண்டு பர்லாங்குக்கு அப்பால் பட்டா நிலங்களின் விற்பனை விலையை அனுசரித்து வாங்கிக்கொள்ளும்படியாக இருக்கிறது. அது நன்மையைக் கொடுப்பதாக இல்லை. எங்களுக்கு ஏதாவது நன்மை செய்யவேண்டுமென்று இருந்தால் எங்களுக்கு சௌகரியமான வீடு கட்டிக்கொடுக்க வேண்டியதவசியமாக இருக்கிறது. எங்களுக்கு வீடு வேண்டுமென்று மனுப்போட்டால் சேரிப்பக்கத்தில் இருக்கும் நிலக்காரர்கள் எங்களை ஹிம்ஸை செய்து ஊருக்கு வெளியில் விட்டி விடுகிறார்கள். ஆனால் ஹரிஜனங்கள் இப்பொழுது ரிபோர்ட்டு எழுதி அனுப்புவதற்கு பயன்படுகிறார்கள். சேலம், ராசிபுரம் தாலுகா அணைப்பாயையத்தில் ஒரு சிறு கோவில் இருக்கிறது. அந்தக் கோவில் பள்ளர்களுக்குக் கவுண்டர்கள்க்கும் சொந்தம். ஆனால் ஒரு சமயம் பள்ளர்கள் காலில் சலங்கை கட்டி ஆடிக்கொண்டு கோவிலுக்கு போகக்கூடாது என்று சவுண்டர்களோடு கலகம் ஏற்பட்டது. ஆனால், கோவில் பள்ளத்தெருவில் தானிருக்கிறது. அதற்கு அதே மாதிரிச் செய்து மலைவெப்பங்குட்டை இராமசாமி கவுண்டரும், அவர் வக்கீல் தொப்பட்டி அறுமுகக் கவுண்டர், ஹரிஜன சேவா சங்கத் தலைவர் வி. வாஞ்சித்தையர் இவர்களைல்லாம் சண்டை சச்சரவு இல்லாமல் இருப்பதற்கு சமரசம் பண்ண எனக்கு லெட்டர் எழுதி விட்டார்கள். நானும் இதைச் சேட்டு போட்டாரில் அங்கு சென்று இந்த சண்டையை தீர்த்து வைக்கவும் என்று போனேன். அதற்குள் அவர்கள் அடுத்த வியாழக்கிழமை இதைப்பற்றி சமாதானம் செய்துகொள்ளலாம் என்று மறு கடிதம் எழுதி விட்டார்கள். நான் மீண்டும் போனவுடன் அவர்கள் எழுதியனுப்பிவிட்ட விஷயம் தெரிந்தது. நான் போனவுடன் ஸ்ரீ கோவில் திண்ணையில் உச்சாரித்தபடி ஷெடர் பள்ளர்களுக்கு கொல்லி விட்டு, கவுண்டர்கள் இருக்கும் ஊருக்கு வந்து மனிசிப்பை கூப்பிட்டு சமாதானம் வியாழக்கிழமை வந்து செய்து விடலாம் என்று தெரிவித்தேன். அங்கு இருந்த கவுண்டர்கள் நீ கோவில் திண்ணையில் எப்படி உட்காலாம் என்று சொல்லி நீங்கள் செய்வதில் என்ன நியாயம் இருக்கிறது என்று என்னை அவமானம் ஆகும் முறையில் ஆம் பித்து விட்டார்கள். அதை நான் சமாளித்துக் கொண்டு நீங்கள் என்ன செய்தாலும் சுக்திக் கொள்ளலாம் நான் மகாத்மா காந்தி சொல்லியபடி சமாதானம் செய்ததான் போகிறேன் என்று சொல்லிவிட்டு அடுத்த வியாழக்கிழமை வருகிறோம் என்று சொல்லி விட்டு வந்தோம். பிறகு அவர்களைக் கெஞ்சிக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு சமாதானமாகப் போகச் சொன்னேன்.

20th July 1948] [Sri M. P. Periaswami]

பிறகு 1948-ம் ஆண்டு ஜூலை 1-ம் தேதி வியாழக்கிழமை போய் இராமசாமி கவுண்டர், ராசிபுரம், காங்கிரஸ் கமிட்டியார், மற்றும் பெரியோர் முதலியவர்களை வைத்துக்கொண்டு ஒரு சமாதானம் செய்து வைத்தோம். ஒரு மாதம் விட்டு ஒரு மாதம் ஒவ்வொருவரும் வைத்துக்கொள்வதும் என்றும் மாசியில் கவுண்டர்கள் பூசை வைத்துக்கொண்டால் பண்டியில் பள்ளங்கள் செய்வது என்றும் இருபேர்களிடமும் சையெழுத்து வாங்க சொல்லி வந்தோம். இப்பொழுது அது மாதிரி நடந்து வருகிறதாக ஒத்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஹோட்டலுக்கும் கோவிலுக்கும் போகலாம் என்று பேசினால் அவர்களுக்கு வேலை செய்ய முடியாது பண்ணைக்குப்போக முடியாது. கட்டுப்பாடாக அவர்களை சேர்த்துக்கொள்ள மாட்டேன் என்கிறார்கள். இதைப்பற்றி டிஸ்ட்ரிப்ட்டு ரூபரின்டென்டிடம் சொன்னோம். சமாதானம் செய்கிறோம் என்று சொன்னார்கள். ரிபோர்ட்டு அனுப்பினால் அது சரியானபடி கலெக்டருக்கு போவது கிடையாது. சமாதானம் ஏற்படும் காலத்தில் ஹரிஜன தலைவர்களை அழைத்து அவர்களோடு சமாதானம் செய்வதில்லை. ஹரிஜனங்கள் சொன்னவரும் ரிபோர்ட்டைப் பற்றி விசாரித்தால் ஹரிஜன தலைவர்களை வைத்துக்கொண்டுதான் சமாதானம் செய்யவேண்டும். அவர்கள் இல்லாமல் பைசல் பண்ணுவதால் நியாயம் கேட்கக்கூறாது. தலைவர்களை வைத்துக்கொண்டு இரு கட்சியையும் சேட்டுக்கொண்டு புகார்கள் பைசல் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு சௌகரியமாக ஹரிஜன தலைவர்களை வைத்துக்கொண்டு விசாரிக்க வேண்டும் சில அதிகாரிகள் ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்களை விசாரித்து தீர்ப்பு கூறிவிடுகிறார்கள்.

“அதோடு கூட இப்பொழுது பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் ஹரிஜன பிள்ளைகள் எல்லாம் இன்று தாமதமாகப் படிக்கலாம் என்றும் ஹாஸ்டலுக்கு உதவியும் செய்து வருகிறார்கள். அதற்கு என்னுடைய மனமார்ந்த வந்தனத்தைத்தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன். ஹாஸ்டல்களில் ஹரிஜன பிள்ளைகளுக்கு கிரான்டு கொடுக்கிறார்கள். மீம்திரி கவுன்செலர் ஹாஸ்டலிலும் இருக்கிறது, சொந்த மாணேஜ்மெண்டு ஹாஸ்டலிலும் இருக்கிறது. இன்னும் சில இடங்களில் ஹரிஜனப்பிள்ளைகளை சேர்ப்பது இல்லை. இதர ஹரிஜன பிள்ளைகளுக்கு ஹாஸ்டல்களில் கொண்டு கொடுத்து வருகிறார்கள். அதோடு கூட ஹிந்துக்களுடைய பிள்ளைகளையும் சேர்த்து படிக்கச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அதனால் ஹாஸ்டல்களில் தொகை கொடுக்கும் காலத்தில் டிவிடெண்டு போட்டுப் பார்த்தும் பாதாபணம் ஜாஸ்தி வாங்கிறது. ஹரிஜன பிள்ளைகளுக்குக் கொடுக்கும் கிரான்டு விட அதிகமாக வாங்கி அப்படி வந்தால் ஹரிஜன பிள்ளைகள் எப்படி கொடுக்க முடியும். அதற்காக அதிகப் பணம் வந்தாலும் ஹரிஜன பிள்ளைகளுக்குக் கொடுக்கும் கிரான்டைய ஒப்புக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். இல்லாவிட்டால் அதற்கு மேல் அதிகமாக வரும் பணத்தை சர்க்காரை கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்தமாதிரி ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். 40 பிள்ளைகளுக்கு ஒன்பது பிள்ளைகள் தான் படிக்கிறார்கள். கொடுக்கும் ரூபாய் 15 கிரான்டு போதாமலிருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் அவர்களுக்கு அதிம உதவி கொடுக்கவேண்டும். என்னுடைய இப்பொழுது ஹரிஜனங்களிடம் பொருள் கிடையாது.

“அதோடு கூட இன்னொரு முடியமான விஷயம். ஹரிஜனங்களில் பிர்வு உண்டாக்கி பிர்வு படுத்தி இருக்கிறார்கள். ரிபோர்ட்டைப் பார்த்தால், 6-வது பக்கம் கடைசி பாராபிஸ் கீழே பார்த்தால் தெரியும். நிரநேஷ்வேலி இல்லாலும் மதுரை இல்லாலும் பள்ளர்கள் இருந்து வருகிறார்கள். அவர்களிடம் சீண்டாமை ஒன்று தானிருக்கிறது, மற்ற எல்லா சௌகரியங்களும் இருக்கிறது என்று ரிபோர்ட்டில் காண்பித்திருக்கிறார்கள். இதை ஆட்சேபிக்கிறேன். இதுவரைக்கும் மகாத்மா காந்தியன்பட எத்களை ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்களிடமிருந்து எல்லோரும் என்னுடைய இருக்கலெண்டு, சமாதான வாழ்க்கை என்னும் பள்ளர்கள் எல்லா விரைக்க வேண்டும் என்று சொல்லி வந்தார். ஆனால் இப்பொழுது கவுன்செலர்மெண்டு எழை பணக்காரர் என்று பார்த்து support செய்து வருகிறது. சப்பரிட்டி ரிப்போர்ட்டைப் பார்த்தால் திருநெல்வேலி இல்லாலும் மதுரை இல்லாலும் இருந்தும் பள்ளர்களுக்கு உதவி செய்யவேண்டிய தில்லை. இந்த ஒரு கோடி ரூபாயில் சேர்ந்த பார்த்தால் இந்த ஹரிஜனங்கள்

[Sri M. P. Periaswami] [20th July 1948]

களுக்குள் ஒரு பிளவு உண்டாக்கிவிடுகிறது. இந்த ரிப்பார்ட்டை வைத்துக் கொண்டு பெரிய கிளர்ச்சிகள் செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இதை ரொம்பவும் கவனிக்கவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. ஆபத்து யோசனை செய்ய வேண்டும். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கான பிளவு ஏற்படாமல் ஏழை பணக்காரன் என்று பார்த்து செய்யவேண்டும். பள்ளர் சமூகத்தையே புறக்கணிப்பது தர்மம் அல்ல. நியாயமும் அல்ல. ஒருவன் பணக்காரனாக இருந்தால் அந்த சமூகமே பணக்காரர்களென்று சொல்லக்கூடாது, இப்படி சொல்வது நியாயமல்ல. 63-வது பக்கத்தில் கீழே இருப்பதை கவனமெண்டு ரொம்பவும் நியாயமாக பரிசீலனை செய்யவேண்டும். 1937-ம் ஆண்டு நான் M.L.A. மெம்பராக இருந்தேன். அந்தக் காலத்திலிருந்து இதுவரைக்கும் மெம்பராக இருந்து வருகிறேன். பிளவு மட்டில் கூடாது. இப்படியெல்லாம் பிரிக்கவேண்டாம். எல்லோரும் ஒன்றாக வாழ்வண்டும் என்று நான் ஆசைப் படுகிறேன். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கான யார் பணக்காரன், யார் ஏழை என்று தான் பார்க்கவேண்டும். சென்னையிலும் மற்றும் இடங்களிலும் பரையர்கள் பணக்காரனாக இருக்கலாம். அவனுடைய சொந்தக்காரர்கள் ஏழைகளாக இருக்கலாம். ஆனால் ஒருவன் பணக்காரனாக இருப்பதால் அந்த சமூகமே பணக்காரர்களென்று சொல்லக்கூடாது. நமது கனம் Speakerக்கும் சுவாமிஜிக்கும் தெரியும் அந்தப் பணக்காரர்களுடைய சொந்தக்காரர்கள் மீன் வீட்டில் குடியிருக்கிறார்களென்பது. ஆகையால் எல்லோரும் சமமாகப்போய்விடுகிறார்கள் என்று சொல்லிவிடக்கூடாது யார் ஏழை என்று கவனிக்கவேண்டும் அது தான் நியாயம், நர்யம். இதே மாதிரி சேலத்திலிருக்கும் பரையர்கள் நூறுக்குமேல் ஆயிரத்திற்கு மேல் உயர்ந்த படிப்பில் படித்து இருக்கிறார்கள். பள்ளர் சக்கிலியர்களுக்கு படிப்பே இல்லை. படிப்பில் சலுகை காட்டவேண்டும். ஆகையால் பிரித்துப் பேசுவது நியாயமில்லை. ரிப்பார்ட்டில் இருப்பதால் தான் நான் இப்படி சொல்லுகிறேன். எனக்கு பிரித்து பேசுவதில் மனம் இல்லை. யாராக இருந்தாலும் சமமாகப் பாவித்து வரவேண்டும். இதை எல்லோரும் support பண்ணவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த ரிப்போர்ட்டின் 63ம் பக்கத்திலுள்ள 2 வரினய, பிளவு படுத்தாமலிருப்பதற்கு அதை மட்டும் remove பண்ணவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

12-45
p.m.

* SINNA KAZIAR HAJI MOULVI S. A. F. IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, the Report is nice and a very useful document as it furnishes us with details, which will be useful not only for purposes of this debate but also for the Government in the future. But when I read the names of the members constituting the Committee, I felt it was really unfortunate that there was not even a single Muslim on the Committee. Do you think, Sir, that Muslims are the enemies of Harijans? Certainly not. On the other hand, we are the proper persons to carry out the much needed reforms in the direction of elevating them. I challenge you to give me a taluk either in Madura, Ramnad or Tinnevely and give me six months' time and I will see that within that time Harijans, Hindus and Muslims eat together, dine together and sleep together. My hon. Friend, Mr. Subbaraman, is here and he will bear me out in what I am going to say. When Mr. Prichard was the Collector of Madura and I arranged for a social dinner. Harijans, Muslims, Caste Hindus and Christians were made to enter the mosque and they sat side by side and they dined in the mosque premises. Later on, when Mr. Subbaraman was the Chairman of the Municipal Council and I was and even now I continue to be, a member of the council, there was a proposal to construct some cheris for Harijans. You can even now open the minutes book of the Municipal Council and you will see that I

[20th July 1948] [S. A. F. Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur]

moved amendments to the proposal and the hon. Member said above, who was the Chairman, will not deny it and I remarked that it was an eye-wash and high-sounding tall talk. I asked: 'Why do you go on with your separatist movement? You must give them plots in your own locality.' I offered plots in Kazimar street block and I asked that likewise other members may give vacant sites in Caste Hindu Brahmans and Sourashtra blocks. But the Chairman pointed out: 'You are too rapid in carrying out all these reforms; we cannot follow you, please wait for some time and then we can have such reforms.' I should like with your permission to speak a few words in Tamil just for a moment and then proceed in English:—கனம் மந்திரி கூர்மையா அவர்கள் மிக்க கூர்மையாக பார்க்க வேண்டிய விஷயமிது. The English rendering for the second word 'கூர்மையாய்' is 'minutely.' The Hon. Minister's name is Kurmayya and I want him to go minutely into the details of this issue and do the needful. This is not a matter which requires much deliberation and what is required is an open heart and sincerity. One hon. Member said that he wished all the Ministers were Harijans. I tell you upon God that he would never in his heart of hearts felt like that. Another hon. Member said that one day he should see a Harijan occupying the presidentship of the Indian Union and all honourable posts also. He forgot that if every post and every office is occupied by Harijans, all of us will become the enemies of Harijans and that position will be bad for them. Whatever you may say, we are not going to achieve anything merely by words. There is a Tamil proverb: 'எட்டு கரக்காய் கரிக்கு உதவாது.' Mere written things can't take the place of real substances. Example is better than precept. The other day an hon. Member observed: After the Britisher went out, so many Harijans had been turned out without any job. What can we do? We wanted them to go out and they have gone out, and why should you be sorry for it now? I wish only to make this request to hon. Members: 'Why not all of us have Harijans as servants in our houses?' We will be solving the problem of unemployment and we shall be setting an example which others will follow. Some of our friends said that their foster mothers were Harijans. My foster mother was also a Harijan and she is still alive, about 88 years old and I will produce her before the House in the next session for exhibition if it is so desired. It is not an exaggeration nor is it a statement made to please others. It is an admitted fact that everywhere Harijans are being badly treated. Unless you raise their economic position, I do not know how we are going to solve the problem. There is a department called S.P.C.A. which means Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; in the case of Harijans I would like that there should be another society, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Adi-Dravidas; there is no such society and in certain places they are being treated worse than animals. Let us think of what we must do first in the social sphere. Suppose there is a marriage in my house and there is a feast also. I must invite all Harijans; we must sit together side by side and dine. As educated men and as hon. Members of this House, we must

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set an example to others and other people will follow. In this matter, hon. Members said that they had done much in the villages. I feel that there is nothing that has been done, but what you have been attempting to do a good deal has been attempted but nothing has been done and if something has been done, it was done by Mahatma Gandhi. Have we not heard that Mahatma Gandhi was living in the Bhangi Colony in New Delhi? Why was he living in the Bhangi Colony? It was to create a public impression that the Harijans were our equals. Here things are different; we sit together and eat together. But when we go to the mufassal and when you want a Harijan to get betel leaves or nuts from the shop, you throw to him a quarter anna coin from a distance of a yard but here we say that Harijans must be made Premier and the President of the Indian Republic. You have only to go to the countryside to see things. Even after the passing of the Civil Disabilities Removal Act, they are not allowed to take water from public wells. Temples were opened for them in your presence, but soon after you came back, they are refused admittance into the temples. Let them not take water from Caste Hindu wells; let them not go into their temples; they will have their own wells and their own temples and that day will come only when you raise their standard of life. Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar said on the floor of the House that the Harijan cheris were located in very unhealthy places and that is true of every village without any exception. We must see that their status is raised. We are doing the needful in the matter of their education by the grant of scholarship and by hostel concessions and other concessions. But the one thing to be remembered is that unless economically they are well off they cannot become our equals. Even when licences were granted to Harijans, what was it that happened? It was intended to help them, but what happened? Some Caste Hindus and some Muslims even caught hold of some Harijans to lend their names and they obtained licences in their name and made money. This is how things were going on even where things were done for their benefit. I feel, Sir, that the Government is not very serious or sincere in this direction. There is a Tamil proverb: 'பிள்ளையைப் பிள்ளைப்போட்டுத் தொட்டியையும் ஆட்டுவது.' They say they have at heart the good of the Harijan community but they in reality are not sincere in their efforts. Is there any caste distinction between the Muslims? Certainly not. They call themselves Hussain Sahib, Madhar Sahib but take any Hindu name, it is Ramaswami Pillai, Krishnaswami Ayyangar, Mahadeva Ayyar. Why not by legislation remove the 'caste tail' after every name which denotes the particular caste to which the man belongs. Every man must be considered as equal to the other and we will be solving the problem in a very easy manner. Finally, Sir, I should like to say: 'Why do you exclude us from committees in the mufassal and here? I would like to impress that we Muslims will be of immense use in carrying out the reforms which you wish to make.'

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Mr. Speaker, the hon. Members have spoken about the disability of Harijans; it is a well-known fact

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that Harijans are in a sad plight and it is no good saying it over and over again. What is the solution that we propose? We have been hearing that appointments are not given to them and that better facilities are not provided for them and they are suffering from so many hardships. But what is it that they themselves have done to solve this? I have got very many Harijan friends who have come to the top but who have practically let down their own people; they do not go and mix up with their people and do all that is necessary for their uplift. I want to know how many of these educated Harijans who are in such decent positions go back to their own fold and do propaganda work, (An hon. Member: 'It is only a few.') It does not matter if they are only a few in number; it will not do when millions are being treated like animals in this country. Go to Tanjore and see how the mirasdars are treating these people. Their huts are put up on the lands belonging to these people. Naturally this poor Harijan, this labourer is afraid of the mirasdar. If he says anything or if he rebels against what he is asked to do, naturally the mirasdar will see that he is evicted. So what is it the Government should do? Sir, they are passing so many expropriatory measures like the Zamindari Bill. They want to introduce prohibition *in toto*. Similarly every mirasdar must be asked to part with that plot of land occupied by the Harijans. This land should be bought by the Government. I would even go to the extent of saying, every mirasdar should be asked to part with four or five cents of land free on which the Harijan can build his hut. Let each district be asked to pay its contribution. Government are collecting an education cess along with the land revenue. Similarly you put up a cess for the amelioration of the Harijan people. This will relieve the money burden of the Government. The wonderful Prohibition Scheme, which Government say, will be a success, will be a boon to Harijans. As I said, let every mirasdar in every district be asked to pay a sort of cess, and let that money be ear-marked for building houses for Harijans. It is not a very difficult matter. It is the Caste Hindu who has to change his heart. It is all right so far as the scheme is concerned. The poor Harijan has been saying the same thing—he wants a house of his own—for the last ten years; and I have been hearing this same thing ever since I became a Member of this House ten years back. It is said the Harijans are filthy, they are ill-clad. Why are they so? Because they have no social life; they are not earning sufficiently. First make them earn a decent wage. Let every male labourer be paid Rs. 1-8-0 a day and let every woman labourer be paid twelve annas or a rupee. Let every landowner be asked to pay that wage. But what is the ordinary landowner now doing? He asks somebody to cultivate his land for him; he goes over to Madras, lives there and does not care who raises crops on his land. Has the landlord contributed anything to the efficient growth of crops on his land? Does he produce fifty per cent more than what was produced years ago? You must pay the Harijan labourer better wages; he will then dress himself well and live a good social life. Harijan labourers also have brains as much as anybody

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here. Their womenfolk know what to do and what not to do. If the Government or the Harijan Minister wants to do anything, he must help them to improve their life. You want to introduce compulsory elementary education. What is the use of elementary education to them when they are not able to find food? So I say, let a sort of cess be levied like the education cess, and this will relieve Government of the burden of finance. The Congress has had as one of its planks the removal of untouchability. Would it be enough if untouchability is removed; would it be enough if we are prepared to touch everybody? (Laughter.) You must remove their social inequality. Mahatma Gandhi did not think that by making Harijans to go to temples, by admitting them into Hindu temples their condition would be improved. If each landlord is made to contribute some money to improve the economic status of the Harijan, it will go a long way to solve the Harijan problem. Apart from that, we must have a change of heart also. God is not kind enough to Harijans; and Harijans are not kind to God. (Laughter.) Human nature must adjust itself. It is we who create God. (Laughter.) Have you not heard of people worshipping Sai Baba? Haven't you heard of people worshipping Nagore Mira Saheb? So it is our own brain that is working that creates God. So there is no use of Congress bawling out 'the Harijan problem must be solved', 'untouchability should be removed' and so on. It is really a change of heart that is required. Why worry about temple entry? Pay Harijans a better wage; then they will have social freedom; why should they live on kanji water; for they have no money for better food; let them say 'I shall not do this work if I am not paid a specific sum of money'. Let the mirasdar, the Hindus—I don't care whether they are Brahmans or Non-Brahmans, Mudaliars or others—I mean only Caste Hindus pay better wages; otherwise if you put Harijans down artificially the Congress people will only be practising a sort of self-deception, that they have been trying to raise the status of Harijans for a long time, they have been trying to remove untouchability and all that sort of thing. Now they are in a hurry to do everything else, first Prohibition, then Abolition of Zamindaris and so on. I say, first raise the economic status of the Harijans, pay them better, and for that make the Hindus pay better wages. Then levy a cess on every mirasdar, and you will get any amount of money in that way to improve the status of Harijans. Only in this way can the Harijan improve his life. We are proud to see a Harijan in the Ministry. We are all proud to see him there. He himself feels he is nobody there. He has to make himself felt, find money to give and then see that the economic position of the Harijan is improved. Then only there is solution for the Harijan problem."

SRI R. SUBBA IYER:—"On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Is the hon. Member, Mr. P. Natesan, in order in using the word 'bawling'?"

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"He said 'prattle'."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"I don't think I have used the word; if I have used it I withdraw it."

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MR. SPEAKER:—"He has withdrawn it."

* MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, previous speakers have dealt fairly exhaustively with the many problems affecting the welfare of the Harijan community and have subjected the report now under discussion to detail scrutiny. So I do not propose to trot on the same arguments and thus waste the time of this House. I will simply confine myself to a few general observations. I hope, Sir, this report, which is now being discussed will really prove an earnest of the intentions of this Government, namely, to grapple with the many problems affecting the Harijans which call for urgent attention. I have no faith in these reports as they appear to me to be only an attempt to delay the solution of urgent problems, to put off, as it were, the evil day. Sir, I cannot understand, why one of the many problems, namely, the housing question, which has been rather prominently brought to the notice of Government by a number of members of the Harijan community, has had to be delayed until the committee met and reported on the question. Surely about two years ago, when this Government set apart a crore of rupees as a fund for Harijan uplift, Government could have circularized District Collectors asking them to report within a time specified therein as to the availability of suitable sites in the districts on which buildings could be constructed for Harijans. If that had been done, by this time, thousands of houses could have been built from out of the reserve fund set aside for Harijan uplift. In like manner, some of the other problems touched upon by the committee could have been tackled by this Government long long ago. I am afraid, even now, that this report has seen the light of day, and definite schemes have been chalked out, the problem will not be solved with that gusto and zeal which the situation calls for. I would certainly not be surprised, if after six months, people like Mr. B. S. Murtni and Mr. Nagappa bring to the notice of Government that very little progress has been made in implementing this report. The whole trouble is this: the root of the evil is the caste system which is man-made. God did not create men as Adi-Dravidas or caste-Hindus. God created man, and man created the various distinctions. (Sri M. Bapineedu: 'That is so all over the world.') Unless we are convinced that these distinctions must first be rooted out, and as a result of our conviction, we make a determined effort to root out those distinctions, I say, the problem of Harijans will continue till eternity. If these caste system remains, you will never be able to eradicate the social evils. You must cast off that caste system. The soul of the Harijan is as precious to God as my soul or your soul. If we remember that all of us are equal in the eyes of God, the superiority complex will disappear, caste prejudice will go and we will embrace Harijans sincerely as brothers and not from any political motives. I know that the members of this House are convinced about the hardships of the Harijans after hearing the speeches of the Harijan members. It is the society at large that is adhering tenaciously to the old prejudices. As long as the prejudices last, the Harijan problem can never be solved though you may build houses, dig wells, spread education, etc. p.m. 1.16

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We must convince the people outside that all of us are equal in the eyes of God and remove prejudices from their minds. I appeal to the outside world through this House to cast off the old prejudices. Only then we shall be able to find a solution for the Harijan problem."

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find from the report that one of the terms of reference to the Committee is to make recommendations in regard to backward communities other than the Harijans. I think that the Government considered this point a very important one and that that is why they have mentioned this as a special point for consideration by the Committee. It is very much to be regretted that the Committee have not devoted sufficient attention to this matter. The whole item has been disposed of in a half page at the end of the report with the remark that a special allotment of 2 lakhs a year might be earmarked for expenditure on the welfare of the backward communities. The Committee have reported that they have not been able to ascertain the actual names of the different backward communities and detailed information about them. How the Committee failed to get the material for their enquiry and report passes my comprehension, and I am afraid that the Committee did not want to launch upon an elaborate enquiry into the condition of this unfortunate section of the Hindu community.

"Apart from this, I find that the report in general lacks a high level consideration with regard to Harijan uplift. The report reads as if the Committee has been asked to formulate proposals for spending the one crore of rupees rather than to make original suggestions regarding the Harijan uplift policy. For instance, the Committee had not gone into the question whether a discriminatory policy in favour of one section of the community was of any good to that section at all. Secondly, they must have considered the various Acts like the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act that we have passed and seen whether they have touched at least the fringe of the problem of untouchability and civil disabilities. None of these things seem to have had a prominent place in the minds of the members of the Committee. I say, Sir, that in the light of modern conditions it would have been very much better if the Committee had considered these aspects instead of doing the commonplace work of allotting the one crore of rupees to the different items of Harijan welfare work. Another defect which I find is that the Committee had not considered whether it was at all feasible for the Provincial Government to go on earmarking large sums of money year after year from the general revenues for expenditure on needs which are not special to the Harijans only but are common to the whole community. Recommendations have been made for the separate treatment of Harijans in almost every branch of administration. I do not understand why separate funds should be allotted for purposes of this kind when these disabilities are, or lack of amenities is, a general grievance of the whole community in the Province. It is not the Harijan alone who suffers from lack of education or want of houses. It is not the Harijans alone who suffers from untouchability.

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There are other sections of the Hindu community who are considered to be untouchables and for whom we have done nothing. The most important point that the Government have to consider in regard to Harijans is whether they have successfully carried out the removal of untouchability. In my humble opinion they have not done so. The Removal of the Civil Disabilities Act had not touched even the fringe of the problem of untouchability. The Temple Entry Act also stated in a general way that any rights of the Hindu community shall be shared by the Harijans also. But what have we done? We have left the state of segregation in which the Harijan lives as it is. We have done and we are continuing to do what the Europeans in South Africa are doing towards the Indians there. Have we abolished segregation in this country which is the source of all the troubles of the Harijans? We have not abolished the cheri system. As long as you keep the cheri as a separate segregating institution, no salvation can be expected for the Harijans. Twice before I have on the floor of this House made the submission that the abolition of the cheri system alone will solve most of the problems which adversely affect the Harijans to-day. Just as to-day the zamindar is anxious to get his zamindari abolished, the Harijan also seems to be very particular in segregating himself and living separately so that he may make himself an aristocratic part of the Hindu community."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Question."

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"The hon. Member may question, but I say that that is the real position. By these discriminatory measures, the Government are not doing any good to the Harijans. The spending of a crore of rupees is not going to solve the lack of amenities of the Harijans which grievance is rampant in the Hindu community as a whole. The Government themselves could have allocated the one crore of rupees and for this purpose a committee need not have been appointed to conduct an enquiry and make recommendations. I submit that the Committee must have been asked to suggest a different policy by which we can really lift the Harijan from the position which he occupies in the Hindu society to-day."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may continue his speech after lunch. Before I adjourn the House, I wish to announce the result of the elections to the Constituent Assembly."

IV.—ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have to announce to the House that with reference to sub-rule (9) of rule 9 of the Constituent Assembly Rules, the following candidates have been declared duly elected as Members of the Constituent Assembly of India by the General Part of the Madras Legislative Assembly in the vacancies caused by the resignation of the Hon. Sri Kala Venkata Rao, Hon. Sri K. Chandramouli, Hon. Sri H. Sitarama Reddi and Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon:—

1. Sri A. Karunakara Menon.
2. „ Moturi Satyanarayana.

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3. Sri Kallur Subba Rao.

4. „ M. Tirumala Rao.

“ I have also to announce that Mr. M. Muhammad Ismail Sahib has been declared duly elected as Member of the Constituent Assembly of India by the Muslim Part of Madras Legislative Assembly in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth.”

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

REPORT OF THE HARIJAN WELFARE COMMITTEE—cont.

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, before we adjourned for lunch, I was making the point that segregation of a section of the community and showing discriminative treatment in their favour cannot go hand in hand and will always prove a thorough failure. Therefore, Sir, I submit that the Government should make up their mind to abolish the cheri system and see that all these Harijans are settled in the villages proper, so that many of their social habits and customs which had been hitherto or which may hereafter be distasteful to the other sections of the Hindu community might disappear and that they might merge themselves completely with the caste-Hindus and other communities in the village and thus get themselves lifted up both socially and economically. That is the only way in which they can secure their just rights as a useful and important section of the community. So long as this segregation persists, whatever legislation you may place on the Statute Book for the removal of social disabilities from which they are suffering, they will continue to suffer from the same difficulties and disabilities and will not fare better in the eyes of the community.

“ Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Bapineedu who was a member of the Harijan Welfare Committee, has added a very useful note to the Report of the Committee. All praise to him, since he was able to say boldly, that—

‘ The time has come when we have to reconstruct our ideas regarding Harijan welfare. With the passing of the Temple Entry and the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act, we have entered into a new chapter in the history of the social welfare of Harijans. When these Acts will come into force, there will not be any question of untouchability. . . . ’

But here I beg to differ from him when he says that “ there will not be any question of untouchability ” when these Acts come into force, because I maintain that untouchability has not yet been removed altogether by the number of Acts we have passed in the Legislature; it is still there, because you are continuing to segregate that community by conferring special privileges on it.

“ Then he goes on to say—

‘ In the 1941 Census, the old idea of counting has been taken away and only the census of Hindus, Harijans and people of other religions was taken. In formulating any plan for Harijan welfare, we must proceed on the lines of “ haves ” and “ have-nots.” ’

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In more than one speech, the Hon. Minister for Harijan Uplift has stressed on this point of view. The problem we have to face now is that between labour and capital, landlord and tenant; Harijans will merge themselves into one or the other of the above. As such, in granting house-sites, opening of schools and hostels, we must have in view the above facts. As one connected with the Harijan cause and interested in their welfare, which is so dear to me, I have to place the following observations. . . . ’

“ As regards separate wells, schools, etc., he has said that there should not be separate wells, or separate schools or separate hostels for the Harijans. He is of the view that they must be made common with other people who are suffering from the same disabilities and difficulties of not having their education or schools or hostels or wells or things of that sort. Therefore, I say that we must have to change our ideas and look at this question from an entirely different point of view. Hitherto for political reasons we have been doing one kind of service to the cause of Harijans, but now, with the advent of freedom and independence in our country, we have to do real service to that community and see that they are merged with the caste Hindu and other communities. Merely giving concessions for this or that disability or showing preferences in this or that direction will not solve the problem of the Harijans, because I know there are many other sections of the Hindu community who are suffering from similar disabilities and difficulties which we have not been able to tackle so far successfully.

“ Then, Sir, there is another suggestion which I should like to make to the House. Instead of saying that one, or two or three crores of rupees should be allotted year after year from the provincial revenues to this fund for being spent on the provision of amenities like digging of wells, provision of house-sites, sanitary arrangements, medical help and things like that to the Harijans, cannot we see that these amenities are provided from below, even from the village itself, that is to say, by entrusting these functions to the village panchayats themselves, instead of asking the Provincial Government to do this, which would involve a lot of expenditure and delay in execution? Sir, my suggestion is that where village panchayats are functioning properly, a statutory duty should be laid upon them to see that they allot portions of village sites for the settlement of Harijans and also to provide all these amenities from out of their own funds. They could thus work up a programme for 10 years, or 5 years or for such a shorter period as could be devised to carry out the recommendations contained in this Report, with as small Government help as possible from above. You can also entrust the village panchayats with the formation of co-operative societies for building houses to the Harijans. I submit, Sir, that all the recommendations made in this Report for the uplift of Harijans can be implemented through the village panchayats themselves, because they are the people on the spot and can look after things better, instead of the Provincial Government executing these works themselves. This will only mean spoon-feeding and I submit that spoon-feeding from above is not going to solve the problem of Harijans, or provide them with

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all the amenities that are contemplated in this Report. In my view, it is the village panchayats that should be asked to look after these things, and rules should be so devised for making these functions obligatory on their part. If any of the village panchayats fail to carry out these functions, they must be superseded. I submit, Sir, that this sort of allocation of funds from Provincial revenues to the Harijan Fund and issuing directives to their subordinate officers from the seat of the Government is not going to achieve the object that we have in view.

"Then, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. P. Natesan, said very vociferously that it is the landlord who must contribute for everything that is required or lacking in the Harijans, even so far as these amenities are concerned. He recommended that higher wages should be paid to them; he recommended that lands should also be given away free to the Harijans and the labouring classes in the villages by the landlords; in fact he suggested that everything that the Harijan is in need of must be supplied by the mirasdars. But I should like to ask him, what about these merchants, these industrialists and these businessmen in the City and other big towns who are employing thousands of Harijan workers in their industries? Are they all doing justice towards them? Now-a-days for everything the landholder in the village is made responsible. He has to pay for the Provincial revenues; he has to provide for the labouring classes in the villages; he has to provide for the merchants with whom he has dealings; he has to provide for the vakil who argues his case in law Court; and in effect, he has to pay for everything which affects him in his village out of his income from his land. Where is he to go and find out money to provide for all these things? My hon. Friend, Mr. Natesan, may as well look forward to the richer sections of the community in towns and cities for discharging their duties by the Harijans and contribute their share towards their uplift instead of making these suggestions and looking towards landlords alone for securing these amenities for the Harijans in the rural areas."

Mr. L. C. PAIS:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the main questions that the recommendations of the Harijan Welfare Committee should be speedily and fully implemented, there can certainly be no difference of opinion. The position of Harijans to-day is this. For centuries together, they have been denied the freedom and the opportunity to advance socially, politically, economically, educationally and this for no fault of theirs. They have been subjected to untold hardship, misery, ignominy and shame. What is the sin they have committed? As somebody said sometime back, their only sin is that they have been born to Harijan parents. Thanks to the efforts made by social reformers and particular organizations and thanks to the unceasing efforts made by our revered leader, Mahatma Gandhi, throughout his life, this community has, I am glad to say, progressed to some extent. But as we have heard from the various speakers, the progress is not substantial. As some of the Harijan Members themselves have said, the so-called legislation, the so-called Removal of Civil Disabilities and the Temple

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Entry Act have only been a sort of eye-wash resorted to more for political reasons than perhaps for the real emancipation of these Harijans, there is no getting away from the fact that unless there is a complete change of heart among the caste Hindu community, unless there is a complete change of mentality among them and unless the high caste Hindus to-day change their outlook towards Harijans and are prepared to sit, eat and worship the same God in the same temple along with their Harijan brethren, all talk of progress among the Harijans will mean nothing.

"Mr. Speaker, I just want to proceed to the next point which I have in my mind before I close my speech. That is a point which was also referred to by my hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan, yesterday. It is this. The Harijans have got to-day certain rights and privileges and are enjoying certain concessions at the hands of the Government. The question is asked, why should the Harijans lose these concessions because of their conversion to Christianity? Is it merely for the sin of their having changed their religion that they are denied these concessions? This question was very pointedly raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan, yesterday and he asked whether these concessions and educational facilities which are given to Harijans are due to their backwardness and poverty or because they belong to the Hindu community? If they are given such rights merely because they belong to a particular religion or a particular faith, then why do you call this a secular State and why do Government claim that there is no distinction of caste, colour or creed in this Province? In a secular State, there is no such thing as Government identifying itself with a particular religion; in a secular State, there is no such thing as advantages and preferences being given to people following a particular religion. No stigma is attached to people because they profess a particular faith or follow a particular religion. Sir, I do not want my Harijan friends to misunderstand me when I raise this question. My appeal to them is briefly this. Here is a section of their own people, their own kith and kin, who are as poor and helpless as themselves, suffering under the same disabilities economically and educationally and if they are going to be deprived of the concessions which the Government have been good enough to confer on Harijans on account of their poverty, backwardness and miserable plight, merely because they have now changed their religion and become Christians, then, I submit, Sir, that it would not be justice. A Government calling themselves a secular Government cannot show discrimination between one community and another. That is my humble submission, Sir. At page 49 of the Harijan Welfare Report, it is said that the Committee is prepared to recognize certain other communities as really backward communities deserving special help from the Government and I would only request the Government to see that such help is also extended to the Christian converts from the Harijan community.

"Then, I ask why should there be discrimination as between these people and those who are converted from the Harijan community to Christianity. Now, we are a secular State and we have no reason to make any such discrimination. I would, therefore,

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request the Hon. Minister to give us a pointed answer so far as this question is concerned. In reply to a question put by Dr. Samuel the other day, he told us that the term 'Harijan' did not include the Christians who have been converted from the Harijans. I do not know who has authorized such a discrimination."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Order, order. The Hon. Minister wants to say something."

* THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"I am sorry, Sir, that my reply yesterday was misunderstood by many hon. Members. My answer was to the question put by the hon. Member, Dr. Samuel, whether the fund allotted for Harijan uplift can also be spent towards the Christian converts. In that connexion, I said that the fund allotted to the Harijans should be spent only for the Harijans and not for the Christians. The hon. Member, Mr. Pais, is quite correct when he says that in a secular State every subject is entitled to get some help from the State. In this Province, people are divided on a religious basis. Christians are allotted a certain amount from the public funds to be spent on Christian education and Christians are entitled to get all help from that fund. Whether they are entitled to get some scholarship or something from the one crore fund allotted for Harijan uplift was the question. I said that they were not entitled to get any scholarship from the funds allotted to the Harijans."

MR. L. C. PAIS:—"Then my remark that there is discrimination between people and people is fully justified here if I heard the Hon. Minister aright."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"I say there is no discrimination even to-day."

MR. L. C. PAIS:—"I do not want to say anything more. I only want a final answer from the Hon. Minister on this point which was also raised yesterday by my hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan."

SRI SWARNA NAGAYYA:—"అధ్యక్ష, మహాశయ, హరిజనలకు సౌకర్యములకలిగించే నిమిత్తము శ్రీ ప్రకాశం నంతులగారు ప్రధాన మంత్రిగా వున్నపుడు ఒక కోటి రూపాయలను కేటాయించివున్నారు. ఈ డబ్బు ఇచ్చి ఇప్పటికి రెండు సంవత్సరములు దాటివది కాని ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఇంతవరకు ఈ డబ్బును హరిజనలలోనను విస్తారము ఖర్చుచేయలేదు ఈ డబ్బులో ఇంకవరకు పెంపొందించుకొని, స్కాలర్ షిప్లకుగాని, ఇంజనీరింగులకుగాని, మంచి నీటివాల్సలుగాని ఎక్కడా ఖర్చుచేయలేదు. దీనికి తగిన కారణము లేమిటా మాకు తెలియదు లేదు. ఎందుచేత ఈ విధం చేస్తున్నారని మేము మురిచి పెట్టుకుంటున్నా మా గోడు అలకించేవారు ఎవ్వరూలేదు"

"మా కడకలో అన్నిచోట్ల కుళాయిలు పెట్టినా మా హరిజనవాడకు మాత్రము ఇంతవరకు కుళాయిలు పెట్టలేదు. ఎందుకు పెట్టలేదని అడిగితే మాకు ఎవ్వరూ సమాధానం చెప్పరు. మా కష్ట సుఖాలు చూడడం. మా గోడు అలకించడమే ప్రభుత్వము వారు మానుకున్నారు."

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"హరిజనులకు సౌకర్యములు కలిగించే నిమిత్తము నియమించిన లేబరు డిపార్టుమెంటులోగాని (Labour department), హరిజన్ వెల్ఫేర్ కమిటీలోగాని (Harijan Welfare Committees) హరిజనులను వెయ్యలేదు. అందువలన ఈ ఉద్యోగస్తులు మాకు వివిధ మైన సౌకర్యాలు చేయటంలేదు. మా కష్ట సుఖాలను చూడడంలేదు. కాంక్రెట్ ప్రభుత్వం ఏర్పడి ఇప్పటికి రెండు సంవత్సరములు పైన అయినప్పటికి మాకు ఏ సౌకర్యము ప్రభుత్వమువారు చేయలేదు. శ్రీ వేముల కూర్మయ్యగారు మా తరపున ప్రభుత్వంలో హరిజన మంత్రిగావున్నారు. ఆయనదగ్గరకుపోయి వినుయ్యా మాగతి ఇల్లా వున్నది, మా సంగతి ఆలోచించవయ్యా అని అడిగితే ఆయన నేను వినుచెయ్యలేకుండా ఉన్నాను. వాళ్లు పది మంది. నేను ఒక్కడను అని అంటారు."

"మహాత్ముని దయవల్ల మాకు ఇదివరకు కొంత వుపయోగం జరిగింది. ఆయన పోయినతరువాత మా సంగతి ఎవ్వరూ చూడడంలేదు. మేము తల్లితండ్రు లేనివాళ్లు మయిపోయినాము. మా గోడు అలకించేవారు ఎవ్వరూలేదు."

"మంత్రులు ఎవ్వరైనా జిల్లాలలో సంచారము చేయటానికి వచ్చినపుడు వారు ఏ కలెక్టరు ఆఫీసుదగ్గరో ట్రావిల్స్ బంగారాలూ, సెంటిల్ బ్యాంకు దగ్గరో వుంటారు. ఎప్పుడు మా హరిజన వాడలూనికిరారు. మేము పడుతున్న బాధలు వారు ఏ మాత్రము గమనించరు. మా హరిజనులు మంత్రులు మరకాము చేస్తున్నచోటికి వెళ్లి మా గోడు చెప్పకోటం సాధ్యపడడంకాదు. అక్కడ మా మాట ఎవ్వరు నినరు."

"ఎఫ్.ఎ., బి.ఎ. చదువుకుంటున్నటువంటి మా హరిజన పిల్లకాయలకు స్కాలర్ షిప్లు (scholarships) లేవు. వాళ్లకు హాస్టల్లో సౌకర్యాలులేవు. ఇట్లాంటి పరిస్థితులలో వినుచెయ్యాలో బాధపడడంలేదు. లేబరు డిపార్టుమెంటులోగాని (Labour department) హరిజన్ వెల్ఫేర్ డిపార్టుమెంటులోగాని (Harijan Welfare department) మా హరిజనులను చేర్చుకోవటంలేదు ఈ ఉద్యోగాలు చేస్తే ననులు మేము చేసుకోలేమా? హరిజనులు కాని వారిని ఈ ఉద్యోగాలలో చేయడమువల్ల వాళ్లు మాకు ఏమి సౌకర్యాలు చేయడకులేదు. నెకండ్ ఫారమ్, ఫోర్టు ఫారం వరకు చదువు కొనిన మా హరిజన బాలలకు ఎక్కడా ఉద్యోగాలు దొరకటములేదు. తాలూకా కచ్చేరీలోగాని, మునిసిపాలిటీలోగాని ఎక్కడకు వెళ్లినా వాళ్లను చేర్చుకోవటంలేదు. కాని ఇక్కడ ప్రభుత్వమువారు హరిజనులకు ఈ సౌకర్యాలు చేస్తున్నాము, ఆ సౌకర్యాలు చేస్తున్నాము అని చెబుతున్నారు. నిజంగా ఈ మంత్రులు ఈ రెండు సంవత్సరాలలో ఒక రోజైనా హరిజనులకు సౌకర్యాలు కలిగించటానికి ఆలోచించలేదు. నా అభిప్రాయము. మహాత్ముడు వున్నంత కాలము వీరు మావైపు చూచారు. ఆయన చనిపోయిన తరువాత మా గురించి ఆలోచించడమే మానుకున్నారు. మావాళ్లలో బి.ఎ. పాస్ అయినవారు ఆసేమంది వున్నారు. వాళ్లకు కూడా ఎక్కడ ఉద్యోగాలు దొరకటములేదు. ఈ విషయాల నన్నింటిని మేము అడిగితే అందరకూ చాలా చెడ్డగా కనిపిస్తోంది. మహాత్ముడు బ్రతికి వున్నట్లైతే మాగతి ఇంత బిగ్గోరితో ఉండరేమిటను. కాబట్టి ఇప్పుడైనను ప్రభుత్వము వారు మా కష్ట సౌఖ్యాలను గమనించి మాకు సౌకర్యాలు కలుగ చేయాలని కోరుతున్నాను."

SRI M. BAPINEEDU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to commend the Report so ably written and so nicely presented for the various means of uplift of the so called backward people or the Harijans. Mr. Speaker, I must also congratulate the Hon. Minister for Harijan Uplift who has had the fortune and privilege to move on previous occasions Bills meant for the removal

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of civil disabilities and for the entry of Harijans into temples. It is very suggestive, Sir, that during your Speakership and his Ministership such important measures and reports have been taken up. One hon. Member has already pointed out that the present popular Government of Madras is not doing its duty and it would be better to liquidate it. This remark came from the lips of my hon. Friend, Mr. B. S. Murthi, who is a responsible Member and the President of the Andhra Harijan Sevak Sangh. I must say, Sir, that it is only given to this Province to present such a Document as this which is of great value and has been prepared and submitted to this august Assembly. Nowhere in India do you find such a Report meant really and sincerely to remove the disabilities and uplift of the Harijans. As such I congratulate the Hon. Minister for such a Report. It is true, Sir, that there is some delay. It is also true, Sir, that delay is continued in the implementation of the suggestions contained in the Report.

"The time has come, Sir, when we should reconstruct our ideas regarding Harijan uplift. My hon. Colleague, Sri A. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, an able sevakh of the Harijan cause and who has been the President of the Tamilnad Harijan Sevak Sangh has pointed out yesterday that every cheri must have a school and a well. Sir, in my note in the Report I have pointed out that the time has come for us not to think along these compartmental lines. These amenities should be within the reach of the Harijans, no doubt. But there should be no separate schools for the Harijans. Their children must be allowed to join the common schools and the wells must be open for all the people. I believe in giving them all facilities. Now we must also reconstruct our ideas of Harijan uplift and we must think in terms of one nation and one people. Even with regard to the hostels the position is the same. I was responsible for the opening of so many hostels in the Andhra Desa. Provided the Government will come to the rescue of the Harijans and offer scholarships I believe we can admit all the Harijan students in all the hostels. Then only they will mingle with the other students and feel that they are of one nation and that complexity of untouchability or touchability will go. I believe in common hostels for all.

"In the implementation of this Report, Sir, there is delay. The delay is due to the redtapism and the old type mentality of the officers, with those files. As a Member of the Reorganization Committee I have also pointed out that we must shortcircuit the files. In the matter of acquisition of sites there is delay and enormous delay too. These things must be remedied. In the house-building societies they have appointed a Special Officer who has shortcircuited the process of acquisition of sites. In the same way if you have a separate Harijan Welfare Board with a Harijan Welfare Director, I am sure that we can get the house sites in a much quicker time than now. (Sri B. S. Murthi: 'In the twinkling of an eye!') My hon. Friend says 'in the twinkling of an eye.' I may tell him that so many things can be done in the twinkling of an eye. I agree, Sir, that the foremost

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pre-requisite for giving adult franchise to the Harijans should be their economic equality. Touchability or untouchability depends upon their economic status. Therefore we must also work for their economic upliftment. My hon. Friend, Mr. Murthi, was complaining yesterday that a good many Members are absent in this House and he was very angry for Members being indifferent. We find only fourteen Harijan Members out of thirty present in this House. This is the time when all Members should be ^{3 p.m.} present to hear what others have to say in the matter. I am sorry to say that even some of Provincial Harijan Welfare Committee Members absented themselves in the committee meetings.

"As regards the question of conversion to Christianity, Sir, that problem had come up more than once in the Harijan Sevak Sangh when Mahatma Gandhi was alive. The converts to Christianity have been enjoying and they have enjoyed all along the privileges and facilities from the missionaries. This neglected class of our society should get all the benefits . . ."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Sir, Mr. Bapineedu made a wrong statement. There are twenty Harijan Members now in this House."

SRI M. BAPINEEDU:—"Anyway it is less than 30. Mr. Natesan was pointing out this morning 'what is the use of temple entry'. That is only a testing mark to see whether the people will really help the uplift of Harijans. It is a question of human right. Mahatmaji said that if we did not admit Harijans into our temples, that temple should not be called a temple of God, but only a temple of stones. The present position of hostels also requires greater attention. There are so many places in *cheris* where there are wells, and which are not allowed for sub-communities in Harijans. I appeal to all our Harijan leaders and Harijan M.L.As. to help the Government. The sub-community feeling should not be observed.

"In the District Welfare Societies also, the officers hereafter should take greater interest. Whether you have separate directorate or not, in the report we have recommended the constitution of separate directorate. In course of time we feel that other members of the society will also get advantages. As already pointed out on more than one occasion by the Hon. Minister for Rural uplift, the problem before the country is, one of 'haves' and 'have-nots', the landlord and the tenant and the rich and the poor. That is the problem we are to face. Therefore from this point of view we have to tackle this question. I once again commend this important human document of our Assembly."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Yesterday and to-day, hon. Members have been taking part in this debate. There are still a number of members who want to take part in the debate. I want to finish the debate to-day. Therefore, I fix seven minutes for each Member hereafter."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Will there be a further reduction, Sir?"

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MR. SPEAKER:—"There will be."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have expressed their candid opinion on the report of the Harijan Welfare Committee. I am not here to go into the details of report, but I am concerned more with another section of this Harijan community who are equally misplaced in society. Just now my hon. Friend, Mr. Pais, from South Kanara has raised this point about a section of Harijan community, namely, the converts to Christianity who are living under the same disabilities as the Harijans. Just now my hon. Friend, Mr. Bapineedu, also gave a reply to this objection. I know, Sir, the missionaries have helped greatly towards the education of the Indian Christians to some extent. If you go into the statistics of the Indian Christian community, you will find that hardly ten per cent are educated. My Friend, Mr. Bapineedu, must have known very well the condition of the converts from Harijans in the villages. Ninety per cent of them are not educated. They are living along with Harijans undergoing the same miserable condition, the same poverty, the same dirt, disease, and debt. If that is the condition, I would like to ask the Government whether it is not their duty to cater to their needs. Time and again we have heard the Hon. Ministers replying to questions raised by some Members that a Harijan convert loses all privileges the moment he becomes a convert to some other religion. Sir, the missionaries in those days got some money from foreign lands. They built schools and colleges, hostels, orphanages and industrial homes and they admitted all classes of people into them without considerations of caste or creed. Everybody had a share in their institutions. They never debarred any Indian, let him be a Hindu or a Muslim or a Harijan, just as some of the Hindu institutions are at present doing. To quote a concrete example, I would cite the instance of Pachaiappa Charities which, till recently, were admitting only Hindus in their college and schools. The Christian missionaries have not done so. They have opened the institutions to all classes of people. Christians formed a very insignificant minority in their institutions. Even now in some of the Christian institutions you will find that hardly 30 per cent are Christians and the rest are Hindus. Therefore I appeal to the Cabinet and the Member in charge of this Harijan uplift to reconsider their decision with regard to this very important matter where a section of the Harijan community has been neglected. Why have you raised this ban at this stage when we are going to spend one crore of rupees for the uplift of Harijans, for building houses and for acquiring house sites and for giving them health and medical facilities. When you are going to do those things, what is the share you have allotted for these Harijan converts? These Harijan converts live in the same *cheris*. They share the same social degradation along with the Harijans, but still you want to deny the privileges to them. I implore and beseech the Cabinet to reconsider their decision and allow the same privileges to the converts also. The Hon. Mr. Kurmayya just now told us that Christians were given special

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[Dr. M. J. Samuel]

privileges in some other direction. But I would like to quote G.O. No. 3950, Development, dated 19th October 1946, in this connection. Formerly Indian Christians coming from Scheduled Castes were given all facilities and educational concessions by the Labour Department. But immediately after this Government Order was passed admission to all hostels maintained by the Government was restricted to the Hindu members of the eligible communities. Sir, all these long years, and ever since the Labour Department was formed, Indian Christians coming from Scheduled Castes had all the privileges and concessions shown to Harijans. But in the year 1946, this Government Order has been issued by this Government. Therefore, Sir, I would like an explanation from the Hon. Minister for this deviation.

"I do not want to waste the time of the House any longer over the same point which has been stressed by my other friends, but I would like to point out a few things from the committee's report. The report of the committee is commendable. I would point out that unless the attitude of the Government officials, the rich landlords and the capitalists and the socially well placed Hindus, changes, we cannot adumbrate schemes for Harijan uplift. I have no time to quote instances where officers have been a real hindrance for the uplift of Harijans.

"Coming to medical facilities which the committee has suggested, I would like to point out one fact. We have allotted ten lakhs of rupees for providing medical facilities. It is very good. But how are you going to cater to only one section of the population in a village? You have reported very well that the doctor, the midwife and their van should visit five villages a day. If they go to a village and administer medicines to Harijans only, what is to become of the converts to Christianity? If they are not given the same privilege and are neglected, there will be great uproar. Sir, I for one do not approve of the scheme of mobile hospitals for only one section of the population."

SRI P. M. VELAYUDAPANI:—"சபா நாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்த ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் சிலவு செய்வதற்கு போட்ட திட்டத்தை நான் மனப்பூர்வமாக ஆதரிக்கிறேன். 1946-ம் ஆண்டில் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்ட ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் எட்டுச் சுரக்காய் போன்றிருந்தது. இந்த 1948-ம் ஆண்டிலாவது நிறைவேற்றப்படுவதற்கு நான் சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன். இனி யாவது இதை முடிக்க முன்வந்ததற்கு பாராட்டுகிறேன். நிலம் வாங்குவதற்கு 50 லட்சம் ரூபாயும், வீடு கட்டுவதற்கு 15 லட்சம் ரூபாயும், தண்ணீர் வசதிக்கு 10 லட்சம் ரூபாயும் முக்யமாக ஒதுக்கி இருக்கிறார்கள். முக்யமாக நாட்டுப்புரத்தில் பார்த்தால் தண்ணீர் வசதி மிகவும் சீர்கேடாக இருக்கிறது. உடனடியாக இந்த 10 லட்சம் ரூபாயை சிலவு செய்து முதலில் தண்ணீர் வசதி செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டும்.

"பிறகு பொருளாதாரம்தான் முக்யமாக இருக்கிறது. பொருளாதாரம் இருந்தால் மக்கள் சீக்கிரத்தில் முன்னேற்றமடைவார்கள் என்பதில் ஐயமில்லை. இப்பொழுதே ஆலோசனை செய்து புரம்போக்கு நிலங்களை ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்குக்கொடுத்து பயிர் செய்ய வசதி செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டும். புரம்போக்கு நிலங்கள் இல்லாத இடங்களில் பட்டா நிலங்களை வாங்கிக் கொடுத்து அவர்களுக்கு மாடு, எர், கலப்பை முதலியவைகளையும் வாங்கிக் கொடுத்து அவர்களை பொருளாதாரத்தில் முன்னேற்றமடையச் செய்ய வேண்டும். அதற்கு வேண்டிய ஏற்பாடுகளை உடனே செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

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p.m.

[Sri M. Kanniyappan] [20th July 1948]

யில் சிலவு செய்யப்பட்டபோகிறது? உண்மையில் ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு கா என்று பார்க்கும்போது நாம் இல்லை என்றுதான் சொல்லவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. அதைப்போலவே கல்விக்காக இந்தப் பணத்திலிருந்து எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அப்படி எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்ட பணத்தை யாரைக்கேட்டு எடுத்துக்கொண்டார்களென்று பார்க்கும்போது இந்தக் கமிட்டிக்குக்கூட தெரியாமல் ஒரு லட்சம் 80 ஆயிரம் ரூபாய் அப்படியே எடுத்துக்கொண்டதாக தெரிகிறது. அதை உண்மையளவில் பார்க்கும்போது அதுவேலை செய்வதற்கு ஏற்படுத்திய கமிட்டியா என்பதுதான் எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை.

“அது மாதிரம் அல்ல, கல்வி விஷயத்திற்காக ஆறு லட்சம் ரூபாய் எடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இதுவும் கமிட்டிக்கு தெரியாது என்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. இன்றுவரையில் மேற்படி நிதியிலிருந்து மேற்படி முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக என்னென்ன செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. சென்னையில் ஒரு ஆயிரக்கணக்கானவர்கள் சேரியில்—சேரியில் என்று சொன்னவுடன் எனது நண்பர் கோபமண்டியக்கூடாது. ஏதோ அந்த காலத்திலிருந்து சொல்லிவந்த காரணத்தால் அந்தப் பழக்கத்தை யொட்டி அப்படி சொல்லிவிட்டேன்—நம்முடைய சென்னையில் பல இடங்களில் நம்முடைய ஹரிஜன தோழர்கள் வாழ்கிறார்கள். அந்த இடங்களை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு சொந்தமாக வாங்கிக்கொடுத்தால் ரொம்பவும் சேர்க்கையாக இருக்கும். அந்த முறையில் அவர்களுக்கு உதவி செய்ய முன்வரவேண்டும், சென்னை நகரில் அநேகம் ஹரிஜனங்கள் பாடுபட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் வசிக்கும் இடம் கார்ப்பரேஷனுக்கு சொந்தமாக இருக்கிறது. அது அரசாங்கத்திற்கு சொந்தம். அந்த மாதிரி மாம்பலத்தில் இடம் இருக்கிறது, அந்த இடத்தில் 300 வீடுகளுக்கு மேல் குடியிருந்து வருகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் வசிக்கும் வீடுகளை காலி செய்யும்படிச் சொல்லி அவைகளையும் பிரித்துப்போட்டு அவர்களை எவ்வளவோ கஷ்டங்களுக்கு ஆளாக்கி இருக்கிறார்கள். இதுதான் ஹரிஜன சேவை. அந்த மாதிரி சேவையாக இங்கே இருக்கிறது. இதை விட்டுவைத்திருக்கமுடியாது. இதைக் கொஞ்சம் இந்த சபையிலுள்ள அங்கத்தினர்களும் மந்திரிகளும் யோசித்துப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். இந்த மாதிரி பல கஷ்டங்கள் ஹரிஜன தோழர்களுக்கு இருக்கின்றன.

“ஹரிஜன சங்கத்தைப்பற்றி நான் கேள்வி கேட்டபோது அய்யரும் அய்யங்காரும் இருக்கலாமா என்று கேட்டதற்கு அதைக் குறித்தும் என்னைக் குறித்தும் பல அங்கத்தினர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். அதைப்பற்றி திரும்பவும் சில வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல பிரியப்படுகிறேன். உண்மையை எடுத்துச் சொல்வதில் பயப்படவேண்டியதில்லை. கொஞ்சம் சிந்தனை செய்து யோசித்துப்பார்க்கவேண்டும். உண்மையை தெரிவித்துவிடவேண்டும். ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு சட்டம் செய்தோம். எத்தனையோ கூட்டம்போட்டு பேசினோம். கோவில்கள் திறந்து விடப்பட்டுவந்தன. நமது தலைவர் அவர்களும் எவ்வளவோ கோவில்களை திறந்துவைத்தார்கள். மந்திரிகளும் திறந்துவைத்தார்கள். ஆனால் மறு நாள் ஹரிஜனங்கள் கோவிலுக்குள் போனார்களா என்று கேட்கிறேன். கோவில்களினால் எவ்வளவு கொடுமைகள் நடந்திருக்கின்றன என்பதை கண்ணால் பார்த்தால் காதால் கேட்கிறேன். பல கூட்டங்கள் போட்டும் ஹரிஜனங்களைக் கேட்டிருக்கிறேன். அவர்கள் கொடுமைகள் இழக்கிறார்கள் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். “நீங்கள் திறந்துவிட்டு போய்விடுகிறீர்கள், மறுநாள் எங்க ளால் போகமுடியவில்லை. அப்படியேனாலும் ஹிம்சை செய்கிறார்கள். வீடுகளுக்கு தீ வைத்து கொளுத்திவிடுகிறார்கள் அதனால் நாங்கள் போவ தில்லை என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இதற்கு யார் ஜவாப் என்று கேட்கிறேன்—இவைகள் எல்லாம் தலைவர் அவர்களுக்கும் தெரியும் இந்த மாதிரி கொடுமைகள் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் இந்த அய்யர்களும் அய்யங்காரர்களும் ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு வேலை செய்வதாக தெரியவில்லை. பணம்தான் சில வாங்கிது. அவர்களுடைய மனம் மாறவில்லை. ஹரிஜனங்கள் எமாற்றம் அடைகிறார்கள். இதைத்தான் சொல்லுகிறேன். ஸ்ரீ எஸ். என். கோபாலஸ்வாமி அய்யங்கார் இருக்கிறார், அவர் முதல் வகுப்பில் போய் வருகிறார்கள். 2,000 ரூபாய் அல்லது 3,000 ரூபாய் ஹரிஜனத்தின்

[20th July 1948] [Sri M. Kanniyappan]

பேரால் T. A.-க்கு சிலவு செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இதை நான் பகிரங்கமாக சொல்லுகிறேன். என்னைப்பற்றி குறிப்பாக பேசியதால்தான் நான் இதைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். இன்னும் சில கோவில்களில் திறந்துவிட்ட மறுநாள் புனயாவசனம் செய்வதாகக்கூட தெரியவருகிறது. இதைத்தான் திரும்பவும் சொல்லப் பிரியப்படுகிறேன். உண்மையைச் சொல்வதில் என்ன இருக்கிறது.

“கிணறுகளில் தண்ணீர் எடுத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்றால் விட மாட்டேன் என்கிறார்கள். குளங்களிலிருந்து தண்ணீர் எடுத்துக்கொள்ள விடமாட்டேன் என்கிறார்கள். அப்படி எடுத்துவிட்டால் Court வைத்து enquiry நடத்தி அவர்களுக்கு fine போடுகிறார்கள். இந்தப் பணத்திலிருந்து அவர்களுக்கு ஏன் செளகரியம் செய்யக்கூடாது. இது முக்யமான விஷயம்.

“பள்ளிக்கூட விஷயமாக ஒரு ஊரில் 50 வீடுகளிலிருந்தாலும் அங்கே ஒரு பள்ளிக்கூடம் வேண்டும், இல்லையென்றால் குழந்தைகள் ஒரு மைலுக்குமேல் நடந்துபோக வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. அதனால் பள்ளிக்கூடம் போகாமலிருக்கிறார்கள். கணக்கு எடுக்கும் காலத்தில் குழந்தைகள் குறைவாக இருக்கிறது என்று அந்தப் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தை எடுத்து விடுகிறார்கள். அப்படி உத்திரவு போட்டிருப்பதாகவும் தெரியவருகிறது. இன்னும் ஹரிஜனப் பிள்ளைகளை ஹாஸ்டல்களில் சேர்ப்பதற்கு தாசில் தார்களிடமிருந்தும் டிப்டி கலெக்டர்களிடமிருந்தும் certificate வாங்கி வரும்படி சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அவர்களிடம் போய் கையெழுத்து வாங்கும் படியாக இருக்கிறது. பல இடங்களில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு போக முடியாமலிருக்கிறது. அப்படி தாசில்தார்களிடம் போய் கையெழுத்து போடும்படி கேட்டால் கையெழுத்துப்போடாமல் அப்படியே திருப்பிவிடுகிறார்கள். இவ்விதம் 10, 15 தடவைகள் சொல்லவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் இந்த மாதிரி certificate கொடுப்பது என்பதை தாசில்தாருக்கு கொடுக்கவே கூடாது. இந்த முறையை மாற்றியமைக்கவேண்டுமென்பது முக்யமான நோக்கம் என்று நான் நினைக்கிறேன்.

“தலைவர் அவர்களே இன்னும் பல விஷயங்களைப்பற்றி பேசவேண்டுமென்று இருக்கிறேன். நான் தொழிலாளர் வர்க்கத்திலிருந்து வருவதாலும் ஹரிஜன தோழர்களில் தொழிலாளர்கள் இருப்பதாலும் அவர்களுடைய குறைகளை எடுத்துச் சொல்லவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. கூட டயம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். ஒன்றைமட்டும் சொல்லிவிட்டு முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். எவ்வளவோ விஷயங்களைப்பற்றி சொன்னார்கள். பல குறைகளைப்பற்றியும் எடுத்துச் சொன்னார்கள். முக்யமாக நான் சொல்வது என்னவென்றால் இப்போது மந்திரியை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் இந்த மந்திரியவர்கள் இந்த கமிட்டிக்கு தலைவராகவே இருக்கக்கூடாது. ஆனால் இப்பொழுது இருக்கிறார். ஏனென்றால் ஏதாவது தப்பு செய்திருந்தால் அதன் மேல் அப்பீல் செய்வதற்கு உரிமை இல்லாமலிருக்கிறது என்பதை தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஆகையால் கமிட்டியில் வேறு யாரையாவதுத் தலைவராக நியமிக்கவேண்டுமென்பது என்னுடைய எண்ணம். அப்பொழுது உண்மையாக ஒத்துழைக்க முடியும். ஆகையால் வேறு தலைவர் இருப்பது நல்லது என்று தெரிவித்துக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

* Sri A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—“On a point of 3-30
explanation, Sir. The hon. Member Mr. Kanniyappan has made P.M.
it a point every time when the Harijan question is taken up
to sneer at Ayyangars as well as Ayyars. It was pointed out
to him by the Hon. the Minister-in-charge of Rural Develop-
ment, Mr. Kurmayya, himself that as a matter of fact that
gentlemen like Sri Diwan Bahadur Bashyam Ayyangar and Sri
L. N. Gopalaswami have been giving their life and soul for the
cause of the Harijan movement and that statement coming from
a Harijan Minister should have made him more careful about
the use of the language. Such unwarranted language on the

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floor of the House, of late, has caused much heart-searching. One of the dearest friends of the Harijan movement, who was grieved at the sneer on Ayyangars and Ayyars, has already sent his resignation. Sri L. N. Gopalaswami has, as a matter of fact, left off his practice at the bar and for the last fifteen years, he was in charge of the Tamilnad Harijan Sevak Sangh. He did not take part in any sensational political movement and has taken to Harijan work alone as his life-work. During the time of the Advisers' Government, almost all the Harijan Sevak Sanghs were in danger of losing all the contributions which they used to get from Government. During that time, it was the work of these single-minded friends of Harijans that was responsible for every boys' and girls' hostel getting full contribution and to-day there are about 35 hostels in the Tamil Nad for both Harijan boys and girls, thanks to the silent work of these persons. At a time when these persons have done their maximum to the Harijan cause and have devoted their life and soul to it, such reckless strictures on the floor of the House would only take away their interest in the Harijan work.

"The other point to which I want to refer is about the 'Prayaschitta' which Mr. Kanniappan has referred to in his speech. He said that in all temples where the Harijans have entered, this 'Prayaschitta' was performed. I can only say that my hon. Friend has obviously never gone to the biggest temples. The Hon. Speaker as well as the Hon. Minister in charge have not heard of such things taking place in the biggest temples. Stray cases may occur here and there and on account of their very insignificance, they are given undue prominence. I have myself rarely seen such things taking place in my whole district. I am very sorry that my hon. Friend has got a very wrong impression and that he should make such personal strictures about persons of whose work many of us here may not have even dreamt of."

MR. SPEAKER:—"அவர் சொன்னது என்ன என்று தெரியுமா? அவர் சொன்னது பிராமணர்களை துவேஷமாக பேசக்கூடாது என்று சொன்னார். இதே நோக்கத்துடன் அநேகம் பேர்கள் பிராமணர்களில் பாஷ்யம் அய்யங்கார், கோபால்சாமி அய்யங்கார் இன்னும் பலர் இந்த இயக்கத்திற்கு ரொம்பவும் வேலை செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். மற்றவர்கள் இதை விட்டு விட்டுப்போனாலும் கூட இவர்கள் தாங்களே இருந்துகொண்டு வேலை செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால் அவர்களைப்பற்றி சொல்வது தவறு. ஏதாவது சிறிய கோவில்களில் அப்படி செய்திருக்கலாம். மற்ற கோவில்களில் செய்யவில்லை. பிராமணர்களை துவேஷம் சொல்வது சரியல்ல என்று சொன்னார்."

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—"தலைவர் அவர்களே, அவர் சொன்னதற்கு பதில் சொல்லுகிறேன் திருமலைவாயில் என்பது சென்னைக்கு 15 மைல் தூரத்திலிருக்கிறது. அது ஒரு பாடல் பெற்ற ஸ்தலம். அங்கே ஹரிஜனங்களை கோவிலுக்குள் விட்டார்கள். நான் மறுதினம் அங்கே சென்றேன். அங்கே இருக்கிற ஓரிந்துக்களையையும் கேட்டேன். அங்கே குருக்கள் கோவிலுக்கு புண்ணியாவசனம் செய்தார் என்றும் வீட்டுக்கு வீடு அப்படியே செய்தார்களென்றும் சொன்னார்கள். அதைத்தான் நான் குறிப்பிட்டேன். வேண்டுமானால் அங்கே போய் தெரிந்துகொள்ளட்டும்."

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MR. SPEAKER:—"சிறிய கோவில்களில்தான் அப்படி செய்கிறார்கள். பெரிய கோவில்களில் அப்படி செய்வதில்லை."

* **SRI B. PARAMESWARAN:**—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry that a member of this House goes on indulging in unnecessary criticism against those illustrious persons belonging to the Brahman community who have done yeoman service for the cause of the Harijans. ('Hear, hear.') I do not want any man of any community whatsoever to dominate the Scheduled Castes, whether he is a Brahman or a Non-Brahman, or whether he belongs to this particular sect or that. Whoever is dominating and tyrannizing the members of the Harijan community will be construed as an enemy of that community. I may tell you, Sir, that in recent years, we have been put to more difficulties and disabilities by the so-called backward non-Brahman communities than by the Brahmans themselves. ('Hear, hear.') (Interruption.) To quote an example, Sir, in the year 1936 or so, there was a great atrocity perpetrated on this unfortunate community by the Oddars and Kallars of the Ramnad district. It is Mr. V. Bashyam Ayyangar who was responsible for the removal of the disability that stood in the way of admitting students of the Scheduled Castes in the Pachaiappa's College by his learned judgment. It is Mr. Bashyam Ayyangar who was the President of the Harijan Sevak Sangh and who, without any self-interest whatsoever, went and settled the dispute and brought a compromise between the two warring communities. Therefore, it serves no purpose whatsoever by indulging in unnecessary criticism. In fact, it would only increase the displeasure of those sincere workers to whichever community they may belong."

"Sir, I do not want to take much time on the items in the report that has been submitted before the House because I myself was closely associated with the drafting of the report but I want to refer to one particular question which has been agitating the minds of several Indian Christian politicians not only now but from the days of the Raja of Panagal and I would like to say a word or two on that. The other day, Dr. Samuel wanted to know whether the converts to Christianity are entitled to have the same privileges that are given to those who are not converts. This point was very carefully considered by the late Mr. Daniel Thomas, Mr. Odayar, Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam and others. Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillai will bear witness to this because he has been in the Assembly for more than twenty years. Every Minister who was in charge of this portfolio denounced in the most categorical terms that these Harijan converts were not entitled for the concessions that are given to the Hindu Harijans. Why? Because, it is we who were suffering and we had no friends to help us. It is we who were undergoing tyrannies and oppressions to which there could be no parallel. On the other hand, these people who were our own kith and kin embraced Christianity, deserted us and went away. Now that some concessions are given to Harijans, they want to claim the very same

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privileges which we claim. Sir, suppose Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan asks the Government to give some concessions which are shown to those who have been converted from the Harijan community. I ask whether my hon. Friend, Dr. Samuel, will agree to that. What is more important is not the social condition that exists but it is the change of religion. We do not know how much numerically we were reduced by these persons getting themselves converted into Christianity. Sir, they are not treated as untouchables immediately they are declared as Christians but are subjected to innumerable atrocities and disabilities. Again, Sir, these converts have their own marriage ceremonies and they have their own funeral ceremonies. They have got separate burial grounds and they have got everything separate. Yet they say that they are almost living on the same conditions as we, Hindu Harijans, do. (Interruption.) I do not yield, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is not yielding."

SRI B. PARAMESWARAN:—"Another matter to which I want to refer is this. Wherever the Harijans are fighting these Caste-Hindus communities to get their grievances redressed, these converts to Christianity from the Harijan community instead of fighting with their Christian brethren fight with the Hindu Harijans and deprive the Hindu Harijans from what is legitimately due to them. Sir, I ask how many converts are there in this House. Would Dr. Samuel resign and give his seat to a Hindu Harijan?"

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—"I am prepared to do that but it is too late, Sir." (Laughter.)

SRI B. PARAMESWARAN:—"Sir, I have no objection whatsoever to the Government allotting separate funds for these people. But we who are really poor are given a small slice and if you take away a portion out of that small slice—which is after all a very meagre sum—and allot it to the converts, it will be very hard on us . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister wants one hour for reply. If the House is prepared to sit till 8 o'clock, I have no objection to allow hon. Members more time. I wish to know whether the House is prepared to sit till 8 o'clock."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"We are prepared to hear the hon. Member longer."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I am not prepared to make an invidious distinction between one member and another."

SRI B. PARAMESWARAN:—"As I said, I do not want to oppose giving any special grant to the converts. But let them not encroach on the funds allotted purely for the Harijan Hindus. So far as that particular question is concerned, I think I have answered."

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"Then, Sir, with regard to the report under discussion, hon. Members have been speaking on the various points exhaustively for the last two days. I do not think that within the brief time allotted to me, I shall be able to touch upon all the points that I would like to do otherwise. However, Sir, I would like to point out that the report is a very moderate one and also one which is practicable. I have the duty, being a member of the Provincial Harijan Welfare Committee, and also as one who is closely associated in the drafting of the Reports to urge upon the Government the urgent necessity of implementing these proposals."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to make a suggestion to the House. I will allow the hon. Members to speak till 4-30 p.m. The Hon. Minister wants one hour for reply. Therefore, if the House is prepared to sit till 5-30 p.m., I think I can allow hon. Members to speak till 4-30 p.m. I wish to know the opinion of the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"My own view is that the Hon. Minister can be called at 4 p.m. It is but right that he should be called at 4 p.m. because the discussion has been going on for full two days."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"May I know whether the Hon. the Leader of the House is also speaking on the subject?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, Sir."

SRI G. VEERANNA PADAL:—"అధ్యక్షమహాశయ, మన రాజధానిలో హరిజనుల అభివృద్ధి కొరకు మనమదరాసు ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఒక కోటి రూపాయలను ప్రత్యేకించి గ్రాంటు ఇచ్చియున్నారు. మన రాజధానిలో హరిజనులకాక విశాఖపట్టణం, గోదావరి జిల్లాలలో మన్యంకొండ ప్రాంతాలలో వెనుకబడ్డ ప్రజలు 7 లక్షలమంది నూటికి 99 మంది సంకేతము చేయడంకూడా తెలియని పరిస్థితులలో ఉన్నారు. అందుచేత హరిజనులకువలెనే వెనుకబడియున్న కొండప్రాంతములలో నివసించుచున్న ప్రజలకు కూడా కొంతబట్ట ప్రత్యేకించి, వారికి కావలసినటువంటి సౌకర్యములను కలుగజేయుటకు ఒక ప్రత్యేక కాఫును నియమించ గోరుచున్నాను. ఈ కొండప్రాంతములలోని ప్రజలు ఆ ప్రదేశములలో చిరకాలమునుంచి మలేరియా, స్కర్వమెనియా, ప్లాగువంటి మొదలైన రోగములచే చాలాచాధలు పడుతున్నారు. కాబట్టి మన ప్రభుత్వమువారు సాధ్యమైనంత త్వరలో వారికితగు సహాయము చేయించవలసినదని ప్రార్థిస్తున్నాను. మన విజిల్స్ ప్రాంతములలోని ప్రజలకు విమాత్రము వైద్యసహాయము లేదు. ఈ ప్రజలకుసరిఅయిన ఆహారపదార్థాలు కొరకటంలేదు. వీరు ఆహారపదార్థాలు గాని, బట్టలు గాని, 60, 70 మైళ్ల దూరంనుంచితెచ్చుకొనవలసి వస్తోంది. వారికి తగినటువంటి ప్రయోగ సౌకర్యాలు లేవు. వారు చాలాదూరము నడిచివెళ్లి ఈ పదార్థాలను పొమ్మ ధరలకు కొనుక్కొని తెచ్చుకోవలసి వస్తోంది. వీరికి చదువుకోటానికి తగిన సౌకర్యాలు లేవు. వీరికి ఇంతవరకు Adviser Government వారు గాని, ఇతర ప్రభుత్వమువారుగాని పాచ్చుసహాయము చేయలేదు. కాబట్టి మన హౌస్ ఆఫ్ ప్రభుత్వము వారు సాధ్యమయినంత త్వరలో కొంతబట్ట వీరికిగాను ప్రత్యేకించి వారికి సౌకర్యములు కలుగజేస్తారని ఆశిస్తున్నాను."

"ఈమధ్య శ్రీ ఎం. చానీదుగారు, Finance Minister శ్రీ గోపాల రెడ్డిగారితోపాడూ కూర్చు గోదావరి, నరసిపట్న విజిల్స్లో సంచారముచేసి ఆక్కడ విజిల్స్ ప్రాంతము

[Mr. John Moses Wilson]

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"On the fourth point, there is the list of other backward communities given in the report and I am sure that the list meets with the unanimous approval of the House.

"I have now another matter and I consider it very important. It has been raised by the previous members who spoke on the subject, by Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan, Mr. Pais and Dr. Samuel. The report gives the description of the Harijan cheri, of everyday life of the Harijan, his untouchability, etc. The Committee knows—and the members of this House also know it is such a simple and naked fact that any explanation or discussion of it is absurd—that in almost all these cheris some of them are converts to Christianity and some of them are not. They live the same life under the same conditions with the same disabilities. And when the wells are sunk or burial grounds granted, I should think that it would not be physically possible for the Hon. the Minister in charge of Harijan Uplift, or the Government to cut these cheris into two—the non-convert Harijan cheri and the convert Harijan cheri, to have the use of these wells only for half of them, the other half who are their own brothers, and sisters and sons and daughters being excluded from their use. But the Government seems anxious to cut in twain the Harijan families if it possibly can, and at present it has been able to do so in the matter of admission to hostels and scholarships, and for this purpose there is that ingenious definition of the word 'Harijan' as given by the hon. the Minister the other day. This word 'Harijan' seems to have acquired a very spiritual and superhuman significance beyond this objective material world in the minds of certain people. From what I read from the report I thought that that word has a certain connotation, it stands for certain objective animate beings living in this world, under certain conditions with certain disabilities. But how a class of people exploited across the ages, treated as worse than animals with all the horrors of slavery and starvation described in the report cease to be that class—whether you choose to call them by name 'Harijans' or not, by just a figment of imagination, I just cannot understand. I know there is a confusion caused by the help rendered by the missionaries to them. I think the matter has been raised by my friend Mr. Parameswaran. I do not care in the least for those few people who have received help and who are receiving help from these mission and are now well-off, as I do not care for those Harijans like Hon. Mr. Kurmayya or Mr. Parameswaran who are occupying high offices in Government and are well-off. But I plead for that starving untouchable of the description of this report, whose crime has only been, if it is a crime at all, his conversion into Christianity. He deserves as much as his brother who is also living along with him in the same hovel which belongs to his caste-Hindu ryot, to have the pride and dignity of having a hut of his own. His son cries for the mid-day meal which you give in the school to his sister's or brother's son. I said there was a confusion. Perhaps I am wrong. There is also another confusion of the constitutional problem but this

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is an extraneous matter which has been imported into a discussion of this question because that constitutional problem for example the reservation of seats in legislatures, has not been of my making or Mr. Parameswaran's making, and I do not understand how that problem changes the character and disabilities of this class. I ask, Sir, is there a deliberate intention on the part of the Harijan Minister or the Government to weaken this oppressed Harijan community by splitting them into two and setting one section against the other or is it their intention to suppress Harijan converts alone by perpetuating them in slavery as untouchables, because they became Christians. Is it cover for vengeance against these starving people of a campaign for the suppression of Christianity? With the Government's loud protestations day in and day out that it is secular and with promises made from house-tops and couched wherever possible in high sounding words, from the Election Manifestoes, to the Fundamental Rights and Constitution, does not this policy of discrimination against a citizen on grounds only of religion—I am quoting these words from the Fundamental Rights in the Draft Constitution which our sovereign independent Constituent Assembly of India has adopted. Does not this policy of discrimination reduce your principles of truth and non-violence to just a farce?"

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—"கனம் அக்ராசனாதிபதியவர்களே, ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்ற கமிட்டியார் சமர்ப்பித்திருக்கிற இந்த ரிப்போர்ட்டை அரசாங்கம் அங்கீகாரம் செய்து அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவருமன் ஒரு வார்த்தை கூற விரும்புகிறேன். எனக்குக் கொடுத்த அவகாசமோ சுருக்கமாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் இரண்டொரு விஷயத்தைமட்டும் கூறி விட்டு நிறுத்திக்கொள்ளவிரும்புகிறேன்.

"1939-ம் வருஷம் முதல் முதலில் ஆலய பிரவேசம் மதுரையில் நடக்கிற காலத்தில் இந்த இயக்கம் அப்பொழுது எப்படி இருந்ததோ அதைவிட இப்பொழுது எவ்வளவோ வேகமாக முன்னேறி வந்திருக்கிறது என்பதற்கு இப்பொழுதுள்ள நிலைமையை சீர்தூக்கிப் பார்த்தால் இந்த ஹரிஜன இயக்க வேலை எவ்வளவோ துரிதமாக நடந்து வருகிறது என்பது தெரியும். அப்பொழுது இந்த இயக்கத்தை நடத்துவதற்கு எவ்வளவு பயங்கரமாக இருந்தது என்பதும் தெரியும். இந்த சபையிலுள்ள மந்திரி அவர்கள் ஆலயப்பிரவேசம் நடத்தினபோது அவர்களுக்கு மிளகாய்ப்பொடி வரவேற்பு நடந்ததை இந்த சபையிலுள்ளவர்கள் மறந்திருக்கமாட்டார்கள். இப்பொழுது எப்படி நடக்கிறது என்றால் எங்கே போனாலும் பூரண கும்பம் வைத்து வரவேற்கும் மனப்பான்மை ஜனங்களிடையே வந்திருக்கிறது என்றால் நாம் எவ்வளவு வேகமாக முன்னேறி வருகிறோம் என்பதற்கு ஒரு அத்தாட்சியாகும். இன்னும் பல கோவில்களில் பிராயச்சித்தம் நடக்கிறது என்று நண்பர்கள் கண்ணியப்பன் கூறினார்கள். இந்த மாகாணத்தில் தேவாலயங்களில் எல்லாவற்றிலும் தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில்தான் அதிகமாக பாடல்பெற்ற ஸ்தலங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. நூற்றுக்கு அதிகமாகவே இருக்கின்றன. அங்கே அநேகமாக எல்லா கோவில்களையும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு திறந்துவிடப்படும், கோவில்களில் பிராயச்சித்தமும் புண்யாவசனமும் நடந்தது என்று தோன்றவில்லை. எங்கேயாவது மூலை முடுக்குகளில் ஏதாவது ஒரு பிடாரி கோவிலில் அவ்விதம் நடந்திருக்கலாம் திறந்து விடப்படாமலிருக்கலாம். ஏதாவது ஒரு கிராமத்தில் பிராயச்சித்தம் செய்தார்கள் என்றால் எல்லா ஊர்களிலும் நடக்கிறது என்று கூறுவது நியாயமில்லை. இப்பொழுது கமிட்டியிலுள்ள அங்கத்தினர்களை ஒரு சிலர் குற்றம் சாட்டி கூறினார்கள். ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்ற

[Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai] [20th July 1948]

இயக்கத்தில் ஆர்வமும் அன்பும் உள்ள பெரியார்களைப்பற்றி இந்த மாதிரி குறைகூறுவது என்பது நியாயம் இல்லை என்பதை சுட்டிக்காட்ட விரும்புகிறேன்.

“நமது ஹரிஜன தொண்டில் சிறந்த சுவாமி சகஜாநந்தம் நேற்று பேசுகிற காலத்தில் ஒரு தவறை இழைத்தவிட்டார்கள். அதைக்குறித்து நான் பேசுவது முக்யமாக இருக்கிறது. தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் குப்புசாமி என்னும் ஒருவரை மிராசதார்கள் அடித்துக் கொன்று விட்டார்கள் என்று அவர்கள் பிரசங்கத்தில் சுட்டிக்காட்டினார்கள். குப்புசாமி என்பவர் குன்னியூர் சாம்பசிவ அய்யர். அவர் ஒரு மிராசதார். அவர் இரண்டு ஜாதி ஹிந்து ஆள்களை நெல் சேரிவாடியில் காவல் வைத்திருந்தார். அவர்களை குப்புசாமியும் அவர் சகாக்களும் அடித்துக்கொன்று விட்டார்கள். இதை விசாரித்த நீதிபதி தன் ஜட்ஜ்மெண்டில் தூக்கு தண்டனை விதித்தார். சிறையில் இருக்கும் காலத்தில் அவர் நோய்வாய்ப்பட்டிருந்தார். அப்பொழுது அவர் ஆஸ்பத்திரியில் சிறையில் இறந்தார். அப்பொழுது இயற்கையாகவே இறந்துபோனவரை மிராசதார்கள் அடித்துக் கொன்று விட்டார்கள் என்று சொல்லுவது ஒரு பெரிய அநீதியான விஷயம். இந்தமாதிரி சுவாமி சகஜாநந்தம் போன்ற பெரியவர்களுடைய வாயிலிருந்து இந்தமாதிரி வார்த்தைகள் வந்திருக்கக்கூடாது. இதைப்பற்றி பிறகு நான் அவரைக்கேட்டேன். யார் சொன்னார்கள் என்று கேட்டேன். யாரோ ஒருவர் தென் ஆற்காட்டில் சொன்னார்கள். இதைப்பற்றி பேசினார்கள். அதன் காரணமாகத்தான் சொன்னேன். பிறகு நான் விசாரித்ததில் தவறுதலை உணர்ந்துகொண்டேன் என்று கூறினார்கள். அவர் இங்கே இருக்கிறார். சொல்வதை உண்மையென ஆமோதிப்பார்கள் என்ற காரணத்திற்காக நான் சொல்லவந்தேன். அவர் இங்கு இருப்பதால் தவறுதலை தெரிந்து கொள்ளட்டும் என்பதைக் குறிப்பிட முன்வந்தேன். இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் நிலைமை எப்படி இருக்கிறது என்றால் மிராசதார்கள் ஹரிஜனங்கள் அடிப்பது என்ற காலம் போய் இப்பொழுது ஹரிஜனங்கள் தான் மிராசதார்களை அடிக்கும் காலமாக மாறிவிட்டது. அந்த நிலைமைக்கு இப்பொழுது ஹரிஜனங்கள் வந்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்னும் விஷயத்தை நான் அவர்களுக்கு சுட்டிக்காட்ட விரும்புகிறேன். காலம் வெகு வேகமாக போய்க்கொண்டு, மாறிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது. இந்த பத்து வருஷத்தில் எவ்வளவோ முன்னேறி வந்திருக்கிறது. அடுத்த பத்து வருஷத்தில் இந்தமாதிரி இந்த சபையில் ஒரு ரிபோர்ட்டு சமர்ப்பிக்கும்போது இப்படி இந்நாட்டில் தீண்டாமை என்று ஒன்று இருந்தது என்று சரித்திர மூலமாகத்தான் தெரியவரும். அந்தக்காலத்தில் ஹரிஜனங்களும் இவ்வளவு கஷ்டப்பட்டோமா என்று சொல்லும் நிலைமையும்வரும். ஏற்கனவே அரசாங்கம் செய்துள்ள மதுவிலக்கு மூலம் ஹரிஜனங்களும் முன்னேற்றமடைந்திருக்கிறார்கள். அந்தக்காரணத்தால் அவர்களுக்கு விரைவில் பெரிய மகத்தான குறைகள் நீங்கி எல்லா மக்களும் சமமாகிவிட்டோம் என்று சொல்லுவார்கள். ஆகையால் இதே பிரகாரம் போனால் இன்னும் பத்து ஆண்டுகளுக்குமுன் எல்லா வேற்றுமைகளும் நீங்கி எல்லா மக்களும் சமமாகிவிடுவார்கள் என்று நம்பி இதை ஆதரித்து நான் முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

SRI S. K. PALAIYA KUDUMBAR:—“கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இப்பொழுது ஆலோசனையிலிருந்து கொண்டிருக்கும் விஷயத்தைப் பற்றி நான் அதிகம் பேச விரும்பவில்லை. பெரிய அறிவாளிகளும் அறிஞர்களும் வெகு நன்றாக பேசிவிட்டார்கள். வெகு நாட்களாக உழைத்து பாடுபட்டுவந்த ஏழைகள் இப்பொழுது திருநெல்வேலி, மதுரை, இராமநாதபுரம் ஜில்லாக்களிலிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களை அடக்கி ஒடுக்கி வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களில் ஆதிதிராவிடர்கள், பள்ளர்கள், பகடையர்கள் என்று மூன்று வகுப்பினர்களாக பிரித்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களில் பள்ளர்கள் மிகுந்த முன்னேற்ற சமூகத்தை அடைந்திருப்பதாகவும் மற்ற ஹரிஜனங்கள் பிற்போக்காக இருப்பதாகவும் இந்த ரிப்போர்ட்டில் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. நிலங்கள் கொடுப்பதில் அவர்கள் முன்னேற்றமடைந்திருப்பதால் அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்காமல் பிற்போக்கு அடைந்த ஆதிதிராவிடர்களையும் பகடையர்களையும் பராமரிக்கவேண்டும்மென்று சொல்வது

20th July 1948] [Sri S. K. Palaiya Kudumbar]

மிகவும் வருந்தத்தக்க விஷயம். தென் நாட்டில் பலவிதமான சச்சரவுகளும், கஷ்டங்களும் மதம் மாற்றுதல்களும் நடந்துவந்திருக்கின்றன. இந்த ஏழைகள் இந்த கஷ்டங்களுக்கும் மத மாற்றுதல்களுக்கும் உள்ளாகாமல் வெகு கஷ்டம் அடைந்துவந்திருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்கள் பல ஜாதிக் காரர்களாலும் தாழ்மையடைந்து பரிதாபகரமான நிலைமையிலிருந்து வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்களில் ஒரு ஜாதி மற்றொரு ஜாதிக்கு பெண்ணைக் கொடுத்து வாங்குவதில்லை, பந்திபோஜனமும் செய்யவதில்லை. இது பிரசித்தமான விஷயம். இப்பொழுது நாங்கள் மதம் மாறிப்போனவர்களைப்பற்றி பேசவும் இல்லை, அதை இதில் சேர்த்தாலும் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளப்போவதில்லை. இந்த காங்கிரஸ் ஆட்சி வருவதற்குமுன் எத்தனையோ அடிதடிசன், இடஞ்சல்கள், இடையூறுகள்; கஷ்டங்கள், நஷ்டங்கள் நடந்திருக்கின்றன. இவர்கள் அஞ்சா நெஞ்சம் படைத்து காங்கிரஸை கதிமோகும் என்று காங்கிரஸின் ஆணையச் சிரமேற்கொண்டு அதனால் வரும் விமோசனகாலத்தை எதிர்நோக்கி ஆவலுடன்வந்து வந்த பிறகு நின்றிருக்கிறது. அப்படி இருக்கும் போது ஒரு வகுப்பினரான பள்ளர்களை மாதிரிப் பிரித்துவைத்து மற்ற வகுப்பினர்களை எமாற்றிக்கொண்டிருப்பது என்பது தெரிந்தோ தெரியாமலோ நடக்கிறது. அது என்ன விபரம் என்று எனக்கும் நன்றாய்ப் புரியவும் இல்லை. கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே; இப்பொழுது இந்த ரிபோர்ட்டின் 48, 63, 88 ஆவது பக்கங்களில் பள்ளர்களை விலக்கி இருப்பதாக சொல்லப்படுகிறது. அது வருந்தத்தக்க விஷயம். பள்ளர்கள் இப்பொழுது ஜாதியும் மாறவில்லை. உத்யோகங்களுக்குப் போகவில்லை. மதம் மாறிப்போகவும்இல்லை. அவர்கள் ஐக்கியவகுப்பினர்கள். மிகவும் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட வகுப்பினர்களில் பள்ளர்கள்தான் பிரிப்போக்கான வகுப்பினர்கள். ரிபோர்ட்டில் மாறுபட்டிருந்தாலும் மந்திரி அவர்களிடம் நான் பிரியப்பட்டு பேசவிரும்புகிறேன். இதை எடுத்துச்சொல்லவும் பிரியப்படுகிறேன். அதை அவர் சீர்திருத்தி இந்த பள்ளர்கள் மதம் மாறுது இருக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் என்றும் இந்த ஆதிதிராவிடர்களையும் பள்ளர்களோடு சேர்த்து சகல முன்னேற்றத்திலும் இணைக்கவேண்டுமென்றும் அவர்களையும் முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு கொண்டுவர வேண்டுமென்றும் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

SRI D. GOVINDA DASS:—“అధ్యక్షా, మహాశయ, హరిజనుల కొన్ని సౌకర్యములను కలగజేసే సమిత్తును ఏర్పాటు చేయవలసి యిట్టివారు ఇచ్చిన రిపోర్టును చదివినప్పుడు ఈ సందర్భంలో కొన్ని విషయములను మనవిచేస్తాను. ఈ రోజున హరిజనులు నివసించడానికి ఇళ్లు లేకుండా, చిన్న పూరి ఇళ్లు అయినను కట్టుకొనుటకు స్థలములేకుండా చాలా బాధలు పడుతున్నారు. ఇప్పుడు వారు నివసిస్తున్న ప్రదేశాలు పల్లె ప్రదేశాలు కావడమువల్ల నీరుపోక చాలా అసౌకర్యకరమైన ప్రదేశాలుగా ఉన్నాయి. కాబట్టి ప్రభుత్వమువారు వీరికి ఐండ్లు కట్టుకొనుటగాను ఎలైన ప్రదేశములలో స్థలములను ఇవ్వవలసివదిగా కోరుతున్నాను. ఇప్పుడు Harijan Welfare Department లో పనిచేస్తున్న కొంతమంది ఉద్యోగస్తులు ఈ విషయములగురించి హెచ్చుతగ్గు లేకుండా పనిచేయుచున్నారు. అందు వల్ల హరిజనులు ఇండ్లులేక చాలా బాధలు పడవలసి వస్తోంది. కాబట్టి మంత్రిగారు ఈ సంగతుల పన్నింటిని బాగ్రుత్సాహించి ఎంత త్వరలో వీలకలుగునుచో అంత తొందరగా హరిజనులకు ఇండ్లస్థలములు ఇప్పించవలసివదిగా వారిని కోరుచున్నాను.

“యద్దకాలములూ హరిజనులు వ్యవసాయముచేసి అధిక ఆహారోష్ణం (Grow more food) చేయటానికిను ప్రయత్నమువారు కొంత భూములను ఇచ్చి ఉన్నారు. కాని ఈ భూములు ఈనాడు ఎవరైతే ఇచ్చినారో వాీ చేతులలో లేవు. గ్రామీణోగస్తులు చేసిన అన్యాయాలవల్ల, ఇతర పెద్ద పెద్ద రైతులచేసిన అన్యాయంవల్ల ఈ భూములు ఈనాడు ఇతరుల చేతులలో ఉన్నవి. కష్టపడి సాగులానికి వీనుకొనిరావడం హరిజనుల వంతును, వాటి ఫలసాయము అనుభవించడము ఇతరులవంతు అయి

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பதி. ఈ విషయముల నన్నింటిని ప్రభుత్వమువారు enquiry చేయించి ఈ గ్రాముల ను మొదట ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఎవరికైతే ఇష్టించారో వారికి తిరిగి చెందునట్లు చేయించ వలసినదని కోరుచున్నాను.

“విద్యార్థుల hostels విషయములో, 10 సంవత్సరములనుంచి నడుపబడుతూ ఉండి, 50 మంది పిల్లలకాయలకు తక్కువగా లేకుండా ఉన్నవాటికే గ్రాంటు ఇస్తూ మని Labour Department వారు చెబుతున్నారు. ఇది చాలా అన్యాయము. ఈ రోజు చాలా hostels 10, 15 సంవత్సరములనుంచి నడుపబడుతున్నా 20 మంది పిల్లలకాయలకైనా సరి అయిన సౌకర్యములు కలుగజేయలేని పరిస్థితులలో ఉన్నవి. ఇందుకు కారణము వాటికి ప్రభుత్వమువారు హెచ్చు గ్రాంటులను ఇవ్వటం లేదు. ఇటువంటి పరిస్థితులలో అవి హెచ్చుమంది పిల్లలకాయలకు వివిధంగా భోజన వసతు లను కలిగించగలవో బోధపడడము లేదు. ఈ hostels లలో తగినంత స్త్రీలము, హెచ్చు మంచి బాలురను చేర్చుకొనటానికి కావలసినంత ధన సహాయము లేనికారణం చేతనే 50 మంది పిల్లలకాయలు ఉండుట లేదు. ఈ సౌకర్యములను ప్రభుత్వమువారు కలుగజేస్తే 50 మందినేగాక ఒక్కొక్క దానిలో 100వరకు బాలురను చేర్చుకొనగలరు. కాబట్టి ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఈ విషయముల నన్నింటిని గమనించి 50 మందికి తక్కువ గా ఉన్నవాటికి కూడా గ్రాంటులు ఇప్పించవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను.

“ఉద్యోగులను వేయడం విషయములో కూడా హరిజనులకు అన్యాయము భరు గుతోంది. Labour Department లోగాని, Harijan Welfare Department లో గాని హెచ్చుమంది హరిజనులను వేయకపోవడంవలన ఇప్పుడున్న ఉద్యోగులు హరిజను లకు హెచ్చు సౌకర్యములు కలుగజేయటం లేదు. ఈ ఉద్యోగులు హరిజన వాడలకు పోవటం లేదు. వీరు గ్రామాలకు సాధారణముగా వెళ్లటం లేదు. హరిజనుల కష్టము లేమిటో విచారించటము లేదు.

“మరొక విషయము మనవిచేసాను. ఈ hostels లో ఉండి చదువుకొనే బాలు రులలో ఎవరైనా ఒక సంవత్సరము fail అయితే రెండవ సంవత్సరము ఆతనిని hostel లో చేర్చుకొనరు. కాని వీరికి scholarship ఇస్తారు. ముఖ్యంగా హరిజన బాలురు చాలా వీడవారు కనుక వారు బయటఉండి భోజనము కొరకు డబ్బు ఖర్చుచేయలేరు. ఇందుచేత కొంతమంది చదువు మాను కొనవలసి వస్తోంది. కాబట్టి ఒకసారి fail అయినవానికి కూడా hostel లో ఉంచుగా భోజనము పెట్టినట్లు చేయవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను.

“ఇప్పుడు మా హరిజనవాడలు చాలా అనారోగ్యకరమైన పరిస్థితులలో ఉన్నవి. ఇక్కడ నివసించేవారికి సరి అయినటువంటి వైద్య సౌకర్యములు లభించుట లేదు. అం దువలన చాలా మంది రోగములతో బాధపడుతున్నారు. కాబట్టి Labour Depart-ment ఉద్యోగులను గ్రామాలలోని హరిజనవాడలను తరచు చూడవలసినదని ఉత్తరు వులు చేయకొరుచున్నాను.”

* Sri M. A. EASWARAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, almost all the members who have spoken on the report of the Harijan Welfare Committee have expressed their sympathy. The whole Cabinet is sympathetic towards Harijans. One-seventh of the members of this House are Harijans. But in spite of there being cent per cent sympathy here, it does not reach the Harijans in the villages even to the extent of one per cent. Officials are unsympathetic. They do not treat the Harijans with sympathy. Instead they ill-treat them and behave discourteously towards them. For instance,

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the Harijans of four villages in Erode, Krishnampalayam, Sooram-katti, Devanampalayam and Aval Poondurai expressed their griev-ances and difficulties to the Revenue Divisional Officer, Erode. But, instead of patiently hearing them and redressing their griev-ances, he treated them discourteously. So also the police officers. They are not sympathetic. The Harijans are in the same position as they were before India became independent. In most of the villages, they have no drinking water wells. We must provide them, first of all, with good drinking water wells and suitable house-sites. The Government must issue an Ordinance that where-ever Harijans live in small places whether the place belongs to the Government or to a private party, they should not be evicted. In spite of our sympathies during the last two years, we have not done anything in that respect substantially. We must give an assurance that the Harijans living in the village are safe in the hands of the Government with regard to their lives and prop-erties. The high Caste Hindus in the village illtreat them and when they go to courts they are not able to get justice. When officers illtreat the Harijans, the Government must take disci-plinary action against the officials. Also the Ministers when they tour the districts, they must make it a point to visit the Harijan quarters, and take tea there in choris and do dine there in choris. With these words, I close my speech.”

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—“சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இதற்கு முன் ஞால் பேசினவர்கள் திட்டத்தைப்பற்றி எவ்வளவோ சொல்லிவிட்டார்கள்.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“அதனால் நீங்கள் குறைவாக சொன்னால் போதும்.”

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—“மிஸ்டர் நுடேசன் அவர்கள் சொன்ன மாதிரி அவர்களுக்கு பொருளாதாரத்தில் அரசாங்கம் உதவி செய்து கொண்டுவந்தால் எந்தவிதமான வித்யாசமும் இருக்காது என்று சொன்னார். கனம் ஈஸ்வரன் அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள், அரசாங்கம் ஹரி ஜனங்களிடத்தில் அதிக பிரியமாக இருக்கவேண்டும் என்றும், அறுதாபமும் ஆர்வமும் காட்டவேண்டுமென்பதையும் அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். அதற்கு உதாரணமாக ஒரு விஷயத்தை நான் உங்களுடைய கவனத்திற்கு கொண்டுவந்து அப்படி நடக்கவில்லை என்பதைக் காட்டுகிறேன். இப்பொழுது ஹரிஜனங்கள் திருநெல்வேலியிலிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களிடத் தில் ஒரு போலீஸ் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் சொல்லுகிறது என்னவென்றால் நீங்கள் கோவில்களுக்குள் போகாமலும், ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்கள் தெருவில் புழங்கி வராமலும் இருந்தால் உங்களுக்கு ஹிம்சை இருக்காது, தொந்தரவுகளும் வராது என்று சொல்லுகிறார். இந்தமாதிரியே ஆபீசர்களும் சொல்லி வருகிறார்கள். அந்த இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் சொன்னதை எழுத்துமூலம் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு விண்ணப்பம் செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் பிரதமரிடமும் விண்ணப்பம் செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். நம் மந்திரி கூர்மையா அவர்களிடமும் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்தவிதமாக அதிகாரி களின்மேல் specific complaint இருப்பதால் நிர்தாட்சனையமாய் ஒன்றிரண்டு அதிகாரிகளின்மேல் சரியான நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் அரசாங்கம் இந்த திட்டத்தை நடைமுறையில் கொண்டுவருவதற்கு சுலபமாக இருக்கும் என்பதை அரசாங்கத்தின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகிறேன்.

“இதைத் தவிர காந்திஜி ‘Tiller of the soil is the owner of the land’ என்று சொன்னமாதிரி நிலம் உழுவவனுக்குத்தான் சொந்தம் என்று அரசாங்கம் பிரகடனம் செய்தால்தான் ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய பிற்போக்குத்

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தன்மை போகும் என்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். இதற்கு உடனடியாக ஒரு அவசர சட்டம் போடவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது ஒவ்வொரு கிராமத்திலும் ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்கள் இடத்தில் ஹரிஜனங்கள் வீடுகள் கட்டிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் வேலை செய்யாவிட்டால் அவர்களை நிலத்தை விட்டு அப்புரப்படுத்திவிடுகிறார்கள். அதனால் பயந்துகொண்டு அவர்கள் நில சொந்தக்காரர்களுக்கு அடிமையாகவே இருந்து வருகிறார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கே அந்த நிலம் சொந்தமென்று சொல்லிவிட்டால் அவர்கள் அடிமைகளாக இருக்கவேண்டியதவசியமில்லை. ஆகையால் அரசாங்கம் இதை கவனிக்க உடனடியாக ஒரு தாசில்தாரையோ, ரிவினியூ இன்ஸ்பெக்டரையோ போட்டு அந்த நிலங்களை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு பிரித்துக் கொடுக்கும்படி செய்யவேண்டும். அதற்கு அவசியமான ஒரு G.O.-வோ, சட்டமோ போட்டு பிரகடனம் செய்யவேண்டும். அப்பொழுதுதான் ஹரிஜனங்கள் முன்னுக்கு வருவதற்கு ஹேதுவாக இருக்கும்.

“தவிர மடங்களுக்கும், கோவில்களுக்கும் அநேகம் நிலங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. இப்பொழுது பிரதமர் கொண்டுவரப்போகும் சட்டப்படி அந்த நிலங்களை அரசாங்கம் மேல்பார்த்து வரப்போகிறது. அந்த நிலமையில் இப்பொழுது இருக்கும்போது மத்தியிலிருக்கிறவர்கள் நூற்றுக்கணக்கான ஏக்கர் நிலங்களை கட்டுக் குத்தகைக்கு வாங்கிக்கொண்டு அவைகளை ஹரிஜனங்களிடம் ஜாஸ்தி குத்தகைக்குவிட்டு அதிக லாபமடைகிறார்கள். அப்படி இல்லாமல் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கே நேரடியாக அந்த நிலத்தை இரண்டாண்டு ஏக்கராவாக பிரித்துக்கொடுத்தால் ஹரிஜனங்கள் பொருளாதாரத்தில் முன்னேற்றமடைவார்கள். நாம் வெகு சீக்கிரத்தில் இந்த ஜமீன்களையும் இனாம்களையும் ஒழிக்கப்போகிறோம். அவைகள் வந்தவுடன் இப்பொழுது மத்தியிலிருந்து சாப்பிடுகிறவர்கள் சாப்பிடாமல் போய்விடும். ஹரிஜனங்கள் நேரடியாக உழவேண்டும், அவன்தான் லாபமடையவேண்டும். என்பதைச் சொல்லவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு தலைவர் அவர்கள் அவசரப் படுவதால் நான் இத்துடன் நிறுத்திக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to thank the Chairman, the members and especially the Secretary of the Harijan Welfare Committee (Sri Gopalaswami) who has dedicated his life for the cause of Harijans, for having prepared this report. I know what an amount of interest and pains they took to prepare this report. They visited my village, Paganeri, and studied the conditions there. They have also made a reference to the backward communities. Though we have no social disabilities we are economically and educationally backward like the Harijans. Some of the backward communities are worse than the Harijans in this province. When I mention that, I do not mean the backward community like my community. My community is educationally and economically backward. But we have no social disabilities. The hon. Member Sri Kanniappan said that Brahmans—Ayyars and Ayyangars—were responsible for the difficulties of the Harijans. That is not true, Sir. As far as Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely districts are concerned, my community is more responsible for this than the Brahmans. When Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar arranged for the temple entry in the Madura Meenakshi temple, he was not worried about the Brahmans of Madura but he was worried about the Thevars. He first went to the Thevars and not to the Brahmans. I quite admit this. It was not the Brahmans who prevented the Harijans but my community . . . (Interruption.) When I am admitting it, why do you worry? In 1933 when Mahatmaji undertook a fast it was only in connection with the troubles between the Harijans and the Nattars. The Nattars are Kallars, Maravars, etc. I have to thank specially

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Sri Gopalaswami and also Sri Bhashyam Ayyangar and Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar for doing this work of removal of untouchability in Tamilnad.

“Sir, certain Christian Members of this House have referred to Harijan converts and said that they should also be given the same facilities as the non-converts. I cannot see any reason why the Harijans who have become Muslims or Christians should be given the same facilities. If they find that they could not get equal treatment from those religions, Christianity and Islam, why not they reconvert themselves into Harijan Hindus. Then they will get the same privileges. If they want to remain as Christians and also get all the privileges intended for Hindu Harijans and if they want to have one leg in one religion and another leg in the other to have all these facilities, I am sorry I cannot be a party to agree to give these privileges. If hon. Members like Dr. Samuel and Mr. Wilson want that these people should get equal facilities like the Harijans, let them advise them to convert themselves into Harijan Hindus so that they may enjoy the same privileges. With these words, I close my speech, Sir.”

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—“On a point of information, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the Retrenchment Committee recommended the constitution of a Harijan Welfare Department separate from the Labour Department. I want to know whether it is a fact and if it is a fact, whether it has been accepted by the Government and if so, when they are going to have a separate department?” 4-30 p.m.

* THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will answer the question in the course of my speech.

“First of all, I must thank all the hon. Members of this House who have given expression to their considered opinions on the report submitted by the Provincial Harijan Welfare Committee. I am glad that as many as thirty-four hon. Members have participated in the discussions during the last two days. I must also thank them for the suggestions they have put forward for the consideration of the Government in implementing the recommendations of the Committee. Sir, in the course of my elaborate reply, I may forget to answer some of the questions raised by hon. Members but I will try, as far as possible, to reply to all the salient points raised in the debate.

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

“The hon. Member Mr. B. S. Murthi said that the Harijans were beaten indiscriminately by the police in the districts. I may not accept his statement completely. He also referred to my name and said that he had given a report to me as regards the atrocities committed by the police, Sakinettipalle, in Razole taluk in East Godavari district. I immediately sent the report for enquiry and on enquiry I came to know that the Harijans there celebrated May Day and certain C.I.D. constables were beaten by them. On information received by the police, they had to go and arrest some

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of these people and beat some of the Harijans. I must also request Harijan members of this House to go and tell the Harijan brethren not to join with the Communists and not to give shelter to the Communist leaders who are now mainly hiding in the Harijan cherais in the scavengers' quarters and so on. When disorders are taking place, it is the duty of the Government to take action against people who are giving shelter and hiding the people responsible for the disorders. We cannot help whether they are Harijans or Srijans. The law has to take its course."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Madam, may I know whether the Hon. Minister for Rural Development, to whom I presented a memorial on behalf of the victims of the police excesses and Hindu goondaism in Antarvedipalem firka, Razole taluk, East Godavari, would be pleased to go to that place and see for himself whether there is any truth in what I have stated or in what the other people of the place have stated?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"Opinions differ, Madam. Mr. Murthi, a representative of the Harijans belonging to the same place and the Congress Committee of the locality give different opinions. The Government will have to choose between these two opinions and form their own judgment and take action.

"Coming to the report of the Harijan Welfare Committee, Madam, Mr. Murthi said that the Acts passed by this House, viz., the Civil Disabilities Removal Act and the Temple Entry Authorization Act have become dead letters. That is not correct. I must ask Mr. Murthi whether any action has not been taken either by the police or by the Government when Harijans were refused admission in any public place. Only the other day, it was published in the newspapers that such and such hotel proprietor was punished for this or for that offence according to the Act. The Government are taking action strictly according to the Act and punishing offences committed by the hotel-keeper or restaurant proprietor. Therefore, it is not fair on the part of Harijan M.L.As. especially of the President of a Provincial Harijan Sevak Sangh to come forward with that remark. Madam, the Civil Disabilities Removal Act and the Temple Entry Authorization Act are not at all dead letters. The hon. Member himself has led so many Harijans into temples and he is freely going into hotels without any objection. I may ask him, Madam, whether the conditions prevailing in 1938 and 1939 are prevailing to-day? In those years, even some Harijan M.L.As. were not allowed into some coffee hotels. Myself, Mr. Nagappa and Mr. Guruvulu complained about this to the then Premier Mr. Rajagopalachari. Mr. Guruvulu and Mr. Kannan were not served food in the hotel. Now, there is a great improvement. When the Bill was introduced in 1938 by Mr. Rajagopalachari, there was no provision declaring that offences coming under the Act were cognizable offences. There was no provision for punishment to be given to a hotel-keeper or a restaurant proprietor. Now, there are definite provisions by

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which any man who violates them will be punished with imprisonment or fine or both. Therefore, these Acts are not at all dead letters. Harijans have got equal social rights with other caste people.

"Madam, I request the Harijan M.L.As. not to criticise the Government merely for the sake of criticism. Let them judge for themselves whether there has not been a great improvement over conditions which were obtaining ten years ago. I must say, as the Minister in charge of Harijan Welfare and as a Harijan myself, that there is a great improvement. It is not possible for any Government or any Minister or any leader to bring about great changes overnight. You have all praised that Gandhiji was responsible for the change. Yes. He was wholly responsible for creating strong public opinion for the removal of untouchability. It was only through his efforts that Congress Committees all over the country had taken active steps to remove untouchability. What was a matter merely spoken on the platforms before the Congress assumed office became an accomplished fact as soon as the Congress Governments came into power. The Poona Pact has been fulfilled now. In the Poona Pact which was entered into in 1932 under the guidance of Pandit Malaviya, it was agreed that legislation for the removal of untouchability, if not passed before the Swaraj Government assumed office, should be passed by the Swaraj Government as its first duty. Madam, within a year after the assumption of office by the Congress, legislation has been passed giving full civil and civic rights to the Harijans.

"Madam, I now come to another point. Mr. Nagappa and some of the Harijan M.L.As. said that the Government is incompetent, incapacitated and indifferent towards the spending of one crore of rupees set apart for Harijan uplift and that the Government should resign if it is not competent. Madam, I must disprove this charge. The Government could have spent one crore by this time. They must know what additional amounts have been spent on Harijan uplift from the general funds. I have been cleverly managing both with the Finance Minister and the Hon. the Premier and asking them to spend from the general funds towards the Harijan uplift. I shall give certain figures because some hon. Members have spoken accusing the Government of incompetency. I must reveal what I have done and it will be a surprise to the members of this House.

"Madam, the total amount spent for Harijan uplift through the Labour department during 1944-45 was only Rs. 16,43,683. The total amount spent for the purpose during 1945-46 was Rs. 24,64,003. The total amount during 1946-47 was Rs. 31,54,729. Correct figures are not available for 1947-48 and 1948-49. But approximately, the amount spent for Harijan uplift in 1947-48 through the Labour department is Rs. 42,00,000. The sum allotted for 1948-49 is Rs. 50,00,000. These figures show that the Government have spent nearly 74 lakhs from the general funds. If we had spent this amount from the one crore of rupees, the balance left would have been only about 25 lakhs of rupees. Therefore, do you not think that it is better to have spent these 74 lakhs

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in addition to the one crore set apart for the purpose? This amount has been spent by way of scholarships and boarding grants for hostels run by Harijan Sevak Sangh and other institutions and for house-sites.

“Madam, hon. Members especially those belonging to the Harijan community must know that if the Government had wanted, they could have spent from this one crore of rupees. But the Government was good enough and kind enough to provide funds from the general funds but when hon. Members raised the question that the Government have not been able to spend this one crore of rupees we began to spend from this one crore. The other day the hon. Member Mr. Muniswami Pillai or Mr. Nagappa asked why a grant of two or three lakhs was made to an institution out of this one crore of rupees when the grant was not recommended by the Committee. But when hon. Members said that the Government was not competent to run the administration because it was not able to spend this one crore of rupees, we began to spend money from this fund. Mr. B. S. Murthi asked why we gave about two lakhs of rupees to the Thakkar Baba Vidyalaya from this one crore of rupees though it was not recommended by the Committee.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“It is a wrong statement, Madam. When the Hon. Minister in charge of Harijan Welfare said that Rs. 1,80,000 was sanctioned as a grant for the construction of a building for the Thakkar Baba Vidyalaya in Tyagarayanagar, Madras, I asked a supplementary question: ‘Was this money sanctioned by the Harijan Welfare Committee?’ But I did not say that the Government was incompetent, incapacitated and indifferent. All these things I never said.”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“Madam, the hon. Member Mr. Murthi asked whether the amount was sanctioned by the Committee. Madam, the Committee has no authority to sanction anything. The sanctioning authority is only the Government.”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Madam, with reference to the allotment of one crore of rupees for the uplift of the Harijans, may I know whether it was not a fact that this one crore of rupees was allotted in addition to the expenditure which the Government incur usually through the Labour department with regard to the Harijans and if so, was it right on the part of Government to have debited two or three lakhs of rupees to this fund simply on the score of being complained against by one hon. Member? Does it not show vindictiveness on the part of Government, Madam?”

4-45 P.M. * THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“Madam, Deputy Speaker, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition wanted to know whether the one crore fund was sanctioned in addition to the amount that is spent usually. He is correct. It is in addition to the amount spent towards Harijan uplift. As I have already pointed out, only about 16 lakhs of rupees were spent by the

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department during 1945-46. If really the Government wanted to spend any additional amount for Harijan uplift it was open to them to take the money from this allotment. For the last three years the Government have spent nearly 74 lakhs of rupees from general funds. As a matter of fact, when one crore has been set apart for Harijan uplift, where is the necessity for taking any sum from general funds? On the other hand, if the amount is exhausted, the Government may add to the fund.

“In this connexion I would like to point out how this one crore fund was first allotted. When the hon. Mr. Prakasam became the Premier, some of the Harijan leaders approached him to set apart one crore for Harijan uplift. I think my hon. Friend, Mr. Nagappa, was not there at the time. Here I wish to recall what happened in the Central Legislature. When the late Lala Lajpat Rai introduced a resolution asking the Central Government to set apart one crore of rupees for Harijan uplift—I think it was during 1926-27—the then British Government stated that the Government was not prepared to earmark one crore for the benefit of one community. Then Lala Lajpat Rai and others walked out of the Assembly saying that if this Government could not allot one crore for Harijan uplift, who are going to uplift this community. At that time my hon. Friend, Mr. Prakasam, was also a member of the Central Assembly and when I reminded him of the resolution which was moved in the Central Assembly by the late Lala Lajpat Rai, the Lion of the Punjab, he said that he would certainly allot one crore saying that what the Central Government refused, the Provincial Government would comply by setting apart that amount. Of course, when in 1946 the Hon. Mr. Prakasam set apart this one crore, the Finance Department definitely opposed the idea of setting apart one crore. Their objection was that unless a scheme was prepared and accepted by the Government it was not a good policy from the financial point of view to set apart one crore. Then the Hon. Mr. Prakasam who was then the Premier stated on the floor of this House that this was a fund which could be spent in a year or two or at any time whenever any sum is required for the purpose. That is why it was called a fund and not an allotment for any particular year. But, I may inform the Harijan M.L.As. that as soon as the one crore is exhausted the Government is willing to add to the fund. Of course, it is also open to M.L.As. like Mr. Nagappa to move the Government by way of a resolution in the House to set apart even two, three or ten crores. However, I may point out that when we are here as a Government it is our duty to see that the Harijans are helped in all directions.

“Madam, Deputy Speaker, some of the Harijan M.L.As. criticised the Government. Of course, I welcome criticism but they should be careful in making their criticisms and that they should not criticize for the sake of criticism alone just for publicity or to satisfy some people. Why have we allotted two days for the discussion of this report? So far no report was discussed at such length on the floor of this House. When my hon. Friend,

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Mr. Viswanatham, asked the Government to place this report for discussion, the Hon. the Speaker and the Hon. Leader of the House readily agreed to allot two days for the discussion of the Report of the Provincial Harijan Welfare Committee. No doubt, Government could have taken action on that report without placing it for discussion in the august House.

“Madam, now I shall try to answer some of the very important questions raised by some of the hon. Members during the course of the discussion on this subject. My hon. Friend, Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai, repudiated the statement made by me in answering a question some three days ago. What I said was that the Harijans of this Province were far in advance of those of the other provinces both educationally and economically. But, my hon. Friend has stated that it was not correct. I challenge even now any hon. Member to prove by facts and figures collected from other provinces that the Harijans of this Province are not more advanced than other provinces. I think it was my hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan, or some other Muslim member who said that it was also a fact that untouchability was more intensive and more vigorous in the Madras Province than in other provinces. I do admit that. In this connexion I wish to point out that it was in the year 1920 the Labour department was first started in this Province during the Chief Ministership of the late Raja of Panagal, if I remember aright. The late Diwan Bahadur R. Srinivasan, M. C. Rajah and later on my hon. Friend, Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai and other influential M.L.As. tried their level best to see that a separate Labour Department was created in this province. As I said before it was created under the Justice Party Government in 1920 or 1921. From that time, the Harijans of this province have been helped. Here, I must inform hon. Members of this House through you, that though this department was started about 28 years back, the help rendered to the Harijans through this department was not appreciable (Sri S. Nagappa: ‘Negligible’). Before 1919 when diarchy was not functioning the Harijans had no right to be admitted into the schools and study along with other caste people; they had no right to draw water from the wells and even to-day, as some hon. Members have stated, in some of the villages Harijans are not allowed to draw water from wells. But, to-day whether they are allowed by the caste people or not, the Harijans have got a right under the Act, can complain to a Police Sub-Inspector or a Police officer to take action under the provisions of this Act against any person who prevents them from doing such things. To-day the Harijan can legally and consciously exercise his right in his favour through the Police, Courts or through the Government. That is why I say that this Government have done a great deal for the upliftment of the Harijans. I have just now read out figures to show that in 1930 while the Labour Department spent only Rs. 5,69,936, to-day they are spending nearly 50 lakhs for the Harijan cause. (An hon. Member ‘What is the number who were benefited?’) Hundreds of people. If my hon. Friend,

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Mr. Nagappa, goes through the report, he will know that there are about 200 Harijan college students. I do not think that Mr. Nagappa has read the report. I think about 169 residential boarding grants have been given; 40 Harijan students are studying in the Engineering Colleges to-day. I am glad to inform hon. Members that this year four Harijan girls have been admitted into the Medical College. There are also some Harijan students studying in the Law College. Don't you think, Madam that all these facts go to show that the Harijans of this province are advanced.

“Again, Madam, the ‘Trilinga’, a newspaper conducted by Sri Vavilla Ramaswami Sastrulu criticised me and my Government by saying that the scholarships given to Harijans and backward classes are something like a gift given to blind man. That is the view of an orthodox Hindu. To-day my hon. Friend, Mr. Gopala Reddi agrees with me in thinking that unless the community produces doctors, lawyers and engineers, they could not be said to be advanced. We want lawyers from our community, we want doctors and engineers too and with that end in view the Government are rendering as much help as possible to the Harijans.

“I think some Harijan M.L.As. for instance Mr. Nagappa, raised the point that the amount given by way of scholarships to Harijan students who are admitted into the common schools is very meagre and that it should be raised. I may tell him that Government have already passed orders empowering the Commissioner of Labour to waive the amount in such case and make good the amount paid by the students. Thus, Government have taken all the necessary steps to encourage Harijan students.

“My hon. Friend Mr. Anwar or Mr. Hameed Khan asked why should 10 per cent of the seats be reserved for Harijans and that it should be reversed. That means that reservation should be made for other caste people and not for Harijans. Of course, the suggestion is commendable. As a matter of fact, we are reserving some 10 or 15 per cent of the seats to other caste students in labour schools which have been started especially for Harijans. I may point out here that the policy pursued by the Advisers in respect of the schools specially started for Harijans through the Labour Department was not to admit students from non-Harijan communities—Christians also might be admitted—but now the authorities of these schools and colleges have been asked to admit students of other communities also.

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

“This policy would certainly solve the problem of untouchability and Government have now ordered that in the common hostels and schools Harijans should be admitted while formerly they were asked to reserve about 10 per cent for Harijan students. The very idea of admitting Harijan students in common hostels will certainly help Harijan students because they will have ample opportunities of mixing up with students of other communities,

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rectifying their mistakes and learning so many other things from the cultured people. The caste people will also, by this method, be forced to consider the Harijans as their brethren. It will thus be seen that the Government have taken every care to see by means of practical methods that the problem of untouchability is removed. Even in schools and colleges run by private individuals they have set apart 10 per cent of the seats for Harijans. I want to ask my Friends whether untouchability cannot be removed by such methods.

“ Mr. Speaker, my hon. Friend, Mr. Varadachari has stated that it is high time that the labour schools are abolished. He may perhaps be right in saying so if all the difficulties of the Harijans are removed and the Harijans are free from caste prejudices if they are admitted into common schools in the villages. The policy of the Government was to abolish labour schools, the separate schools and separate hostels set apart for Harijans, but as they were convinced that the time for abolition had not yet come, they decided to continue the labour schools for some time to come.

“ There is also another aspect of the problem. In spite of the Acts passed by the Government the people in the villages are still objecting to the Harijans from entering village temples or taking water from wells or admitting Harijan students into schools. In this connexion some hon. Members suggested that in the case of schools which do not admit Harijan students their recognition must be withdrawn. As a matter of fact, this Government have already issued orders to the effect that no school which refuses admission to Harijans will be given recognition and that the grant will be withdrawn. The suggestions that have been put forth by hon. Members have been already considered and orders have been
5 p.m. issued.

“ Mr. Anwar said that oppression is prevalent; it is true that oppression by the Caste Hindus is prevalent in the villages. The Government are taking all possible steps to see that oppression is not allowed against Harijans. But I ask members: How can the Government take action against private individuals who do not allow Harijans to go into their fields? I am receiving representations from various parts of the country saying that Harijans are socially and economically boycotted. Their main complaint is that they are not allowed to graze their cattle in the fields belonging to ryots, to take fuel or grass from their fields. In such cases, how can the Government take any tangible action against the ryots except advise through their officials, or instruct their officials to go to those particular villages where the Harijans are harassed to preach or even to threaten the caste people not to oppress the Harijans. The Government are taking all possible steps to see that the Harijans are not oppressed. It is the duty of Harijan M.L.As. and of other M.L.As. to go and preach to the people and to convert their views. The Government alone cannot do much and this is a thing to be done by society itself.

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“ I know there is a change in the Hindu society; if there had been no change, they cannot talk like this and they cannot express their views in the manner they have done to-day and yesterday on the floor of the House. Ten years ago, they were not able to express their views. I know that ten years ago members nominated to the Legislative Council by the previous Government were not allowed to vote as they pleased; Mr. Devendradu voted against the closure of toddy shops. It was Mr. C. R. Reddi who remarked that nominated members were the foster sons of the Government of the day. But to-day they are elected; they are free to express their views, to criticize even the Government though he belongs to the majority party, the ministerialist party.

“ Mr. Murthi said that he could not tolerate any oppression by the caste people. He is right. But my request to him is this: ‘ Please tell the Harijans to organize themselves; they are not ready; they have no political consciousness; their workers are lacking in organization; they are divided in groups; they belong to different groups and different parties.’ I will not say anything about the Tamilnad; in the Andhra area there are so many parties. If any complaint of beating is made, it is reported that they belonged to the Communist party and they did something unlawful. If the Harijan leaders are really sincere and if they devote their lives for the cause of Harijans for one or two years, I am sure that this community will come and rule and will have more seats in the Central Government. But I must tell you straightway that members are not at all serving the community; but they are working in groups, some belong to the Communist Party; some belong to the Ranga Group; some belong to the ministerialists group, some are in the ryots group. There are four or five groups in Andhra. I appeal to Mr. Murthi to organize and bring them under one organization and under one banner. I am asking them to organize before they criticize the Government or any member of the caste people; let them take the organization into their hands, organize and fight the elections.

“ It is true that I was speaking on the public platform that the future elections will be fought on the issue of haves and have-nots. Some people said: ‘ You are a Congressman, you are a Congress Minister elected on the Congress ticket.’ But I am only talking about the future and I am not saying anything about the present Congress creed or policy. The Congress manifesto has clearly stated that there should be no intermediary between the State and the tiller of the soil. In this connexion, I fully appreciate the views of Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar but the time has not come when the question of the tiller is to be taken up but the time is not far off. Even my Hon. Colleague Mr. Kala Venkata Rao who is in charge of this reform said that this is a step forward. Let us, therefore, have some patience and if Government is not going to bring in that legislation, it is left to other members of the House to bring in a measure and convert the views of Government. Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar is right when he said that it is the Harijan woman who is transplanting in the fields and she has been

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giving the food to the other members of society; but the society has not yet advanced. We got independence only ten months back. As soon as the Congress assumed office, there were troubles from the Communists, from the Socialists, from the scavengers and from other quarters and the Central Government has got its hands too full to translate the provisions of the election manifesto of the Congress. But I assure the House that the problem of the agricultural labour and the tiller will be looked into by the Government. They are thinking that unless we do something for agricultural labour, we cannot say that we have independence. This is not the time for me to speak on that subject now.

"Let me now refer to the remarks made by Mr. Nagayya that this Government have not done anything to the community I beg your permission to reply to him in Telugu.

"సభాధ్యక్షా, శ్రీ నాగయ్యగారు, హరిజన మంత్రిగారుగాని, ప్రభుత్వమువారుగాని హరిజనులకు ఇంతవరకు ఏమీ చెయ్యలేదని, హరిజన మంత్రిగారివద్దకు వెళ్లి ఆడిగితే ఆయన తాను ఒక్కడనే హరిజన మంత్రినని, మిగతా 11 మంది సభ్యులు కనుక తాను ఏమీ చెయ్యలేక పోతున్నానని చెప్పినట్లు ఆయన ఉపన్యాసములో చెప్పినారు. ఇది యదార్థము కాదు. నాగయ్యగారు ఈ విషయ చదవలేదనుకుంటాను. వారు దీనిని చదివినట్లైతే ఆ విధంగా చెప్పరు.

"శ్రీ నాగయ్యగారు హరిజనులకు ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఈ రెండు సంవత్సరములు గా ఏమీ చెయ్యలేదని చెప్పారు. చదువుకొనే పిల్లలకు scholarships గాని, hostel ఫౌకర్షాలు కాని లేవని చెప్పారు. ఇదికూడా సజ్జముకాదు. ఇప్పుడు నాగయ్యగారి ఇద్దరు పిల్లలు Residential school లో చదువుకొనుచున్నారు. వారి ఇద్దరికీ, ఒక్కొక్కరికీ రూ 25 ల చొప్పున వారు scholarships లు పుచ్చుకొనుచున్నారు. ఇట్లా పుచ్చుకుంటూకూడా ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఏమీ సహాయము చేయటం లేదని ఆనడం న్యాయము కాదు. ఈ రెండు సంవత్సరాలలో దాదాపు 70 లక్షల రూపాయలను ప్రభుత్వమువారు హరిజనులకోసము ఖర్చుపెట్టారు. ఈ విషయాలన్నీంటిని Labour Department వారు గ్రతి సంవత్సరం ప్రచురించే annual report లో ఉంటాయి. శ్రీ నాగయ్యగారిని ఈ report లు చదవమని కోరుతున్నాను. వాటిని చదివితే ఆయన ప్రభుత్వమువారిని ఈ విధంగా నిందించరని అనుకోంటున్నాను.

"Let me now resume my speech in English. I wish to refer to an important thing that has been expressed by Harijan M.L.As. especially by Mr. Parameswaran about the criticism levelled by Mr. Kanniyappan against Ayyangars and Ayyars. The other day when the question was raised by Mr. Kanniyappan, I said that Ayyangars and Ayyars were doing more help than Non-Brahmans and even now I am asserting that it was the Brahmins who took up the cause of Harijans twenty years ago. The Government and members of the House know that there are only four Brahmins that took up the cause of Harijans from 1912. It was Mr. Ramachandra Rao, a sanyasi and a bachelor, who dedicated his life and 2½ lakhs worth of property for this cause. It was Mr. Ramjee Rao, another bachelor, who started the higher elementary school hostel and the same was handed over to Government later on. Mr. Ramachandra Rao, Mr. Ramjee Rao,

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Mr. Hanumantha Rao and Mr. Krishnamurthi, these are the four names which are to be mentioned as those that have taken up the cause of Harijans from 1912 onwards in Andhra Desa. Mr. Ramachandra Rao was the father of the movement who took up the cause even before Mahatma Gandhi took it up. He was boycotted by the other people and ex-communicated but he pressed on with the cause he had at heart. Later on Mr. Kaleswara Rao and Mr. Pattabhi Sitharamayya wanted to solve the problem in a practical manner and they appointed Harijans as their servants. Mr. Kaleswara Rao took me into his house from 1921 onwards without any distinction of caste or creed and it was he who was responsible for my studies and later on the late Mr. Nageswara Rao helped me. I could not recollect men of such stature among the Non-Brahmins though it is also a fact that after Gandhiji took up this question all the Non-Brahmins who were Congress people have taken up this cause. I know it was the Brahmins who were responsible for these social differences and distinctions, and it was again the Brahmins who have been trying to help the uplift of the Harijans for the past thirty years. Even in the Tamilnad in the year 1938 when the temples were thrown open to Harijans through the ardent, sincere and honest efforts of Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, the President of the Tamilnad Harijan Sevak Sangh with the help of Mr. Subbaraman, it was only the Non-Brahmins who opposed temple entry and Rajaji as the Premier of the Province with a vengeance had an Act passed affording indemnity to the several people who entered the temples. I say it was done with a vengeance because under the law that was then in force a certain section of the people who entered into temples were liable to be punished and the law did not give any right to the Harijans to enter and perform worship in temples. This Act was passed to save them from the operation of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, which prescribed penalties for such people who entered into temples. If he was not there, I am sure that Act would not have been passed. It had to be done in the teeth of opposition from rich and powerful Non-Brahmins. I am to-day receiving letters from all over the Province which gives me an idea as to who are the people that are oppressing the Harijans. In their petitions they state that it is only the backward Non-Brahman communities like the Thevars, Nadars and Maravars that are oppressing the Harijans. These are the names that are specially mentioned in the representations I receive from the Tamilnad. Sir, in the Telugu parts there is no oppression as the oppression prevailing in the Tamil districts. It is of a different kind. In the Andhra Desa it is due to the influence of the Communists."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, the Hon. Minister said that the Non-Brahmins did not work for the uplift of the Harijans. May I remind him of the work done by the late Raja of Panagal, Sir P. Thyagaraya Chetti and Mr. O. Kandaswami Chetty and a host of others in the cause of Harijans?"

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THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“ Sir, I have already stated that the Labour Department was started by the late Raja of Panagal. I know how difficult it was to start that department first. It is always difficult to start a separate department first; but to run it is not so difficult. Due to the efforts of the late Raja of Panagal, the Paddison Hostel was started, and another hostel was started in Andhra Desa. To-day fifteen hostels are run by the Government, and 145 hostels are subsidized by the Government. Now there are two high schools run by the Labour Department. In my answer to Mr. Kanniyappan's remarks I said it was only the Brahmans who took up the cause of Harijans before Congress took it up and I maintain the statement so made. After Mahatma Gandhi took up the cause of Harijans in 1920 the Congressmen took up this task. Thus there is a revolutionary change in the society after the Congress took it up. Otherwise to-day nobody would have cared to improve the lot of Harijans, under which they have been groaning all these years. Sir, let us not deal with the problem in a communal way, whether the Brahmans did this or the Non-Brahmans did that. I appeal to every Brahman and Non-Brahman, to every Harijan and Srijan—it is up to every member of the society to see that the Harijan is uplifted by all means. The Harijan requires the help of every member of the society irrespective of caste or creed. The uplift of the Harijan means the uplift of the village, and the development of the village means the development of the Province, and thus the development of the lot of Harijan means the development of the nation; for Harijan is the last man to be improved.

“ Then, Sir, the question of giving some scholarship or admission to Christian students in Harijan hostels came in for criticism. I cannot resume my seat without answering the question raised by Mr. John Moses Wilson and Dr. Samuel. Dr. Samuel said that Christians were not admitted into hostels run by the Government. Before 1940, in no hostel run by the Government Christians were admitted. It was only in 1944 or 1945 two or three Christian students were admitted in the Slater Hostel run by the Government. That hostel is now being run by the Harijan Sevak Sangh; and they have definitely stated that if Christians were admitted, there would be quarrels. Mr. Murthi was put in charge of that hostel. During the Advisers' regime the Christian students were admitted only for one year. From 1941, till to-day, no Christian has been admitted in the hostels run by the Government. In 1944 or 1945 three Harijan converts were admitted into a hostel by mistake. To rectify this mistake the Government Order quoted by Dr. Samuel was issued. Till 1939 the Christian converts were not given any facilities by the Labour Department. It was done only in 1939, when Harijan members including myself pressed on Rajaji that Harijan converts also should be provided the same facilities that had been given to Harijans. All the Harijan M.L.As. including Mr. Murthi supported it. Finally it was decided when Mr. Varkey was the Minister for Education that Harijan converts to Christianity should be given the same facilities then extended to Harijans.

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Mr. Speaker, Sir, even to-day it is being continued. We have not cancelled the concessions given to Christians in 1940. My definite answer to the question whether a Christian convert is entitled to have any money from the one crore fund was, ‘ No.’ I also said that only Harijans are entitled to the benefit from this fund, because this fund has been set apart for the special purpose, namely, the uplift of the Harijans. Nobody else has any claim for the benefit of that fund. The concessions given to Harijan converts in 1940 are even now continued. The Commissioner of Labour has set apart a certain amount of money as scholarship to students belonging to that community. Harijan M.L.As. including the Minister want that allotment for Christians and Harijans should not be mixed up, for it is feared if that is done more money will be knocked off by the Christian converts. And so to-day a separate fund is allotted for Harijan converts to Christianity and another fund for Harijans. Where is the harm in doing so? Hon. Members need not be afraid that the concessions given will be taken away.”

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—“ On a point of information, Sir. May I know how much money is allotted for Christian converts? ”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“ Sir, a separate question may be put. (Laughter.) I do not at the moment remember the allotment made. Mr. Speaker, Sir, now the Christian converts need not be afraid that the concessions will be taken away. It is true this is a secular State. Even in a secular State the interests of minorities should be safeguarded. Some minorities require special protection. That is why reservation of seats is made for them in the Legislature. In a secular State, if you want to enforce the provisions of the Indian Constitution Act, there should not be any reservation for any community. Because certain communities are backward economically and educationally certain seats are reserved for them in the Legislature and other fields in a secular State.

“ To-day I have asked the Harijan Welfare Committee to report what things should be done for the backward communities. First, some Members asked why I should give so much money to backward communities. I say the backward communities are very backward. This Government exists for all the people in the society, and not for one community alone. When the British Government was here they exploited the Harijan to secure their help. We, the members elected by the electorate say this Government stands for all communities without distinction of caste, creed or community. To-day the backward communities are really poor; they are backward educationally; and that is why Government thought it fit to allot two seats for them in the services out of 14 seats. The Government have set apart one lakh of rupees for the education of the backward communities this year. The Government are going to sanction one more lakh as recommended by the Committee for education of the backward communities. Not only the backward communities but also the tribal communities are to

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be helped. Mr. Veeranna Padal inquired what facilities have been given to the tribal communities for their education? Two hostels have been started, one in Vizagapatam and another in Polavaram. (Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillai rose in his seat.) I am not yielding as my time is short. It is also mentioned in the report of the sub-committee that the Pallars, who are forward educationally among the sub-sects may not be given preference over others. I may tell hon. Members for their information, Government have decided not to accept the sub-committee's recommendation which was not upheld by the Provincial Board either. ('Hear, hear.') There is no difference between one sub-sect and another. Government will treat them all alike. The Pallars need not be afraid that the facilities given to them will be taken away as per the recommendation of the Welfare Committee.

"Sir, once more I thank hon. Members for the free and frank expression of opinion on the report. I also thank members of the welfare committee for presenting a detailed and useful report for the information of the House, as also for the whole of India, as this is the first of its kind. This Government are getting requisitions for a copy of this report from all Provincial Governments. Sir, there has been some delay in the committee finishing its work. Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai said there has been a delay of two years in producing this report. The committee was appointed, it had to tour the districts to collect information, and then it had to sift the evidence taken and draw up the report. All these take some time and so there is no delay in the committee finishing its work. Now, Sir, I promise all Members of this House as also the Harijan members here, that every recommendation made in this report will be implemented by this Government. ('Hear, hear.') Within five years every Harijan will get a house-site. Government is anxious to help Harijans in every way. So long as I am here and the Hon. Mr. Gopala Reddi is in charge of Finance (Laughter)—for without him I can't do anything—I assure all members of the committee as also the Members of the Legislature that the Harijan cause will never be allowed to be neglected. If officers do not take action on account of apathy or otherwise Government will immediately issue orders to take action."

5-30 p.m. SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"My point about the creation of a separate department has not been answered."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"About the creation of a separate department, the Government have not yet decided. The question is being examined departmentally and the Government will soon take a decision in the matter."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"I suggested the creation of a separate machinery to implement the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act and the Temple Entry Act. The Hon. Minister has not answered that point."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"The machinery to implement the Acts is the same old machinery, namely, the Government. The Acts are being implemented and every police officer is

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there to take suitable action if there is any violation. Instructions have been issued to the police officers to take action if any complaints are received."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"I have suggested that recruitment to the Police Department must be done largely from the Harijan community. That point too has not been answered."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"The hon. Member may put a separate question to the Home Minister."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Sir, I rise on a point of personal explanation. I am not bothered about the information conveyed by me to the Hon. Minister about the atrocities committed by caste Hindus at Sakinetipalle being accepted as the gospel truth. I wanted to know from the Hon. Minister whether he would make personal enquiries and come to a decision by himself as it is burning topic of the day in the whole of East Godavari and as several memorials, mahazars and telegrams have been sent to the Hon. Minister."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"As soon as I have leisure, I shall visit the place. The hon. Sri Murthi said that several memorials, mahazars and telegrams have been sent to me. I never received any such communication except the one which was given to me by the hon. Member himself."

SRI S. C. BALAKRISHNAN:—"In my speech I wanted to know whether the hostels run by private managements other than the Harijan Sevak Sangh will be recognized by the Government."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"It is not good to accept that recommendation of the Committee. The Committee has recommended that only hostels run by the Harijan Sevak Sangh should be recognized and that the other hostels, if they want recognition, should be either handed over to the Harijan Sevak Sangh or taken over by the Government. But the Government want to encourage hostels run by other private managements also."

The motion that the report of the Harijan Welfare Committee, Madras, be taken into consideration was put and carried.

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

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 21st July 1948.

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

1.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Language test in Judicial Service.

* 53 Q.—SHAH ALAM KHAN SAVOI SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Mohamed Rafeudiu Ahmad Ansari Sahib Bahadur): Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that as per rules members of the Judicial Subordinate Service have to pass a test in an Indian language other than their mother-tongue?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—"If the hon. Member refers to the Madras Judicial Ministerial Service, the answer is in the negative. If the reference is to the Madras Subordinate Civil Judicial Service, the answer is in the affirmative."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government would consider the proposal to make Hindustani as a compulsory second language for all officers as it is going to be the national language?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, Hindustani may be a national language, but with regard to the provincial administration, I do not think it need be made compulsory for these officers."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Sir, when judgments go up from these officers in different languages, and when naturally there is going to be only one language in the Supreme Court, would it not be better to make Hindustani compulsory for these officers?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not think, Sir, that appeals will go to the Supreme or the Federal Court directly from these subordinate courts. They will go only through the High Court, where these judgments will be translated."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI:—"Sir, in view of the fact that Hindustani is going to be the national language, is it not desirable that these officers of the Subordinate Judicial Service are asked to pass that test?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"When Hindustani is made compulsory for all people, certainly officers of the Judicial Subordinate Service also will learn Hindustani."

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that most of these officers who have passed the language test are not well-versed in that language? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" They would have acquired the minimum efficiency in the language concerned; they need not be experts or pundits in that language."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to change the language tests which the officers of the Judicial Department have to pass at present in view of the burdensome nature of their court work? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" There is no such proposal, Sir."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—" Sir, in view of the fact that the tendency of the Central Government is towards the setting up of linguistic provinces, may I know why this insistence upon learning a second language besides the mother-tongue should be continued? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" When the linguistic provinces come to materialize, then the Provincial Governments may consider the question; but as it is, officers of the Telugu districts are liable to be transferred either to the West Coast or to the Tamil districts and so this second language should be learnt."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, what exactly is the standard of attainment that is expected of an officer in an Indian language other than his mother-tongue? If it is of the S.S.L.C. standard, may I request the Hon. Minister to see that it is reduced to the fifth standard? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Even as it is, it is something like the fifth standard."

SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:—" May I know, Sir, in what script the second language should be learnt? Is it in the Nagari or Urdu script? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" In either script, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Sir, in view of this language difficulty, will the Government consider the desirability of posting officers in their own regional areas? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" As far as possible, officers are posted in their own regional areas; but sometimes for administrative convenience, Telugu officers have to be posted to Tamil districts and *vice versa*."

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Representation regarding the conduct of a municipal contractor of Tellicherry.

* 54 Q.—M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of K. M. Seethi Sahib Bahadur): Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether a representation has been received from the Chairman of the Tellicherry Municipality regarding the conduct of a municipal contractor who supplied petrol to the municipality alleging misappropriation of municipal funds in conspiracy with some municipal employees, and other serious charges; and

(b) what action the Government have taken on the said communication?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) The matter is being enquired into."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know, Sir, what is the amount that is misappropriated and who are the municipal employees that have connived at it? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" I have answered that the matter is being enquired into and when the report comes, I shall be able to answer the question of the hon. Member."

Madras Subordinate Civil Judicial Service.

* 55 Q.—M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Mohamed Rafeeudin Ahmad Ansari Sahib Bahadur): Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether under G.O. No. 165, Public (Services), dated 21st January 1947, the Madras Subordinate Civil Judicial Service has been exempted from its operation;

(b) what the reasons are for such exemption;

(c) whether the Government propose to revise the said Government Order so as to remove the exemption referred to in (a); and

(d) if so, what the reasons are for such removal?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) The High Court considered that the question of seniority in that service would have to be carefully considered after particulars regarding the age and the period of war service of the persons actually appointed became available.

" (c) & (d) The question of removing the exemption referred to does not arise since the seniority rule introduced by G.O. No. 165, Public (Services), dated 21st January 1947, has itself been cancelled now with retrospective effect. War

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service candidates appointed to reserved vacancies in all departments have to take their seniority with reference to the dates of their first appointment to such vacancies."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, evidently this question was put to the Hon. Premier and the Hon. Leader of the House has answered on behalf of the Premier; but the Premier was not here for the last four days. May I know, Sir, whether instructions were taken when the question was put to the Premier and when the question has been answered; if in the meanwhile the answer becomes out of date, what happens?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, the answer has been approved by the Hon. Premier, and the question does not arise."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Suppose it was approved long ago and if something happens in the meanwhile, then how is the answer going to be made up to date?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is not necessary to tell the hon. Member when the answer was approved by the Hon. Premier."

Representation for starting a Women's College at Madura.

* 56 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Manager of O.C.P.M. High School for Girls from Madura to start a Women's College and requesting them to help with grant-in-aid and building grants; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken and how the matter stands at present?

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

"(a) Yes. The High School has been raised to the status of a second-grade college. The management has applied for grants-in-aid.

"(b) The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Have the Government considered the removal of the restrictions on building grants for colleges and schools?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"For these institutions, there is no ban, Sir."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, how many applications have been received for building grants from the management of high schools and how they have been disposed of?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"The hon. Member may put a separate question."

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SRI C. M. KOTHARI:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state what action has been taken and at what stage the matter is and how long it will take for the grant to be sanctioned?"

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

"Sir, the application of the management will have to be scrutinized and the plans and estimates will have to be approved and then only the grant will be sanctioned. It will take some time, Sir."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI:—"May I know, how long it will take to approve the plans and estimates? In the case of such institutions which require urgent and immediate attention, I hope the Hon. Minister will see that action is taken immediately?"

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

"The plan has not been received by the Government yet, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, what percentage of the cost of the buildings will be given as building grant to these institutions?"

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

"Normally we have fixed the grant at Rs. 50,000 for second-grade colleges and Rs. 75,000 for first-grade colleges, but in exceptional circumstances, the Government may sanction a larger amount."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I enquire whether the Government will be pleased to relax the rules in the case of women's colleges and women's high schools?"

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

"Yes, Sir. Women's institutions are treated leniently."

"Pillipesara" seed.

* 57 Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government ordered the purchase of "Pillipesara" seed in Nellore district at Rs. 31 per bag;

(b) whether it is a fact that the market price of the bag was Rs. 15 at the time of the order and sale;

(c) the quantity of seed purchased at this rate;

(d) at what price was seed purchased in Guntur, Kistna and Godavari districts this year when purchases were made there;

(e) whether it is a fact that several ryots who acted as middlemen sold to Government in Nellore district large quantities of seed; and

(f) whether the Government give any bonus to the growers of "pillipesara" seed?

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THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“(a) The answer is in the negative. In July 1947, the Government fixed only the producers ceiling price at Rs. 25 per bag of 160 lb. The Collectors fixed the wholesalers' ceiling price at Rs. 26-8-0 per bag. The control has since been removed in April 1948.

“(b) No. The market price at the time of fixation of ceiling price was between Rs. 24 and Rs. 28 per bag of 160 lb.

“(c) Nil.

“(d) The price of Rs. 25 per bag referred to in answer to clause (a) was applicable to all districts.

“(e) No. The seeds were arranged to be purchased by the Agricultural Demonstrators alone. No middlemen were appointed for the purchase of the seeds.

“(f) Yes. A bonus of Rs. 6-8-0 per bag of 160 lb. is offered to growers who deliver the seeds to the Agricultural Department in order to make the production of green manure seed remunerative to the ryots. This bonus is not given to merchants.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“May I know what steps the Government have taken to ascertain the price of ‘pillipesara’ at the time when the price was fixed and what steps have been taken to verify my assertion that the market price at that time was only Rs. 15?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“The hon. Member's assertion has been verified with reference to the revenue records and the price that was in vogue at that time was also enquired into and verified with the records of the revenue officers.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“May I know if the account books of those who have sold the seeds to the Agricultural department have been verified and if so, have the Government approved the price to be fixed at more than Rs. 15?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“I presume, it must have been verified by the people at the place, Sir.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“May I know whether the Government are aware that the District Agricultural Officer, Nellore, has been stating openly to me that we need not grumble at this sudden rise in price, because the Nellore district got a profit of a lakh of rupees on account of the enhancement of the price and the loss of one lakh of rupees to the Government was transferred to Tanjore and so Nellore benefited at the expense of Tanjore?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“I am sorry, Sir, I had not the privilege of knowing the conversation between the hon. Member and the District Agricultural Officer, Nellore.”

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Introduction of a Bill regarding reorganization of Education.

* 58 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether he intends to introduce in the Legislature an Education Bill incorporating his proposals as regards the Reorganization of Education in this Province?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“No.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that his recent proposal for the reorganization of education has created considerable confusion in the minds of the public as also in the educational circles? In view of the fact that the public are dissatisfied with his new schemes, is it not desirable that he should formulate his proposals in the form of a Bill on the lines of the Madras Elementary Education Bill and elicit public opinion, the opinion of this House and also the opinion of experts in the matter?”

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

“Sir, at the outset, I must deny the premises. Except in the matter of the language, the general principles of my reorganization schemes have been accepted by all. With regard to the suggestion of the hon. Member to bring it before the House in the form of a Bill, I must say that in no country in the world has the reconstruction or revision of syllabuses been placed before the Legislature for its approval. Only questions like the reorganization of administration, imposition of taxes, powers to be taken by the Government for administrative purposes and the like are placed before the Legislature. Sir, I have got a copy of the British Education Act before me and even that does not state that the revision of syllabuses should be placed before Parliament. And so, while there is a difference of opinion with regard to the language, there is absolutely no difference of opinion with regard to the principles of the proposals.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Sir, has not the Hon. Minister realized even up to this moment that even after the numerous meetings he has addressed and the numerous conferences he has had with educationists in the Province, and particularly with the headmasters in the City, wherein searching questions were put, for which the Hon. Minister's replies were, ‘this will be considered; that will be considered; I am not able to answer on this occasion, etc.’—has he not realized even now that he must come forward with a very exhaustive and thorough policy as regards the education he wishes to give to the people of this Province hereafter?”

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

“I do not think the hon. Member's account of the Headmasters' Conference is correct at all. Newspapers have reported the proceedings very fairly and the hon. Member has not followed them correctly. They have accepted the

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principles of reorganization. In fact the plan was framed by the teachers themselves. First the Sub-Committee considered the plan and again it was considered by the Provincial Board of Education and they have accepted the principles underlying these proposals and there is no difference of opinion on educational policy. I do not think Sir, the account given by the hon. Member is correct."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it a fact Sir, that representatives of schools particularly Headmasters pleaded difficulty in the absence of materials, in the absence of training, in the absence of crafts and various other things, to give effect to this proposal when the Hon. Minister says, "somehow you get on. You begin with it."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"They said they wanted teachers to be trained and craft material; but they accepted the principle of reorganization."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—"In view of the answer given by the hon. Member regarding the language question may I know whether Hindustani is made compulsory in the reorganization scheme?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am glad to get an opportunity to clear doubts in this matter. Hindustani is not made compulsory. The second language is made compulsory. Sanskrit, Arabic, or any other classical or Indian language is made compulsory. A boy can take Hindustani or he may take Malayalam or he may take Kannada or he may take anything in the second-language group. Hindustani is not made compulsory."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—"Is it a fact, Sir, that the regional language is also included in the second language?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The second language is a second language."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it for the teaching of any language or all the languages included in the second group Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The Government are taking steps to see that provision is made for teaching more than one language."

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—"How is it Sir, then that an agitation is going on that Hindustani has been made a compulsory subject when it is not actually so?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It is due to misunderstanding that Hindustani is compulsory."

SRI C. M. KOTHARI:—"Arising out of the answer, Sir, that orders were passed for provision of Hindustani in the second language long ago, may I know what action has been taken for providing Hindustani in High Schools?"

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THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am afraid the hon. Member has not made himself clear. Provision has been made wherever Hindustani teachers are available."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does not the Hon. Minister realize from the questions put by Sardar Vedaratnam Pillai and others as to what exactly the Minister wishes to do with regard to Education particularly with regard to Hindustani whether it is made compulsory or not that there is a lot of confusion and misunderstanding?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"There are, Sir, friends like my hon. friend who know but yet who appear as if they do not know. We can wake up people who are sleeping but not wake up those who appear to be sleeping."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the fact that these are serious proposals of far-reaching importance regarding the reorganization of education in our Province which may involve conscription as well, may I suggest to the Hon. Minister to come forward with a comprehensive amendment, to the Elementary Education Act of 1920, and place a comprehensive statement on the table of the House regarding the change proposed in the present system of Education?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It is under consideration. When it is finalized it will come up before this House."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that pupils in schools are at present wasting their time because they do not know what books to read, what syllabuses to follow and because they have not been supplied with necessary equipment?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I have gone round many of the schools and met various teachers. It is true that the reorganization proposals make some revolutionary changes. The teachers are fast adjusting themselves to the changes, and are also giving instructions and the interim period has got to be adjusted."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"While appealing to the Hon. Minister not to get excited in his reply I just appeal to him to see whether it is worth its while to proceed with his proposals regarding reorganization and would suggest his stopping with further disorganizations of education? May I know whether he is aware of it?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am aware of it and I am trying to see how far this country will get the best education in the future."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know Sir, whether it is a fact that in the guise of reorganization the Hon. Minister is abolishing the teaching of Telugu in the

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City schools in order to prejudice the claim of the Andhras for the City of Madras? May I know whether he will give a categorical denial of it?"

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

"This is one of the usual and if I may say so irrelevant questions put by the hon. Member."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order Mr. Speaker, may I know whether in answering questions the Hon. Minister can be rather hard on hon. Members putting the questions by characterizing the questions as irrelevant and irresponsible? It is the Chair who has to say whether a question is in order or irrelevant?"

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

"This question does not raise the question of the teaching of Telugu in Madras schools."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I put it to the Chair to give a ruling on the issue?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The point has been made out. You had better leave it to the Chair."

ONE HON. MEMBER:—"It is being dictated Sir."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"With regard to the compulsory Hindi, will the Hon. Minister receive a deputation of the Leaders of the anti-Hindi movement in this Province and convince them that there is nothing for them to worry about and that they need not start any such movement?"

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

"I will consider the suggestion."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—"May I ask whether the Government knows that a lot of communal hatred is being propagated in the guise of anti-Hindi agitation?"

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

"It is so, Sir, in effect."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR:—"In view of the great importance of education to this Province and the many doubts that have been raised from different quarters may I know whether the Government will consider the question and give us a composite picture of the steps to be taken in pursuance of the reorganization of elementary and secondary education?"

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

"Yes, I will consider the suggestion."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I ask whether the Government is considering the proposal to permit girl students to appear for the S.S.L.C. examination without attending school as they are allowed to do in the Benares Hindu University?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is better the hon. Member puts a separate question."

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SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—"தலைவர் அவர்களே, இன்றைய தினம் ஹிந்தி கூடாது என்று anti-movement ஒன்று பல கூட்டங்கள் போட்டு சொல்லி வருகிறார்கள். ஆனால் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் படிக்கிற மாணவர்கள் அதை விரும்புகிறார்களா இல்லையா என்பதை தெரிந்துகொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன்."

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

கூடங்களில் ஹிந்தி எடுத்துக்கொள்வது என்பது மாணவர்களுடையவும் பெற்றோர்களுடையவும் இஷ்டத்திற்கு விடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"May I ask Hon. Minister for Education, if there is such a universal acceptance, how is it that daily in newspapers there are criticisms and comments from prominent men and experts and may I know what steps he is taking to disabuse the minds of public in this Province? Could he take this House into confidence and explain how his education policy is in the best interest of the Province as a whole?"

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

"I appreciate the question of the hon. Member. We are watching every letter that comes from the Press and all the letters that are being published in the Press. They have accepted the principles underlying the reorganization scheme but objections have been raised mainly on the language question. Some people want Hindi as compulsory. Some people do not want Hindi as compulsory. Some people want Sanskrit as the fourth language. Some people do not want the fourth language as Sanskrit. Apart from this kind of detail there is a general acceptance of the scheme. The objections are the teachers are not trained; the groups have not been formed; the handicrafts are not ready. But they have unanimously accepted the principles of reorganization. The Government are trying their best to get all the materials ready, and give them help for opening training schools also, to put into force the reorganization scheme which they themselves have accepted in principle."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know, Sir, whether the entire Cabinet has approved of the reorganization scheme of the Hon. Minister?"

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

"The Government have approved it."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether last year Telugu was abolished in 80 schools in the City? I want a reasonable and responsible answer instead of irrelevant remarks."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Regarding the number of schools it is better the hon. Member puts a separate question."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"When I asked how many schools have suspended teaching Telugu, instead of giving an answer to the question, he was irresponsibly answering?"

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SRI W. S. SRINIVASA RAO:—"Sir, in view of the fact that Sanskrit and Hindustani are both made second-languages and people who want to take up Sanskrit are handicapped, will the Government make arrangements to have extra classes to those who wish to take Sanskrit?"

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

"As I told you this language difficulty is a difficulty to be solved. If constructive suggestions are made, I will consider them."

SRI W. S. SRINIVASA RAO:—"Will the Hon. Minister make arrangements to have extra classes to teach Sanskrit?"

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

"If he puts the suggestion in writing I will have the matter examined by the educational authorities."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Hon. Minister spoke of the objections made with reference to want of equipment, present personnel, and such other things. These are serious things and in the absence of materials, equipments and training personnel and such other things, will it be in the interest of the Province to force the pace of the scheme?"

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

"As I had occasion to point out elsewhere when reorganization was introduced in England the very same arguments word for word were used by the Opposition and the Minister for Education said we can never make it perfect. I have no better reply to give than those words he said."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"When both the officers of the Education Department and the Headmasters of High Schools are complaining that the reorganization scheme is being rushed headlong and this may prove injurious to the interests of the institutions, is it not the duty of the Government to consider their objections?"

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

"While some people complain that we are going headlong there are others who say that we are delaying too much."

11-30 SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Whatever may be the
a.m. scheme of reorganization which the Hon. Minister may consider, will he bear in mind to see that the scheme reaches the Harijan quarters as the standard of education attained by these people is very low at present?"

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

"As a part of any educational scheme they will get their due attention. As regards the previous question, Sir, I may say that the Government are considering every way of taking the teaching staff and the inspectorate with them."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—"In view of the answer given by the Hon. Minister that the anti-Hindi movement is creating communal hatred, may I know, Sir, what steps the Government are going to take in order to suppress the movement?"

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

"That is a question, Sir, which should be addressed to the Hon. the Premier."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister will just state the people who complained that the pace is too slow? May I also know what is meant by such a statement when there is not the equipment to maintain the pace?"

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

"There are some magazines, Sir, like the 'Kalki' for example who say that we are going slowly and I may also refer to some letters written in the newspapers. Apart from that, Sir, I do not think I will be right in mentioning names. I however appreciate the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition that we should take others also along with us and we are trying our best to take teachers and others and giving them craft training, citizenship training and many other things."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"In view of the large number of questions put on this matter, may I request you, Sir, to allow a half an hour's debate on this particular topic, namely, the reorganization of education."

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not possible to have a half an hour's debate on this question. I have already allowed more than 15 minutes for this and I will allow some more questions on this subject. I am not prepared to have a half an hour's debate."

SRI A. SUBRAHMANYAM:—"கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் இப்பொழுது ஹிந்தியை இரண்டாவது கட்டாய பாடமாக வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்று குறிப்பிட்டிருக்கிறார். இப்பொழுது கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் தெரிவிக்கிற பாடப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் பெற்றோர்களும் மாணவர்களும் இஷ்டப்பட்டால் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளலாம் என்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. இதில் எது உண்மை என்பதை தெரிந்துகொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன்."

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

மெம்பர் அவர்கள் தப்பு அர்த்தம் செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்று நினைக்கிறேன். இரண்டாவது பாஷைகளில் ஹிந்தி ஒன்று, இன்னும் தமிழ், தெலுங்கு, அராபிக், மலையாளம் முதலியவைகள் இருக்கின்றன. அவைகளில் எதையாவது ஒன்றை இரண்டாவது பாஷையாக எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். ஆனால் ஹிந்தியை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்பது கட்டாயமல்ல."

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMIAH:—"In view of some of the answers given by the Hon. Minister for Education, may I know, Sir, whether a student who has finished his secondary education in this Province according to the reorganization scheme will have a rudimentary knowledge of Hindustani, the future Rashtra Bhasha of our country?"

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

"It is open to the pupils to take Hindi in the first, second and third forms and it is also open to them to take Hindi

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in the fourth, fifth and sixth forms. They can take Hindi in the college classes also. The only thing is that nobody is forced to take Hindi. At their option they can take Hindi or not take it."

SRI A. SUBRAHMANYAM:—"நான் சொல்லுவது இதுதான். முதலில் பெற்றோர்கள் இஷ்டத்திற்கு விடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்று தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டது. பிறகு ஹிந்தியை மூன்று பாஷைகளில் ஒன்றாக வைத்துக்கொள்ளப்படும் என்று சொன்னதால் எதை எடுத்துக்கொள்வது என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"இரண்டாவது பாஷைகளில் ஹிந்தியும் ஒன்று. பெற்றோர்களுக்கு இஷ்டமிருந்தால் ஹிந்தியை அவர்கள் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளலாம். இல்லாவிட்டால் வேறு பாஷை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளலாம்."

SRI P. KANDASWAMY PILLAI:—"In view of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I enquire, Sir, whether Hindi has been made compulsory or not in any of the forms in the high schools?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I think I have made it sufficiently clear. The second language has been made compulsory, Sir. One of the languages in the second language group, which has been made compulsory, is Hindi. Hindi is only one of the languages in the second language group."

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—"தலைவர் அவர்களே, இன்று நம் முடைய தமிழ் நாட்டில் பூராவும் ஹிந்தி வேண்டாம் என்று கூட்டம் போட்டு சொல்லிக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். அதைப்போலவே மற்றவர்கள் ஹிந்தி வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். எதை அதிகமாக பொது மக்கள் விரும்புகிறார்கள் என்பதை தெரிவிக்கவேண்டும்."

MR. SPEAKER:—"நீங்கள் இதைப்பற்றி தனியாக வேறு கேள்வி போட்டு கேட்கவேண்டும்."

SRI P. KANDASWAMY PILLAI:—"In view of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I know, Sir, whether I am right in saying that Hindi is not a compulsory language to be studied by high school students, as it is only one of the second languages?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am glad, Sir, the hon. Member has caught the point."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"We have to recognize the hard fact, Sir, that for the people of the Province, particularly people who are living in the regions where Tamil is the regional language, the other language that they are expected to learn compulsorily will be either Hindi or Sanskrit. That being the case we have to take things as they are. There is no use quibbling with it. The Hon. Minister must make an honest declaration that it is really compulsory. (An hon. Member: 'He is making a speech.') No, I am putting a question. Will the Hon. Minister tell us categorically whether he is not making

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Hindi compulsory in view of the fact that the only other language that the boys can take in the Tamil-speaking areas will be Sanskrit?"

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

"Sir, I object to the use of the words 'quibbling' and 'honest'. I must say, Sir, that every statement that I have made is an honest statement. I appeal to you, Sir, to ask the hon. Member to withdraw the words."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to know whether the hon. Member meant that he had been making dishonest statements."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am asking, Sir . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Is he making a dishonest declaration? I don't see any necessity for the use of the word 'honest' here. I wish to know from the hon. Member, Mr. Hameed Khan, whether there is any dishonest declaration."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"When I wanted an honest declaration, Sir, I meant a clear declaration."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Am I to understand from the hon. Member that he meant 'clear' when he used the word 'honest'? May I know in which dictionary it is said that 'honest' means 'clear'?"

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Hon. Minister has been telling this House, Sir, that he has not made Hindi compulsory. On the other hand he has also been telling us that it is compulsory for the boys to study one of the languages in the second language group. He also knows that the people of this Province, particularly in the Tamil area, if they have to take a language from second language group which is made compulsory, they have no other alternative but to take Hindustani, for the majority of people in this Province are not likely to take Sanskrit as a compulsory language."

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

"What has happened to his withdrawing the words, Sir?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Let me hear the Leader of the Opposition."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, when you ask a friend to be honest, it does not logically mean that he was dishonest, Sir. This can be seen even from text-books on logic which is being taught in initial classes in the college. It is only an emphatic way of requesting a gentleman to be accurate, to be definite and to be categorical about his statement. That is all. (Laughter.) That is what is meant when we use the word 'honest'. In a sense it is just like saying, 'you please be honest to tell me,' 'honestly tell me whether you feel like that or not.'"

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MR. SPEAKER:—"That means he is dishonest."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"That does not mean that, Sir. It does not mean: 'You might have been dishonest in the past, or that you are going to be dishonest now'. We should not twist the language to mean that he was dishonest. Logically, gramatically and in the ordinary parlance when we use the word 'honest' we do not mean that he was dishonest or that he must not be dishonest. That does not mean that at all."

MR. SPEAKER:—"As far as the Chair is concerned, I must say that word 'honest' is the opposite of 'dishonest'. In view of that, I hope the Leader of the Independent Group will not persist and that he will withdraw the word."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"You know it, Sir, that I never meant that my hon. Friend was dishonest. I suppose you are prepared to admit that. I did not say that he was dishonest. I don't know why he assumes that."

MR. SPEAKER:—"When the Leader of the Independent Group said that he must make an honest statement, does it not mean that he has been making dishonest statements? In view of that he will have to withdraw it."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"With due deference to the Chair, I wish to submit that I did not say that he was dishonest. In view of that I don't think there is anything for me to withdraw."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Order, order."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Before you give your ruling, Sir, I want to know what the Hon. the Leader of the House has to say on the matter, so that we may have our doubts cleared, because to-morrow I may have to use the same word and I will also be asked to withdraw."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is entirely a matter for the Chair to decide, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is true. But there is no harm in the Hon. the Leader of the House giving his opinion. Of course it is entirely in the hands of the Chair. But when a Member wants to know the opinion of the Leader of the House there is no harm in his giving his opinion."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I have no opinion to give on the matter, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I hope the Leader of the Independent Group will not persist and that he will withdraw the word."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, though I did not characterise my hon. Friend as being a dishonest person. —I never would do that—since the Chair wants me to withdraw that word I have no objection."

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MR. SPEAKER:—"I hope the Hon. Minister will answer the question."

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

"It is untrue to say, Sir, that everybody . . ."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, Sir. Does it mean, Sir, that all the time all the Members in this House have been untrue? His reply begins with the words 'It is untrue to say'. (Laughter.)"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Order, order."

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

"I am answering the question, Sir. I do not think we should pursue it any further."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have not heard the answer."

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

"Sir, it is untrue to say that everybody will be forced to study Hindi. There are many telugu people living in the Tamilnad and there are many tamil people living in the Andhra area who want to study their own mother tongue. They have asked for provision to be made so that in those places themselves, they can study their mother-tongue. This is the provision for those people who can study their own mother-tongue though they may study the regional language as the first language. There is provision for them to study their own mother-tongue. Such demands have come. They have stated, we do not want to read Hindi as we are not likely to go to the North but make us some provision for learning our own mother-tongue. There are merchant classes who are trading in the neighbouring areas, say people from Malabar are trading in Coimbatore and they want to learn Malayalam. This provision has been made so that they may be able to read Malayalam. It will be wrong to say, Sir, that we are forcing their children to learn Hindi."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask, Sir, whether all the languages that he has mentioned, namely, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, etc., do form part of the second group of languages?"

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

"Yes, Sir. It is so."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"On a point of order, Sir. The Hon. Minister for Education was pleased to utter the word 'untrue'. The word 'untrue' in the English language means the opposite of truth. Not only that. (Interruption.) The proper expression to have been used is 'incorrect' or 'not correct' and not the word 'untrue', because it means the wilful suppression of facts or statement of facts which evidently is contrary to his intention. My submission is that what has been done just a second

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before in regard to the statement of Mr. Hameed Khan has a bearing on this. With due deference to your ruling, Sir, I must say that in ordinary grammatical and idiomatic English it only means"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister never said that what any Member said was untrue. What he said was: It is untrue to say that Hindi is made a compulsory language. That is all he said. It is not fair to compare it with the word 'honest' that the hon. Member, Mr. Hameed Khan used."

11-45 a.m. N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Much emphasis is laid under the reorganization scheme on student leadership and assembly halls. May I impress upon the Hon. Minister that it is inadvisable in our Province when the atmosphere is surcharged with suspicion to carry politics into schools and colleges?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"There is no question of leadership in politics in schools and colleges. It is a matter of developing personality and leadership in schools."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May we know when we may expect the Hon. Minister to place his proposals before this House and whether we may have a full-dress debate on the subject on a day set apart for it just as has been done in the case of the food debate?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The hon. Member has been having it all the time, Sir."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"We want a full day debate, Sir."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We shall consider the proposal and announce our decision to-morrow."

Action taken against Ex-Motor Transport Controller.

* 59 Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state what happened to the enquiries started against Messrs. D. D. Sathe, Ex-Motor Transport Controller and C. V. Narasimham who are alleged to have been found trafficking in motor cars?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—"The enquiries have been completed and the Government have already taken suitable steps in the matter."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"In view of the very unsatisfactory nature of the reply, may I know what action has been taken against both the officers specially mentioned in my question?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"In view of the very delicate position of the matter raised in the question, I could not amplify my answer beyond what I said. We have taken suitable steps with regard to the transaction."

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SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR:—"May I ask, Sir, what is the conclusion arrived at after the enquiry with regard to these two officers. It is a very serious matter and I would ask the Hon. Minister to take the House into his confidence and tell us what is the result of the enquiry?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I have already said that definite steps have been taken. The officers have not committed anything technically wrong; beyond that I am not prepared to say anything more."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that almost every head of the department in the Secretariat is guilty of this malpractice on a colossal scale? Will the Government contradict this; if so, will they issue a statement very soon?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am not prepared to take the statement that every head of the department in the Secretariat is engaging himself in this blackmarketing of cars, etc. The hon. Member brought to the notice of Government specific cases, and they have been fully enquired into."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—"Sir, this is a very important question."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Whether it is important or not it is for the Chair to decide."

Fishing Industry.

* 60 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Fishing as an Industry in the Province; and

(b) if so, what the scheme chalked out by the Government is?

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—" (a) & (b) It is not quite clear what the hon. Member desires to know. A number of schemes for the development of the fishing industry which have been included in the five-year plan for Post-War Development have already been sanctioned by the Government, and a number of other schemes are under their consideration. The administration reports on the Fisheries of Madras, copies of which are already supplied to the hon. Members of the Legislature, give an account of the activities of the Fisheries department."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"The Hon. Minister has not clearly understood my question. My question was whether the Government propose to develop fishing in this Province as an industry."

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THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"Sir, the Government have already sanctioned many schemes to develop fishing as an industry. They are building of better boats, trying the use of new nets and methods of capture, better curing and preservation, introducing goods into the market, employing various methods of pisciculture, and educating the fishermen in these processes whether through practical schools or by advice and example."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"As part of the scheme of developing fishing industry, is it permissible, Sir, for hon. Members to fish in troubled waters?" (Laughter.) Sir, does the Hon. Minister know that some years ago, the fisheries department was under a separate Director of Fisheries and latterly it has been tacked on to the Director of Industries and Commerce. May I know why it was done so? In view of the improvements and developments which the Hon. Minister speaks of as being inaugurated in that department, may I know whether he is considering any proposal for creating afresh a new Director of Fisheries?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"I am aware that once this department was under the Director of Fisheries. Now it is under the control of the Director of Industries and Commerce. This subject has already been referred to the Retrenchment Committee and their proposals in this behalf are under the consideration of the Government."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Retrenchment Committee has recommended the bifurcation of the Fisheries department as a separate department?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"Yes, Sir."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the very high cost of fish, and if so, what steps are being taken by the department to give it at a fair price?"

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"May I know what steps the Government are taking to supply fish even to the poorest, because fish is supposed to be an article of night food?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"Sir, fishing activities are being carried on by the department. Now the Government wish to supply motor engines to companies so that they may undertake the fishing industry. The Government also wish to encourage co-operative enterprise in fishing industry."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of experimenting deep-sea fishing with modern equipment?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"It is already going on."

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MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, are the Government aware that a lot of vegetarians have taken to eating fish, and that is why the price of fish has gone up?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"Development of fishing industry does not depend upon non-vegetarians or vegetarians taking to fish. But it depends upon the interest taken by the people."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"May I know, Sir, what happened to the proposal entertained by this Government some time ago of importing Japanese fishermen in order to teach Madras how to fish more efficiently and successfully?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"That was only a suggestion made by some people."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Are the Government aware that the recently improved fishing tanks in Ootacamund have not produced any result, and as a matter of fact people had to get all their fish from Calicut and Madras?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"The hon. Member may put a separate question."

YUVARAJA OF PITHAPURAM:—"Will the Government see, Sir, that the fish do not smell too fishy?" (Laughter.)

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are not seriously considering the proposal to bring in the Japanese to demonstrate or to teach our fishermen to fish more efficiently?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"The Government will consider the question, Sir."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Is it a fact, Sir, that the Government are trying to get fish from Godavari and Krishna in order to put them in ponds and other tanks in the South?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"I think some of the fingerlings of some kinds of fish have been brought from the tanks in that area and put in tanks in other areas."

SRI VEERANNA PADAL:—"విజ్ఞానాంధ్ర ప్రాంతములలో చేపలు కొరత కలుగ లేనందున ఆ ప్రాంతములలో ఫిషరీస్ డిపార్టుమెంటును స్థాపిస్తారా? (Open question)"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"విజ్ఞాన ప్రాంతములలో ఏకైక చేరువులు, జలాశయములులేవు. కనుక అక్కడ Fisheries department ను స్థాపించవలసరము లేదు. స్థానికులు (1000) చేపిన చేపలను విజ్ఞాన ప్రాంతాలకు పంపించడానికి ప్రయత్నముచేస్తాము."

SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that many fishermen in the Province are suffering from want of proper yarn supply for their nets and, if so, whether the Government are considering the grant of priority to the supply of yarn to fishermen?"

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THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"A year back, the Fisheries department took lot of interest in getting yarn and supplying to fishermen. Since control over yarn is now lifted, this question does not arise."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, what steps the Government have taken to organize the existing fishermen on a co-operative basis, and supply them with improved tools of fishing?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"If the hon. Member goes through the administration report of the Fisheries Department, he will know all the things that Government are doing."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"May I know, Sir, whether fish caught in sweet water tanks or rivers are more healthy from the point of view of nutritional value than fish caught in sea water?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may put that question to a different quarter."

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—"தலைவர் ஸார், Fishery departmentல் அந்த தொழில் தெரிந்தவர்களை அதில் வைத்திருக்கிறார்களா அல்லது மற்றவர்களை வைத்திருக்கிறார்களா என்று கேட்கிறேன். படித்தவர்கள் அந்த சமூகத்திலிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களை வைக்காமல் மற்றவர்களை வைத்திருப்பதாக தெரிகிறது. அப்படி படித்தவர்களையும் வைத்திருக்கிறார்களா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"As regards appointment of fishermen in the department, it depends upon the special training which candidates have undergone in the Fisheries department. If there are people from the fishermen community with the qualifications that are necessary, they will be encouraged."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"In view of the large hydro-electric works that are taking place in the Nilgiris will the Hon. Minister consider that fishing in rivers there is not disturbed?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"The suggestion will be considered."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"May I know what is the policy of the Fisheries department with regard to the ponds in villages? Are the Government giving them to Panchayats or to Fishermen Co-operative Societies for fishing purposes?"

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"The hon. Member has not understood correctly. Ponds in villages are not under the control of the Fisheries department. They are under the control of the Revenue department. The hon. Member may put the question to the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Apart from the steps which are being taken by the Fisheries department, may

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I ask whether the Government are doing sufficient propaganda among the vegetarian section of the Province to take to fish as is the case in Bengal, because fish forms good food."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"The hon. Member knows that 90 per cent of the people of this Province are non-vegetarians, and it is not necessary to do propaganda to convert the remaining 10 per cent."

Recommendations of the Madras Provincial Housing Committee.

* 61 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Firka Development be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken to implement the recommendations of the Madras Provincial Housing Committee?

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"The Provincial Housing Committee has made a number of recommendations for the relief of housing shortage in this presidency. The report of the Committee is still under examination."

"It may be mentioned however that the Government have even before the receipt of the Committee's report, taken steps to start co-operative housing schemes both in the City and in the urban and semi-urban areas in the mufassal with a view to relieve the existing shortage of dwelling houses. This is one of the important measures recommended by the Housing Committee which has suggested that the co-operative agency is the best agency to meet the housing needs of persons of moderate means."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I ask the 12 Hon. Minister how it is, Sir, that although the Housing Com- noon. mittee submitted its report several months ago, and though the problem is a very acute one, that report has not yet been considered by the Government?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"The Government have considered the recommendations of the Committee as they came along and they have given effect to some. The Housing Committee has also recommended starting of some co-operative societies in all municipalities and the schemes have already been started. As the recommendations were coming, they were considered. There are some more recommendations that have not yet been considered and when they are considered, they will be given effect to."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the most acute problem is that of providing housing for lower income-groups? The Government are doing nothing for the latter. Their Co-operative Housing schemes can ease the situation only with reference to the middle-classes and higher income-groups."

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THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"If the hon. the Lady Member had followed the statements which I have made during my recent tour last week, she would not have had that impression."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Since building materials are the crux of the problem of housing, may I ask what steps the Minister has taken to get more building materials?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"It is not for the Minister having to get all the materials. Everything is being done to get as much materials as possible."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"In answer to the reply of the Hon. Minister about reading of newspapers, I think that most of us have not been reading the newspapers for the last three days and that the members are following the policy of Ministers in not reading newspapers."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of submission, Sir. The other day when a question was put whether the Hon. Minister went through the newspapers and had seen some of the criticisms and remarks made therein, it was answered by the Hon. Minister that he was not in the habit of reading newspaper. I want to know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister is correct in replying that the hon. the Lady Member should have referred to the newspapers to see the statements which he has made; instead of answering definitely here in this House the Hon. Minister wants hon. Members to resort to newspapers for getting that information."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister has only said that if the Hon. the Lady Member has followed his statements in the newspapers, she would not have got that impression."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does it mean, Sir, that he definitely discourages putting that question on the floor of the House on the plea that a Member is expected get that information from the newspapers? Sir, I want to know definitely whether hon. Members should not be allowed to put such questions and get the answers which they require on the floor of this House."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister only said that if the Lady Member has followed the newspapers, she would not have got that impression."

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—"I wish to know whether, in the midst of interpellations, an hon. Member can raise such objections as the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has done now."

MR. SPEAKER:—"If the Chair has allowed a Member to do so, he could do so. The Chair has the right to allow a Member to make his submission."

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M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does the Chair rule that the remark of the Hon. Minister referring the Members to newspapers . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not a point of order and therefore there is no ruling."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In the first instance, I only wanted to make a submission. The Hon. the Speaker is always fair both to the Members as well as to the Ministers. Sir, but with due regard to the Chair having allowed that particular question, it cannot be passed unnoticed. So, I want the Hon. Speaker to tell us definitely whether the Hon. Minister can refer the Members to the newspapers for getting the information."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister has not in any way insulted the hon. the Lady Member. He has only said that if she had followed the newspapers she would have seen the policy which he has enunciated with regard to housing and it is open to the hon. Lady Member to tell the Hon. Minister that she had not followed the newspapers."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of submission. A question is put and answer is elicited for getting the real and authoritative information. But if the Members are expected to get that information from the newspapers, I submit that the information given in the newspapers cannot be always relied upon. So, for getting authoritative information, questions are being put in this House. There is no question of any insult here. I do not say that the hon. Lady Member was insulted by the Minister by being asked to refer to the papers. That is far from my mind. I wanted to know whether authoritative information could be got by referring to newspapers."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I hope the Leader of the Opposition will not take it seriously."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, with reference to the remarks made by the Hon. Minister, I may tell him that while I have read what has been reported in the newspapers I do not think he is seriously implementing the specific recommendations of the Housing Committee. The important recommendations made in their report are not being attended to. The Co-operative Housing Societies which are being started will not solve the problem of the low income groups. The Government must adopt a more realistic attitude in the matter and launch upon a vigorous plan as has been done in Bombay."

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"That question is being considered. I have asked the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to prepare a fresh scheme to meet the needs of persons of the low income groups and to provide houses

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costing between Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,500. The Government are trying to do all that lies in their power to help the lower income groups."

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—"In view of the fact that there is housing scarcity in every district, may I know, whether it is because of the indifference of the District Collectors to take action on the schemes adumbrated by the co-operative societies, that lands have not been acquired for years together and handed over to the societies and so they have not been able to proceed with the construction of buildings quickly?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"I am sorry the hon. Member's information is not correct. Wherever there are housing societies, schemes have been drawn up under the Housing scheme and are proceeded with."

SRI K. P. KAMAKSHI CHETTIYAR:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister to state how many co-operative house construction societies have been formed hitherto and how many have actually begun to construct houses?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"A separate question may be put."

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—"தலைவர் அவர்களே, இப்பொழுது Housing scheme-ஐப் பற்றிச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஏழைகளும் பணக்காரர்களும் வீடு வேண்டுமென்று இந்த கமிட்டிக்கு application போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு வீடு ஏற்பாடு ஏதாவது செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா என்று கேட்க விரியப்படுகிறேன்."

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"I cannot answer that question off hand. But now the Corporation also is working upon some schemes. As I became the Minister only very recently, I had no time to visit and scrutinise those schemes and to get the information."

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—"தயவு செய்து அதை தமிழில் சொல்ல வேண்டும்."

MR. SPEAKER:—"தயவு செய்து பதிலை தமிழில் சொல்லுங்கள்."

HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"இங்கிலாந்தில் பதிலளித்ததற்காக மன்னிக்கவேண்டும். சென்னை நகரத்தில் கார்பொரேஷனில் பல ஸ்கீம்கள் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த ஸ்கீம்களும் அநேகமாக ஏழை ஜனங்களுக்குக்காக போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த ஸ்கீம்களை ஆலோசனை பண்ணி கூடிய சீக்கிரத்தில் அது நடக்கும்படி அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவருவதற்கு பிரயசைப்படுகிறார்கள். சென்னையில் மாத்திரமல்ல. கிராமங்களிலும் மற்ற முனிசிபாலிட்டிகளிலும் இதே மாதிரி ஸ்கீம் வருகிறது. அது சீக்கிரத்தில் அமுலுக்கு வரச் செய்யும்படி சொல்லிவருகிறோம்."

SRI V. I. MUNUSWAMI PILLAY:—"In giving effect to the various recommendations of the Provincial Housing Committee, is it the object of the Government to forcibly take lands belonging to the Harijans for this purpose? May I inform the Hon. Minister that seventy acres of wet and dry lands in Katpadi, and Draupadavedu where Harijans are cultivating are to be acquired and the Harijans are asked to vacate their lands?"

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THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"The particular question about Katpadi township is still under discussion. The Government has not given final sanction yet. So, the question of acquiring these lands has not arisen yet."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government intend to bring in legislation to control land values, on the lines of the legislation that was brought forward in United Kingdom as has been recommended by the Housing Committee?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"As I have said, that question has not yet been taken into consideration."

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—"As the land is of foremost importance before any housing scheme can be launched upon and because it takes a long time to acquire this land, will the Government consider the desirability of simplifying the procedure for acquiring these lands?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"That is what the Committee has suggested to the Government. As I said, the Government will consider the whole question and when we arrive at decisions, we will give effect to them."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"May I ask the Government what they have done so far to the recommendation of the Housing Committee with regard to the clearance of slums in the city and also with regard to the provision of good habitation for Harijans in cherais?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"The hon. Member's suggestion will be considered."

Retrenchment of inferior staff.

* 62 Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) how many members of the inferior staff have been retrenched owing to the recent orders of the Government; and

(b) how much money was saved thereby?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) About 1,000 peons.

" (b) About six lakhs per annum."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Yesterday, there was a question on this subject."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"May I ask the Government what steps have been contemplated by them to give relief to those displaced staff by way of offering solatium or provision of alternative employment, in view of the long service rendered by them?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"For permanent people who are thrown out, three months' pay is being given as a sort of solatium."

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N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"As the expression "Peon" is nauseating and is disrespectful to the self-respect of the peon may I suggest—copying the example of the United States—that they may be designated as 'Helpers' and not as 'Peons'?"

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"In answering a question yesterday, the Hon. the Minister in charge of Finance was pleased to say that so far 3,390 peons were affected. Today he says only 1,000 peons have been affected by the retrenchment. May I know, Sir, who are the 3,900 persons that are so far affected?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If the recommendations were accepted in toto, it would have resulted in the retrenchment of the three thousand and odd peons. But this question only asks how many members of the inferior service have actually been retrenched till now and the answer is that 1,000 peons have been retrenched."

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—"தலைவர் அவர்களே, இந்த retrenchment திட்டத்தில் பியூன்கள் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் அவர்களுக்கு வேறு டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் வேலை கொடுக்க முடியுமா என்று கேட்கிறேன். அதோடு சில பியூன்களை தாசில்தார்கள் இரண்டு மைலுக்கு அப்பால் போய் தண்ணீர் கொண்டு வரச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் பயந்துகொண்டு கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். இதைப்பற்றி ஏதாவது steps எடுத்துக்கொள்ளமுடியுமா."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If they are suitable for re-employment, certainly they will be re-employed."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"On a point of information, Sir. Today there were two questions which related to alleged misconduct on the part of some officials. Both those questions were almost passed over and only a very small length of time allowed for supplementary questions on them. May I know what special reasons there were for thus passing over those two questions?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is left to the discretion of the Chair. The Chair knows which questions should be allowed more time and which questions should be given less time. Now we pass on to the next item on the Agenda."

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

II.—FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE.

12-15
p.m.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Sir, I move 'that the statement on the food situation in the Province may be taken into consideration'."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The motion before the House is that 'the statement of the Food Minister on the food situation in the Province may be taken into consideration'."

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MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move that the following shall be added at the end:—

'and on such consideration this House is of opinion that the policy of derationing and decontrol be revised and rationing and control be re-introduced in the interests of the people of the Province.'

"The question before us is a simple but serious one. It is whether the food position has improved or worsened since the abolition of rationing and control. If it has worsened, then it is the duty of the Government to revise their present policy and reintroduce rationing and control, as was promised by the Hon. Minister when he abolished rationing about six months ago. It will be remembered that two main arguments, amongst others, were advanced by him at that time. The first was that there were large surpluses with the producers who were not giving them up on account of low prices, and if a free market were introduced, those surpluses will be forthcoming into the open market resulting in a natural and orderly distribution of foodstuffs. The second was that the machinery for rationing was such a complicated and cumbersome one giving room for temptation; and corruption among the staff made it completely break down to a helpless condition. It was further stated that the Government would try to supplement their food reserves with imports from outside. The Food Minister also promised to examine the food situation six months after derationing, and to revise the policy if the situation worsened. It is but fair then that the food situation be reviewed now.

"I must at once submit that the Food Minister has been very very fair in the statement of facts and the problems confronting this Province, except in one sentence where he has said that 'the poor man could always approach the relief shop and be sure of his 6 oz. of rice and 2 oz. of millets.' I submit, Sir, that it does not represent a correct statement of affairs.

"The problem in this Province, is at present, one of distribution, and will continue to be so till the production in the Province exceeds the demand which every one will admit, will take some time to become a reality, say a decade or two, even if this Government take earnest steps to improve the irrigational facilities in the country. By distribution, I mean the distribution of the foodgrains produced in this country and in this Province, supplemented, of course, by any imports from outside which the Government of India would be pleased to grant us—I am glad to say that the Government of India has been coming to our aid, by promising 500 lakhs of tons for this Province, for which I pay my tribute to them. The Hon. the Food Minister has been pleased to state, 'If the surplus production of foodgrains in the surplus districts has been sufficient to cover the requirements of all the deficit districts, then no doubt the removal of the inter-district ban will have the effect of making foodgrains available in the deficit districts at reasonable prices. But the real difficulty is that the surplus production in the surplus districts, even supplemented by imports allowed by the Government of India, is inadequate

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compared to the requirements of the deficit areas.' So, Sir, the real problem before us is the distribution of the stocks available to us, both by way of production in this Province, and by way of imports from outside allotted to us by the Government of India.

"This Government, which is a popular one, is responsible for feeding all the 50 million people of this Province. Is its duty over if it feeds only the rich people, those who could produce foodgrains, and about 60 per cent of the non-producing and partially producing people? Even in his own showing, the Food Minister has stated that by the help of the relief shops about 20 million people will be fed, i.e., about 40 per cent of the population of this Province, which is roughly over 60 per cent of the population of non-producers and partial producers put together. I include therein those people also who cannot produce grains, because the price has gone 100 per cent more. The question of the feeding of the other 40 per cent of the non-producers and the partial producers, has to be tackled by this Government. Of course, the Food Minister has stated that it may be necessary for us to increase the number of relief shops from 8,500 to more. But I ask, is the Minister satisfied with the conditions now prevailing in the country in the deficit districts where those relief shops are located for the equitable distribution of foodgrains, with the machinery as well as the methods of distribution?

"Sir, there is an intrinsic evidence in the statement of the Hon. the Minister himself to show that the policy of derationing and decontrol has failed or is bound to fail. I know, Sir, many wealthy merchants as well as other rich people will criticise me when I am moving this amendment. But I am not afraid of it. Likewise so long as the duty of the Government is to feed every man, woman and child in this country, let them not be afraid of any criticism that might emanate from the rich, the wealthy or the producers who want to sell at a high rate so as to make the foodgrains not available to the poor man. Let it not be said that under this Government, the poor are suffering and becoming poorer and the rich richer and more comfortable.

"Paragraph 11 of the statement issued by the Hon. Minister a day or two ago deals with the 'further measures of decontrol to be taken by the Madras Government.' But the statement at the end of that paragraph the statement that 'The situation is being carefully watched and all possible steps will be taken to see that change-over from control to complete decontrol is effected as smoothly as possible' shows clearly that the problem has been agitating in the mind of the Hon. the Minister. I am sure he has been carefully considering what has happened since decontrol and derationing.

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p.m.

"Sir, in paragraph 11, where the Hon. Minister speaks of further measures of decontrol he is halting and hesitating and not sure of his ground. He is watching. Even to-day there are controls such as rationing in 18 towns, and bans on inter-provincial, inter-district and inter-taluk movements of grains. There

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are the Price Control Order and the procurement regulations in the surplus districts as well as in Malabar and Nigiris. The question of inter-provincial transport ban is a matter for the Government of India. In paragraph 10 of the statement, the Hon. Minister has given reasons why the inter-district bans could not be removed at present. He has stated:—

'Thus, the removal of the inter-district bans will not, in any way, help to improve the general food situation in the Province. On the other hand, the removal of the ban will not only facilitate secreting and cornering of stocks by unscrupulous importers but is also likely to convert the surplus districts themselves into deficit areas and put them in the same plight as the deficit districts.'

Unfortunately, Sir, in this country, the sense of social welfare has not been developed among our people and they want to make money anyhow. Prices have risen and the people are not able to purchase foodgrains. There is always the merchant who wants to make money anyhow. When the Province is a deficit Province, is it possible by any amount of human ingenuity and by any amount of propaganda to do without controls? With regard to the prevention of smuggling, the Hon. Minister has stated that it will succeed only by a greater co-operation from the public than what has been available hitherto.

"These things make it clear, Sir, that so long as this Province is a deficit Province, so long as there is a tendency among the people to secrete foodstuffs and make money and there is a rise in prices to the extent of 100 per cent, so long as the Government is not getting the help required from the people, it is not possible for the Government, for any Minister with all his sincerity, to see that every man—whether he is poor or rich, producer or non-producer—will get his daily food? That is the problem before us. There is enough intrinsic evidence in this document to show that it cannot be done. It is said that the prices have risen and that it is a natural thing for prices to rise after the removal of controls. But for how long? Take the case of sugar. No doubt our Province is deficit in sugar, but you can procure it from other places. As soon as control was removed, there was a rise in prices, but it did not continue for a long time. But in the case of foodstuffs the rise will continue for a long time because the production is not sufficient to meet the demand.

"Sir, with regard to prosecutions of merchants who sell at prices higher than the control prices, you have pointed out that it would not help. It is stated:

'All possible steps are being taken to fight this increase. The Government have statutorily notified the prices of foodgrains for the trade in each district. But indiscriminate prosecutions on a large scale would not only amount to unnecessary harassment but they would also have the effect of driving all the stocks underground and thus defeat the very object with which we have

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controlled the prices. Government have therefore asked all the Collectors to launch prosecutions against merchants who are found to have flagrantly transgressed the Price Control Order. The discretion has to be used judiciously and with reference to the local conditions and I trust it is being done.

"This shows that decontrol and derationing will not work. The very fact that you have started 8,500 relief shops goes to show that decontrol and derationing will not work, till you have got more foodgrains than you have demand for. Then you need not prosecute, you need not have relief shops or have any kind of control. But that is not the position now. That is admitted. I request the Government to examine the position dispassionately and from the point of view of not the 40 per cent of the population or the 60 per cent of the population, not of producers and non-producers, but from the point of view of all concerned, of the 100 per cent of the population. I know the Hon. Minister has been trying his best. Whenever people from some of the badly affected districts like Madura, Tinnevely, Trichinopoly, North Arcot and Chingleput went to him, he at once agreed to open relief shops. But this is an argument to show that decontrol will not work. The Hon. Minister has been very kind and generous and prompt in rushing foodgrains where they are needed. But more than that he cannot do. It is impossible for the Hon. Minister to know how actually these relief shops are working. People who live in the country and are in touch with the farm labourers and such people who have no lands and do not produce any grain condemn the machinery that is working there. In certain places farm labourers leave their work at 3 o'clock and 4 o'clock and walk 2, 3, 5 or 10 miles or take a bus to another place where there is a relief shop. And when they go there nothing is available in the relief shop. The merchant to whom the grain is supplied opens the shop on a certain day. On that day everybody is expected to go and purchase his requirements. People may purchase for a week, but how can a labourer who gets a rupee a day buy for a week? Some of farm servants and others may not be able to go to the shop on the day it is open. Even if he goes there, he may be able to buy for a day only. Then what is he to do for the remaining six days? He must purchase in the black-market. As a matter of fact, I know in a place which is near my village, rice is selling at Rs. 1-9-0 a Madras measure while the controlled price is about 1½ measures for a rupee. As the Hon. Minister has said, about 10 or 15 bags of rice are supplied to the shop and they are intended for about 500 families in two or three villages. But the shop-keeper says that all that is over in two or three hours. I do not know how he sells all the 10 bags, and whether he does not secrete them, or whether others buy and secrete them. Under rationing every villager was sure of his 5 or 6 or 8 ounces. Now he is not sure. Only you have substituted 8,500 relief shops instead of ration shops.

"Sir, in this province which according to you is a deficit province, where there are unscrupulous importer where there is

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not sufficient public co-operation, where people want to make money anyhow, do you think that the removal of rationing under which every individual was sure of 6 or 8 ounces and the substitution of relief shops will work? Even if you open 10,000 or 20,000 relief shops it will not work, unless you make it a rule that when anyone of the 500 families to whom a relief shop is intended to cater goes and asks for his quota he must be supplied. At present relief shops are not a good substitute for ration shops, it is only an acknowledgment of the fact that decontrol and derationing will not work. You have started these relief shops out of your sympathy, but they are poor substitutes. They are not good enough. My purpose in moving the amendment is to request the Government to examine the matter from all points of view, not only with the object of the rich man getting more luxuries and the producers getting more rice but with a view to see that every man—rich or poor, producer or non-producer, labourer or non-labourer—gets sufficient to keep his body and soul together. I have spoken with some enthusiasm and emphasis, but my object is not to criticise the Government but to be critical about the situation. I hope I will not be misunderstood by the Hon. Minister. I only want that the Government should examine all the pros and cons of the question. I know that in answer to a question recently, the Premier said: How can I help if the people are bad, dishonest and avaricious? Sir, that should not be the attitude of the Government. They should see that there is a fair distribution of the grains that are in our hands. When our irrigation projects come into operation and when we are able to produce enough for ourselves and for export, then there will be time enough for having the open market. The Hon. the Food Minister has stated the position frankly in his excellent statement. But I do not see what compels him, what is it that is super-imposed on him—I may be wrong in my judgment—what is it that is super-imposed on him that prevents him from coming to the clear conclusions which he should come to on the basis of the facts set forth in his statement. If he hopes that everything will be all right in due time, I submit that it is not a wise man's policy. If he hopes that 60 per cent of the people are getting food now, next month 70 per cent of the people will get and the month after next 80 per cent of the people will get and so on and so forth, and if he is sure that that object will be achieved, nobody will be happier than myself. But that is impossible. I know decontrol and derationing will not succeed. Of course it is not a good thing for a man to be controlled, but in the true interests of the people, as I have said in my amendment, the Government should re-introduce rationing and control in the interests of the people of the province."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to second the amendment of the hon. Member Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig. It is indeed regrettable that despite the advent of independence, the common man in this country finds himself to-day in a precarious plight as regards his very means of subsistence, that all his dreams and all his hopes of a comfortable life have been

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dashed to the ground and that the food situation is such that the matter has to be debated on the floor of this House time and again. The Government launched upon their policy of gradual decontrol and derationing last December in utter disregard of our protest and heedless of our warning that the effect of that step would be that prices would rise, adding to the burdens the miseries, the trials and tribulations of the poor. But, the Hon. Minister persisted in his assertion that our fears were unwarranted and proclaimed that in consequence of decontrol and derationing prices would soon adjust themselves in a free market. But, Sir, facts have proved that we were justified in our fears, we were correct in our presumption and that the Hon. Minister was too sanguine in his expectations. His optimistic words are still ringing in my ears. It was on the 13th of December 1947, when replying to the debate in regard to the Government policy of gradual decontrol and derationing of foodgrains that the Hon. Minister made the following observations:—

'As sure as night follows day, when controls are removed at once black-market, high prices and all sorts of things will end and the degeneration that has set in amongst the public in the Province will gradually disappear . . .'

But, alas! he has proved to be a false prophet. On the other hand, as was expected by us, as was feared by us and as was dreaded by us, the effect of the derationing has been that prices have soared high and all the pious hopes of their adjusting themselves in a free market have proved to be in vain. The Hon. Minister himself acknowledges this fact to-day for in his statement before the House he has mentioned that prices have gone up to the extent of a hundred per cent.

"Sir, this upward trend of prices is a source of potential danger to the people. Unless the Government take urgent measures to check this tendency I am afraid the country is heading towards disaster. From November last, inflation has gained further momentum and the prices of most of the essential articles of foodstuffs have been continuously rising so much so that to-day the Index Number is 306. In consequence of this the employees of the Central Government are already agitating for an increase in their dearness allowance and the time is not far distant when the employees of this Government also will prefer a similar demand. The Government may plead that they have no funds that they have not the wherewithal to increase the dearness allowance any further. But all these declarations will be of no avail for the employees must also live and their demands will have to be satisfied even to the detriment of many ameliorative enterprises, if the Government is to function. Hence the problem of inflation is a serious matter to which both the Provincial and Central Governments should pay urgent attention. They should do much more to intensify the production of foodgrains and also of other essential articles than they are doing at present.

"Sir, the Hon. Minister has informed us that in consequence of the rise of prices, relief shops had been established, but these

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relief shops are not a very effective palliative in the matter of alleviating people's difficulties. As has been mentioned by the Hon. Minister himself these fair price shops as they are called do not meet the requirements of the majority of the people. According to his most liberal estimate, they can do so in respect only of forty per cent of the population in their areas. In the face of this, to say that it is only the rich who buy in the open market in order to satisfy their fastidious tastes and habits is, I am afraid not a correct presentation of facts for how can sixty per cent of the population of this poor country be deemed to belong to the well-to-do classes? The fact is that it is the poor who constitute the majority of the population that buy foodgrains at high prices in the market. Further the quantities obtainable in these relief shops are very meagre. The result is, as has been narrated by the previous speaker that many a poor man when he goes to the relief shop sometimes after walking many miles, is often told that there is no stock of rice and hence has to get back home disappointed and empty handed with no alternative left to him but to buy in the market at inflated prices. The Hon. Minister said the other day that people could wait till stocks arrived. But, Sir, I wish to know how a poor man can be asked to wait when it is a question of keeping his body and soul alive, when it is a question of satisfying 1 p.m. the hunger not only of himself, his wife, but also of his poor children? Is it possible, is it reasonable to expect people to starve for days on end? Therefore, it is useless to contend that these relief shops are satisfying the requirements of the poor people. The Hon. Minister stated that he had not received any complaints about them when he goes on tour he would do well to make specific investigations into the matter and find out to what extent these shops are meeting the needs of the people.

"Sir, on the occasion of the last debate some months ago, the Hon. Minister gave some figures and thereby made out that this Province was, as a matter of fact, not deficit in foodgrains. He stated that the production of both rice and millets in this Province every year amounted to 69 lakhs of tons on an average which would leave a surplus of about 17 lakhs of tons at the rate of 12 oz. per individual. This year we have been informed that the production is to be 59.34.000 tons, that is to say, there is to be a reduction of about 10 lakhs of tons. In this connexion, in the first place, what I wish to know is that when this Province is not deficit in the matter of food-grains as the Hon. Minister urged in his statement last year why is it that the food situation is so acute and a source of constant anxiety. Even according to the figures given for 1947-48 by the Hon. Minister there should be a surplus of 7 lakhs, though not of 17 lakhs of tons this year. As such with proper planning in respect of procurement and distribution, there should be no occasion for anxiety. What is needed is maximum efficiency in distribution. When during the Advisers' regime such efficiency was maintained and this Province was held out as a model in regard to the success of rationing, why has deterioration set in now?

"Another question that I would like to ask the Hon. Minister is why the production this year has gone down by 10 lakhs of

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tons. Is the Grow More Food Campaign still not making any headway? Last year, the Grow More Food Campaign did not meet with any success. Does it still continue to be a failure? If so, I should like to know how much longer it will continue to be so? In this connexion I am of the opinion that it would be better if the portfolios of Food and Agriculture were placed under the charge of one Minister. I understand that this is the case in other countries and other Provinces. The Hon. Minister for Food is an expert farmer, as such he should be placed in charge of the portfolio of Agriculture in addition to that of Food. I hope this will be done and that with his expert knowledge he will see to it that the Grow More Food Campaign makes great headway.

"Sir, the Hon. Minister has acknowledged in his report that smuggling is prevalent and that the Government are not able to check the evil. To acknowledge that smuggling is rampant, that black-marketing is rampant, that hoarding and profiteering are rampant in the land but that the Government are not able to control these evils, is to acknowledge the failure of the administrative machinery. To plead helplessness in the matter is tantamount to a confession of incompetence, which can do no credit to any Government. It is the duty of the Government to tackle such evils and not to plead helplessness. In other Provinces, for instance, in Bengal and Bombay, very stringent measures are being taken against black-marketers. We have asked several times on the floor of this House as to what steps this Government are taking in the matter and we have been informed that necessary legislation would be brought forward, but nothing has yet been done. The Provincial Housing Committee recommended that for giving relief even in the matter of housing, black-marketers should be punished with imprisonment.

"In conclusion, I wish to state that it is time that Government took a realistic view of the situation instead of tinkering with the food problem. What is needed is not multiplication of relief shops but re-introduction of rationing. After all, these relief shops are nothing more than ration shops. Why not then have regular ration shops straightaway, instead of tinkering with the problem? When the Hon. Food Minister introduced the scheme of decontrol and derationing, he promised to review the situation after experimenting with the measure for some months. Now that an experiment has been made in this regard and the Government have found that it has proved to be a failure, they should no longer hesitate to reintroduce rationing. I believe that some of the other Provinces are also contemplating the reintroduction of rationing. The prime duty of every Government is to make food available to people at reasonable prices. No Government can shirk this responsibility. If this Government is to discharge its responsibility to the people it should inform the Central Government that the time has arrived for the reintroduction of rationing in this Province. I hope, the Government will listen to the voice of reason and that they will accept the amendment that has been moved by the hon. Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The amendment has been moved. The motion and the amendment are before the House for discussion."

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SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for having been mainly responsible for securing this useful debate on the food situation. The report submitted by the Government is as usual like the previous reports. It contains some figures no doubt and the usual words 'intake', 'off-take' and 'overall'—I do not know who coined these words—occur in many places. But, reading to the end, one is left in greater doubt than when he began it. One wonders what this Government are going to do for us. The Government try to throw the blame upon the people and say that the people are not honest; they are smuggling; they are black-marketing; they are this and that. But, the people in the villages turn round and say, when the Government take no proper steps to put down this black-marketing and this smuggling, how do the Government, which has assumed charge only a few months ago under Swaraj conditions, expect the people to train themselves to such a pitch as to answer all their requirements. The Policeman suddenly has changed his mind, not to mind his business as before. If for any offence that is committed, he should look into the Penal Code and see what section has to be applied and if a soldier should begin to study the Army Act before he fixes his gun on the battle field. I do not think he is worth the salt if a man does not think about the responsibility he is under and the punishment he may have to undergo for any default. It is one of the objectionable features of an easily secured freedom if we are not able to adjust ourselves to changed conditions. There is lawlessness at large in villages. I shall illustrate to you immediately, how the negligence of the food officials, the still greater negligence of the Provincial Government, have caused an utter state of lawlessness resulting in food riots in Nellore district, people obstructing passage of carts and helping themselves, how the police officials refuse to function even though they see smuggling going on under their very nose, how the trains stop all of a sudden, even when there is no excuse for stopping, at flag stations simply to enable food smuggling being done leisurely and escape search at railway stations, how generally rice is being smuggled day in and day out by lorry, by boat and by train and in spite of all these things for the past three months that our district of Nellore had been put to, it is rather astounding for the Government to come forward with a statement like this. Of course, I never expected such a statement from the Hon. Dr. Rajan, a practical gentleman as he is. But, this seems to have been the view of the Government for the past three or four months and to-day also it is the same. When Mahatma Gandhi died, a few days before his death, he asked that food control should be removed, but he never told the Government to observe his advice half-way. They took his advice just half-way and they did not mind the other half. He asked the Government to lift food controls but he never asked them to overlook the offenders."

"Sir, curiously enough, in the report submitted by the Government, one comes across a rather surprising passage which says:

"All possible steps are being taken to fight this increase. The Government have statutorily notified the prices of food-grains

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for the trade in each district. But indiscriminate prosecutions on a large scale would not only amount to unnecessary harassment but they would also have the effect of driving all the stocks underground and thus defeat the very object with which we have controlled the prices.'

"Sir, I fail to understand the logic of this statement. Government say, we are going to decontrol. At the same time, they say, we do not want to prosecute people who commit food offences. What on earth they mean by this? Do they want to allow food offences to continue; do they want smuggling to continue; do they want people to suffer on account of high prices? Now prices are soaring high and still they say that they have done all that under Gandhiji's advice, but only people are to blame because they are not intelligent; they are not honest; they are not this and that. Not satisfied with this observation, the Hon. Minister further remarks on page 4 of his report: 'During the discussions on the 14th'—it was our misfortune perhaps to have had this discussion on the 14th—'much was made of the alleged smuggling that was prevailing from one district to another.' Sir, I complained on the floor of this Assembly that smuggling was going on at the rate of nearly 20 to 30 tons of rice from Nellore every day. Recently, when the Hon. Minister visited our district, just a day or so prior to his visit, our District Collector who has recently been posted there, was very active and he was able to secure about 15 tons of rice from three trains within 24 hours. For the first time the Government, which was till now accustomed to let smuggling go on seem to have realized that it was rather terrible. Thanks to our Collector, he was able to show to the Government that 15 tons of rice could be smuggled by trains within 24 hours.

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"Now coming to the condition of our district nearly 20 tons leaves the district by train every day. An equal quantity goes by the road by lorries and the producer, the black-marketing middle men and the supply staff are all looking at each other helplessly and smuggling goes on day in and day out. The Collector asked the Government for help and the Government said: 'We cannot spare you any officials'. Such being the case the Collector said to himself: 'What can I do in such circumstances?' The same feeling went down to the tahsildar and to the village munsif. This great Government which has defeated the great British Government thought: 'What can we do' and this spirit of helplessness and frustration resulted in half a dozen strikes within the past few weeks in my district. Because we thought and we expected that the prices will rise and the Government had been rather heedless to the suffering of the people we thought of raising the matter on the floor of the House and the reward we got is the remarks, I shall read for the benefit of the House:

'During the discussion from the 14th much was made of the smuggling that was carried on from one district to another. No doubt a certain amount especially from the delta districts . . .'

Wherefrom can one expect any smuggling, except from the delta districts; there are four in the Andhra and one in the Tamilnad which are regarded as surplus areas and food grains would go out from those districts, observed and unobserved. The

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Hon. the Premier was anxious to stop smuggling from Tanjore district to Ceylon. Not satisfied with the earnestness of the local officials, he appears to have made a special pleading with the Government of India to help him with their motor boat in order to chase the offenders into the sea and catch them and stop the smuggling from Tanjore. All credit to him but why should you not have the same generosity to the Andhra districts also wherefrom rice is being smuggled unchecked for the last four months? Let me refer to the report:

'Government have issued necessary instructions to see that steps that are possible under present conditions are taken to prevent smuggling of food-grains; but it can succeed only by greater co-operation from the public than what has been available hitherto'.

I fail to see what is the co-operation that can be expected from the public. The rich man refuses to sell because you are offering him only Rs. 160 when he can sell it elsewhere for Rs. 400. The tiller and the producer in whom you have got so much of confidence, what have you done for him? The next day that the Government came to power, they throttled the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies and scotched them. From that day, its policy has been always to encourage the rich marauder and to fleece the poor; take the industrial field, it has been the case and it is the same in the food field also, and it is quite patent in every way. If the Government had adopted the policy of the previous Government of starting producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies in every district, you would not have seen in the country side the people going about with famished faces and hungry stomachs. Go to any district even to a surplus district, you will see the labourer bitterly telling you that you have not done your duty by him. Why did they scotch the societies and what are the reasons that prompted such action on their part? Flushed with power and anxious to do something to demonstrate—I do not know if it was their intention—their spite towards the previous Government—they took this course of action and what was the result in the end? Black-marketers began to ply their trade unchecked and the price of food-grains rose and they are on the increase during the last four months. Despite the strong measures taken at Madras, people in enjoyment of comfort and ease, they know how to purchase goods in the black-market and things go from door to door and no Government and no officer of Government think it worth their while to check it and they seem to feel: 'We are not going to help them let people help themselves' and really the authorities have been playing a nefarious part in this matter. I do not know who can check them. Railway authorities from the guard to the porter and the Railway Police from the Sub-Inspector to the constable allow the smugglers to pass from district to district. In one particular case, a station-master had four maunds of rice with him and when I went and asked him how he can possess it, he simply frowned and asked: 'Who are you to interfere with my luggage'? I told him that it is an offence and he began to argue the matters even more,

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furiously. That is the way in which things are going on. The Ministers who are travelling too much might have come across with thousands of people carrying headloads travelling by every train. You can go north or south and everywhere you see the same thing and mostly women are taking part in these depredations. The railway authorities in common agreement with the passengers, the ticket collectors and the Railway Police and some busy bodies have been helping them in this business. When some of the people were caught hold of one man merely asked the police constable under what powers he did it and he merely replied that it is on the orders of his Sub-Inspector. He said that he was some Government official and when he failed in law he began to import considerations of equity and said: 'Government have failed to supply the required quantities at Madras and people are taking the risk of carrying rice to that place; why are you obstructing poor people?' These false notions of mercy aided by the incapacity the inability and shall I say the utter neglect of the Government to do their duty by the people have helped this thing to go on unchecked all these days. Two months ago there was a Press Communiqué on the question and the Hon. the Food Minister is reported to have said that he was not bothered by smuggling and that if procurement is intensified, it will stop by itself. Mr. K. G. Sivaswami, a member of the Servants of India Society, raised this question in a letter to the *Hindu* and asked the Minister how he was justified in saying that he is not worried about smuggling and it would stop if procurement is intensified. I sent a cutting from that paper to the Hon. Minister and requested him to inform me as to what he really had in mind and he wrote to inform me that it was not correctly reported and that what he said was that if we take care to intensify procurement smuggling would disappear. I requested him to issue a statement clarifying the position because somehow or other the authorities got the wrong impression—it is what I learned later when I verified from the Food Secretary—particularly the officials of my district were under the impression that the Government's attitude was this in brief: "Do not bother about smugglers. So they need not interfere with them because it cannot be effectively dealt with. There is no Police force for that purpose. It is required for use in the border of Hyderabad." Somehow Hyderabad seems to provide some convenient excuse and a convenient peg upon which the Government could hang all their old cloth. Be it nationalization, be it the prevention of smuggling the convenient excuse is the border question. Between preservation of ordinary law and order and satisfying the hunger of the people which is more urgent and paramount than frontier raids, one would see that satisfying the elementary needs of the people is as important as the other and the Government should be able to perform its normal functions. Somehow the impression has been going on like that and that they should concentrate on intensive procurement. Let us now see what is meant by intensive procurement. In the taluk to which I belong the procurement scheme works like this. They allow 2 seers of rice per month per ryot for his own consumption, fourteen seers of paddy for seed purposes and 5 thooms for agricultural operations. The Hon. Minister for Food is a noted agriculturist

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and I wish to ask him if he is satisfied that this quota would leave enough with the ryot to put through his cultivation. There were two stages of procurement in our district. One programme came in March and so many candies of paddy were fixed for each village and they paid up their quotas and people were satisfied but another programme was inaugurated in the month of May and June and this time it was more serious. The helpless ryots brought out the karnams accounts and showed to the officers and said: 'It yielded only so much and we have given you what all we ought to. If there is any balance, we are prepared to give you but why do not you fix for the whole village; we shall ourselves distribute it and we shall try to help the Government as far as possible.' They fixed five thooms of paddy for agricultural operations but it is common knowledge that not less than ten thooms is absolutely necessary for the ryot to carry on his agricultural operations. If an acre yields 30 thooms, it may be all right if the ryot is given 20 and the Government takes 10 but if he were to be asked to retain only 7 thooms and surrender all the rest, I wonder if really the Government have been fair to the ryots by whom the Government have been swearing all these days. Sometimes the Government have got curious ways of praising the ryots. The Hon. the Premier has taken upon himself the responsibility of praising the ryots and of deifying them. He is otherwise called kisan. They say the kisan is the ruler. They say the kisan is the owner of the soil and he is the giver of food to the whole country. I agree with all that and I have no quarrel. But when he turns round and says: 'I am not going to give you at the rate you have fixed but give me Rs. 500.' Are you bound to give him? That is why I say that this grant of bonus is a wrong method which has been copied in this country without any reference to its origin or import. It is all right in a country like America to give bonus to producers to step up production for export purposes. But here the ryot is poor and the consumer is equally poor and I do not know how this bonus system will work well. Bonus was given in the year 1946 and it was given practically at the door of the ryots and the money was taken by Prakasam's Government to the very door of the ryots who were told: 'Here for the trouble you have taken the Government have been pleased to give you Rs. 20 per candy. But what is the result? The price is increased from Rs. 140 to 160. It was news for the ryot that the Government had on their own free will given him something for his labours; he was not accustomed to such things in the past to be gladly surrendered his stocks.'

MR. SPEAKER:—"The House will now adjourn for lunch and meet again at 2-30."

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Raghavayya will continue his speech."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Is there quorum?"

The bell was rung and several hon. Members entered the House.

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MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. This House is not aware of the programme we are going to have this week. In this connexion, may I point out that the Hon. the Leader of the House is not treating this House or the Opposition properly? We have been summoned here last week, and may I know whether the Zamindari Bill is coming in this session?"

Mr. SPEAKER:—"To-morrow the Hon. the Leader of the House will give the programme. He cannot give off-hand; he should be given time."

"Mr. Raghavayya will continue his speech."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Sir, I ask the Government, I ask the Ministry whether they have come across any Government where the procurement officials go to a village and tell the people there that unless they are given so many puttis of paddy they will be losing their job or they won't get promotion. That shows the utter helplessness of the officials. Their appeal to the ryot population shows the failure of the policy of the Government. Last year the ryot was satisfied with Rs. 170 including bonus for a cart-load, and this year he demands or will not be satisfied with less than Rs. 240. Sir, ever since Burma was lost, our Province has been suffering for food. It will take four to five years to make it self-sufficient; until then this trouble for the ryot continues to persist."

"Then, Sir, the way in which Ministers go and talk with people and chum with them has encouraged many a black-marketer in the villages to carry on with his job. Ministers commit the mistake of staying in the house of people against whom procurement offences are pending. No wonder, the District Magistrate finds himself in an embarrassing position. If he is to enforce law strictly he will be incurring the displeasure of the superior officers; but if he is to let them scot-free the offences will increase. Cases where men of my tribe have been interfering with officials are not uncommon. They go to the officials and tell them, 'if you do not do this for me, I shall see that you are not in my district. I shall see that you are transferred to some other district.' Sir, the new changed conditions have thrown out an effervescence, of which several people have been trying to make hay. In the changed conditions, there are several irresponsible persons who on the plea of having influence with this Minister or that Minister interferes with procurement. I shall cite a case where a Police Sub-Inspector was caught red-handed in the act of exporting in a lorry black-market paddy. I am glad Madras has not got many such officers! When asked where he is taking the paddy, the coolie replied: 'I am only taking it to the police station'. There were thirty bags in the lorry. There were two persons sitting behind in the lorry. When asked where they were taking the paddy, they replied: 'we don't know where the lorry is going; we were standing on the road; the lorry was passing us; we thought we could ask for a lift; so we asked and we are given a lift.' The police officer, having himself done the crime, gives an ingenious reply. This is the way in which the

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police people can escape, and this is the ingenious reply they can devise. Sir, this is not the first time such a thing happens. There are ever so many instances like this. It is a well known fact that in the Nellore district the police people are hand in glove with blackmarketers and so this goes on unchecked and undetected. Then in another case, where a man was caught red-handed in the act of transporting several puttis of paddy (one putti is equal to 22 imperial maunds), when interrogated he quietly says it belongs to a person who happens to be his own head farm-servant; he is not found at the address given, and the inmates said that the head farm-servant puts up in the Hon. Finance Minister's house in Madras. (Laughter.) I know Mr. Gopala Reddi is the last man to do it. Apparently the man thought this was the easiest way to escape. Meanwhile two months elapsed, and since the accused could not be traced the authorities thought 'why not withdraw the prosecution' and it was dropped."

"I shall give another instance, which shows how the police have suddenly lost their fire. The purchasing officer goes to a village with two constables with bayonets in Nellore district to procure paddy. The villager said that he had not much of paddy. There was bandying of words; eventually they pulled out some paddy from his granary and began to measure it. One rowdy of the place came there and took away the measure; two rowdies came there after some time and took away the chair of the officer and four others came there and pushed them aside. They thought discretion was the better part of valour and so returned to Nellore, took a lorry of police people and went to the place. Meanwhile the villager had locked his house and went away. The seals were broken by ryots, twenty puttis were measured and taken away. Sir, Government here is not the same Government obtaining in Nellore. And what is obtaining in Nellore is not the same in the place far away from Nellore. You must betimes take care of it. I feel, as one of your kith and kin, that an injury done to you is an injury done to me and others. You can get on without clothing for some time; but without food you cannot get on for a single day. In no less than eight villages in my district there were troubles. I can tell the Hon. Food Minister that his statement given to this House does not bear out the truth. There is a saying which says that if you want to know the truth from Government, you can know it when they deny it. Here is a statement in the pamphlet they have given: 'Indiscriminate prosecutions on a larger scale would not only amount to unnecessary harassment but they would also have the effect of driving all the stocks underground and thus defeat the very object with which we have controlled the prices'. I wish to know how this statement is borne out by facts. If there was a prosecution in Adviser's day what happened was this: the accused thought over as to how to bribe the magistrate and escape; the uppermost thought to-day in his mind is how to catch hold of the nearest Congressman to escape. Sir, it has become a regular practice to do so. It is only this morning, the Hon. Finance Minister was asked whether in

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Kistna district a certain Congressman was busy with the arrest or release of some people. The Hon. Finance Minister, who replied, said 'There are charges and counter-charges over this matter.' (At this stage the Deputy Speaker took the chair.) This is not a matter to be winked at or overlooked. Danger will be coming nearer home unless steps are taken betimes to stamp out this most inequitable and dangerous tendency. Suddenly from the field of sacrifice, the Congressman marched into the field of power. When he comes to power, discretion leaves him. Therefore, I appeal to the Hon. Ministers to be discreet in choosing their hosts when they visit mufassal places. There are the travellers' bungalows where they can stay. If they want amusement, they can go wherever they like. But for God's sake let them not go to each and everybody who offers a garland and a cup of tea. He may be a black-marketer selling rice at four or five times its normal price.

"I can give a case where the agricultural labourers have taken the law into their own hands. The matter is not *sub judice* and investigation is still pending against them. Blackmarket paddy was being taken from one village to another. What could the poor labourers do? They waited and waited. They never thought that the Hon. Minister for Food would issue a statement that prosecutions were useless. People like myself, who still believe that the Government have not yet left this country and that the bayonets which we have inherited are still there, thought that the Government would come to the rescue of the poor men and save them from despondency. They waited for some time and when they saw that no action was taken, they seized the paddy that was being transported.

"There are the relief shops about which Dr. Rajan waxed so eloquent. After all, what are these relief shops? One seer of rice per week is the dole that is given out by these relief shops. My learned friend, Mr. Tatachari, in a humorous way suggested the removal of the word 'relief' from the words 'relief shop.' It will be more true to characterise them as shops instead of relief shops. Where is the relief given to the poor man? He, who works for eight or nine hours a day, has to take one seer of rice at Government rate. If he wants a seer more, he has to purchase it at a price of Rs. 400 per putti in a surplus taluk of the Nellore district, Rs. 600 in Chingleput district and Rs. 500 in Chittoor district. Not satisfied with this criminal negligence in not prosecuting the offenders and checking the blackmarket, the Government have done another thing which is most highly indiscreet. They lifted the control over ragi and millet. Before de-control, the price of ragi was Rs. 250 per candy. Now its price is Rs. 400. How are the Government going to deal with this? I tell you, Madam, that from the day this Government came into office, they have been persistently pampering and pleasing the rich. Blackmarket is being indirectly helped by the removal of the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies which have been rendering useful service as intermediaries. They have been serving as useful media for selling foodstuffs to the poor people. Mahatmaji had nothing but praise for them. Like the Abhimanyu who

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entered the Padmavyuham but could not come out, the Government heard half the story and lifted the control. By all means have procurement and do it quickly, successfully and efficiently. If the Government had kept sufficient stock and then removed control, they could have fed and saved the poor from starvation. That would have been an intelligent and straight way of carrying out the food policy.

"The agriculturist labourers I referred to obstructed the carts that were carrying blackmarket paddy and unloaded them. Some of them helped themselves to it and some tried to send the stock to the police station. There was trouble. Some ryots came forward and said that these people committed dacoity from their houses while labourers retorted that the ryots were themselves trafficking in the blackmarket paddy. Whom are the Government going to believe? Incidents like this happened in seven or eight villages. Poor people become unruly and restless when they have nothing to eat. Ryots have been refusing to give paddy advances which from time immemorial were given to these Harijan labourers during lean months. The labourers used to repay the advances at the time of harvest. These are lean months. No work is available anywhere and all land is dry. The ryots who have tasted the fruits of illicit traffic and unlawful gain are selling at Rs. 400 per putti which would fetch only Rs. 160 at the Government rate. They refuse to sell at the Government rate. It may be that in foolish Bengal people died for the sake of principles. They died on the pavements of Calcutta because they believed that the ancient principles of truth, Ahimsa and all that should be observed. In Madras, I am sure, Madam, that these principles will not be observed. Here the people are prepared to break the principles in order to save their lives. If the Government do not take effective steps to prevent blackmarketing and soaring prices, I myself will ask the people to go to prison by committing some crime and be fed there. When some of us were in the Amraoti Central Jail, one day we saw a group of twenty people. They were decent and good-looking. We asked what it was that brought them to prison. A clever boy told the truth: 'There is no food for us. We looted a bazaar and took away chillies, etc. The policemen marched us to the prisons. Here we are assured of a good and sumptuous diet.' I will be the first person to ask the people to commit some offence and march into the prison with the name of Mahatmaji on their lips. Revolution is spreading very fast in the world. China is in flames; Burma is in revolution. The Government should anticipate these consequences to follow and save their own country. When people are starving, there is no use of sending police to control them. The Government should face the problem squarely. They should open relief shops in the real sense of the word relief. Instead of one seer, give three and a half seers of rice at the controlled rate. Try to do procurement side by side quickly and not like the Ravana's funeral pyre burning always. Procure all the food that is necessary for supplying to the relief shops and then remove the ban on the inter-district or inter-taluk movement. That is the only way to save this Province from misery and starvation.

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"Look at the way in which the railway staff are behaving. The train comes and stops at a flag station which is a furlong off from the main station. People wonder why it is that the train has stopped. Nobody knows the truth. The driver stops the train to enable two hundred or three hundred people to get down without tickets and to walk down to the villages in a leisurely and jovial manner with headloads of rice. The smugglers never purchase tickets because it will enable the authorities to know their destination. This is what is being done on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway. I do not know about the South Indian Railway.

(The Deputy Speaker sounded the gong.)

"I shall finish in a minute. It is the duty of all those travelling in the trains to help the officials to check this smuggling. How can you help if the Government do not mind their own business? It is high time that the Government take severe and stern measures to put down this smuggling and black-marketing.

"I am thankful to the Chair, Madam, for permitting me to speak."

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"Madam Deputy Speaker, in the first place it is my duty on behalf of my constituency, on behalf of the Madras Presidency itself, to thank the Hon. Minister for Food for the stout fight he put with the Centre on behalf of this Province for securing the large deficit of rice from which we would have suffered otherwise. There was a time when famine appeared to be unavoidable, when we despaired whether the gap could be filled up at all. As appears from the statement furnished by the Hon. Food Minister, he has been urging and urging and finally from 1½ lakhs of tons to 2, 4 and then to 5 lakhs he was able to procure from the Central Government. Our gratitude is also due to the Central Government, and the Food Minister there for the great latitude with which he has tried to oblige the Province of Madras. In the Provincial Food Conference held in August last year I know that the representative of the Government of India fought tooth and nail against giving any concession whatsoever in the supply of rice from the Centre and that they were putting forward all kinds of excuses against enhancing the quota allotted to Madras. I am glad that the Hon. Food Minister has been successful and that we have tided over a very difficult year. But at the same time there are several matters in the statement which give room for anxiety. When decontrol was introduced, one has to remember the reason why the Government introduced it. It was introduced not because it was felt that decontrol would immediately place the Province in a much better position, but because it was admitted that statutory rationing was possible only in a small portion of the Presidency, as the Government were not able to get all that was required for distribution through statutory rationing right through the whole Presidency. In the rest of the Presidency a kind of informal rationing was going on. It was considered that there should be either complete rationing or no rationing, and that to attempt

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to keep up the show of rationing under the guise of informal rationing was hardly worthwhile. It was these reasons which made the Government go back on their policy and introduce decontrol. But unfortunately after decontrol it was found that the prices began to soar.

"One of the peculiar effects of decontrol was this. On the date 3 p.m. of decontrol the actual control price of paddy was Rs. 12 per bag of 50 measures and at that time the blackmarket price was Rs. 10 per bag. But immediately after decontrol the price of paddy was beginning to raise and within a week from the date of decontrol the price of paddy rose so high as Rs. 20 per bag of 50 measures. The price was showing a tendency to go up still further. At that time I made representations to the Government and to the Hon. Food Minister about this matter and suggested a slight change in their policy. What I wish to submit is this. The Government had procured all that was possible in the deficit areas of my district. There was only very little left at the hands of the people. Even this little stock which was left in the hands of the ryots in the villages found its way to the adjoining famine-stricken areas of Ramnad and Tinnevely districts. People were running the gauntlet with the anti-smuggling police staff and they purchased paddy at very high rates which sometimes went up to Rs. 25 per bag of 50 measures. In that way whatever balance that left with the ryots had been taken away to the borders of Ramnad and Tinnevely, where it was sold in blackmarket at unimaginably huge prices. The result was that there was practically nothing left for the people in the area itself.

"Then, Sir, there was another difficulty which people had to face. Ours being a deficit area, we could get our paddy only from the surplus areas like Trichinopoly and Tanjore deltas. Tanjore was the district which used to supply us with paddy to make up our deficit even during the normal period. But the Government imposed a ban there, because even after decontrol, the Government were continuing their policy of procurement from surplus districts. Before Government decided to withdraw controls, they must have built up sufficient stocks on hand to meet any serious situation that might arise in these deficit areas. But that was not done. Shortly afterwards it was found that in the Tanjore district itself, even though the Government were procuring large quantities of paddy, there was still a large amount of surplus with the people and people there waited on a deputation to the Collector requesting him that they might be allowed to sell their paddy to private merchants at a rupee or two below even the controlled price per bag. That was the position so far as the surplus district of Tanjore was concerned. They were anxious to sell and the deficit areas were anxious to buy, but the Government refused to lift the ban, because they thought that they themselves would have to procure paddy at a later stage. The result was that whatever paddy could be taken from the surplus districts like Tanjore was held within the control of the Government. The paddy that was already procured from these deficit areas was also under the lock and key of the Government. There was the third source from which paddy could be obtained and that

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was from the allotment of the Government of India to the Provincial Government and that was also within the control of the Government, so much so, the whole position was reduced to this, namely, except what the Government chose to distribute by means of relief shops, all the other sources from which paddy could flow into the deficit areas of my district were either dried up or debarred by the Government and what all the people there could do to save themselves from starvation was to try to procure, if they could, the very little insignificant stock that still remained with the ryots for their own consumption in these deficit areas themselves. You may therefore imagine what the result will be. When people were reduced to this state and when a large number of them had to resort to a very small source for their purchase, naturally the price of paddy soared up like anything. I then addressed a communication to the Government, requesting them to enforce the statutory price which was then fixed for paddy at Rs. 12 per bag of 50 measures, but unfortunately they had not taken any action on it. But here in this statement it is stated 'All possible steps are being taken to fight this increase. The Government have statutorily notified the prices of foodgrains for the trade in each district.' Although the statutory price of paddy was fixed at Rs. 12 per bag, in practice it was very much higher and people were led to believe that the Government tolerated free purchase at such high prices. In Madura itself there was a very big competitive purchaser in the Madura Mills Co-operative Society which was prepared to pay any price for the paddy it purchased for the workers in the mills numbering about 25,000. It was one of the biggest wholesale purchasers there and with the permission of the Collector, it was procuring paddy at a rate up to Rs. 22 per bag of 50 measures. As against this, how could any ordinary purchaser be expected to obtain anything at a lower price than Rs. 22. We brought this to the notice of the Collector and the Collector said that the Government have no doubt fixed the statutory price of paddy, but that was only for procurement by the Government and that there was no ban in paddy being sold at higher prices to private consumers. So the producers were selling at whatever price they could get and when there was such a competitive purchaser who was prepared to pay whatever price was demanded, naturally the price of paddy shot up to more than Rs. 22 per bag. This was within a month after the control was lifted. By this time the Government again launched their procurement campaign and when the Government also came into the field, it became a race, as it were, between the Government agent and the big Madura Mills Co-operative Society. I ask, which ryot will be willing to part with his paddy at Rs. 12 by selling it to the Government, while the Co-operative Society, with the permission of the Collector, was procuring paddy at the rate of Rs. 22 per bag? Naturally, therefore, the Government procurement became merely nominal and if any procurement at all had taken place in any village, it was simply because the village munsif or the karnam of that village had some grudge against some individual cultivator, who was forced to sell his stock to the Government on pain of punishment under the procurement rules. I appeal to the Government to solve this problem

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by some means or other, because the position in my district has been reduced to this. Except a few people who have been served by these relief shops, all the rest of the population have to depend on the private purchasers and dealers. The relief shops are only very few in number and it is not possible for the large number of the common people to purchase their rice from these relief shops and therefore they have naturally to purchase their requirements at competitive prices.

"Another matter I should like to bring to the attention of the Government is this. The paddy trade as such which was in vogue prior to the control period, has gone out of existence by the policy which the Government had pursued during the control period and after. During the time when control was in operation, there were two classes of people who were permitted to deal in rice. One was the wholesale licence dealer and the other the retail licence dealer. As you know, the licence system brought within a great deal of corruption and nepotism and only people who were in the good books of the Government and who were able to satisfy the district officials were given licence and the commission agents and ordinary merchants who had been in the paddy trade for decades together previously were practically wiped out of the market. These commission agents had been in the field for a very long time and they were experts in buying and selling paddy. What they usually did was, what was called the paddy commission business with the mundy merchants. They used to procure rice from the producers on behalf of the mundy merchants and receive one anna per bag as commission either way and the rest of the price went directly to the producer himself. Now this class of commission agents has become extinct altogether. They knew very well what is the best time to purchase paddy and where to purchase it and at what price; they would see to it that the paddy purchased was free from dust and mud and that the quality was of the very best. But, as I mentioned just now, when the licence system came, it brought with it all sorts of corruption and nepotism and only those who were able to please the licensing authorities and those who had influence with the Government were able to obtain licences. They knew nothing about the paddy trade and had neither capacity nor experience in procurement, with the result that it was found that in a bag of 50 measures of paddy procured, there were more than 8 measures of dust. We had had similar experience of this when the Government was selling rice during the control period and the same thing is continuing even to-day. Therefore, this licensing system has practically demolished the normal trade channels in the paddy trade and driven the people who had been in it all through their lives out of the field altogether. One of the strongest objections raised by those who advocated decontrol was against the continuance of this licensing system which had brought in a lot of corruption. It had corrupted the Government officials and one of the departments of Government which could hardly be said to have any name for integrity is the Civil Supplies department. People who strongly advocated decontrol wanted that such corruption should go and hoped that the people who had been in the paddy

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trade hitherto would come back and resume their trade and that things would go on smoothly as they were before the war. As you know, the paddy trade is quite different from other trades, like the jewellery or the diamond trade. In this trade large quantities will have to be bought and sold and the price should be allowed to range only within certain limits. Large fluctuations in prices and small outturn would kill the business. Therefore if private merchants were to resume this trade again, they must be allowed to have a large turn-over; otherwise, they will incur loss and get out of the trade. But now according to the present rules only 20 maunds of rice is allowed to be carried under a permit. To purchase only 20 maunds of rice one has to go to a village 18 or 20 miles from the town. What about the cartage and the transport charges and other incidental expenses? What profit could a merchant make in one transaction? It is not at all a practical proposition to carry on a trade like that. That is why few merchants have taken to it again. What about retailers? They have also practically gone out of the market, because they could not get licences. The only other alternative for the Government was to open relief shops and distribute rice through them. They were not encouraging any private sale at all because of the fear of black-marketing. Therefore the paddy has got locked up somewhere. The present position is, that the merchants who were previously engaged in this trade were eliminated by the licensing system and now the licensees themselves have been eliminated by the relief shop system, with the result that you can sell your paddy only through relief shops. All these things were represented to the Government and the Hon. Minister for Food and they were requested to increase the number of relief shops. I must say, Sir, that the number of relief shops have now been increased. But the question is whether these relief shops alone could supply the needs of all the people. That is not clearly explained in the statement of the Hon. Minister for Food. The Hon. Minister for Food has stated—

‘The number of relief shops at present has gone up to nearly 8,500. Each relief shop is intended to serve about 500 families on an average as the old ration shop did. At that rate, the total number of families served through them must come to about 4,250,000. Assuming that each family consists of five persons, the total population served through relief shops will exceed 20 millions which represents about 40 per cent of the entire population of the Province or roughly 60 per cent of the population of non-producers and partial producers put together.’

“That means that nearly 40 per cent of the non-producers must depend upon private market. Then what about the remaining 60 per cent or three crores of people? Are they all producers? It is difficult to say, Sir, whether all these 3 crores of people are all individual producers who produce for themselves and have surplus to sell. I submit, it would be wrong to assume that out of the total population of 5 crores, about one-third could depend for themselves and need not go to others for their requirements. But even assuming that to be correct you find about one crore

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and 66 lakhs plus the 80 lakhs not served by the relief shops. You want to provide for nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores of people all of whom will have to depend either upon their own paddy or would have to go and purchase otherwise as they are not served by the relief shops themselves. Where are these people to go and buy? They will have to go only to the small and insignificant balance which is left after all the calls have been met. Naturally the prices rise like the meteor and we are now left in the extraordinary situation. We thought that there would be some betterment in the conditions after decontrol and the opening of these relief shops. But now we have got the other portions of the people, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores of people, many of whom are depending upon private purchase of paddy the price of which has now gone to Rs. 35 per bag of 50 measures. We are now getting about $1\frac{5}{8}$ measures of paddy or about $1\frac{1}{4}$ measures of paddy per rupee and we are getting about $\frac{5}{8}$ measure of rice. That is the rate at which we are able to purchase rice and paddy in Madura. One measure of rice costs anything between Rs. $\frac{1}{8}$ to Rs. $\frac{1}{10}$. Now this is the main and substantial thing on which people can be logically supposed to depend. As has been pertinently pointed out by the Government in their note, the relief shops are in the nature of a kind of relief to the poor. That is something like trying to satisfy a man who could not otherwise be satisfied and it is also stated in the note that this is more or less only intended to help the poor man. The other people who have to purchase will have to go and purchase in the open market and these relief shops are only intended for those who cannot purchase in the open market. If so, Madam, is it not a matter for great regret that a substantial portion of the population has to go and purchase in the open market. There the price as has been admitted in the Government note, has risen by one hundred per cent above the price which was prevailing in the market, just before decontrol, that is the controlled price. It is also correct with reference to the facts, because, even in the black-market the price at the time of the removal of control was Rs. 15 whereas it is now about Rs. 35 per bag of 50 measures of paddy. If that is so, look at the consequences and the hardship that will be caused to the ordinary middle classes. The middle-class people are those who get their income by means of steady money salary. They are the clerks, say in the Secretariat or the clerks with the merchants and firms, and there are the people who are merely wage earners. All these people will have to go and depend upon private purchase. The worst thing is this. In the villages themselves there are the poor Harijans who are not able to have lands of their own and who had got some paddy by way of wages at the time of the harvest but which wages got exhausted in the course of a month or two and at the present time they have to depend upon purchasing paddy from the other people who are there in the village, say the landlords themselves. When these Harijans go to the people who have paddy, the landlords find that there are purchasers in the towns who are prepared to purchase at competitive rates of Rs. 35 per bag, and the poor Harijans cannot get paddy at anything less than Rs. 35 per bag. So that comes ultimately to this illogical situation, namely, that

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the poor tiller of the land, the man who sowed the seed, the man who harvested, the man who as a matter of fact watered the lands, that man has to get paddy by purchasing at the rate of Rs. 35 per bag. That is the condition. I do not know what the facts are with reference to other parts of the Province but in the two taluks which I have the honour to represent in this House, that is the condition of almost all the Harijans. That is also the case with regard to the poor village school teachers and with regard to the ordinary aided school teachers and the other artisans who are dependant on private purchase, unless they go to the relief shops. Madam, I see a nod of disapproval from the Hon. Minister that it is not the case. But Madam, the relief provided through the relief shops is not able to reach these people who are the middle-class people. When they do not get relief from the relief shops their ultimate remedy is to go and purchase in the competitive way. What is the consequence of purchasing in this way in which the ordinary lower middle-class people are purchasing. I do not know about the Madras City, Madam, because we are taking our meals arranged by the Government in the hostel. But in the villages I find the poor mother has to purchase only in what was originally the blackmarket selling paddy at Rs. 15 and now at Rs. 35 per bag. She cannot depend upon the amount of rice given by the relief shops. Moreover the paddy given by the relief shops is of an inferior quality and they do not even give the requisite amount. The result is that as the hungry mouths have to be fed by the poor mother, she has to purchase only in the open market where it is freely being sold at Rs. 35 a bag. One advantage has been pointed out in the note of the Government. It says that if the Government had persisted and tried to charge everybody possible all the available paddy might have gone underground, but now it is being sold in the house and it is now proclaimed in the streets. To that extent of course there is some advantage. But look at the other side. In fact I represented to the Hon. the Food Minister and also to the Hon. the Food Minister of the Centre when they came to Madura, about the crying call from place like Dindigul where the ordinary poor clerk, the poor schoolmaster, who was unable to purchase from the relief shops, was selling his wife's jewels and all that could be converted into money in order to fill the stomach and at the cost of serving for some of the days in the week. One man pathetically stated about which also I represented to the Hon. the Food Minister, that if he purchased for a week, the hungry mouths would consume it in three days, and therefore he would rather purchase day by day. And that is the condition. Now, let us see what it costs the poor people. On a calculation it is found that it costs the poor people in Madura, Ramnad and Tirunelveli districts alone, namely, a population of about 80 lakhs, omitting those who are served by the relief shops, who pay by way of margin of prices at the rate of Rs. 18 per bag—I am here taking the price per bag at Rs. 30, even though they are now paying something extra $1\frac{1}{4}$ crores of rupees per month. In that way they have been going from the 14th of March. They have been going on like this through April, May, June and July, i.e., four months and nearly 5 crores of rupees which

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should have formed a surplus for them to meet expenses in connexion with illness, famine or any other need, have now gone to fill up the stomach and in order to satisfy the pangs of hunger. How long is this scare to go on? I have been time and again made to feel that the Food Policy is the policy of the Central Government. The Hon. the Food Minister used to write to me time and again that that was a Central Government's policy and if any change has had to be made we would have to appeal to the Central Government. Then I brought to the notice of the Central Food Minister when he was at Madura by means of a long memorandum that the first and immediate and important step that the Government would have to take was to reduce the market price of all those foodstuffs which were soaring up. We thought that it was a very great ascent in prices when from about 4 measures of rice and 8 measures of paddy, we came down to about 2 measures of rice and 4 measures of paddy in the course of several years. We thought that a catastrophe had happened in the course of 4 or 5 years, i.e., during the years of the war and the post-war period. Now in the course of four mortal months we have gone down very nearly double that amount, namely, from 2 measures of rice to less than $\frac{5}{8}$ measure of rice per rupee. I say that this is a situation which should cause great concern to any Government and particularly to a Popular Government like ours. I have got every hope that the Hon. the Food Minister who himself is a gentleman who owns some extent of land and who knows the cultivation operations should take every step and strain every nerve possible for the purpose of bringing down the prices which have now soared up. If that is not done what will happen will be something like what will happen to a healthy body when you make an incision on any one of the important arteries and let the blood flow for some hours. What would be the fate of the man? On account of exhaustion and loss of blood the man will collapse. That is exactly what is happening to the most important body of the lower middle-class and that portion of the lowest class of workers who are themselves partly responsible for production. I have been pressing this upon the Government. Then I was very much pleased to see a month later a note from the Central Government stating that the Government realized that one of its important duties was to see that the prices of foodstuffs were reduced. Then I thought that the Government was on the way to taking some immediate measures to see that the important step was taken. But when I look at this note I find only two or three ways stated in which these problems are supposed to be tackled. It is admitted that the price has risen by 100 per cent. The first suggestion is that the Government have statutorily notified the price of foodgrains for the trade in each district. I was wondering what was meant by being statutorily notified. In the mufassal we understood that there was only one price and that was the price for procurement by the Government. Now I understand from the note that the Hon. Food Minister is intending to enforce the statutorily notified price a breach of which may be punished. Cases could be taken. The note further says that this kind of prosecution will have to be

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taken with great care and the merchants who sell will have to be prosecuted. Unfortunately, you find that it has now passed away from the hands of the merchants whose rate of selling is at Rs. 30 or Rs. 35 right into the very hands of the producers in the villages. The producer in the village now says: 'While I am paying three times for cloth, I am paying so much for kerosene oil in the blackmarket and I am paying exorbitantly for every thing that I use, which I have to get from the industries, should I not charge Rs. 30 for my paddy? Why do you come and charge me of being a person who has charged more money?' That idea has become implanted in the village producer. He feels that he has every right to charge not merely this Rs. 30 or Rs. 35 but even a much higher price. Under these circumstances where is the question of enforcement of a prosecution against a merchant when the producer himself is selling like that. The Government also realize this and they say that they have asked the Collectors to launch prosecutions against merchants who are found to have flagrantly transgressed the Price Control Order. From the 14th of March 1948 when the decontrol took place up to the present day, I do not think, there has been any instance where the sale of paddy—though it has risen from Rs. 12 to Rs. 35—has ever been punished. Apparently it is held that there has been no flagrant breach of the statutory price fixed.

"The second relief that is suggested is this. They say: We have increased the number of relief shops to 8,500 and we are prepared to increase it more if that will solve the problem. As is definitely stated at page 4 of the note, these relief shops, as the name itself indicates, are intended to serve only people who cannot purchase in the open market. And therefore, it is not intended for the ordinary people at all. What do the people who go to the open market say? That is a factor you ought to recognize. These people cannot go to the relief shops because admittedly the relief shops are intended only for 2 crores out of 5 crores. And the other 3 crores of people have to depend upon the open market. Therefore so long as you have got an open market on which about 60 per cent of the people depend is there not a case for bringing down the prices than merely opening more relief shops?

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"I had been suggesting to the Government that in no country in the world could market price be brought down unless, as a matter of fact, some supply could be put into the market at a rate cheaper than the rate at which others were selling. Who are the persons keeping paddy in their hands now? Government keep all the paddy for relief shops. I do not blame them for it. But how do they expect to maintain the same price when no other merchant can get and bring paddy and compete with the person who sells it at Rs. 35 per bag. I pointed out to Government that no merchants could sell paddy, because only relief shops were supplied with paddy. The wholesalers have gone out of the field. They purchase paddy only for supplying it to the retail shops. No private merchant is allowed to sell paddy. If at all there is anybody who can compete and bring down the market price of paddy, it should be the Government, who alone have control over

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purchase of paddy from surplus areas. Government get paddy at the procurement rate within the deficit areas. Therefore, I suggested to Government time and again that whenever prices rose up, they should discharge into the open market 100 tons, 200 tons or 500 tons of paddy and sell to each one rupee's worth of paddy. The moment you begin selling like that, the market price will certainly go down and no producer would be a fool to compete with the almighty Government who have got so many thousands of tons of paddy. If Government discharge into the open market thousands of tons of paddy, nobody will retain with him any paddy lest he should suffer loss. If, therefore, Government at intervals of say, a fortnight, whenever they find prices rising, compete and bring down the market price by their own sales, the villager must find that he will be a fool to retain paddy and sell it later at prices which will be approximately the same as old prices. If it is Rs. 20 per bag, it is no grievance. But if it is Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 it will be a great sin. The Government can do a lot if they only try. If instead of Rs. 30 per bag a middle class man gets paddy at the rate of Rs. 20 per bag, he would easily save Rs. 10 and this surplus money would be there for him to meet a future bad day when he may possibly have to face starvation. There should be some method by which he should be protected against the rising prices. The Government themselves may make the purchase and sell to the people. They may license the merchants and fix the prices. They may also tell them to whom they should sell. All these things may be done provided they are done only by competition in the open market. But the Government have apparently found it unprofitable to do so. I did not have the eloquence to convince the Food Minister of this Government or the Food Minister at the Centre that that was the only course left in the circumstances of the case. May I inform the House as to what we are losing under the present system? If merchants get the paddy, overhead charges would be less and transit charges also would be less. People can get it at less cost. Sales tax is now entirely gone on this kind of sales over the counter by means of bags or headloads. Practically all the trade, with the exception of trade in relief shops, goes on without a pie of sales tax. Whenever I go to a shop in Madura to purchase something, it has become the fashion for the salesman to ask 'if you want a bill you should pay sales tax; if you do not want a bill, you need pay no tax. A brisk market is carried on by which accounts of sales are not brought to book, and with regard to this paddy sales and sales of foodstuffs, the whole thing goes on without any payment of sales tax. This does not worry me because it is a matter for the Government to look into though as a Member of this House I am bound to say everything that would save the loss in sales tax, which is being increased now and which is also one of the main sources of revenue to Government. Therefore, I would request Government to take some immediate steps to see that the market price is reduced in some way or other, because that is the most important matter.

"I find in the statement an assurance, namely, that the question of inter-district and inter-taluk bans will be removed when the quantities still to be procured from the surplus areas have been

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procured and when the next season promises to be fair. Suppose there is no improvement in the situation, are we to go on raising the prices above Rs. 35. So far as these relief shops are concerned, there is greater scope for blackmarketing now than it was before. The reason is this. At the time when control was in full force there was very efficient and intensive checking. There was a large staff. There was intensive checking with regard to 750 families who had tickets in each shop. Every one of the tickets could be checked up. It is necessary that all these tickets are now checked. The relief shop merchant is merely marking all these tickets as paid without giving any paddy to the ticket-holders. Now only a small skeleton staff is doing this checking. They themselves admit that they are not having intensive checking. It is impossible to have intensive checking, they say, with the staff at their disposal. The result is that the relief shop merchants get the paddy from Government at the procurement rate of Rs. 12 per bag, and issue the paddy only to some ticket holders. With regard to other ticket-holders they do not issue paddy, but sell the paddy in the blackmarket at a cost of Rs. 30 per bag. People who want to know and investigate how the hotels and other big establishments in Madura are getting their paddy will be interested to learn that all the paddy comes from the relief shops. This paddy ought to have been issued to ticket-holders, but the relief shop merchants sell it to hotels at black-market prices.

"I hold in my hand now a complaint from a Harijan of Navinipatti village. He complains that with the taking away of control, new tickets have come, and the village munsif is distributing these cards. He says that cards are distributed at four annas per card. He also points out that genuine card-holders who are very poor Harijans are not able to get them but people who already keep in their possession paddy and persons who are themselves land owners bargain with the village munsif and get cards and get the paddy from the relief shops leaving the poor Harijans in the street, because no effective checking of these cards is now possible.

"It was said that there was smuggling on borders of districts. I saw a communiqué which said that this anti-smuggling staff were removed because it was found that they were unable to effectively check. That staff did their best to prevent smuggling on the borders. When that staff have now been removed, smuggling is going on more merrily than ever. We have got all the views of control without much of the benefits. The rice mill owners who were getting paddy and who were supplying boiled rice to the people in a most rotten state have been given these relief shops even though we objected to their being given these shops. They were given these shops because they were the only persons who could make deposits with the Government on a large scale, and they have come to run these shops. This kind of black-marketing will never stop. It has come to stay. Even two years back in my budget speech I mentioned that if we were really

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going to stop black-marketing, the only way for the Government to pursue was to immediately bring in an Act whereby all persons who had been trading from 1939 should be required to furnish their assets of whatever kind they may be in 1939 and those they hold now. A decent margin of 9 per cent compound interest may be allowed on the assets of 1939. The balance should be confiscated to the Government. The balance of assets will run into lakhs and lakhs of rupees. This amount represents the money which the merchants have sponged out of the people by selling things at blackmarket prices. If only all that money could be put into a pool for helping the poor people who are now starving, how much saving could have been effected! We could have one hundred times the amount that we expect to collect by Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Fund. If once we do that no merchant will ever dare try to get excess profits, because he would know that the excess would not remain in his hands and the Government would be there to take away the excess. This would also stop corruption among the officials. The officials also should be treated in the same manner. I pointed out this to the Government in 1946 in my budget speech. This was followed in Bengal where an anti-blackmarketing ordinance was promulgated. There was a learned committee there with a High Court Judge in it. That Committee went into the whole matter and suggested exactly the same thing as I said. Unless, therefore, you try to put an end to and crush that spirit of black-marketing and corruption you are never going to stop black-marketing at all. I would, therefore, request Government to see that something is done for the purpose of reducing the market prices."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"Eventhough no time-limit has been fixed by the Chair, it is not reasonable that any member should take more than half an hour. The time taken should be much less."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Madam Deputy Speaker, I would not take more than 10 or 12 minutes. We heard two brilliant speeches very analytically and critically made out, one by the hon. Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar and the other by the Hon. Mr. Raghavayya. All the while I was really admiring the patience of the Hon. Minister for Food who has got abundant patience in hearing speeches although he has not the same patience when dealing with his portfolio. Last time, somewhere in the month of December, when we had a debate whether rationing should be abolished or whether there should be partial rationing only, we warned Government, particularly the Minister for Food about the difficulties which were likely to occur consequent on derationing. We said that while we were one with Government in their policy of gradual or progressive decontrol, we would caution them that that was not the proper time to launch the experiment of decontrol. I do concede the fact that Madras Government have to follow the policy of the Government of India, because the Government of India have been helping the Madras Government with supplies of stocks. In a vast country like this,

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whatever may be the all-India policy, I feel and feel strongly that the Provincial Government should have its own policy in this matter. Simply because the Central Government said that there should be derationing, it does not mean and it does not imply that we should rush with schemes of decontrol. Madam, unfortunately, for the last two years we are passing through difficult times partly because of the way in which these things have been handled by the Government and partly because of the failure of the monsoon. We are not getting the rice quota which we used to get from Burma and Siam. The Hon. Minister for Food knew at the time he launched the experiment of decontrol that the coming months were going to be very difficult. I now ask him whether it was right on his part to have proceeded with that policy of decontrol. We asked him to wait for sometime more, say, 5 or 6 months, and then launch his schemes. Madam Deputy Speaker, you are aware that this is a very costly experiment. We are only experimenting with the lives of the people.

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p.m.

It may be uncharitable to Government if I say that Government have not done their part. They have done but still we are in trouble. I have got the greatest regard and admiration for the Hon. Dr. Rajan but yet I should point out that while he replies to the debate on the food position every time, he brings in all sorts of numbers and figures which only confuse us rather than clarify the issues. I do not wish to pass any strictures on the Secretariat or the Department concerned but there is always some mystery in these figures and they are probably manipulated, drafted and redrafted for the use of the members of the Assembly. What we want to know are the bare facts. We do not want all the details about the figures and numbers which are difficult to follow. Well, I do not want to go into the details as was done by the previous speakers. Further it is not necessary. I will only refer to one or two important points which are in the minds of the people in the country. You have been saying, 'We have got so much buffer stock; the Central Government has given so much; we have opened 8,500 relief shops and if necessary, we will open more relief shops' and so on. In the deficit districts of North Arcot, Tinnevely, Madura and others, do you know the suffering of the people? They are not able to get the rice from these relief shops which the Government have opened but have to depend upon the usual market, and they have to make purchases of rice at a price of Re. 1-8-0 and Rs. 2 per measure. You can well imagine the difficulties of those poor families whose income may not exceed Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 a month and if they have to pay Re. 1-8-0 or Rs. 2 per measure, you can well imagine their hardship. Moreover, they do not get the full measure of rice but it contains so much of dirt, stones and other things. People to-day are forced to buy this rice at a cost of Re. 1-8-0 and Rs. 2 a measure. Who is responsible for this? You are the Government. It is not for me to stand up here and make suggestions. You know well what to do. We can only make criticisms here and can suggest a few things but it is you who are running the Government. You have got the power; you have got the machinery. Therefore, it is your duty to take stock of the situation.

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Let me not go into details. But, I simply want to put one particular question to the Hon. the Minister for Food. How is it that you are going to reduce the price of rice, because you yourself say that the monsoon has failed and unless fresh stocks are received from outside, the position will be worse in the coming year? What is the position with regard to rice from now onwards up to the end of November or December? The prices are bound to increase. If you are able to locate the reasons for this increase, then you can solve this problem.

"Well, Madam, Deputy Speaker, it is really good on the part of the Hon. Dr. Rajan to have accepted to have two days' debate on this question. But let me say that the concerned Minister should also take the debate in the same spirit as we do. If there is anything good, please take it. Do not say, we have done our duty by having the two days' debate. Madam, a number of speakers have spoken in the various points in the statement of the Hon. the Food Minister. I do not lay any attack on the Minister for Food but it has become a tendency with the Government not to take the criticisms and suggestions which we offer in the same serious manner as we do. Ministers seem to think that the members are here simply to accept what they say. Whenever questions are put on the floor of the House, they give some evasive replies and they seem to say, we are Ministers and nobody can dislodge us or displace us. You cannot run a Government in that spirit. In these days, Madam, when one notices practical facts, one will realize that there is a growing political consciousness thanks to the efforts of the members opposite—credit must be given to them for that—thanks to the efforts of persons who by means of propaganda, right or wrong, have brought about this consciousness. Yet a large mass of the people are suffering from ignorance. Why? It is no use blaming anyone. It is no use saying that we have committed sins and that God has been angry with us. It may be the sins of the people or it may be the sins of the Government. Sins are likely to be committed more by the Government than by the poor people. There is no point in making such a speech, be it by a Minister or any other individual. People who are in power and in position should really be held responsible. We do not want speeches. We want solid work. Many people can make speeches. I do not want to pass any stricture on the Hon. the Food Minister but I really deplore the speech which he makes on this food question. We really want the Minister to give us full facts. But in his speech, we see some facts here and some figures there and there is nothing of value which we can make out. Madam, so far as the printed pamphlet which has been circulated to hon. Members of this House is concerned, it is most disappointing. Even there, there is very little material which is of use to the members. There is only one point which the Hon. Minister has stated. He says that he has opened 8,500 relief shops. How is it that in spite of your opening 8,500 relief shops, the position is still worse and the price of rice has not been reduced but has increased? The Hon. Minister then says that if necessary, he will

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increase the number of relief shops. In spite of having these relief shops, I want to know the real reason as to our not getting the proper quantum of rice. Is it due to insufficient stocks of rice or is it due to any other reasons? It is believed that some sort of black-marketing is going on and there is no possibility of checking these black-marketing activities. There is no use merely saying that we can have more relief shops. I will only say that things are not improving and they are actually deteriorating. I ask where is the mistake. Please find out and rectify it. There is no check imposed on these relief shops, and there is no control over them. Either because the Government have not supplied these shops with proper quality of rice or with sufficient quantity, they are not useful. I ask, what is the control and the check the Government have over these relief shops. A person in charge of a relief shop in a village, if he smuggles a few bags of rice and sells them in the black-market, there is no check to find it out. It is unfortunate that corruption is so rampant. A person may buy a few bags of rice and sell them in the black-market instead of selling them at the controlled rate. Madam, human nature being what it is, the relief shop owner may send a few bags of rice to the black-market. Therefore, it is very difficult to check these things. But, it is the duty of the Government to find out loopholes. You are running the Government and therefore it is your duty to find out the loopholes. Then only you will have done your duty by the people.

"With regard to the second argument, the Hon. the Minister says on page 4 of the statement, 'If the prices have gone up, those who are responsible for it are mostly people who could afford to pay higher prices to satisfy their fastidious habits and who do not care to avail themselves of the relief shops.' I ask, is there any logic behind this argument. Let me take the richest man. Does he shell out his money unnecessarily and purchase as a very high price the articles which he requires? Only if he is forced to purchase at a higher price, he does so. Let not the Hon. Minister imagine that there are people who will voluntarily purchase rice at a higher price when it is available at a lower price. I was going in Vellore the other day and I purposely stopped some people and asked them at what price they purchased the rice. They said that they purchased it at Rs. 1-12-0 per measure. It is a fact that people who cannot get rice at a cheaper price are forced to purchase it at such rates. Therefore, the Hon. Minister cannot take shelter on the plea that these people are themselves voluntarily purchasing at that high rate. I can understand very rich people purchasing rice at a high rate and we do not have any sympathy for them. But the ordinary middle-class families, the small merchants, the Government servants and the clerks whose income may not have increased by a few rupees, have to pay 30 per cent of the price on this one commodity alone. You can well imagine their suffering. The Government is responsible for such a situation. There is no use simply giving some figures for the sake of argument. If it is a question of argument, one lawyer argues in one way and another lawyer argues in another way and

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still there is some judgment passed. Mere arguments will not solve the real problem. Madam, I strongly condemn the set of people who try to exploit on the miseries of the poor. Have conditions become so hopeless in our province as they were in Bengal? Everyone in this House and also every member of the Government says that they should see that the famine of Bengal where lakhs of lives were lost is not repeated here. I say that if the price of rice shoots up like this, who knows what will happen. I do not like to depict such a picture. Let the Hon. the Food Minister take this warning betimes. You have been in the office for a considerable time and you must try to improve the conditions. My purpose in giving this warning is because there is always a tendency born out of a wrong sense of patriotism to neglect these things. There is a class of people among the business community which is exploiting the miseries of the poor people and wants to make as much money as possible in the black-market. Black-marketing in cloth or any other thing does not matter. But, we should very strongly condemn black-marketing in food because it is vitally essential to man's existence.

"Madam Deputy Speaker, there is not much to dilate on the various points dealt with in the statement. I hope the Hon. Dr. Rajan, while replying, will deal with the points specifically raised by me. Let me conclude with this thing. I want to ask this Government, particularly the Hon. the Minister for Food who is a devoted and selfless worker, whether he will give us an assurance that within a specific time, Government will adopt measures either by having intensive procurement or by having more relief shops or by getting more allotment from the Government of India to see that the price of rice is reduced. You must take all possible measures and all necessary measures to see that the price of rice is reduced. I need not suggest to you what measures you should take because you have been in charge of the portfolio for a pretty long time. I do not wish anything bad by saying this and I wish him to continue as long as possible. But, people are expecting the Hon. the Minister to take all possible and all necessary measures not only by getting more rice from the Central Government but also by opening more relief shops and supplying them with adequate stock of rice of good quality in order to see that these shops sell it to the people at a proper price and at a reasonable price. If the Hon. the Minister gives us such an assurance in his reply and says, 'I am taking such and such measures in order to see that the price of rice is reduced to a reasonable level', then, he would have done a great service to the Province."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—“கனம் பேரவை அங்கீகரிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிற அமைச்சர் அவர்களே, இந்த உணவு பிரச்சினையைப்பற்றி பேசும்போது இதைப்பற்றி அறிக்கையொன்று சமர்ப்பிக்கக்கூடிய நம் உணவு அமைச்சர் அவர்களை நான் முழுமனதுடன் பாராட்ட விரும்புகிறேன். அந்த அறிக்கையைப் பார்த்தபிறகுதான் மனதில் கொஞ்சம் அறுசல் ஏற்பட்டது. அக் கோபம் மாதம் வரையில் சமர்ப்பாட்டுக்கு பஞ்சம் இல்லை என்று அவர்கள் கூறியதிலிருந்து பலர் மனதில் கொண்மருந்த பீதி நீங்கியது என்று கூறலாம். அவைகளைப்பற்றி என்னக் முன் பேசிய கனம் ராஜகான் பேசும்போது கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் புள்ளி விவரங்களைக் கொடுப்பதில்

4 p.m.

[Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai] [21st July 1948]

கெட்டிகாரர் என்று கூறினர். நான் சொல்லுகிறேன் அதில் மாத்திரம் அவர் கெட்டிக்காரர் அல்ல அவர் உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்வதிலும் கெட்டிகாரர்தான் என்று நான் கூற விரும்புகிறேன். ஒரு முறை அவருடைய எஸ்டேட்டாகிய திருவேங்கமலை விஷயமாய் அவருடன் பேசிக்கொண்டிருந்தேன். இதை யார் நிர்வகிக்கிறார்கள் என்று நான் அவரைக் கேட்டதற்கு தன்னுடைய பின்னாள்தான் நிர்வகிக்கிறார்கள் என்றும், அதற்கு tractor, pump set முதலியவைகள் வாங்கிக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறேன் என்றும் சொன்னார்கள். அவர்களே உழைக்கிறார்கள் என்றும் அவர்களே தண்ணீர் இரைத்து சாகுபடிசெய்து வருகிறார்கள் என்றும் சொன்னார்கள். அதிலிருந்து நான் அறிந்து கொண்டேன். உணவு மந்திரியவர்கள் உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்வதில் சாதாரண மனிதர் அல்ல, புள்ளி விவரங்களைமட்டும் சமர்ப்பிக்கிறவர் அல்ல என்பதையும் தெரிந்துகொண்டேன். உண்மை தானே உற்பத்தி பண்ணுதலில் சிறந்த ஆற்றல் பெற்றவரே நமக்கு மந்திரியாக வந்திருப்பது ஒரு அதிர்ஷ்டம் என்று கூற விரும்புகிறேன்.

“ஒரு உபரி ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து வந்தவர் என்ற முறையில் இதைப்பற்றி நான் சொல்லி இந்த உணவு விஷயத்தைப்பற்றியும் கூற விரும்புகிறேன். உணவு நெருக்கடியைத் தீர்ப்பதற்கு இப்பொழுது கிடைத்திருக்கிற உணவை எல்லோருக்கும் கிடைக்கும்படியாக சமமாக பங்கிட்டுக் கொடுக்க வேண்டிய முறை ஒன்று. அதிக உணவு உற்பத்தியாகும்படியாக செய்ய வேண்டியது மற்றொன்று. இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் உற்பத்தி விஸ்தீரணத்தைக் காட்டிலும் அதிகமான விஸ்தீரணத்தில் உணவை உற்பத்தி செய்து அதன்மூலமாக பஞ்சம் வராமல் தடுப்பது என்று இந்த மூன்று முறைகளையும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளலாம்.

“உற்பத்தியாகிற உணவை விநியோகம்செய்கிற முறை எப்படி நடக்கிறது என்றால் அதில் சில குறைபாடுகள் இருப்பதை நான் கனம் உணவு மந்திரியவர்களுக்கு எடுத்துக் காட்ட விரும்புகிறேன். ஒரு ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து மற்றொரு ஜில்லாவிற்கு போவதை தடைசெய்து வைத்திருப்பதை நீக்கிவிட்டால் உபரி ஜில்லாவிலும் பற்றாக்குறை ஜில்லாவைப்போல் பஞ்சம் வந்துவிடும் என்று அவர் கூறுவதை நான் முழுமனதுடன் ஆதரிக்கிறேன். இப்பொழுது பார்த்தால் இந்தக் கட்டுப்பாடு இருக்கிற நிலையில் அந்த border area விலிருந்து மற்ற ஜில்லாவிற்கு எல்லாப்பிரங்கள் மூலமாக தான்யங்களை அதிகமாக கடத்தப்படுகிறது. அங்கே அதிகவிலையில் விற்கப் படுவதால் இந்த உபரி ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து அந்த பற்றாக்குறை ஜில்லாவிற்கு கடத்தப்பட்டு வருகிறது. இந்த உபரி ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து உணவை குறைந்த விலைக்கு வாங்கி பற்றாக்குறை ஜில்லாவிற்கு கடத்தப்பட்டு அங்கே போய் அதிகமான விலைக்கு விற்று லாபமடைந்து வருகிறார்கள். அதற்காக பற்றாக்குறை ஜில்லாவில் அதிகமான நிவாரணக்கடைகளை ஏற்படுத்தி குறைவான விலைக்கு ஜனங்களுக்குக் கிடைக்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அத்துடன் இன்னும் அதிகமாக நிவாரணக்கடைகளை ஏற்படுத்தி குறைவான விலைக்கு ஜனங்களுக்கு தான்யங்களை விநியோகம் செய்து வந்தால் இந்தக் கள்ளமார்க்கெட் வியாபாரம் ஒருவாறு வெகுவாக ஒழிந்துவிடும் என்னும் விஷயத்தை நான் சுட்டிக்காட்ட விரும்புகிறேன். இந்தமாதிரி உபரி ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து கடத்தப்படும் விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி நான் ஏற்கனவே இதற்குமுன்பும் நான் சுட்டிக்காட்டியிருக்கிறேன். நான் இதைப்பற்றி உணவு மந்திரியவர்களிடம் மாத்திரம் அல்ல மத்ய கவர்ன்மெண்டு உணவு மந்திரி கனம் ஜெயராம்தாஸ் தௌலத்ராம் அவர்கள் வந்தகாலத்திலும் இதைப்பற்றி சுட்டிக் காட்டப்பட்டது. மேன்மைதங்கிய கவர்னர் அவர்களும் தஞ்சைக்கு வந்த காலத்தில் நாகப்பட்டினமிருந்து கள்ள ஏற்றுமதி செய்வதையும் புகைக் கப்பல்கள் மூலமாகவும் கடத்தப்பட்டதையும் நேரில் பார்த்த விஷயம் இங்கிருக்கும் அங்கத்தினர்கள் எல்லோரும் அறிவீர்கள் என்று கருதுகிறேன். வரம் ஒன்றுக்கு 2,000 மூட்டைகள் வீதம் தஞ்சையிலிருந்து மாத்திரம் இலங்கைக்கு கள்ள ஏற்றுமதி செய்யப்படுகிறது. நாம் எவ்வளவோ கஷ்டப்பட்டு உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்து விநியோகங்களில் எவ்வளவோ கட்டுப்பாடு வைத்து தான்யங்களை ஜனங்களுக்கு பங்கிட்டுக் கொடுத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும் போது இவ்வளவு மூட்டைகளை கள்ள ஏற்றுமதி செய்தால் அது எவ்வளவு பெரிய

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கஷ்டத்தையும் நஷ்டத்தையும் கொடுக்கிற விஷயம் என்பதைக் கூர்ந்து நோக்கவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இதற்கு இப்பொழுது அவைகளைக் கண்டுபிடிக்க போலீஸ் அதிகாரிகளையும் இன்னும் கப்பல் பெட்ரோல்களையும் நியமித்து சில ஏற்பாடு செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் இதையெல்லாம் செய்வது உண்மையில் சீக்குக்கு வைத்தியம் செய்வதாக இல்லை என்பதைச் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். அவர்கள் மூட்டை தூக்கு கிறவர்களையும் கூலி ஆட்களையும் கைது செய்து சிறையிலடைக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் அதற்கு உண்மை காரணமாக இருக்குகிறவர்கள் ஒருவரையும் ஒன்றும் செய்யவில்லை. காரண புருஷர்களை விட்டுவிட்டு கூலி ஆட்களையும் மூட்டை தூக்குகிறவர்களையும் பிடித்து சிறையில் அடைத்துவிட்டால் இந்த கள்ள ஏற்றுமதி நின்றுவிடாது. இந்தமாதிரி கள்ள ஏற்றுமதி செய்கிறவர்கள் சாதாரண மனிதர்கள் அல்ல. ரொம்பகாலத்து ஆட்கள். ஆள் கட்டுப்பாடு உள்ளவர்கள். இவ்விதம் யார் செய்கிறார்கள் என்பது அரசாங்கத்திற்கு தெரியாமலில்லை. தெரியும். அவர்கள் ஒவ்வொருவரைப் பற்றியும் கட்டு பேர் ரிக்கார்டு அரசாங்க காரியாலயங்களில் இருந்துகொண்டு இருக்கிறது. கள்ள ஏற்றுமதிக்காரர்களை நன்றாக உணர்ந்தும் அவர்கள் மேல் சரியான நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க ஏன் தவறிவிட்டார்கள் என்ற விஷயம் எனக்கு புரியவில்லை. இவ்விதம் கொள்ளைக்காரர்களை விட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தால் நம்மிடம் இருக்கும் சாப்பாடு போய்விடும். கள்ள மார்க்கட்டுக்கு உள்ள ஆணிவேரை அறுத்தால்தான் இந்த விஷயம் அற்றுப்போகும். சர்க்கார் அவர்கள் இதற்கு யார் காரணஸ்தர்கள் என்று கண்டுபிடித்து அவர்களுக்குத் தகுந்தபடி தண்டனை கொடுக்கவில்லையானால் இந்தக் கொடிய கள்ள ஏற்றுமதியை நாட்டிலிருந்து ஒழிக்கமுடியாது. இங்கிருந்து அரிசியை கள்ளத்தனமாக ஏற்றுமதி செய்வதோடல்லாமல் திரும்பவும் அதே கப்பல்களில் கள்ளத்தனமாக சாராயத்தைக் கொண்டுவந்து இங்கு இருக்குமதி செய்கிறார்கள் என்பதை நான் சுட்டிக்காட்ட விரும்புகிறேன். நம் நாட்டிலிருந்து உணவைக் கொண்டுவரக்கொண்டிருக்கிற தோடல்லாமல் அதேசமயத்தில் திரும்ப பதில் கொடுமையும் செய்து வருகிறார்கள். இந்த இரண்டு தீமைகளையும் ஒன்றாக செய்து வருகிறார்கள். இந்த இரண்டு கொடுமைகளையும் ஒன்றாக ஒழிப்பதற்கு நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஏதோ சில கப்பல்களையும் கட்டுமரங்களையும் மோட்டார் கட்டு மரங்களையும் இவைகளைக் கண்டு பிடிப்பதற்கு வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். எள்ளளவுகூட அவர்களை கண்டுபிடிக்க இதுபோதாது. இவர்கள் வைத்திருக்கும் லாஞ்சுகள் மணிக்கு 7 நாட்டுக்கள் தூரம்தான் போகும். ஆனால் கொள்ளைக்காரர்கள் ஏற்றுமதிக்காக வைத்திருக்கும் கப்பல்களும் boats களும் மணிக்கு 10, 12 நாட்கள் தூரம் போகின்றன. அதனால் இவர்களை துறத்திக்கொண்டு போனாலும் அவர்கள் வேகமாக போவதால் போய் பிடிக்க முடியாதிருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி வருவதால் பொருளை இழந்ததோடுமல்லாமல் கொள்ளைக்காரர்கள் இவர்களை ஏனெனம் செய்து கேலிக்கூத்து செய்துவருகிறார்கள். ஆகையால் இவைகளெல்லாம் நடப்பதைப்பார்த்தால் இந்தக் கொடுமைகளைப் போக்குவதற்கு கடுமையான நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டால்தான் நல்லது. இல்லாவிட்டால் எவ்வளவு உற்பத்திசெய்தபோதிலும் இங்கு பஞ்சம்தான் வரும். இங்கு ஒரு மூட்டை 25 ரூபாய் என்று அரிசியை வாங்கி அங்கு ரூபாய் 250-க்கு விற்று வருகிறார்கள். இந்த மாதிரி லாபம் சாமான்ய லாபம் இல்லை. இதற்கு அரசாங்கம் தகுந்த நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். இதைப்பற்றி இதற்கு முன் பலதடவைகளில் பேசியாய்விட்டது. அதிகம் பேசவேண்டியதில்லை. நான் இதோடு விட்டுவிட்டு அதற்கு வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்பதாக விரும்புகிறேன்.

“அடுத்தப்படியாக அதிகமாக உணவை உற்பத்தி செய்யவேண்டியது இரண்டாவது. இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் விஸ்தீரணத்தைக் காட்டிலும் அதிக விஸ்தீரணத்தில் அதிக உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்யவேண்டும். அதற்கு வேண்டியது தண்ணீர் சபீன, உரம், உழைப்பு இந்த மூன்றும் இருந்தால் அதிக உற்பத்தி செய்யலாம். இது வாய்ப்பேச்சில் மட்டும் இல்லாமல் செய்கையில் கொண்டுவரவேண்டும். இவ்வருஷம் வழக்கத்திற்கு விரோதமாக ஒரு மாதம் கழித்து ஆற்றில் ஜலம் விடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதற்கு கார

[Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai]

[21st July 1948]

ணம் மேட்டூர் அணையில் தண்ணீர் குறைவாகி விட்டது என்று சொல்லப் படுகிறது. இன்னும் இப்பொழுது ஆற்று ஜலம் வந்து ஒரு மாதத்திற்கு மேலாகிறது. போன வருஷம் கொடுத்த போனஸ் கூப்பணுக்கு இன்று வரையில் கடலைப்பிண்ணாக்கு உரம் வழங்கப்படாமலிருக்கிறது. காலம் கடந்து கொடுத்தால் அந்த வருஷ சாகுபடிக்கு பயன்படாமல் போய்விடும். உரத்தை காலாகாலத்தில் சாகுபடிக்கு பயன்படும்படியாக கொடுத்தால் அவர்களுக்கு உணவு உற்பத்திக்கு பயன்படும். காலாகாலத்தில் கொடுக்காமலிருந்தால் அவர்கள் அதை கள்ளமாரக்கெட்டில் விற்பதைத் தவிர வேறு வழி இல்லை. இப்பொழுதே விற்பது வருகிறார்கள். மற்ற வியாபாரப் பொருள் உற்பத்தி செய்கிறவர்களுக்கு வழங்கப்படாமல் நம்மாகாணத்தில் முக்யமான உணவு பொருளாகிய அரிசியை உற்பத்தி செய்கிறவர்களுக்கு முதல் உரிமை கொடுத்து அவர்களுக்கு கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டும். பிறகு மிச்சம் இருந்தால் வியாபாரப் பொருள்களை உற்பத்தி செய்கிறவர்களுக்கு கொடுக்கவேண்டும். மற்ற வியாபார தானிய உற்பத்திக்கு கொடுப்பதை கட்டுப்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று அவர்களை வேண்டிக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த உரம் விஷயத்தில் காலம் கடந்து கொடுப்பதால் அது பயன்படாமல் போய்விடுகிறது என்ற விஷயத்தை அவர்களே கவனத்தில் வைத்திருக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். காலாகாலத்தில் விநியோகம் செய்யவேண்டியதவசியமாக இருக்கிறது என்பதைச் சுட்டிக்காட்ட விரும்புகிறேன்.

“முன்னாவது விஷயம் உழைப்பு. இந்த விஷயத்தைப் பார்த்தால் இந்த மாகாணத்திலுள்ள இந்த கம்யூனிஸ்ட்கள் அவ்வளவு பேரும் இந்த தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் தான் குடியிருக்கிறார்கள். ஏன் அவர்கள் அங்கே வந்திருக்கிறார்களென்றால் ஏதோ கிசான்கள் அழைத்து உழைப்பதற்கு தக்க உதவி செய்ய வந்திருப்பதாக நினைக்கவேண்டாம். அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய வாழ்க்கைத் தரத்தை உயர்த்திக்கொள்வதற்காக அங்கே வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். யாரும் அவர்களை அழைத்துவரவில்லை. உணவு நெருக்கடி சமயத்தில் அவர்களுக்கு கொஞ்சமாவது தேச பக்தி இருந்தால் உணவு உற்பத்தி பாதிக்காத முறையில் வேலை செய்வார்கள். உணவு உற்பத்தியை எவ்வளவு தூரம் செய்ய முடியாமல் பாதிக்கும்படி செய்யவேண்டுமோ அதை லட்சியமாக அவர்கள் வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஏன் என்று கேட்டால் உதாரணமாக தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் ஒன்று சொல்லுகிறேன். இதன் காரணம் தஞ்சை ஜில்லா கலெக்டர் அவர்களுக்கும் நன்றாகத் தெரியும். இவர்கள் ஏழை விவசாயிகளிடம் வேலை செய்யவொட்டாமல் பிரசாரம் செய்து வருகிறார்கள். அதற்காக ஏழை விவசாயிகளிடமிருந்து கூலிகளை வசூல் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் (Collector) கிராமவாரியாக கணக்கு வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள் ஒரு கிசான் லீப் ஒருவர் மாத்திரம் கிராமங்களில் வசூல் செய்து 22,000 ரூபாய் வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்றால் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளலாம். வசூல் செய்திருக்கிறவர்களுடைய கணக்கும் ஜாப்தாவும் அவர் வைத்திருக்கிறார். ஆனால் வசூல் செய்திருக்கிறவர்களிடம் கணக்கு கிடையாது. Account கிடையாது. அவர்கள் income-tax கூட கொடுப்பது கிடையாது. மற்றவர்கள் நியாயமான முறையில் சம்பாதித்துக்கொடுக்கும் வரிக்கூட அவர்கள் கொடுப்பது இல்லை. அவர்கள் இந்த மாதிரி விவசாயிகளிடமிருந்து வசூல் செய்து அவர்களிடையே கிளர்ச்சி செய்து வருகிறார்கள். இன்னும் இவர்கள் கள்ள மார்க்கெட்டுக் காரர்களுக்குப்பின்னால் இருந்து கொண்டு கள்ள ஏற்றுமதிக்கு ஆட்களை வைத்து வேலை செய்து வருகிறார்கள். இந்த மாதிரி முறைகளை அவர்கள் கையாண்டு வந்து சண்டைகளை கிளப்பி விடுகிறார்கள். ஆனால் சண்டையில் முன் நில்லாமல் மறைந்து நின்றுகொண்டு ஒன்று மறியாத ஏழைகளைக் காட்டிக் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். இந்த ஏழைகள் அகப்படக்கொண்டு சிறைக்குச் செல்லுகிறார்கள். தண்டனையும் அடைகிறார்கள். அப்பொழுதெல்லாம் இந்த லீடர்கள் இருக்கும் இடம் தெரியாது under ground-ல் போய்விடுகிறார்கள். இந்த விஷயங்களில் அரசாங்கம் தக்க நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. சென்னை மாகாணத்தில் தஞ்சை ஜில்லாதான் அதிக உற்பத்தி செய்யக்கூடியவை. அங்கே இந்த மாதிரி கிளர்ச்சியை வளர விடும்படியாக செய்தால் உணவு உற்பத்தி பாதிக்கும். இதற்கு உடனே நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும்.

[21st July 1948]

[Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai]

“அடுத்தப்படியாக இப்பொழுது இருக்கிற விஸ்தீர்ணத்தைக் காட்டிலும் அதிக விஸ்தீர்ணத்தைச் சொந்த சாகுபடிக்குக் கொண்டுவந்தால் இந்த பஞ்சத்தைப் போக்கவடலாம். பஞ்சம் ஏற்படாமல் செய்யலாம். இப்பொழுது ஐந்து வருஷகால குத்தகைக்கு நிலங்களை விட்டு அந்த குத்தகை காலம் எல்லாம் முடிந்துவிட்டது. அந்த ஐந்து வருஷமும் ஜூன் மாதத்தோடு முடிந்துவிட்டது. மறுபடியும் அதை சாகுபடி செய்ய அவர்களுக்கெல்லாம் அல்லது வேறு நிலம் ஜில்லாமலிருந்து சாகுபடி செய்கிறவர்களுக்கோ குத்தகைக்கு கொடுத்து உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்யச் சொல்லலாம். அந்த நிலங்களை இன்னும் ஒருவருடும் சாகுபடிக்கு எடுத்துக் கொள்ளாத காரணத்தால் அவைகளுக்கெல்லாம் சாகுபடி ஜில்லாமல் சும்மா இருக்கிறது. அவைகளை ஒரு வருஷ இரண்டு வருஷ குத்தகைக்கே விட்டுவிடலாம். இதைப்பற்றி ஏற்கனவே ரெவின்யூ மந்தரயிடம் சொல்லியிருக்கிறேன். இப்பொழுதே குருவை மகசூல் செய்யாமல் காலம் கடந்துவிட்டது. இனிமேலாவது சாகுபடி செய்வதற்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்யலாம். இன்னும் அநேகம் புரம்போக்கு நிலங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. அவைகளை நிலங்கள் இல்லாதவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்து சாகுபடி பாதிக்காமல் இருக்கும்படியாக செய்யவேண்டுமென்று நான் அவர்களை கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த மாதிரி முக்யமான காரியங்களைச் செய்தால் உணவு தட்டை இந்த வருஷம் சமாளித்ததுபோல் எதிர் காலத்திலும் தட்டு ஏற்படாமல் செய்துகொள்ளமுடியும். இவைகளுக்கெல்லாம் சர்க்கார் உடனடியாக ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களென்று நினைக்கிறேன். இன்னும் அவசியமான நடவடிக்கைகளையும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொண்டு என்னுடைய சிறுநரையை இத்துடன் முடித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

Mr. J. M. WILSON:—“Madam, we are getting quotas 4-15 of foodgrains from the Central Government much more than p.m. double the ceiling quota. We are keeping our rations at just above the starving levels. And yet, the Hon. the Food Minister says in his statement that we will not be out of the woods till after the monsoon establishes itself. The production capacity of the Province is what it was before under our British masters. We had then spoken on platforms and written in our election manifestos on the Agrarian Revolution. And we are seeing to-day the Agrarian Revolution (under this Congress Government), which consists of the same old low yields, the same land-hunger of the peasants, the fragmentation of holdings, the increasing indebtedness of cultivators, and their consequent expropriation, and the accelerating growth of the agricultural proletariat. We have of course the satisfaction of reading in newspapers the name of the Zamindari Abolition Bill and we have the pleasure too of the Ministers going up and down to Delhi to enable the zamindars to get as much money as possible out of the pockets of the starving millions of this Province in the shape of what is called “Compensation” for the most valuable humanitarian services they have rendered to the people of this Province ever since they sprang into existence by the ingenious statemanship of our British masters. And it is the policy of the Government to carry on vigorously the ‘Grow More Food Campaign’ but all manner of objections come upon petitions that are made by the landless labourers in the villages who want to cultivate the hundreds of acres of land lying waste. And we have not much exchange money to import capital goods to industrialize our country but we can afford to fritter away that money by buying foreign foodgrains at the most exorbitant prices while withholding the

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production of millions of tons of food-grains on our uncultivated waste lands, here at the sweet will of the village karnam or the lowest revenue officer.

"I am, however, grateful to the Hon. the Food Minister when he has admitted that the internal procurement is affected which is a rejection and belying of the statement made by the Food Minister of the Central Government at the time of the discussion of the Food Policy on the floor of the Central Legislature, that decontrol would push out the stocks of grains available with underground individuals. And I am also thankful to him—for he has opened relief shops—which is itself a defeat and an utter rejection of the policy of decontrol. I am also grateful to him for the observations made by him in the statement regarding the inter-district ban. I am grateful for his remarks on the remaining control measures. And finally I am grateful to him for his confession that the policy of the decontrol has resulted in the increase in prices of foodgrains. But I am afraid, Madam, the Food Minister is not quite correct about the rate of increase because 'in the surplus districts themselves, there is an increase which is more than 100 per cent' and the working-class and the middle-classes are suffering untold miseries. In spite of the fact that even in its own home country of America, the sacred doctrine of Free Trade has received a set-back by controls, etc., and in spite of the fact that this sacred doctrine of decontrol is plunging that prosperous country into the throes of the most terrible crisis which would envelop the whole world except of course those few countries they call dictatorial or totalitarian, who refused to believe in the sacred doctrine of free trade, in spite of all this, the Government of our country had wanted to revive that doctrine and had proclaimed that that would be the panacea for the present food famine. I do not know if anybody would say that even the producer at least is benefited by decontrol, because there is an all-round inflation, an increase in the prices of all other articles and commodities which are required by him. The Central Government have thrust a dagger into the hearts of the common man in this country, and I know it is the duty of the Provincial Government to come forward and say 'We shall see that not a drop of blood falls.' And unless this Provincial Government come forward to rectify that, I am sure they have indubitably failed in their duty.

"I would therefore urge upon the Provincial Government to bring it to the notice of the Government of India the price that common people are paying for the reckless betrayal of their trust."

SRI P. KAKKAN:—“கனம் உதவி சபாநாயகி அவர்களே, கனம் உணவு மந்திரி அவர்களால் கொண்டுவரப்பட்ட ரிபோர்ட்டை ஆதரித்து சில வார்த்தைகளைப் பேச முன்வந்துள்ளேன். கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் பெரும் பிரயாசை எடுத்து மாகாணத்தில் உணவு பிரச்சினையை ஒருவாராக முடித்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்று நினைக்கிறேன். இருந்தாலும்கூட இன்னும் கிராமாந்திரங்களில் பஞ்ச நிவாரணக் கடைகள் அதிகம் திறக்கவேண்டும் என்று பணிவோடு கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். திருச்சி, உடையார்பாளையம் கிராமத்தில் இன்னும் நிவாரணக் கடைகள் திறக்கப்படவே இல்லை.

[21st July 1948] [Sri P. Kakkan]

மதுரை ஜில்லாவிலும் இன்னும் அதிக கடைகள் திறக்கப்படவில்லை. அப்படி அதிகம் திறந்துவைத்தால்தான் பாட்டாளி மக்கள்களாகிய விவசாயிகள் உயிர் வாழமுடியும். எங்கெங்கே அதிகம் கடைகள் திறக்க வேண்டுமோ அங்கேயல்லாம் இன்னும் திறந்துவைக்கலாம். இன்று கிராமங்களிலுள்ள உணவு கஷ்டத்தை உணரவேண்டும். எல்லா கலெக்டர்களுக்கும் எங்கெங்கே அதிகம் கடைகளை திறக்கவேண்டுமோ அங்கங்கே ஜாஸ்தி திறந்துவைக்கும்படி உத்திரவு கொடுக்கும்படி கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அங்கங்கே கடைகள் இல்லாததால் உணவு பொருள்கள் மார்க்கெட்டில் வாங்குவதாக இருக்கிறது. அதனால் உணவு பொருளை அதிகம் விலைகொடுத்து வாங்க ஏற்பாடு செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். அதை உடனே தடுக்கவேண்டும். நியாயமான விலைக்கு அவர்களுக்கு உணவு பொருளை கிடைக்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும்.

“இன்னும் என்னைப் பொறுத்தமட்டில் ஜில்லாவிற்கு ஜில்லா போகக் கூடாது என்றிருக்கும் தடையை நீச்சயமாக எடுத்துவிடவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது கனம் வேதரத்தினம் பிள்ளை அவர்கள் சொன்னார், தஞ்சை ஜில்லா உபரி ஜில்லா என்றும், ஜில்லாவிற்கு ஜில்லா போகக்கூடாது என்று தடை இருப்பது நல்லது என்றும் சொன்னார். அதே சமயத்தில் இலங்கைக்கும் மற்ற தேசங்களுக்கும் கடல் மார்க்கமாக கள்ளத்தனமாக எடுத்துச்செல்லுகிறார்களென்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். நான் சொல்வது என்னவென்றால் இந்தக் கட்டுப்பாட்டை எடுத்துவிட்டால் இலங்கைக்கு போகாது. ஆனால் உபரி ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து பக்கத்திலிருக்கும் குறைவு ஜில்லாவாகிய திருச்சி, கோயமுத்தூர், மதுரை முதலிய ஜில்லாக்களுக்கு திரும்பிவிடும். ஆனால் விலை கொஞ்சம் உயரலாம். இப்பொழுது control-ஐ எடுத்தோம், அப்படி எடுத்த காலத்தில் விலைவாசி ஜாஸ்தியாயிற்று. ரூபாய்க்கு 5, 6 படி. என்று வாங்கி இரண்டு படி. என்று விற்பனையாக்கினார்கள். இதனால் லாபம் அடைந்தார்கள். இன்னும் போனால் மூலமாகவும் லாபம் அடைந்தார்கள். ஆகையால் பிற நாட்டாருக்குப் போவதை திருப்புவதற்கு ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து ஜில்லாவிற்குப் போகும் தடையை நீக்குவது அவசியமாக இருக்கிறது. அதனால் பற்றாக்குறை ஜில்லாக்களிலும் இன்னும் எல்லா இடங்களிலும் தான்யம் நிறைந்துவிடும். இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் தான்யத்தை வைத்துக்கொண்டு விவசாயிகளுக்கு அரசாங்கம் கொடுத்து வரலாம். ஒன்றுமட்டும் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். கனம் மந்திரியவர்கள் செங்கல்பட்டில் விவசாய மகாநாடு திறப்பு விழா காலத்தில் இனிமேல் தரிசு நிலங்களாக இருப்பதை அரசாங்கம் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்க முடியாது, எல்லா இடங்களிலும் சாகுபடி செய்ய ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும் என்று சொன்னார்கள். அந்த மாதிரி இப்பொழுது பல இடங்களில் சாகுபடி செய்யாமலிருக்கிறது. மதுரை ஜில்லா சோழவந்தாளில் எவ்வளவோ. புறம்போக்கு நிலங்கள் சாகுபடி செய்யப்படாமலிருக்கின்றன. இன்றைக்கு குருவை சாகுபடி செய்துவிட்டு மறுபடியும் சாகுபடி செய்யாமல் இருக்கிறார்கள். மறுபடியும் கேட்டதற்கு முடியாது என்று சொல்லி விட்டார்கள். இதையெல்லாம் கவனித்து கவர்ன்மெண்டின் கவனத்திற்கு கொண்டுவர கமிட்டிகள் ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். பணம் கொடுத்து, T. A. கொடுத்து வேலை செய்யும் கமிட்டிகளைச் சொல்லவில்லை. மிகவும் முக்யமானவர்களும் எம்.எல்.எ-க்களும் இன்னும் இரண்டொரு பேர்கள் போட்டு கமிட்டிகளை நியமிக்கவேண்டும். அவர்கள் ஒரு முடிவு செய்தால் அதை ஒத்துக்கொண்டு விவசாயிகளும் நிலசுவாந்தாரர்களும் அதன்படி நடக்க வேண்டும். அப்படி நடக்கவில்லையானால் தகுந்த நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக் கொள்வதில் ஆட்சேபணை கிடையாது. விவசாயிகள் குறை சொன்னாலும் அதையும் கேட்கவேண்டும். அதிகாரிகள் சொல்வதைமட்டும் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு தண்டிப்பது என்பது நியாயமில்லை. இதனால்தான் கம்யூனிஸ்ட் இயக்கம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. நான் கம்யூனிஸ்டு கட்சியையாவது சோஷலிஸ்ட் கட்சியையாவது சேர்ந்தவனல்ல. கம்யூனிஸ்ட் கட்சியை கண்டிக்கவேண்டுமென்ற நோக்கமுள்ளவன் நான். ஆனால் இதில் பார்த்தால் ஹரிஜனங்கள்தான் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். ஏனென்றால் திரிப்புகளை காலாகாலத்தில் நிறைவேற்றுவதில்லை. சில முதலாளிகள் பிரதமர் சொன்னதை நிறைவேற்றியிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் அதை தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் மட்டும் நிறைவேற்றவில்லை. அதைப்போலவே கனம் ரெவின்யூ மந்திரியவர்களும்

[Sri P. Kakkan]

[21st July 1948]

மதுரை ஜில்லாவில் ஒரு முடிவு செய்து தீர்த்துவைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். பார்க்கப்போனால் இரு தரப்பார்களிடமும் குற்றம் இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால், உதவி சபாநாயகி அவர்களே, அங்கங்கே அதிகாரிகள் சொல்வதைமட்டும் கேட்டு முடிவு சொல்லக்கூடாது. விவசாயிகள் அக்கிரமமாக நடந்தால் அவர்களைக் கண்டிக்கவேண்டும். மிராசதார்கள் அக்கிரமமாக நடந்தால் அவர்களுக்கும் கண்டிக்கவேண்டும். யார் அக்கிரமம் செய்தாலும் அவர்கள்மேல் தகுந்த நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொள்வதில் யாருக்கும் ஆட்சேபணை இல்லை. ஒருவரும் ஆட்சேபணை சொல்லமாட்டார்கள். கமிட்டியாரின் தீர்ப்புக்கு விரோதமாக விவசாயிகளோ முதலாளிகளோ நடந்தால் அதற்காக தண்டிப்பதில் யாருக்கும் ஆட்சேபணை கிடையாது. சர்க்காரையும் குறை சொல்ல மாட்டார்கள். கமிட்டியாரின் தீர்ப்பை தலைமேல்கொண்டு காரியம் செய்வார்கள். இவ்விதம் செய்தால் நியாயமாக நடக்கும். பிறகு எல்லோருக்குள்ளும் நல்லுரவு ஏற்படும். கமிட்டியின் தீர்ப்பை சுற்று அறிக்கை மூலம் தெரியப்படுத்தலாம். அதன்பிறகும் யாராகிலும் அக்கிரமம் செய்தால் அவர்களை தண்டிப்பதில் யாருக்கும் ஆட்சேபணை கிடையாது.

“உணவு உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்குவதைப்பற்றி கனம் வேதரத்தினம் பின்னையவர்கள் சொல்லிவிட்டார்கள். அவர் உணவு உற்பத்திக்கு, பாடுபடுகிறவர். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு எல்லோருக்கும் நிலம் கொடுத்து சாகுபடி செய்யச் சொல்லவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது அநேகம் புறம்போக்கு நிலங்களை குத்தகைக்கு விட்டதை ஜூன் மாதம் 30-ம் தேதி முதற்கொண்டு எடுத்து வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவைகளை தியாகிகளுக்கு கொடுப்பதாக வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த நிலங்களை தியாகிகளுக்கு கொடுத்த பிற்பாடு மிச்சம் இருந்தால் அவைகளை மறுபடியும் குத்தகைக்கு விடாமல் இந்த ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு பிரித்துக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அப்படிக் கொடுத்தால் இந்த உழைப்பாளிகளாகிய ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு கொடுத்துவினால் அவர்கள் உணவு உற்பத்தியை பெருக்குவதற்கு செலகரிய மாமியுக்கும். ஆகையால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு நிலங்களைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. மற்றவர்களுக்குக் கொடுப்பதை நிறுத்திக்கொள்ளலாம். ஆகையால் கனம் உணவு மந்திரியையும் ரிவினியு மந்திரியையும் நிலங்களை ஹரிஜனங்கள்பேரால் ஜாரி செய்து கொடுக்கும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“இங்கே நாம் உணவு உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்கும் முன்னால் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் நியாயமான கூலிகொடுக்கப்படுகிறதா என்பதைப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். பார்த்தால் நிச்சயமாக அதிகம் கூலி கொடுக்கும்படியாக இருக்கும் என்று தெரியவரும். ஆகையால் கனம் உணவு மந்திரியும் கனம் ரிவினியு மந்திரியும் இதற்கு ஒரு சட்டம் சீக்கிரத்தில் கொண்டுவர வேண்டும். இந்த மாதிரி சட்டம் வரப்போகிறது என்று சொன்னார்கள் இன்னும் வரவில்லை. இப்பொழுது ஜமீனை ஒழிக்கப்போகும். அதற்குள் கனம் உணவு மந்திரியும் கனம் ரிவினியு மந்திரியும் ஒத்துழைத்து அந்த மாதிரி ஒரு சட்டம் கொண்டு வந்து உணவு உற்பத்தியை பெருக்குமாறு சொல்லி என்னுடைய வார்த்தையை முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

4-30 P.m. SRI G. KUMARASWAMI:—“Madam, Deputy Speaker, it is a matter of supreme satisfaction that the Hon. Minister for Food has stated that the food position in our Province is quite satisfactory and the facts and figures published in the various statements connected with this matter reveal the same. Indeed, a famine of the type of the Bengal Famine has been averted. Thanks are due to the Hon. Minister for the representations he made to the Central Government. Though the recommendations of the Central Committee were only for an allotment of 150,000 tons to our Province, our Minister was able to get not only two lakhs and five lakhs of tons of foodgrains. He deserves the praise of one and all of us for this.

21st July 1948]

[Sri G. Kumaraswami]

“Madam, of course production of foodgrains during 1947-48 was much less than that in 1946-47 in our Province. Now as many as eight thousand fair price depots have been opened throughout the Province but the way in which the depots are working, is not at all satisfactory. Of course, they are intended for the poor, the Harijans and the agricultural labourers. But these depot-keepers simply collect the ration cards, some old ration cards and do not supply the rice to the deserving poor but sell it in the black-market. The really deserving poor do not get rice at all. The difficulty is this. Some of the important and responsible officials in the district have told me that it is not possible for them to appoint these depot-keepers properly because every week they are afraid the order of the Government may be changed. First, there would be an order that the Co-operative Stores should be entrusted with the duty of distributing foodgrains. A week hence orders will be issued that the old licence-holders should be appointed as depot-keepers. The Tahsildars keep the papers with them and do not appoint depot-keepers soon. If they had been more responsible, they could have seen that the foodstuffs reach the really deserving poor. But because they do not shoulder the responsibility properly and try to shove the blame on somebody, somehow the depots which should have been opened a couple of months earlier have not yet been opened at all, especially in the district of Vizagapatam which is a deficit district consisting of twenty taluks. It is the northern taluks, Chicacole, Palakonda and Narasannapeta which supply rice and paddy to the other taluks in the south which is a dry area. But if there is a sort of famine and the prices of paddy and other foodgrains have shot up enormously, it is because the traders, the mill-owners and others are playing a lot of mischief. On the 2nd or 3rd of June I had an opportunity of visiting some of the mills in company with the Revenue Divisional Officer and some other officials. The mills are, of course, working but the mill-owners do not maintain any accounts. Though they earn enormous profits, there is nothing in the accounts to show it. They simply say that the mill is not working regularly and that some paddy which is received the previous day is husked in the following morning. That is the way in which the mill-owners and other merchants are behaving. The Government should take steps to see that the really deserving poor get this paddy. Now, they do not get it because of the neglect of duty on the part of officials.

“Then, I come to another point. The Vizagapatam District Food Committee which met on the 19th of last month passed a resolution, that the ban on the inter-district movement of paddy should be removed. I think many other districts have also passed such a resolution. If this ban is removed, I think the crisis will be averted to a great extent.

“Regarding prices, the price of one bag of paddy is about Rs. 55 to Rs. 60. That is, the price of one kunchum is Rs. 2-4-0. Even the middle-class people find it very difficult to purchase rice

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not to speak of the poor. Yes, the food position is satisfactory. The facts and figures reveal that. But still in the open market, in the streets of the towns and villages, every one is saying that he is not able to get his food properly. There should, of course, be the co-operation of the people. Without that, we will not be in a position to do anything at all. However, I request the Government to do the needful and to see that paddy and other foodgrains reach the hands of the deserving poor."

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—"கனம் உப சபை தலைவி அவர்களே, இந்த உணவு நெருக்கடி உணவு உற்பத்தி குறைவாக இருக்கும் வரைக்கும் இருந்தகொண்டிருக்கும். இந்த நெருக்கடி தீர வேண்டுமானால் நமக்கு வேண்டிய உணவை நாமே உற்பத்தி செய்து தீர்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். நாம் நம்முடைய மாகாணத்தின் தேவைக்கு வேண்டிய அளவு உற்பத்தி செய்யவில்லை. பல வருஷங்களாக நம் மாகாணம் வெளி நாடுகளை எதிர்பார்த்து வந்திருக்கிறது. முக்கியமாக சில வருஷங்களில் நமக்கு வேண்டிய அளவில் பெரும் அளவு பர்டா, சுயாம் முதலிய இடங்களிலிருந்து வந்தது. இப்பொழுது அந்த அளவு நமக்குக் கிடைப்பதில்லை. ஆகையால்தான் நாம் இப்பொழுது பிற மாகாணத்தை ஓரளவு எதிர்பார்க்கவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. அந்தக் காலங்களைப்போல் நாம் எதிர்பார்க்கும் அளவு இப்பொழுது கிடைப்பதில்லை. அதனால்தான் நம் முடைய அளவை நாமே உற்பத்தி செய்துகொள்ளவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் நாம் நம்முடைய மாகாணத்திற்கு வேண்டிய உணவை உற்பத்தி செய்துகொள்ள நாம் அதிகம் சிரத்தை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். அதற்காக பல யோசனைகளை எனக்கு முன்னால் பேசிய நண்பர்கள் கூறினார்கள். உற்பத்தி அதிகமானாலொழிய இந்த நெருக்கடியை தீர்க்க முடியவே முடியாது. உற்பத்தியை அதிகரிக்க அதிகாரிகள் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்களோ அனுபவத்தில் அதைக்காண முடியவில்லை. வருஷா வருஷக் கணக்கைப் பார்த்தால் திருப்திகரமாக இல்லை; குறைந்து கொண்டே வருகிறது. அதற்கு காரணம் கிராமாந்திரங்களில் குடியானவர்கள் மத்தியில் அரசியல் கட்சியார்கள் என்று ஒருபாகம் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. அதில் அதிகமாக உண்மை இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது சாதாரணமாக மக்கள் அனைவருக்கும் ஒரு அரசியல் அதிகாரம் கிடைத்திருப்பதும் உரிமை கிடைத்திருப்பதும், விடுதலை கிடைத்திருப்பதும் தான் முக்கியமான காரணம். இதை ஆதரிப்பதற்கு முக்கியமாக அரசியல் கட்சிகள் வேலை செய்து வருகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் பலவிதமான பிரசாரம் செய்து உற்பத்தி பெருக்குவதில் மாறுபட்டு உரிமைகள் கிடைப்பது தான் பொறுப்பு என்று ஒரு வழி காண்பித்து உற்பத்தியை நடைபெற விடாமல் தடுத்தாக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இதைப்பற்றி சர்க்கார் நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டும் வருகிறார்கள். அனுபவத்தில் நாம் திருப்திப்படக்கூடிய நிலைமை இன்னும் ஏற்படவில்லை. யார் யார் இடத்தில் குறைகள் இருக்கிறதோ அவர்கள் மேல் தகுந்த நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டும். அநேகம் இடங்களில் விவசாயிகள் மேல் குறை கூறுகிறார்கள். எப்படியாகிலும், இனிமேல் கொஞ்சம் நிலம் கூட சாகுபடியாகாமல் இருக்கவே கூடாது. இவர்களுடைய தகராறுகளினால் சாகுபடி இல்லாமல் உற்பத்தியில் ஒரு அளவு குறைகிறது. இந்த விவகாரத்தை முற்றவிடாமல் தடுக்கவேண்டிய தவசியமாக இருக்கிறது. அப்படி தகராறுகள் இருந்தால் அதை மீள விடாமல் சர்க்கார் நேராக ஆள்களை வைத்து சாகுபடி செய்யும்படிச் செய்யவேண்டும். பிறகு தகராறுகளை எந்த முறையில் தீர்க்கவேண்டுமோ அந்த முறையில் தீர்த்துக்கொள்ளலாம். ஆகையால் சாகுபடி செய்யப்படாமல் ஒரு அங்குலம் நிலம் கூட இல்லாமல் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும்.

"நிறைய விலைதீரணமுள்ள நிலம் நம்முடைய மாகாணத்திலிருக்கிறது. அந்த நிலங்களையெல்லாம் சாகுபடிக்குக் கொண்டுவர வேண்டும். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கும், பட்டாளத்திற்கு போய் திரும்பி வந்தவர்களுக்கும், நிலம் இல்லாதவர்களுக்கும், சர்க்காரில் நிலம் கொடுத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள்.

[21st July 1948] [Sri N. M. R. Subbaraman]

கிறார்கள். அதிகம் உற்பத்தி செய்வதற்காக கொடுத்து வந்தார்கள். இந்த விஷயத்தில் ஒரு முடிவுக்கு சர்க்கார் வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் அனுபவத்தில் அதைக்கொண்டுவரப்படவில்லை. இன்னும் காலதாமதமாகாமல் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கும் நிலம் இல்லாமல் நிலத்தில் உழைப்பவர்களுக்கும் இந்த பூமியை பிரித்துக்கொடுத்து அதோடு கூட விவசாயத்திற்காக கொஞ்சம் பணமும் கொடுத்து உதவவேண்டும் அப்படி செய்தால் எவ்வளவோ நிலம் சீக்கிரத்தில் சாகுபடி செய்வதற்கு மிகவும் உதவியாக இருக்கும். அநேகம் கிராமங்களிலிருந்து நிலம் வேண்டுமென்று விண்ணப்பம் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கெல்லாம் தாமதம் செய்யாமல் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு முக்கியமாகவும் அவர்களுக்கு சாகுபடி செய்ய நிலங்களைக் கொடுத்து உற்பத்தியை பெறுக்கும்படியாகச் செய்யும்படி கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

"அதோடு கூட விவசாயிகள் அடையும் கஷ்டத்தைப்பற்றி ஸ்ரீ வேதரத்தம் பிள்ளையவர்கள் கூறினார்கள். விவசாயிகள் உற்பத்தி செய்வதற்கு வேண்டிய ஒத்தாசையை சர்க்கார் செய்யவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது உரம் போனஸ் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் காலா காலத்தில் கொடுப்பது இல்லை. அதை வாங்குவதற்கு விவசாயிகளுக்கு ஏராளமான பணம் செலவாகிறது. நாட்களும் செலவாகிறது. ஒரு நாள் இரண்டு நாட்கள் இந்த போனஸ் உரம் வாங்குவதற்கு வீணாகி விடுகிறது. பணம் செலவாகியும் நிலைமை மாறவில்லை. ஆகையால் போனஸை அவரவர்களுடைய கிராமத்திலேயே காலா காலத்தில் கொடுக்கும்படியாக சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும்.

"இன்னும் பலவிதமான குறைகளைப்பற்றி சொன்னார்கள். அவைகளை திருப்பிச் சொல்ல நான் விரும்பவில்லை. அந்தக் குறைகளையும் நிவர்த்திசெய்யவேண்டியதவசியமாக இருக்கிறது.

"அதோடு கூட தான் விநியோகத்தில் கைத்தொழில் வேலை செய்கிறவர்களுக்கும் மில்லில் வேலை செய்கிறவர்களுக்கும் கொஞ்சம் சலுகை காண்பிக்கப்படுகிறது. இவ்விதம் காண்பிப்பது ரொம்பவும் நியாயம். அவர்கள் உழைத்து ஜீவனம் நடத்துவதால் மற்றவர்களை விட இரண்டு அவுன்ஸ் அவர்களுக்கு அதிகமாக உணவுப் பொருள் கொடுப்பது மிகவும் நியாயமானது. அது மாதிரி எல்லா தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் கொடுப்பது இல்லை. மில்லில் வேலை செய்யும் தொழிலாளர்களுக்குத் தான் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. மதுரையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் மில்லில் வேலை செய்கிறவர்களை தவிர வேறு கைத்தறி தொழிலாளர்களும் எவ்வளவோ இருக்கிறார்கள். இன்றையதினம் கைத்தறி தொழிலாளர்களின் நிலைமை ரொம்பவும் மோசமாக இருக்கிறது. சில மாதங்களுக்கு முன் நல்ல வாழ்க்கையை நடத்தி வந்தார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு கிடைத்த வருமானத்தில் இன்று மூன்றில் ஒரு பங்குதான் கிடைக்கிறது. ஆனால் வேலையோ இரண்டு பங்கு அதிகமாகி விட்டது. இப்படிப்பட்ட நிலைமையில் அவர்கள் எப்படி வாழ்க்கையை நடத்திக்கொள்ளமுடியும். ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டப்பட்டுக்கொண்டு கைத்தறி தொழிலை நடத்தி வருகிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கும் இரண்டு அவுன்ஸ் கூட கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொண்டு இந்த யோசனையைச் சொல்லிவிட்டு நான் முடித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"Madam, Deputy Speaker, due to the failure of the north-east monsoon for several years in our Province, the situation created in the matter of food is known not only to the members of this Assembly, but outside also. The statement presented by the Hon. Minister for Food is a clear indication of the food position to-day. The fact that it has been possible to reserve stock for another eight weeks comes as a solace to this Province. Whether there is control or no control the people mostly affected are the Harijans who are the actual agricultural labourers and those who have taken to manual labour.

[Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillay] [21st July 1948]

(At this stage Mr. Speaker occupied the Chair) They do not get their requirements of food for the whole week and they have to starve for at least two days in the week. It is no doubt true that the Government have been kind enough to start relief shops and yet as pointed out by my hon. Friend, Mr. Kakkan, there are still villages which have not yet been served by these relief shops. Therefore, it is necessary to have more relief shops wherever they are required by the people. These poor people have to go out in the day for their various avocations and return only late in the evenings only to find no shops open to purchase their food stuffs. So, I hope the Hon. Minister for Food will kindly see that in places where there are no relief shops to dole out articles of food for agricultural labourers they are given that facility.

“ Sir, last year when the Hon. Minister presented a note on the food position, he has stated clearly what would be the position next year. There he cast a gloom and most of us who are greatly interested in agricultural labour were at a loss to know what would happen to these people. In this connection, I should not forget the services rendered by the Hon. Dr. Rajan Babu who was then the Food Minister at the Centre and his successor the Hon. Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram, who were very kind to our Province. During this summer, the Hon. Sri Jairamdas Daulatram came on a tour to the south to see for himself the actual food position of the Province. He received many deputations and heard also the grievances of the people. One hon. Member of this House observed that the food policy should be confined to this Province alone and that we should not be put on an all-India basis. I deprecate that idea, because those of us who have read the proceedings of the Food Conference which was held at Delhi in June last at which our Premier was also present, could have noticed how some of the other provinces came forward to offer their help to this Province. If on the other hand, they were only sitting within the four walls of this House or in Fort St George, I do not think we would have been in the position in which we are to-day, that is we are at least safe for the next two months.

“ Now, Sir, coming to the deficit districts, the scale of ration given is not sufficient. As I have already pointed out the Harijans who are the real agricultural labourers and other poor artisans have practically become very weak and their physical constitution has also become very weak, so much so, they are not in a position to give that amount of service to the agricultural development of the country. Therefore, Sir, I feel that the Government should see their way to increase the scale of rations so far as these people are concerned.

“ Sir, I have before me the proceedings of the Ration Advisory Committee in the Nilgiris, in which they made an appeal to the Government to increase the scale of rations at least to 12 oz. including millets. I am sorry to note that in a deficit district like the Nilgiris, the Government have banned the cultivation of wheat and barley. By some unknown process the Government of India

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perhaps thought that wheat rust was being carried from this Province to other provinces and so they have banned the cultivation of these articles. The poor agriculturists, the hill tribes and the aborigines of the Nilgiris who have been doing some cultivation in barley have therefore to give it up. I am sure the Hon. Minister will take note of this and examine whether the policy of the Government of India in banning the cultivation of these articles is correct and see that something is done to these unfortunate people. Last year when representations were made to him as to the food position in the Nilgiris, the Hon. Minister was kind enough to make a note of the part played by potato cultivators in the Nilgiris and when the actual crisis came the Government rationed potatoes for the whole of the Province. But, this time, I do not find a word about potatoes in the Hon. Minister's statement relating to the present food position. The Government have no doubt given the ryots of the Nilgiris about 6,000 acres of lands for the Grow More Food campaign. The ryots thinking that they would be able to find a sale for their produce, undertook intense cultivation and to-day they are in a position to supply potato not only to this Province but other provinces as well. But, what is the position now? Owing to mischievous propaganda by some of the merchants that Nilgiris have not produced enough potato to meet even the needs of this Province—not to speak of the other provinces—they insisted on the Government of India to import potato from foreign countries. Therefore, we want a regulated market for this potato because lakhs of people are living on the cultivation of potato alone.

“ Sir, as I have mentioned previously in this House sometime ago, with the disappearance of Europeans from the district a lot of domestic workers have now taken to potato cultivation and unless something is done to those people I am afraid they will have to face starvation for days and even months together.

“ Apart from that, Sir, the Government have recently issued an order curtailing petrol for lorries; as a result, the potatoes are now lying in the fields without being carried to the road or rail-head. It is a very serious matter and the potato growers are greatly alarmed as to what is going to be their position in the matter. This matter was brought to the notice of the Hon. Minister for Food, the Hon. Minister for Transport and also the Agricultural Minister and unless the Government come forward and do something for those people who have earnestly taken up work for the Grow More Food campaign, I am afraid, they will be stranded. I am sure this matter will be looked into by the Hon. Minister. I also find that the Government of India have incurred a loss of about 123 lakhs of rupees for providing food for the whole of India last year, but I understand that they are going to waive the share of the loss so far as our Government is concerned. It is therefore absolutely necessary that this Government should co-operate with the Central Government in the matter of food supply in view of the desire of the Government of India to help this Province. This policy should

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be maintained at all costs and any policy which the Government of India may propose to adumbrate in the matter of food must be common to both the Government of India and this Province.

“ With these few words I support the motion before the House.”

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been prompted by my hon. Friend Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai to speak on this subject, not because he has said so much about potatoes, on which he is a specialist, but because there is one aspect of the matter which, I believe, deserves notice. He said that we must be eternally grateful to the Government of India for what they have done in rushing to us something like 5 lakhs of tons of food, which otherwise would have created a very acute situation in our Province. But, Mr. Speaker, who is it that is responsible for this policy? Was not decontrol due to the Government of India? Is it not the duty of the Government of India to see that the deficit is made good? In fact, my only relief is, the Hon. Food Minister of our Province fought and fought well with the Government of India to give a certain amount of food to make good the deficit and for postponing the evil day of famine. Even now we are not sure whether by mid-October until which time, he has stated, we need not bother about stocks, we would be able to ward off this dread of famine. Mr. Speaker, one thing I must say in this connexion. I do not want our friends in the south to adopt a slavish mentality of trying to say that we have been favoured by the Government of India in this or in that direction. Is it not the south that has been contributing the utmost to the export trade of our country and for procuring much dollar for our country? We have been also exporting hides and skins to foreign countries which give enormous revenue surplus and a favourable balance of trade. For that reason, have we not got to expect from the Government of India the ultimate duty which they owe to us of implementing the policy which they have adumbrated?

“ Sir, I am in entire agreement with my hon. Friend, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig when he says that we must get back to rationing and control, because it was only during the period when control was in force that we had the utmost guarantee that this Government is responsible for providing the man-in-the-street with the minimum required for his subsistence. To-day what is the condition? The other day during the question hour the Hon. Minister said one thing which I am not, even to this moment, able to understand. I do not know how, such a practical and shrewd observer of men as the Hon. Dr. Rajan is, he was prompted to say that the overall food position in our Province is good when actually in many of the deficit districts—I cannot speak for surplus districts because I hail from the deficit district of North Arcot—we see village after village, town after town, most exorbitant prices are being charged for the rice that is made available in ordinary shops. The price actually ranges from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 1-14-0 per measure of rice. When such an exorbitant price is expected of the man-in-the-street for buying a measure of rice,

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how can the Hon. Minister for Food reconcile himself with this situation and say that the food position of our Province is good? As my hon. Friend Mr. Raза Khan had very clearly put it, we are not going to be easily carried away by statistics, but the only thing that matters is how the man-in-the-street can get rice for himself and his family for keeping body and soul together. Sir, to-day, even the relief shops, about which the Hon. Minister had given us a promise that he is going to increase the number, have not brought about any relief in the situation. Let me illustrate the point from my experience of the villagers in my district. There is a town by name Pernambut which is very near my village Valathur. The ration supplied to the relief shops is only once in three or four days and that too a meagre supply of 20 or 25 bags. How is it possible to go round with this stock to supply the requirements of a population which is in the neighbourhood of fourteen and fifteen thousands? After all what is the effect brought about by these relief shops? They have been denied the privilege of drawing their resources from the regular trade channels because prices have not gone down. The result is they have been experiencing acute scarcity of foodgrains much more than they had experienced before the commencement of these relief shops . . .”

MR. SPEAKER:—“ The hon. Member may continue his speech on Friday next, because to-morrow is a non-official day.”

The House then adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. on 22nd July 1948.

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APPENDIX.

[Vide item II at page 434 supra.]

FOOD SITUATION OF THE PROVINCE.

In pursuance of the undertaking given by me on the 14th July during the discussions on the food situation in Nellore, I place on the table of the House the following statement on the present food situation in the Province.

2. As has been mentioned on several previous occasions during such debates, the failure of the north-east monsoon in 1947 has considerably reduced the production of both rice and millets in the Province, though the late rains had to some extent retrieved the position of the rice crop. The latest estimates of production for the year 1947-48 is 4,005,000 tons of rice and 1,929,000 tons of millets against the normal production of 4.9 million tons of rice and 2.7 million tons of millets and against the production of 4.9 million tons of rice and 2.1 million tons of millets in 1946-47.

3. The stock of foodgrains available with Government or their agents on 3rd July 1948 totalled 463,641 tons comprised of 384,635 tons of rice, 17,503 tons of wheat and wheat products, 13,703 tons of millets and 47,770 tons of maize. The Government of India have allotted an import quota of 5 lakhs of tons of foodgrains for the year 1948, made up of 234,000 tons of rice, 57,000 tons of wheat and wheat products, 133,000 tons of maize and 76,000 tons of milo and millets. Against this quota, the balance to be received as on 1st July 1948 is 127,705 tons of all foodgrains together. This comprises of 48,514 tons of rice, 31,408 tons of wheat and wheat products, 1,335 tons of maize and 46,648 tons of milo and millets.

4. So far as internal procurement is concerned, the Government have had to vary their policy with reference to the Government of India's policy of progressive decontrol. Early in the present kharif year, the target for procurement in the Province was fixed at 1,786,300 tons of rice and 176,340 tons of millets for the whole Province on the assumption that the policy then in vogue would be continued during 1947-48 also. But with the change over in favour of progressive decontrol, those targets would no longer hold good. From 28th December 1947 intensive procurement was given up in all districts except in the surplus districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Nellore and Tanjore as well as in the districts of Tiruchirappalli, South Arcot, Malabar and the Nilgiris. Intensive procurement was given up in the South Arcot and Tiruchirappalli districts from 14th March 1948. In the districts where intensive procurement was given up, it was originally ordered that the excess foodgrains available with the middle and upper class producers should be procured by a system of easy levy at a fixed quantity per acre. Even this levy system was given up from 1st June 1948 as there was very little available for procurement in those districts owing to the failure of the north-east monsoon and in view of the complaints received from several districts. On account

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of these facts the procurement target had to be reduced from what was fixed at the beginning of the kharif year. The stocks procured up to 3rd July 1948 amount to 757,184 tons of rice and 25,520 tons of millets. During the rest of the year, July to October, only about 60,000 tons of rice are expected to be procured. Thus the food budget for the coming months is as follows:—

	TONS.
Stocks on 3rd July 1948	463,641
Expected imports	127,705
Expected procurement	60,000
Total	651,346

5. The offtake of all foodgrains together in the statutorily rationed and the rural rationed areas as well as in the de-rationed areas was 36,011 tons during the week ending 3rd July 1948. If we assume that the offtake in the coming weeks will remain more or less the same, it may be expected that the present stocks will last for 18 weeks or till about the first week of November 1948. The offtake however is bound to increase at least till the middle of September, when the early crops are likely to be harvested in some of the districts. The increase in the scale of ration referred to in the next paragraph will also contribute to the increase. At present there are nearly 8,500 relief shops in the Province and there is the possibility of the number increasing in the subsequent months. The offtake is therefore bound to go up and it may be assumed in these circumstances that the stocks would last only till about the middle of October. We have approached the Government of India for further help.

6. The scale of rice ration to rice-eaters was 8 oz. of rice in the statutorily rationed areas, 6 oz. in the rural rationed areas of Malabar and the Nilgiris and 5 oz. in the derationed areas served through relief shops. Owing to numerous representations about the inadequacy of rice rations in the rural areas of Malabar and the Nilgiris and in the de-rationed areas now served through relief shops, the Government have increased the rice contents from 6 to 8 oz. in the case of Malabar and the Nilgiri districts and from 5 to 6 oz. in the case of areas served through relief shops, with effect from the 18th of July 1948. The rice ration in the statutory areas will remain at 8 oz. as at present. The overall ration will also remain at 10 oz. in the case of the statutory areas and the rural areas and at 8 oz. in the case of the areas served through relief shops.

7. The south-west monsoon has so far been more or less normal except in a few districts but it is too early to say how it is likely to behave ultimately. The general food situation at present may, on the whole, be considered to be satisfactory as was stated by me during the discussions on the 14th. However, we will not be out of the woods till the north-east monsoon has satisfactorily established itself and unless we are able to build up a buffer stock of not less than two months' requirements at the end of October next.

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8. *Prices.*—As was expected at the time when the policy of decontrol was adopted, the one immediate result of decontrol has been an increase in prices in almost all districts. They have exceeded the prices which were in force prior to decontrol by 100 per cent in parts of many districts but such abnormal increases are confined to the deficit districts. In the surplus districts, however, there has no doubt been some increase but the increase has not been as high as in the deficit districts. I may state, in this connexion, that the increase in prices in the wake of decontrol is not a phenomenon which is noticed in this Province alone but is one which has been observed in other Provinces also. In some of them, the increase is much more than in this Province in spite of the fact that our crops had failed in several districts owing to the failure of the last north-east monsoon. I do not mean to suggest that the Government view with equanimity the increase that has taken place in the prices of foodgrains. All possible steps are being taken to fight this increase. The Government have statutorily notified the prices of foodgrains for the trade in each district. But indiscriminate prosecutions on a large scale would not only amount to unnecessary harassment but they would also have the effect of driving all the stocks underground and thus defeat the very object with which we have controlled the prices. Government have, therefore, asked all the Collectors to launch prosecutions against merchants who are found to have flagrantly transgressed the Price Control Order. This discretion has to be used judiciously and with reference to local conditions and I trust it is being done. Another method adopted for combating the increase in price is by opening relief shops and supplying foodgrains to the people at controlled rates and this has had the concurrence of the Government of India also. At first, the number of relief shops opened after derationing was very limited but when the tendency for prices to rise was noticed, the Collectors were given instructions that they must open as many relief shops as were necessary to counteract the tendency. The number of relief shops at present has gone up to nearly 8,500. Each relief shop is intended to serve about 500 families on an average as the old ration shop did. At that rate, the total number of families served through them must come to about 4,250,000. Assuming that each family consists of five persons, the total population served through relief shops will exceed 20 millions which represents about 40 per cent of the entire population of the Province or roughly over 60 per cent of the population of non-producers and partial producers put together. I would like to remind the House, in this connexion, that the policy of derationing, which had the approval of this House, involves the abandonment of the principle of supplying foodgrains at controlled rates to each and every family and yet provision has been made for distribution of foodgrains at controlled prices for a large percentage of the population. These relief shops, as the name itself indicates, are intended to serve only people who cannot purchase their requirements in the open market. If the prices have gone up, those who are responsible for it are mostly people who could afford to pay higher prices to satisfy their fastidious habits and who do not care to avail themselves of the relief shops. The poor man could always

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approach the relief shop and be sure of his 6 oz. of rice and 2 oz. of millets. As I said earlier, the number of relief shops is bound to grow up in the coming weeks and the number of families served through them will also increase. Now that Government have increased the rice ration from 5 to 6 oz. for issues through relief shops, the offtake of rice through them will be more and to that extent the pressure on the local market will be less. It is hoped that this will have the effect of putting down the prices of paddy in the coming weeks though we are approaching the fag end of the harvest year when prices used to be high even during normal times. It cannot be denied that these relief shops have contributed to a large extent to limit the increase in prices and that they will continue to do so in the coming months also.

9. During the discussions on the 14th, much was made of the alleged smuggling that was prevailing from one district to another. No doubt there is a certain amount of smuggling, especially from the delta districts. In all such districts, the Government have employed both civil supplies and police staff to prevent such smuggling. But when smuggling takes place on a large scale as has been alleged in some of the districts, it is obviously difficult for those in charge to prevent such smuggling. The Government however have issued necessary instructions to see that the steps that are possible under present conditions are taken to prevent the smuggling of foodgrains but the attempt can succeed only by a stronger co-operation from the public than what has been available hitherto.

10. It has been suggested to Government that the removal of inter-district bans will have the effect of making foodgrains available in plenty throughout the Province and also in bringing down prices. I must point out that this thesis proceeds on an incorrect appreciation of facts. If the surplus production of foodgrains in the surplus districts has been sufficient to cover the requirements of all the deficit districts, then no doubt the removal of the inter-district ban will have the effect of making foodgrains available in the deficit districts at reasonable prices. But the real difficulty is that the surplus production in the surplus districts, even supplemented by imports allowed by the Government of India, is inadequate compared to the requirements of the deficit areas. Thus, the removal of the inter-district bans will not, in any way, help to improve the general food situation in the Province. On the other hand, the removal of the ban will not only facilitate secreting and cornering of stocks by unscrupulous importers but is also likely to convert the surplus districts themselves into deficit areas and put them in the same plight as the deficit districts. Further, the continuance of the inter-district bans is necessary for the purpose of procuring the surpluses available wherever such procurement is in force. These bans will have to be removed when the Government takes up further measures of decontrol after the procurement is effected in full and if the seasonal conditions are found to be satisfactory. In fact, in view of the satisfactory millet position in the Ceded districts, the inter-district ban on the movement of millets has been removed in the group of districts comprising Bellary, Anantapur,

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Kurnool, Cuddapah, Chittoor, North Arcot, Nellore and Guntur. Inter-village bans and inter-taluk bans have since been removed by the Government in all districts except in areas where they are absolutely necessary for the purpose of procurement. Such bans exist only against the movement of foodgrains from delta to the uplands in the Guntur and Nellore districts. In these districts too, the ban will be removed as soon as the exportable surplus is procured and moved.

11. This brings us to the next question as to the further measures of decontrol to be taken by the Madras Government. The important control measures which are now in force are the statutory rationing in 18 towns in the Province, including Madras City, the continuance of inter-provincial, inter-district and inter-taluk bans referred to above, the Price Control Order and the Procurement Regulations in the surplus districts as well as in Malabar and the Nilgiris. So far as the inter-provincial bans are concerned, their removal is a matter for the Government of India to decide. But the inter-district and inter-taluk bans can be removed, as stated above, when the quantities still to be procured from the surplus areas have been procured and when the next season promises to be fair. The Price Control Order, the Foodgrains Control Order and the procurement notifications may have to be continued to give powers to the Government to regulate prices and to prevent hoarding, whether by producers or by middlemen. The situation is being carefully watched and all possible steps will be taken to see that the change-over from control to complete decontrol is effected as smoothly as possible.

12. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not express my appreciation of the help rendered by the Government of India during the current year. The Foodgrains Policy Committee recommended for this Province a ceiling import quota of only 150,000 tons. On a protest from me, the Government of India raised the quota to 200,000 tons in the first instance. On further representations made by this Government that the ceiling import quota was quite inadequate, the Government of India were pleased to double the quota and raise it to 400,000 tons later on. When the north-east monsoon failed, further representations were made to the Government of India. As a result of this and as a result of the personal impression gathered by the Hon'ble the Food Minister to the Government of India during his tour in this Province in May 1948, the quota was increased by one lakh of tons bringing it to 5 lakhs of tons. As stated earlier, these five lakhs is made up of 234,000 tons of rice, 57,000 tons of wheat, 133,000 tons of maize and 76,000 tons of milo and millets. The Government of India are again being addressed to substantially increase our quota, pointing out the facts mentioned in the earlier part of this note, viz., that the present stocks will last only till about October and that it would be necessary for the Government to keep at least two months' stocks as buffer to meet any contingency that may arise hereafter. The Government hope that the Government of India will respond as generously as they have done in the past.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, the 22nd July 1948.

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

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Vaishanava temple at Varahur.

* 63 Q.—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a Vaishnava temple at Varahur, Tanjore taluk, is not yet thrown open to Harijans; and

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to amend the Act so as to bring such temples within the Act?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of Hon. the Premier):—“(a) Yes; the temple is a private one and does not fall within the purview of section 2 (2) of the Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act, 1947.

“(b) Yes.”

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—“May I know when the Government propose to bring an amending Bill, Sir?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“As early as possible, Sir.”

SRI S. C. BALAKRISHNAN:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that in most of the village temples such as the Mariammankoil and Kalliamankoil they don't allow the Harijan?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“All public temples are thrown open. If there is any sectional or community one they are not open to the public.”

SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—“கோவில் என்று ஒன்று இருக்குமா அது எல்லோருக்கும் பொது என்று ஆகாமல் சாஸ்திரத்தில் சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அப்படி இல்லாமல் வீடு மாதிரி பாவித்தால் நரகத்திற்கு போவார்கள் என்று சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. . . .”

MR. SPEAKER:—“நரகத்திற்கும் மோட்சத்திற்கும் போவதைப்பற்றி இங்கு இப்பொழுது நீங்கள் பேசக்கூடாது. இங்கு இருப்பதைப்பற்றிதான் கேட்கவேண்டும்.”

SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—“கோவில் என்று ஒன்று இருந்தால் அது எல்லோருக்கும் பொதுதானே அதை எல்லோருக்கும் திறந்து விடும் படி சர்க்கார் ஒரு உத்திரவு போடுவார்களா?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Amendment is contemplated.”

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SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"In these days of Ordinances, frequent Ordinances, and more Ordinances, will the Government get the orders passed in the recess after the session is over to bring all the temples open to the public?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, Sir. We do not think of issuing an Ordinance."

SRI M. BAPINEEDU:—"Have the Government any information at least of the public temples which are opened to the Harijans?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is presumed that all the public temples are thrown open. If they are not it may be brought to the notice of the Government."

SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Are the Government aware that many of the temples are not thrown open to all classes though they are public but claimed by trustees as private and the Courts also have given temporary injunctions against such entry."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"In future all these are contemplated to be brought under the amendment."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—"Why not the Government issue an order to throw open the particular Vaishnava temple at Varahur?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"As it now exists it cannot be opened executively unless an amendment of that Act is done."

MAHIN SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know of any private temples in South Kanara district which are open to the Harijans?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Perhaps some of them are opened."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Hindu Religious Endowment Board is doing anything to bring to the notice of the villagers the provisions of the Act to throw open all the temples?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yes, Sir. They are certainly bringing to the notice of the public the provisions of the Act throwing open all the temples to the Harijans."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—"May I know whether the Government are aware that by keeping out all the communities other than the Brahman from entering the precincts of the temple, great commotion is caused in the village sufficient to cause breach of the peace and what steps the Government will take in the matter?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The Government will take very stern steps to check commotions."

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SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Sir, in view of the fact that there are number of suits pending in the Courts in Malabar will the Government undertake legislation at an early date?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yes, Sir. It is being done."

SRI M. P. PERIYASWAMI:—"கிராமங்களில் ஹரிஜனங்களும் ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்களும் சேர்ந்து கும்பிடக்கூடிய கோவில்களில் ஹரிஜனங்களை தடுக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி இருந்தால் ஹரிஜனங்கள் போகலாமா?."

Export of onions.

* 64 Q.—SRI S. C. BALAKRISHNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the ban which was imposed by the Central Government on the export of onions outside this Province has been now lifted; and

(b) if so, whether onions are being exported from this Province?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (a) It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to exports of onions from the Madras Province to places outside the Indian Dominion. Such exports are regulated by the Government of India, the Provincial Government's ban on exports outside the Province having been lifted in January 1948.

" (b) Yes. Since March 1948, the Madras Government have declared a total quantity of 12,000 tons of onions as surplus to the requirements of this Province and the Government of India have agreed to allow this quantity to be exported to overseas countries."

SRI S. C. BALAKRISHNAN:—"May I know, Sir, whether the export of onions is being allowed through the permit system or without the permit system?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Permit has got to be taken as number one transport priority by people who want to export onions."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that for want of sufficient and speedy supply of wagons for exporting onions great hardship is being experienced both by the producer and the consumer and, if so, what steps the Government have taken to ensure a steady supply?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Priority for food is always given but people must get priority permit to export."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"Will the Hon. the Minister be pleased to state what effect was produced on the price of onions before and after the removal of the ban?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I want notice."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of relaxing the rule regarding permits so far as onions are concerned as obtaining the permit will take a lot of time?"

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Priority is given to perishable articles immediately after application and I do not see where the difficulty arises."

SRI M. BAPINEEDU:—" May I know the food value of onions and other vitamin contents? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" For purpose of classification, onions are considered as foodstuffs."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Has the Hon. Minister taken into account that the price of onions has been rising very high before he decided to export this particular commodity outside the country? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Onions went very low with regard to their prices hitting the producer. Therefore the ban was removed. After the ban was removed food supplies are given first priority and onions being perishables are given high priority though I want to say that onions could be preserved for a certain length of time."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—" Inasmuch as onions have come under the category of vegetables did the Government give a high priority? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" If the hon. Member had listened to the previous answer he would have noticed first priority is given to onions."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know why permit is insisted for export? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Onions are required for consumption this Province and the supply may run short. Therefore the Government have regulated the export."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" Since the idea of insisting on the ban was for preserving certain quantity here, may I know why permit is insisted upon for export? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Permit is issued only for surplus onions."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—" Does the Government realize that in every case where ban has been removed prices have been soaring high and if the Government realize the fact what steps they propose to take to safeguard the consumers' interest and the producers' interest? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" The Government realize the implications of such exports and imports."

SRI B. ANANTHACHAR:—" In view of the fact the Bellary onion is bigger and a better variety, will the Government give preference for export of the Bellary onions? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" The rule applies to all onions in general big or small."

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SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—" May I know how the export permits are issued? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" They are issued by the Export Commissioner."

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—" May I know on what basis permits are issued, Sir? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Permits are issued when the Food Department announces that there is so much quantity available for export." 11-15 a.m.

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know how it is arrived at, Sir? How is the information got from the various parts of the districts? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Just in the manner I have stated, Sir."

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—" May I ask, Sir, if the issue of permits is restricted only to those exporters who had been in the trade previously or to new merchants also? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Preference is always given to old people who had been in the trade before but new merchants are also allowed."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, what is the surplus quantity of onions in the Province? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" 12,000 tons, Sir."

SRI B. ANANTHACHAR:—" Will preference be given to onion producers or to traders in onions? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" It is mostly confined to those whose names have been registered as exporters of onions and when it is exported necessarily it has to come from the producer to make the onions available to the trade."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister is satisfied that the prices of onions have not risen after the removal of the ban on exports? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Prices vary according to the quantity produced."

SRI S. C. BALAKRISHNAN:—" May I know, Sir, if preference will be given to Harijans if they apply for permits? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" No, Sir. There is no such separate community among onions." (Laughter.)

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Are the Government aware, Sir, that generally permits are not given in time? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" No, Sir. It is given in time according to a regular register kept according to priority of the applications."

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SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMIAH:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that too liberal a policy in regard to the issue of permits for export of onions adversely affects the production of foodgrains as a consequence of the expansion of onion cultivation in the Province?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I have more than once repeated that it is only the surplus onions that are exported from the Province."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that Bellary onions are bigger and of good quality?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is a variety of onions and they are called Bellary onions and it is not necessary that they are grown in Bellary or they have got a separate Bellary caste about it?"

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister for Food that before the ban was lifted the price of onion was very low that it was uneconomical, may I know, Sir, whether now it has risen high enough to be economic?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Government expected that by allowing the export of surplus onions the market will go off and I have reason to believe that the market is better now."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know who are the local authorities in charge of permits in taluks and district headquarters?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Normally applications are sent to Collectors."

List of backward communities.

* 65 Q.—SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the year during which the list of backward communities was last revised; and

(b) the year during which it is likely to be revised next?

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

"(a) The list of backward classes was revised in 1913. The list was again revised in 1925 when the communities coming under the term 'Depressed classes' were grouped in one list. In 1935 a further revision of the list was undertaken with reference to the list of untouchables in the Schedule to the White Paper on Indian Constitutional Reforms. It was decided that instead of 'Depressed classes' the term Scheduled castes should be used and that the Scheduled castes should include only these castes specified in the Schedule to the White Paper. The next major revision was made in 1940. No comprehensive revision of the list has been made after 1935."

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"(b) There is no proposal at present."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"Have the Government considered the desirability of amending the list comprehensively after its coming into power?"

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

"It is only recently that the matter has been taken up and some time must elapse before the matter can be taken up once more."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know the basis on which the classification has been made, whether it is on the basis of economic condition of the people or on the religious basis?"

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

"Mostly on the economic basis; under present social conditions certain communities are backward and both have been combined in this."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"In view of the fact that certain backward communities have been elevated from the time of the last revision, will the Government consider the revision so as to include only the backward communities?"

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

"Some time must elapse before another revision is made; the last revision was in 1940 and some time must elapse before a second revision can be made."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know what the time is that the Hon. Minister has in his mind which he considers must elapse before another revision can be made. I find here that almost ten years have elapsed from the time of the last revision?"

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

"I do not fix any time. But ten or twelve years may be reasonable."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Is not a period of eight years long enough, Sir, to make a revision of the list?"

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

"But previously it took much more time; normally the revision is not done year by year but by decades."

SRI KALLUR SUBBA RAO:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware, Sir, the Valmikiis have been included under Scheduled classes in some districts but in some other districts they have been classified as high caste Non-Brahmans?"

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

"That is an individual question about which I must have separate notice."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that under the classification of Non-Brahmans, Reddis and Kammas in the Andhra and Mudaliyars, Nayudus and Naickers in the Tamilnad

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have been taking away most of the seats in colleges and jobs under Government and in view of that may I know if the Government propose to set apart a definite minimum, say, up to or even more than 70 per cent for the listed backward communities?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"That is another matter which has to be addressed to the Public Department."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, what is the political, social or economic advantages that are derived by the communities by this classification?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"So far as educational institutions are concerned, they are given half-fee concessions in colleges and certain scholarships are also available to them."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"In revising the list in the future, will the Government take the members of this House belonging to the backward and scheduled classes into confidence and revise the list?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"I do not know if it can be done; but I will certainly consider whether public opinion cannot be taken in the matter when the revision is taken up."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"In view of the fact that considerable anxiety has been felt by members of the backward communities of this House over this matter, will the Government consider the desirability of meeting the Members of the House and consulting them and decide the matter?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"Most of the backward communities which hon. Members have in mind have been included in the list and there is nothing else to be done about it but representations might, however, be put in and they will be considered."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the number 160 has been more than once mentioned as being the backward communities and that these communities must be treated as such?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"I find that under the Madras Education Rules the number is 154."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, which were the communities that were added to the list and which deleted from the list during the revision of 1940 and whether Kapus have been deleted from the list?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"I would like to have separate notice for that question, Sir."

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SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware, Sir, that many students belonging to backward communities who have been seeking admission in colleges where merit and very high marks were the prime factors for consideration, had been refused admission and if so, may I know, Sir, what the Government propose to do to ameliorate their condition?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"It does not arise from this question."

MR. L. C. PAIS:—"May I know, Sir, whether members of certain backward communities are likely to lose any of the concessions they are entitled to merely because of their conversion to some other faith?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"I am unable to say what the legal effect of their conversion will be."

SRI S. C. BALAKRISHNAN:—"Are the Government aware, Sir, that there are certain non-untouchable communities included in the list and might I ask whether during the revision such communities will be excluded?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"I think Sir, when the list will be revised, it will be time enough for hon. Members to make their representations either for or against the inclusion of any particular community."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"May I know under what community Brahmosamajists and Aryasamajists come; do they come under backward communities?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"The hon. Member might put a separate question."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"The list was revised eight years ago during the Advisers' regime; now that the popular Government has come into power who are wedded to protect the interests of backward communities, is it not now necessary to undertake a comprehensive revision of the old list?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"There are so many other things to be done and it will be taken up in due time. Usually it has been ten years and we may call for representations, and if any representations are made now they will be filed and considered when the matter is taken up for revision."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government see any objection to form one group combining the backward communities and the scheduled classes and give them their quota in respect of jobs and concessions on the basis of their population?"

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M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"One hundred and fifty-four communities have been listed; may I know, Sir, what proportion they represent of the entire population of the Province?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am unable to reply to that question off-hand."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"If the Government concede that these backward communities are as backward as Harijans and scheduled castes, may I know why in educational matters the same concessions that have been accorded to the Harijans have not been extended to backward communities like Erukulas and Enadis?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"If hon. Members have any particular community about which they have a grievance to represent, it is open to them to put in their representations and the Government will consider them."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"Are the Government aware that in the preparation of the list according to the White Paper the matter of untouchability was the criterion and that was the basis on which the list was prepared with a view to afford them protection?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am not aware of the intention."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—"May I know, Sir, how the Government will classify the off-springs of marriages between forward and backward communities?"

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware, Sir, that the community called 'Kuruvās' are placed in a worse condition so far as education is concerned than any other community and is it not necessary that they should be included under scheduled castes and not backward communities. They object to being called Kuravans, by which name they are usually called?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am unable to give any answer about individual communities and I am also unable to say whether the statement made by the hon. Member is correct and I am unable to say anything about it and if the hon. Member wants to have any information about any particular community, he may put a separate question."

11-30 a.m. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister, may I request him to go through the proceedings of the various committees that were set up from time to time to examine this question to know whether the Scheduled Castes were styled as Scheduled Castes because of untouchability?"

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THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No purpose will be served by going into the records, when we take up this classification after sometime we will try to do what we can in the matter."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"To avoid unpleasant distinctions being made by calling backward community and Scheduled Caste, may I request the Government, for the purpose of classification, under rule 97 of the Madras Educational Rules, to prepare a list called listed communities, consisting of communities that are eligible for educational concessions?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am unable to accept the suggestion as it is a matter which will have to be considered deeply."

SRI KALLUR SUBBA RAO:—"Sir, if this classification is made on the economic basis, why not the Government make a classification of all communities that are economically backward?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"We cannot make such a list."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I request the Government to prepare a list of all backward communities districtwar, giving the population of each community, as also the number of persons in each community who are educated?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It will be a tremendous work and the result achieved will not be commensurate with the expenditure and labour involved in preparing the list."

SRI B. ANANTHACHAR:—"May I know, whether the Government are trying to work a scheme for the backward areas or districts as in the case of backward communities?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"We have already got a list and money has been allotted for the tribes for elementary education."

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—"Will the Government create a separate department to look after the welfare of the backward tribes?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"There is already a separate department for that called the Labour Department."

SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:—"May I know, whether Koyyas and Konda Reddis of the partially excluded areas come under the backward tribes?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I have more than once said that questions relating to individual or individual communities cannot be answered in a general question. A separate question may be put."

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SRI K. LINGA RAJU:—" May I know whether the Government have put a time limit, after which time they can drop this word 'backward community?' " (Laughter.)

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" Arising out of the answer to Mr. Anantachar's question, may I ask what special concessions or privileges have been extended to the students coming from backward tracts? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" Even though they receive less marks, a certain number of students have been admitted from each district from such communities."

Fire Service lorries for water-supply.

* 66 Q.—SRI S. C. BALAKRISHNAN: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Palni Municipality made a representation to the Government requesting that the Madras Fire Service lorries might be permitted for the purpose of water-supply to the public whenever necessary; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have given them permission to use the Madras Fire Service lorries?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—" (a) Yes.

" (b) No."

SRI S. C. BALAKRISHNAN:—" Sir, in view of the fact that fire accidents are very rarely occurring in towns, and the fire staff are doing nothing except sleeping, will the Government consider to allow the municipalities to utilize the services of the fire engines at least for one hour a day for water-supply purposes? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" The Director of Fire Services was consulted on this matter and he feels that these vehicles, as they are constructed of a different type, are not fit for this type of work."

Transfer of college staff.

* 67 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the recent report of the General Inspection Commission of the University of Madras and is aware that attention has been drawn therein to the inadvisability of too frequent transfers of staff from one college to another in the midst of an academic session; and

(b) whether the Government will bear in mind in future the advice of the University Commission in this regard?

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

" (a) & (b) Yes."

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I know whether the Government will particularly see that frequent transfers are not made in institutions like Saidapet College and see that the staff is more or less stable? "

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

" Yes, Sir, the Government have taken the suggestion of the University Commission very seriously and are adopting it as far as possible."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—" Is it a fact, Sir, that even in the matter of appointment, which does not come within the category of gazetted rank, even in the matter of subordinate service with regard to appointment and transfer which vest in the Deputy Director of Public Instruction, the Hon. Minister sends his own nominees? "

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

" That is a lie, which I would like to contradict in this House. I would challenge any Member to produce a single instance in evidence."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that these lies were published in the newspapers and may I know whether the Minister has tried to contradict it. As he has not contradicted it, I have got every right to put it here."

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

" I am glad the hon. Member has given me an opportunity to contradict it here."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" On a point of order, Sir, is it parliamentary to use the word 'lie' ? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" He has not said that so and so is a liar. May I know what the Hon. Minister said? "

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

" I said that was a lie; the suggestion of the hon. Member was a lie."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Whatever it is, what was said was what the hon. Member said is a lie, and it means the hon. Member is a liar."

MR. SPEAKER:—" No, the rumour regarding transfers is a lie."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" The Hon. Minister himself admits he said that it was a lie, that is, that which was said by the hon. Member is a lie. What doubt is there as to its meaning? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" Am I to understand that the Hon. Minister said the hon. Member is a liar? "

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

" I said that rumour is a lie."

MR. SPEAKER:—" You see."

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MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB.—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that these lies did appear in the newspapers, particularly in the *Hindu*, dated 7th June 1948, and may I know whether he has taken steps to contradict them and said that such things are not happening in the Education department, because there is a feeling in the public outside that everything is wrong with the education department and frequent transfers are made by the Minister himself. Will he contradict it?”

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

“It will be difficult to contradict each and every petty misstatement. Even yesterday I found a big lie in the papers. I think it will not be possible to contradict them. If I am to do it I fear I cannot find time to do anything else. I expect the co-operation of hon. Members to spread truth in these matters.”

Rams produced in Nellore district.

* 68 Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the type of rams produced in Nellore district is the best in the country for mutton purposes;

(b) whether it is a fact that this breed has been of late degenerating; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve this variety?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“(a) Yes. This is a very good type of mutton sheep in South India.

“(b) Yes. Deterioration in the breed has been noticed.

“(c) The Sheep and Goat Development Officer is formulating a scheme to improve this variety of sheep.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“May I know whether the mutton of this variety of sheep is a very useful and ideal one (laughter) or at least it is as good as that of Mandya breed? May I know whether the Government have got a proposal to start an animal farm of this breed on a bonus payment scheme?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“The Government have already a scheme to have a livestock farm opened one in each district and then this variety of sheep will be reared in Nellore in the livestock farm there.”

SINNA KAZIAR HAJI MOULVI S. A. F. IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to arrange to send one lb. of this mutton to each Member of this House so that we can find out the taste of the mutton of the Nellore ram?” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“If the hon. Member belonging to that district will help me I have no objection.”

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SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—“May I know from the Hon. Minister how Mr. Raghavayya is interested to put his questions?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Any Member can put such a question.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Arising out of the answer to clause (b), may I know what are the reasons that led to the deterioration of these rams?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“That is the very thing that is being investigated.”

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Much more than the yield of mutton, is the Hon. Minister aware, is the yield of skin and wool which this sheep farming produces, if this Government were to undertake that, because that is the yield that is exported to other countries and profit earned?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“Since this is a question dealing with the taste of mutton I did not go into the question of skin or wool.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“Will the Government be able to give us any concrete idea of the bonus scheme that it has under contemplation in the several districts or in Nellore?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“Notice.”

SRI M. BAPINEEDU:—“Is the bonus asked for eating or rearing ram?” (Laughter.)

Termination of the services of Sri V. R. Chitra.

* 69 Q.—MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB: Will the Hon. the Minister for Firka Development be pleased to state—

(a) the conditions and terms of service under which Mr. Chitra was appointed as Deputy Director of Industries (Cottage Industries), and the date of his appointment; and

(b) the reasons for terminating his services?

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—“(a) Sri V. R. Chitra was appointed to officiate as Deputy Director of Industries and Commerce (Cottage Industries) on a pay of Rs. 700 per mensem on contract for a period of five years from the date of assuming charge. He assumed charge as Deputy Director of Industries and Commerce (Cottage Industries) on the afternoon of the 26th August 1946. The conditions and terms of service are those usually applicable to an Officer appointed on contract.

“(b) Government considered that it was not necessary to retain the services of Sri V. R. Chitra.”

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“In view of the fact that the Government have discontinued the people who have joined on a contract basis, may I inquire, is it the policy of the Government to remove persons appointed by the ex-Premier, Mr. Prakasam?”

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THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"That question does not arise from this question."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Is it right on the part of the Government to enter into contract with such officers and terminate their services without valid reasons?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"Provisions for termination exist under such contracts."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Was he found inefficient or anything of the sort?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"It is not in the public interest to answer that question."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know what cottage industries were developed during his regime?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"A separate question may be put."

Nationalization of bus service.

11-45 a.m. * 70 Q.—SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state what progress has been made by the Government in the matter of nationalization of bus service in the Province?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The passenger bus services within the City of Madras were completely nationalized by 1st June 1948. As the Government desired to watch the City Scheme in action for a few months and assess its results and as the petrol position at present is very acute, the Government have decided that for the present there should be no extension of the Nationalization Scheme to the mufassal, but that the question should be reviewed later, say about October 1948."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"May I know whether the Government's scheme for the nationalization of buses will be placed before the Members of this House?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, Sir."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Has the tragic accident that took place in Madras yesterday been brought to the notice of the Government and may I know what was wrong in this city of Denmark that has caused such a serious accident when the buses are in the hands of the Government?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"This question does not arise from the original question."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government cease to repeat the excuse of the shortage of petrol, since this is common to private and State enterprises?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Evidently the hon. Member was not present when I replied to the debate on the Motor Vehicles (Madras Amendment) Bill."

SRI K. P. KAMAKSHI CHETTIYAR:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister will be pleased to take up the nationalization of buses on the Kodaikanal Road where one company has been enjoying the monopoly of bus transport for the last ten years?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"As I stated, the position will be reviewed in October."

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—"தலைவர் ஸார், நேற்றையதினம் ஆயிரம் விளக்கில் 5 ஏழைக்குடும்பத் தலைவர்கள் இந்த பஸ் சர்வீஸ் மூலம் இறந்து விட்டார்கள். அந்த ஏழைக் குடும்பங்களுக்கு ஏதாவது உதவி செய்ய முடியுமா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not know whether this question arises from the original question."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government give an assurance that before extending the nationalization scheme this House will be given an opportunity to debate the entire question?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Hon. Members are always at liberty to put questions and elicit information from the Government. I do not know whether a special opportunity can be given to the hon. Members to discuss the scheme."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"In view of the growing importance of Vizagapatam from the military point of view and otherwise, and as the present bus services there are absolutely out of date and causes great inconvenience to the passengers, may I request the Government to consider the nationalization of buses in that district?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"As I said, the matter will be considered in October of this year."

SRI P. R. KANDASWAMI GOUNDER:—"Will the Government give an assurance to this House about the maximum period within which they propose to nationalize the buses throughout the Province?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Nothing can be said at this stage because we want some time to review the whole position with regard to the city services."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"May I know whether the present method of nationalization is presenting any difficulty and, if so, whether the Benthall Scheme put forward during the Advisers Government will be tried to nationalize the buses immediately?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not know what that scheme is."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Do the Government realize that scarcity of petrol is the immediate cause for not proceeding further with nationalization?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It does not necessarily follow."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"In the scheme of nationalization will the Government give priority to city services and establish them on a firm footing and then let them fan out into the adjacent districts?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"This is a very valuable suggestion which we will consider."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether the killing of people as was done in yesterday's accident is a benefit of nationalization and what steps the Government propose to take to prevent such accidents?"

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know whether complaints have been received about the working of the nationalization scheme in the city and, if so, what they are?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Several complaints have been received on various matters like the misbehaviour of conductors and so on. I do not know what exactly the hon. Member wants to know."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"The Hon. Minister promised to convene a conference. May I know whether he will convene the conference and thrash out the points on which the people wish to be enlightened?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We shall try to convene a conference of people who usually travel by bus and not of people who own cars."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Is it not a fact that the Hon. Minister wrote to me that he would invite me also to that conference?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yes, it was not in connection with the complaints but to consider the specific question whether women could be appointed as conductors."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know whether women are not interested in the matter because they also travel by bus?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I shall certainly call women who usually travel by bus."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the attention of the Hon. Minister has been drawn to the terrible scramble for seats at some of the important bus

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stops in the city like the one opposite the High Court and, if not, will he visit the bus stops to see for himself the terrible hardships caused to the travelling public and at least insist on the queue system?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am aware of the congestion at some of the places, as I myself visited them thrice. We are trying to introduce the queue system at certain places."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether all possible precautions will be taken to avoid the recurrence of accidents similar to the one which occurred in the city yesterday?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No Government or individual wants any accident. The Government are certainly anxious to avoid accidents."

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—"May I know whether the Government Transport Service is handicapped for want of proper workshop facilities?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"There are many difficulties and want of proper workshop facilities is one of them."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the running of more buses will not be a better solution to avoid congestion than the queue system?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not think that more buses alone will solve the difficulty. Queue system also is necessary."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Since the Hon. Minister admits that the running of more buses also counts, will he try to increase the number of buses at least on those routes in the city where the congestion is great?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Certainly, Sir. The scheme contemplates a total of 300 buses. To-day only 253 are on the road. Bodies are being built and more buses will be put on the road."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Do the Government realize that nationalization could be made better by taking the workers into confidence and giving them a share in the profit at the end of every year?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The question raises a very large issue. If it is done in the Transport Department, it will have to be done in the Irrigation, Electricity and various other departments, and there will be very serious repercussions on the finances of the Province."

SRI V. T. MUNISWAMY PILLAY:—"Since the Government have decided to confine the nationalization of bus services to

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the city for the time being, will they consider the necessity for framing stringent rules and regulations to avoid accidents as far as possible?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Certainly. Whether there is nationalization or not, stringent rules must be there to prevent accidents."

M. S. ABDUL MAJID SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it a fact that most of the newly purchased buses are very bad, that nearly fifty per cent of them are in the workshop, and that consequently there is a lot of congestion on the routes?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not accept the premises of the hon. Member that the new buses are very bad or that fifty per cent of them are in the workshop."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government examine the question of securing efficiency in the bus services in the matter of avoiding empty haulage by a careful calculation of the passenger road miles and also set up a suitable machinery for servicing like keeping ready reconditioned engines, spare parts and the like?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"All necessary steps are being taken. Of course there are certain difficulties which we are trying to overcome."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Is not the Hon. Minister aware that the transport conditions in the mufassal are much worse than in the cities and that the mufassal parts should therefore receive a higher priority than the cities?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"While I admit that mufassal needs must be given a higher priority, the scheme must also be in consonance with the capacity of the Government to organize it."

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—"Will the Government arrange to nationalize the buses at least in hilly parts like the Shevaroyas and the Kodaikanal if it cannot be done throughout the Province at once?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"This cannot be considered as an isolated item. This must be considered as a part of the whole scheme."

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—"May I know when the buses on the Coimbatore-Nilgiris route will be nationalized?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Not in the near future."

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—"தலைவர் ஸார், தொழிலாளர்கள் நம்முடைய அரசாங்கத்தின் பஸ்ஸில் வேலை செய்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் தங்குவதற்கு இடம் இல்லாமல் Platform-ல் படுத்துக்கொண்டு இருக்கிறார்கள். இது தெரியுமா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

MR SPEAKER:—"இதைப்பற்றி நீங்கள் தனியாக ஒரு கேள்வி போட்டுக் கேட்கவேண்டும்."

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SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"If the Government do not find it possible to nationalize the buses throughout the Province at a stretch, will they at least join the present bus companies as share-holders and run buses in the mufassal?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No."

SRI M. S. PATTABIRAMIAH:—"Arising out of the answer that nationalization could not be proceeded with due to the shortage of petrol, may I know how the private companies running petrol buses in the mufassal are managing—are they buying petrol in the blackmarket or are they getting it from the Government?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I never said that shortage of petrol was the only consideration. It was one of the considerations which prevented the Government from taking up the entire scheme immediately."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the fact that the workers of the Transport Department have given notice of strike and that no compromise had been effected so far, may I request the Hon. Minister to make a statement about the matter on the floor of this House?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yesterday the Transport Commissioner and the Deputy Transport Commissioner met the workers and offered some terms. We see from this morning's papers that the workers rejected the terms. The matter is in a very delicate stage and I do not think that any useful purpose will be served by discussing the matter on the floor of this House."

SRI A. SUBRAMANIAN:—"சில முதலாளிகளை கூட்டாளிகளாக சேர்த்து கொண்டு நடத்தினால் லாபம் ஏற்படலாம். இதை அரசாங்கம் யோசிக்குமா?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"When the full nationalization scheme is worked out, private operators also will have a share. Hon. Members may remember that the original scheme contemplates the allotment of 51 per cent of shares to the Government, 20 per cent to the local bodies, 15 per cent to the railways and 14 per cent to private operators. When the full scheme is worked out, everybody will have a due share in the profits."

SRI PYDAH VENKATANARAYANA:—"As the Government do not propose to nationalize the bus services in the mufassal at once, will they entrust the monopoly for running buses to local boards, municipalities and if necessary also to the co-operative societies?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, Sir. We had a long discussion on the floor of this House some time ago in which several Members said that transport services should not be entrusted to local bodies and that the Government themselves must undertake them."

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SRI K. VEERANNA PADAL:—“விஷ்ணு சாஸ்திரம் போன்ற சாஸ்திரங்களில் இவ்வாறு குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ளதால் இதை அரசு ஏற்றுக்கொள்ள முன்வருமா ?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“அவ்வாறு இல்லை.”

12 noon. SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—“Sir, would it not be desirable for the Government to try one or two difficult routes in the mufassal before October 1948 so that they may gain experience and consider further extension in the light of that experience?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Sir, there are several factors in regard to nationalization. The difficulty of securing chassis also is there because they are required for several other purposes.”

Revision of the list of backward classes.

* 71 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN AND SRI K. T. KOSALRAM (on behalf of Sri L. S. Karayalar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government intend revising the list of backward classes under rule 92 of the Madras Educational Rules; and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether a committee will be appointed to go into the question thoroughly and recommend a list of communities?

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—“Sir, can an hon. Member authorize two persons to put his question?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“It sometimes happens that an hon. Member can authorize two persons. I remember that in the Central Assembly it is not allowed. This being the first occasion, I allow the question to be put.”

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

“(a) No.

“(b) Does not arise.”

Homeless people in Madras City.

* 72 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Firka Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of homeless people in Madras City at present; and

(b) the steps that are being taken to provide shelter for them?

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—“(a) According to the census taken by the Ladden Committee appointed by the Corporation of Madras, the number of homeless persons in the City was 10,748 in 1933. No attempt was made afterwards to estimate the number of such people in the City. At the present time, it may be about a lakh.

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“(b) The Corporation of Madras are running three beggar homes with a total accommodation for 650 persons.

“The Provincial Housing Committee has recommended that housing for the poor and destitute should be provided by local authorities aided by the State and run as a social service. The remarks of the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies on the recommendation are awaited. On receipt of their remarks, the Government will examine the recommendations and take suitable action.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Sir, in view of the fact that the number of homeless people in the City has reached the appalling figure of about one lakh, may I know what urgent action the Government will take in regard to providing housing not only for the beggars but also for others who are houseless in the City?”

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—“Sir, this is not the only urgent need. There are many urgent needs that have to be attended to in the country and housing is one of them. I answered the question on housing very recently and this question is also part of that. We are considering the question and as far as the finances of the Government can allow, we can take up the scheme.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Sir, is it not a fact that a vast majority of the homeless people in the City of Madras are people employed by various organizations in the City such as the Port Trust and other employers; and, if it is a fact, whether it is not advisable that the Government should insist upon these employees to provide homes for these unfortunate people?”

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—“Sir, I will consider the argument of the Member and I think the suggestion can be examined by the Government.”

SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—“Mr. Speaker Sir, மாம்பலத்தில் 300 தொழிலாளர்களுடைய வீடுகளை பிரித்தது சர்க்காருக்கு தெரியுமா? அப்படி பிரித்திருந்தால் வீடுகளை திருப்பிக் கட்டிக் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறார்களா.”

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—“வேறு கேள்வி போடுமபடியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I know whether there is any proposal to include the Madras City under the Firka Development Scheme which will end all evils?”

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—“There is no relation between Firka Development and beautifying the City of Madras.”

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that a large number of rickshaw-pullers, cartmen and coolies are all homeless? May I know what the Government are doing to provide them with some shelter?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"Sir, I am conscious of those difficulties. I myself had sometime attempted to house these people at Vellore. There are a number of difficulties and our country is full of problems like that. We cannot take all the problems at the same time. Each problem has to be tackled separately and I would request the rich public to take up some of these social activities and come to the aid of the Government to take it up."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that, if the Labour department of the Government of Madras discharges its duty with full responsibility, a good deal of the problem could be solved?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"How can we know that the Labour department can solve the problem. As I have already answered, the Corporation is expected to do something along that line and the public are expected to do something along that line also and when both come forward, the Government will also come forward to take up this question."

SRI V. T. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"Due to the water scarcity and unemployment in the villages, thousands of Harijans have come to the City and have taken work as coolies and have put up some shelters. Will the Government advise the Corporation not to disturb them from their present shelter?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"I shall communicate the sentiment of the hon. Member to the Corporation."

SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—"Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that the statistics given just now are bad enough to damage the prestige of any Government and that it should be rectified first before sermonising over the poverty of the country?"

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—"Sir, in view of the fact that an appreciable number of those homeless people may be able-bodied beggars, will the Government consider the desirability of preventing by legislation able-bodied persons from begging and provide them with the means of employment so that they may be able to house themselves?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"The question will be considered, Sir."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, will the Government fix the target for themselves, for housing purposes and set up a Poor Housing and Slum Clearing Authority with full powers?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"The question can be considered, Sir."

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SRI M. KANNIAPPAN:—"தலைவர் அவர்களே, இப்பொழுது சென்னை யிலிருக்கக்கூடிய நிலைமையை கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் இரவில் சென்று பார்க்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் ஏழைகள் வீடு இல்லாமல் கால்வாய் ஒரங்களில் படுத்திருக்கிறார்கள் அவர்களுக்கு உடனடியாக வீடு கட்டிக்கொடுக்க முடியுமா என்று கேட்கிறேன்"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"அந்த நிலைமையை நானும் இரவில்போய் பார்த்திருக்கிறேன்; அதற்கு விமோசனம் சர்க்கார் கூடியபயதும் செய்யும்படி பிரயாசைப்பட்டோம்."

MR. L. C. PAIS:—"Sir, having regard to the avowed policy of the Minister in charge that low income groups will receive better attention in future, may I enquire whether the existing schemes in Madras and in the mufassal are likely to undergo any change?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"A separate question, please."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"Sir, may I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of a Five Year plan on the lines of the American scheme which provided four lakhs of houses in the course of five years during wartime when everything was so difficult to get?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"I thank him for the information, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Coming down from the sublime heights of philosophy to Mother Earth, may I ask the Hon. Minister to let us know whether it is not a fact that a large number of people from the mufassal have come into the City for they do not get proper work, proper wages and proper food in the mufassal and what have the Government done to prevent people coming from the mufassal to the City?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"That question does not arise out of this question, Sir."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, if the Corporation approaches the Government with concrete proposals, will the Government be ready to give financial assistance?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"That will be considered by the Finance Department."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Sir, is it not a fact that there is legislation prohibiting beggars from begging in the City and making it penal and, in view of that, may I know what Government are doing to enforce that legislation and what they are doing to provide them with accommodation as the Hon. Minister said that the Corporation was doing something and that only 800 persons can be accommodated in the homes provided for them by the Corporation?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:—"Sir, as I said, the problem is a colossal problem. It cannot be so easily solved on the floor of the House."

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

II.—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Sir, may I ask what might have been the justification for the promulgation of the Ordinance and while I know that the life of the Ordinance is six weeks, was it not advisable for the Government to come forward with a legislation in view of the fact that the House is sitting here for such a long time and doing duties other than what might have been brought in to rectify the mistake the Government have made and may I request the Hon. Leader of the House to give the reasons for not doing that? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“ It is a fact that the life of the Ordinance is six weeks. Six weeks' time is enough and so we need not be in a hurry to bring it before the Assembly. Further, the matter is pending before the High Court and the judgment is also about to be delivered. We are awaiting the judgment also.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“ On a point of information, Sir. The Hon. Education Minister promised us that he will let us know when we will be having a debate on the reorganization of Education. May I know when we are to have that debate? ”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“ Sir, we are going to publish a pamphlet for the information of hon. Members setting out the main proposals of the scheme. After they have been distributed, we will consider the holding of a debate.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“ Sir, shall we have one full-day debate? ”

MR. SPEAKER:—“ Yes.”

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Sir, yesterday the Hon. Leader of the House was pleased to inform us that he will be able to tell us the programme of the House for the next two weeks.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“ I think I will be in a better position to do it to-morrow morning.”

III.—NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

THE MADRAS HINDU BIGAMOUS MARRIAGE PROHIBITION AND
DIVORCE BILL, 1947—cont.

SRI N. ANNAMALAI PILLAI:—“ கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, சென்ற வியாழக்கிழமை கூட்டத்தில் நான் விவாக ரத்து செய்வது இருதார விவாகம் செய்வதை தடை செய்வது என்று கனம் காளேஸ்வர ராவ் அவர்கள் கொண்டு வந்த மசோதாவை எதிர்த்துப் பேசினேன். அதிலுள்ள குறைபாடுகளை நிவர்த்தி செய்யாமல் இது சட்டமாகுமானால் அதனால் பல அனர்த்தங்கள் ஏற்படும். இந்த விவாக ரத்து செய்வதற்கு முன்னால் விவாக ரத்து செய்யப்பட்டவர்களுடைய ஜீவனம்சத்திற்கும்

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பெண்ணுக்கும் வழி தேடவேண்டும். பெண் புருஷனிடத்தில் விவாக ரத்து செய்தால் அந்தப் புருஷனுக்கு கல்யாணச் சிலவைக் கட்டிக்கொடுக்க வேண்டும். அதற்கு சட்டத்தில் இடம் இல்லை. இதை அப்படியே பிஸ் செய்து சட்டம் செய்தால், அநேக பெண்மணிகள் நிராகதியாய் நிற்க நேரும். கிராமாந்திரங்களில் எழைக்குடியானவர்கள் பல சமூக கஷ்டங்களினாலும் தொழில் இல்லாத கஷ்டத்தாலும் புருஷன் மனைவிக்குள் தகராறுகள் ஏற்பட்டாலும், புருஷன் மனைவியையும் குழந்தைகளையும் காப்பாற்ற முடியாமலும் சிங்கப்பூர், பிளாங் முதலிய பல ஊர்களுக்கும் இன்னும் இதர நாடுகளுக்கும் ஓடிப்போன காட்சியை தேசத்தின் சரித்திரம் சொல்லுகிறது. அதனால் இந்த மாதிரி சட்டம் செய்துவிட்டால் பெண்ணை விவாக ரத்து செய்துவிட்டு வெளியே போய்விட நேரும். அப்படி நேர்ந்தால் அவரவர்களைக்காப்பாற்றிக்கொள்வதற்கு அவர்கள் அசக்தர்களாகப் போய் விடுவார்கள். கற்பின் காரணமாகவோ மனித இயக்கத்தின் காரணமாகவோ அவர்கள் அந்த வேகத்தில், அந்தக் கோபத்தில், தாங்கள் பிரிந்து போக விரும்பினாலும் பின்னால் அவர்கள் படும் கஷ்டம் சர்க்காரையே பாதிக்கும். ஒரு சட்டத்தின் மூலமாக உண்டாகிற நன்மை தீமைகளை முன்னமேயே யோசனை செய்துதான் சட்டம் செய்யவேண்டும். அப்படி இல்லாமல் சட்டம் செய்துவிட்டால் சமூகத்திற்கு கெட்ட பெயர் மாத்திரமல்லாமல் அரசாங்கத்திற்கும் பொருள் நஷ்டம் ஏற்படும். என் அனுபவத்தில் பல பெண்மணிகள் புருஷனைப் பிரிந்து பிறகு ஜாதிப்பிரஷ்டம் செய்யப்பட்டு சமூகத்தில் சேர்க்கப்படாமலும் வயிற்றுக்கு உணவு இல்லாமலும் நிற்கதியாக விட்டு தெருவில் அலைந்து அவர்கள் கற்பை விற்று ஜீவிப்பதற்கு முற்பட்டார்கள். இந்த வேலையில் ஈடுபட்டவர்கள் பல கொடிய வியாதிகளுக்கு ஆளாகிவிட்டார்கள். பல பேர் அகால மாணத்தில் போய்விட்டார்கள் இந்த வேலையை சமூகத்திலிருந்து வருகிறது. Divorce செய்து விடுவது என்பது சாமான்யமான விஷயமல்ல. ஒரு புருஷனையும் ஒரு ஸ்திரீயையும் சேர்த்து வைப்பதற்கு பலர் சாட்சியாகவும், அக்னி சாட்சியாகவும், அரசன் சாட்சியாகவும், சூரிய சந்திர சாட்சியாகவும், பிரமாணம் வாங்கி பல பேர்கள் சேர்ந்து கல்யாணம் செய்து வைப்பதைப் Divorce என்று ஒரு நிமிஷத்தில், ஒரு காசுதத்தில் 'வாய் மொழியில் செய்து விடும்படியான காரியமல்ல. அதைத் தவிர இந்த சட்டத்தை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால் அதை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளக்கூடாது என்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். ஏற்றுக்கொள்வதனால் அதில் உண்டாகும் குறைகளை நிவர்த்திக்கவேண்டும். ஒரு பெண்ணை ஒரு புருஷன் விவாகம் செய்துகொண்டு விவாக ரத்து செய்துகொண்டாலும் அவனுடைய பெற்றோர்களுக்கு ஒரு தொகையும் ஒரு பெண் ஒரு புருஷனோடு விவாக ரத்து செய்துகொண்டால் அந்த புருஷனுக்கு விவாக தொகையும் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று இந்த சட்டத்தில் இருக்கவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். பெண்ணுடைய தாய் தகப்பனார்களுக்கு இவ்வளவு கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்றிருக்க வேண்டும். இதை முன் ஏற்பாடாகவே செய்யவேண்டும். அவைகள் இல்லாமல் இதை சட்டமாக்கமுடியவே முடியாது, கூடவே கூடாது என்பதை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த சட்டம் ஏற்படுமானால் எல்லா மதஸ்தர்களுக்கும் பொருந்தும்படியாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ஹிந்துக்களுக்கு மாத் திரம் சட்டம் செய்யக்கூடாது. ஹிந்துக்களை பாதிக்கக்கூடிய இந்த சட்டத்தில் முஸ்லீம்களோ கிருஸ்தவர்களோ மற்ற இதர மதஸ்தர்களோ தலை யிட்டு சட்டம் செய்யக்கூடாது. அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் சேர்ந்து இந்த சட்டத்தை செய்வார்களானால் ஹிந்து சமூகத்திற்கு ஏற்படும் கஷ்டங்களைப் போக்கிவிட்டுதான் இதை சட்டமாகச் செய்யவேண்டும். ஹிந்துக்களுக்கு மாத் திரம் சட்டம் ஏற்படுமானால் முஸ்லீம் சமூகத்திற்கும் கிருஸ்தவ சமூகத்திற்கும் சகாயம் செய்து இந்த ஹிந்து சமூகத்தின் ஜனத் தொகையை குறைக்கச் செய்வதைப்போலாகும். ஆகையால் நான் சொல்லுகிறேன், எனது நண்பர் கனம் காளேஸ்வர ராவ் அவர்களுக்கு, இதிலிருக்கும் விளைவு என்னதென்று அறியாமல் இந்த “பில்”லைக் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கலாம் தெரிந்துக்கொண்டும் வந்திருக்கலாம் நான் அதிலிருக்கும் குறைபாடுகளைத்தான் சொல்லுகிறேன். முஸ்லீம் சமூகத்தில் நாலு மனைவிகளை கல்யாணம் செய்துகொள்ள இடம் இருக்கிறது, கிருஸ்தவ மதத்திலும் இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் ஹிந்துக்களுக்கு மாத் திரம்

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சட்டம் செய்தால் அது அவர்களுடைய ஜனத்தொகையைக் குறைப்பது போலாகிறது. முஸ்லீம், கிருஸ்தவர்களுக்கு இந்த சட்டம் ஏற்படாமலிருப்பதால் அவர்களுடைய ஜனத்தொகை அதிகரிக்கும் என்பதில் சந்தேகம் இல்லை. ஆகையால் இந்த சட்டத்தை இந்த சபையில் செய்வதாக இருந்தால் அது எல்லா மதஸ்தர்களுக்கும் பொருத்தினைவாயாக இருக்க வேண்டும். அப்படிக்கு இல்லாமல் முஸ்லீம் சமூகத்தை அப்படியே விட்டு விட்டு கிருஸ்தவ சமூகத்தை அப்படியே விட்டு விட்டு, புத்தமதத்தை அப்படியே விட்டு விட்டு, ஜைன மதத்தை அப்படியே விட்டு விட்டு ஹிந்துக்களுக்கு மாத்திரம் இந்த சட்டம் உபயோகப்படுமானால் இது ரொம்பவும் அபாயமாகும். நான் இதை ரொம்பவும் பட்டவர்த்தனமாகப் பேசுகிறேன். வட இந்தியாவில் என்ன நடக்கிறது என்பதை சிந்திப்பார்க்கவேண்டும். மதம் மாற்றுதல் தீவிரமாக நடந்து வருகிறது. ஹிந்துமதத்தைக் கவனிக்காமலிருந்து வருகிறார்கள். சட்டம்கொண்டு வருகிறவர்களை ஹிந்துக்கள் கவனித்துக்கொண்டுகாண்கிறார்கள். சமூகத்திற்கு கேடு விளைவிக்கிறார்கள் என்றுதான் நினைக்கிறேன். இதனால் சமூகத்திற்கு பீதி உண்டாகிறது. இது என்று நினைக்கிறேன். இது இந்த சட்டம்கொண்டுவந்த கனம் காளேஸ்வர ராவ் அவர்களுக்கும் இந்த சபைக்கும் நன்கு தெரியும். ஆகையால் காங்கிரஸ் கட்சியில் இருப்பதால் கெடுதல்களை எடுத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டியது ஒவ்வொருவருடைய பொறுப்பாகும். முக்கியமாக சபையிலுள்ள ஸ்திரீ அங்கத்தினர்களை நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன், அவசரப்படக் கூடாது. அவசரக்காரனுக்கு புத்திமட்டு என்று சொல்வார்கள். இந்த மாதிரி சட்டம் செய்தால் அடுத்த எலெக்ஷனில் நம் காலை பொது ஜனங்கள் வாரிவிரும் சக்தி இதில் அடிச்சி இருக்கிறது. சபையிலுள்ள அவ்வளவு பேர்களும் முஸ்லீம்களும் கிருஸ்தவர்களும் ஹிந்துக்களும் பங்கு எடுத்துக் கொண்டு இந்த சட்டத்திற்கு விரோதமாக வோட்டு செய்யவேண்டும் என்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். கனம் காளேஸ்வர ராவ் அவர்கள் இந்த சட்டத்தை இப்பொழுது திராபி வாபீஸ் பெற்றுக்கொண்டு அதில் பாதுகாப்புகள் என்னென்னவேண்டுமோ அவைகளை ஜாக்கிரதையாக செய்து என்னைப்போலுள்ள சகாக்களில் ஒருவனைக் கலந்து ஆலோசனை செய்து இதை பின்னால் கொண்டுவந்தால் அது நன்றாக இருக்கும் என்று நான் அவருக்கு தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன். ஆகையால் இந்த சட்டம் பிரயோஜனமற்றது. இப்பொழுது தேவையில்லை. அது மாத்திரமல்ல, இப்பொழுது இந்த நாட்டில் இருக்கிற கஷ்டமான நிலைமையில் வேறு எவ்வளவோ வேலை செய்ய வேண்டியது நம் முன்னால் இருக்கிறது. அவைகளை விட்டுவிட்டு புருஷன் பெண் இவர்களுடைய சச்சரவுக்கும் பிரிவுக்கும் நாம் இப்பொழுது இடம் கொடுப்பதற்கு இது நேரம் அல்ல, காலம் அல்ல, என்பதை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன். நான் இதிலிருக்கும் விளைவுகளையும் குறைகளையும் எடுத்துக்கொல்லிவிட்டேன். இதிலிருக்கிற அபாயத்தையும் எடுத்துக்கொல்லிவிட்டேன். இதை கனம் காளேஸ்வர ராவ் வாபீஸ் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். இக்லை யானால் சபையிலுள்ளவர்கள் இதற்கு எதிராக தோல்வியடையும்படி வோட் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already expressed my views on this Bill on a former occasion and I wish to reiterate my belief that legislation in respect of matters like marriage should not lightly be undertaken. I trust more to the wisdom of custom realigning itself to the proper course than to any attempt at reforming custom by the force of the State. It has always been recognized in this country that marriage is a most sacred and indissoluble bond, not even terminable after the death of either party. It is not merely belief or tradition, but it also lies deeprooted in the soul of Hindu society. I would therefore like my hon. Friend sitting by my side to avoid trying to eradicate evils that do not exist in Hindu society as such, but which appear occasionally in abnormal cases. It is not correct

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to say that an average man or woman in this country is in favour of legislation for these purposes. But if you do want legislation, then I say you have an opportunity before you, because the Central Government are contemplating legislation on this very subject. They are trying to codify the Hindu Law if it can be codified at all. They are trying to find out new solutions for problems that have arisen in the recent times and if my hon. Friend will only have the patience to wait till that Bill which is now being considered by the Select Committee, comes before the Central Assembly, he will find that it has not been ungenerous to the public. I therefore implore of him to wait a little more till Central legislation takes shape and then see whether this Province has anything to add usefully to it. Nothing will serve the common cause better than awaiting legislation from the Centre. My hon. Friend Mr. Kaleswara Rao thinks that it would take time and that this Province may be allowed to go forward in the meanwhile. I say, Sir, that this is not the correct attitude to take. There is not so much misery and evil in the country as he imagines. In fact, the average man in Hindu society has not felt the bitterness arising out of situations contemplated by my hon. Friend. I would therefore request him not to press his Bill and particularly the clauses relating to divorce. Does he imagine that all progress must tend to run from union to divorce? On the other hand, Sir, I would put it the other way, that all progress must tend to come away from divorce to union.

“ The West is hesitant and does not adopt the course which the East has all along steadily pursued and which we in the Hindu society have assiduously cultivated through the ages. If domestic understanding and goodwill have been kept uninterruptedly alive then I say the law of divorce will introduce a psychologically disturbing factor in the atmosphere that prevails to-day in Hindu homes. There may be a few cases of hardship even of cruelty. But shall we in the so-called wisdom of attempting to cure one case or two or even a hundred cases, ruin the domestic peace that prevails throughout the length and breadth of this country? The average woman, I say, Sir, in this country, does not desire a divorce. If there were a referendum taken on the question there will be total opposition to this part of the Bill. Hindu society, Sir, has been progressing by adjustments made not by the force of law, but by changing habits and customs. It looks to the outsider as if there has been no change at all. We seem to swim on fairly placid waters but all the time there is a deep under-current of emotion running through the whole of society which prevents social injustice being done. People who do not belong to us may find difficulties in understanding this, but I may tell you, that we have survived through ages and centuries and Hinduism stands like the Himalayas with its undefiled purity and undefeated power, as it was just begotten in the early days.”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ On a point of order, Sir, I want to know whether there is any rule or convention by which you, Mr. Speaker, can persuade the mover to attend

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to any criticisms that are being made on his motion. (Interruption.) Sir, I have not yet finished. The time of the House might be saved, Sir, if the Mover is made to attend to the criticisms that are made on his motion, because he may be convinced by one Member and then he may withdraw. Therefore, Sir, I would like to know whether there is any convention at least by which you can persuade an hon. Mover of a motion to attend to the criticisms that are being made on his motion."

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is the responsibility of the Mover to attend to it and make a note of the criticisms. Where is the necessity for the Speaker to interfere? He is not responsible if the Member is not attending. But here the hon. Member has been attentive to the criticisms of hon. Members."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I say, Sir, that it would save the time of the House so that hon. Members will be allowed to go and attend to more useful business. If the Mover of the motion is convinced by the criticisms of the hon. Members he may withdraw his motion. You will be really helping the House if you persuade him to attend to the criticisms that are being made on the floor of the House."

MR. SPEAKER:—"He has been doing so."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"I am thankful, Sir, to the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition. I can assure him, Sir, that Mr. Kaleswara Rao is not merely attending, but he is a limb of that very society which I have described at such length and whose peculiar conditions and traditions he knows fully well. If conviction is necessary, I may tell him, Sir, that he will be revolving these thoughts in his own mind and then find that there is hardly any need for a law on divorce in this country. Now, if Hindu society will really stick to the principle of indissoluble union which the Marriage Sacrament means, then I say that this will simply be followed by the other communities as well, even though divorce is sanctioned among the Christians, the Muslims and the like. The force of the Hindu custom will keep down divorce even amongst the other communities. I go so far as to say that, Sir. If there had been fewer divorce in India among the Muslims, if there had been fewer divorce among the Christian community I put it, Sir, that it is wholly due to the strength of public opinion which is created by the quiet domestic peace that has prevailed throughout the length and breadth of this country, particularly in the Hindu fold.

"Now, Sir, my Friend from the Opposite side says it may not all be correct. I can only make a conjecture, Sir. But if he will examine this position aright he will find that perhaps I am more than fifty-fifty right in my statement of facts. Now I will also say one more thing. What is this disturbance that you are trying to create? I call it a social disturbance. What is the object of all this? It is said that it is to prevent undesirable unions, in the first instance. It is said that the fear of divorce

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will itself prevent such unions taking place. It is not correct. The law of divorce has not prevented such unions in other countries. In fact the law of divorce has helped to make people think that marriage is a kind of loose tie that can be shattered at the very first appearance of definite difference between the husband and the wife. I say: do not yield to the simple proposition that the very first definite break in domestic peace should be followed by a divorce. The fine feeling in domestic life comes from this, that it is one of constant adjustment, struggle and travail, finally settling down to peace and quiet throughout the life of the married couple. (Interruption.) If I may venture to say so, my hon. Friend, Mr. Kaleswara Rao has got tired as he has begun to feel the force of my arguments. This Sir . . ."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir. He has been saying this some four times. This is the fourth time he is uttering this on the floor of the House and so I am tired, not that there is any force in his arguments." (Laughter.)

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Sometimes a good thing has to be repeated, Sir, in order that it may be driven home. If my hon. Friend will bear with me I will repeat it not only here, but at every stage when this Bill is taken up, because I feel so much over this matter. While I am in full agreement with Mr. Kaleswara Rao that all social evils should be minimized I must say that by this law of divorce he is not going to abolish social evil. I ask him: Look at the other side of the picture and see whether the balance of advantage will not finally lie in dropping this part of the legislation. I am totally opposed, Sir, let me say once again, to this new idea of marriage being brought into contempt in Hindu society. I do not like marriages of convenience. I do not like for instance any loose talk of a marriage as mere convenience for the time being. Mr. Kaleswara Rao makes surprising statements. The other day he went so far as to suggest: 'Does it matter if some people go astray? Let us excuse all those.' It is not a question of mere behaviour, Sir, one way or the other. It is a question of your whole attitude towards life, your rearing children, your peace in the home, where you will share your pleasures and calamities and all those things which go to build up a happy life. You know, Sir, that the most pleasant thing in domestic life is when you really come to feel that there is some one at home to share your pain and pleasures. Sir, you cannot in the nature of things share physical pain with your neighbour. But you can at least share the results from that pain and the consequences of the pain. At the same time there is the other pain felt in the mind. Take for instance that something incapacitates you and your power of earning goes down and this will bring the whole of your domestic economy out of balance. In those circumstances there is nothing to safeguard you by means of a provision of law, whatever law you may enact, except the safeguard of a feeling that you have a faithful wife at home and you have a house to

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go to, where quarrels will disappear the moment you begin to think in terms of the long ties that have bound you together. That is the point of view, Sir, that I wish to place before the House. I say: Completely reject this latter part of the Bill. If you like have the Bill minus divorce. Even there you have to be careful. Try to provide safeguards in cases where a man feels that with the consent and express permission of his first wife he can have a second-wife for the sake of the continuity of his family. But while society has to-day in practice forbidden breaches of monogamy, while to-day society gives the man a safeguard equal to that which any divorce law would attempt to give you, you simply should not put your peaceful life at home in peril. If you beat your wife your children will rise in rebellion against you, the whole neighbourhood will soon be talking about you and finally you will be called a brute. Then it may be that your wife will be able to forgive you and you may live in perfect amity and happiness. Let us not copy so-called progressive legislation and disturb society and drive in a wedge in the domestic peace that prevails at present. I do not desire, Sir, to say anything more. I trust that the Members will be one with me and then vote with an independent mind on this Bill and see that at least that portion of the Bill relating to divorce does not pass through this House."

12.45 p.m.

SRIMATHI V. SEETHAMAHALAKSHMAMMA:—“అధ్యక్షా శ్రీకాశేశ్వర రావు పంతులుగారు ప్రతిపాదించిన ఈ బిల్లు భార్య నిషేధ బిల్లును, ఇందులో వారు వివాహము చేసిన విధానము చేసుకొను నియమములనుకూడా నేను గలవరుస్తున్నాను.

“ఈ బిల్లు విషయములో నేను కొన్ని సలహాలను ఇవ్వదలచినాను. మన భారత దేశంలో ఇప్పుడు జరుగుచున్న వివాహములకును పూర్వము జరిగిన వివాహములకు ఎంతో తేడా వున్నది. పూర్వము జరిగిన వివాహములు, స్త్రీ, పురుషుల సాంప్రదాయములమీద, వారి శారీరక, మానసిక స్థితిలమీద ఆధారపడి యుండెడివి. కాని ఇప్పుడు జరుగుచున్న వివాహములు సాంప్రదాయ సిద్ధాంతములమీదగాని, వధూవరుల మానసిక ప్రతిపత్తులమీదగాని గాక కేవలం ఆర్థిక దృష్టితోను మాత్రమే జరుగుచుచున్నవి. అందువల్ల స్త్రీలకు చాలా అన్యాయములు జరుగుచున్నవి.

“ఈనాడు మనలో వివాహాలు, అడపిల్ల ఇష్టముమీదకన్న, అమె తల్లి దండ్రుల ఇష్టముమీదనే ఎక్కువ భాగము ఆధారపడి జరుగుచున్నవి. ఆ ఆహ్వానిని వివాహమాడిన పురుషుడు సన్నాధుడైతే మంచిదే కాని అతడు దుర్మార్గుడైతే ఆ స్త్రీ పడేదాదలు చెప్ప సలహాకూడా వున్నాయి. అమె భర్త ఎటువంటి తేడు నడకలకులొనైనా, వేరు స్త్రీతో కాపురము చేస్తున్నా, తనను నిరాకరించినా, ఆ భర్తనే నమ్మకొని, అష్టకష్టములుపడుతూ, యావజ్జీవము గడపవలసివస్తోంది. ఇటువంటి ఆచారమువలన అనేకమంది స్త్రీలు జీవితములు దుర్భరమవుతున్నాయి. మగవాళ్లు ధనాశయే మొదటి భార్య వున్నప్పుడు తిరిగి వివాహము చేసుకొనుచున్నారు. అటువంటి పరిస్థితులలో మొదటి భార్య అనేక కష్టముల పాలుగావలసి వస్తోంది. అమె ఆ పురుషునితో విడాకులిచ్చి వేరు వివాహము చేసుకొనుటకు వీలులేకుండా వున్నది. అందువల్ల అనేక విధములుగా భర్తచేత నిరాకరింపబడినా, నిరాదరింపబడినా వేరు గత్యంతరము లేక ఆ భర్తవద్దనే జీవితము అతికష్టముమీద వెళ్లుబచ్చవలసి వస్తోంది. ఇటువంటి

22nd July 1948] [Srimathi V. Seethalakshammamma]

కష్టాలను తొలగించడానికిగాను ఈ బిల్లును తీసుకొనివచ్చినందుకు ముఖ్యంగా శ్రీ కాశేశ్వర రావుగారిని నా తరఫున, ఈ రాష్ట్రములోని స్త్రీల తరఫున అభినందిస్తున్నాను.

“ఈ బిల్లుపైన మాట్లాడుచు గౌరవ సభ్యులు కొంతమంది, సీతారాములను, దశరథుని, ఉదాహరణములుగా తీసుకొని హిందూ సాంప్రదాయముల గురించి, అచారముల గురించి చెప్పియున్నారు. మనము ఈనాడు కేవలం ఉదాహరణమీద గాకుండా, ఈ నాడు మన సంస్కారంలో ఎటువంటి లోపాలు అన్యాయాలు జరుగుతున్నాయో చూచి వాటిని తొలగించుటకై మన ఆచారములలో మార్పులు చేసుకొనుచి మనవైన వున్నది. పూర్వపు వివాహములకు ఈ నాటి వివాహములకు చాలా తేడాలున్నాయని, ఆ నాటి సాంప్రదాయ సిద్ధాంతములను ఈ నాడు పాటించుటలేదని, అందుచేతనే ఇట్టి సంస్కరణలు అవసరమని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను. ఒక్క విషయము గమనింపండి. రానుడు వికసన్ ప్రయత్నం చేసివారు. ఈ నాడు ఎంతమంది పురుషులు ఈ ప్రతిమును అవలంబించుచున్నారని అడుగుతున్నాను. పురుషులలో అవినీతి ప్రబలించేతను, సాంప్రదాయములను దారు పాటించవలెనుమని చేతనే ఇట్టి సంస్కరణలు అవసరము. అందువల్లనే స్త్రీలు నీతి, దయయి, సావిత్రి మొదలైనటువంటివారు గడిపినట్లు ధాంకర్య జీవితములను గమపజూతున్నారు. ఈ నాడు మన ఆచారములు, సాంప్రదాయములు నామమాత్రముగనే వున్నవి. వివాహములు ముఖ్యంగా ఆర్థిక దృష్టితోనే జరుగుచుచున్నవి. అందువల్లనే శ్రీ కాశేశ్వర రావు గారివంటి సంస్కరణ సంస్కర్తలు సంస్కరణలో స్త్రీ, పురుషులు ఉభయములను సమాన హక్కులను, అవకాశములను కలుగజేయుటకుగాను ఇట్టి సంస్కరణలను ప్రతిపాదించియున్నారు. కాబట్టి ఈనాడు సభ్యులు, సీతారాముల సాదృశ్యాన్ని, వికసన్ ప్రయత్నం ఉదాహరణమీద నేగాక ప్రస్తుత సంస్కరణలోని లోపములను గురించి స్త్రీ లోకానికి సహాయము చేయవలసివదిగా కోరుచున్నాను.

“ఈ బిల్లులో కొన్ని లోపములున్నట్లున్నాయి. వాటిని శ్రీ కాశేశ్వర రావు గారికి మనవిచేస్తాను.

“ఈ బిల్లులో (divorce) చేసుకొనే నిబంధనలలో, భార్య, భర్తలలో ఎవరైనా కుమ్మరి రోగముతో బాధపడుతుండిన, ఆరోగముతో ఏ సంవత్సరములనుంచి వసుసగా బాధపడుతుండిననే భార్య భర్తలు విడాకు లిచ్చుకొ వచ్చునని నిబంధన చేయబడినది. అయితే సంవత్సరములకు లోపల విడాకులిచ్చుకొనుటకు ఈ నిబంధన ప్రకారము హక్కులేదు. కుమ్మరి రోగము అంటురోగమని అందరకు తెలిసిన విషయమే. ఏ స్త్రీ అయినను ఏ సంవత్సరములబాటు కుమ్మరిగా అయిన భర్తతో కావరం చేయటం కష్టము. ఇంత బాధ్యకాలములో ఆ అంటురోగము ఆమెకుమీదా రావచ్చును. 15 వేళ్ల రూపాయలను కష్టపెరిగి అయిన భర్తతో ఏ సంవత్సరముల కాలము కాపురముచేసి అతడవార విడాకులిచ్చిన స్త్రీని ఎవ్వరూ వివాహమాడరు. కాబట్టి ఈ ఏ సంవత్సరములనే నిబంధనను ఒక సంవత్సరమునకు తగ్గించవలసివదిగా శ్రీ కాశేశ్వర రావుగారిని కోరుచున్నాను.

“నపుంసకత్వపు నిబంధనకూడా కొంత పారామి జరిగినట్లున్నది. స్త్రీకిగాని, పురుషునకుగాని ఈ నపుంసకత్వము కొంతకాలమునుంచి వరుసగా ఉండాలని చెప్పారు. మనదేశంలో వివాహాలు జరిగేటప్పుడు మొదటలో స్త్రీ పురుషులు నపుంసకులూ కారా అని పరీక్షచేయించే ఆచారము లేదు. అందుచేత ఈ నపుంసకత్వము

22nd July 1948] [Sri A. Subramaniam]

SRI A. SUBRAMANIAM :—“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, பல தர தடை மசோதாவை ஆதரிக்கிற முறையில் சில வார்த்தைகள் கூற விரும்புகிறேன். இந்த மாதிரி சட்டம் வெகுநாட்களுக்கு முன்னதாகவே இங்கு கொண்டு வந்திருக்கவேண்டும். ஏதோ லிப்பட்டுவிட்டது. இப்பொழுதுதான் இம்மாதிரியான நல்ல மசோதாவை கனம் காணல் வர ராஜ் அவர்கள் கொண்டுவருவதைப்பற்றி நாம் பாராட்டமலிருக்க முடியாது. ஆனால் சில அங்கத்தினர்கள் இந்த மசோதாவை எதிர்ப்பதைப்பற்றி நான் வருத்தமடைகிறேன். கனம் அண்ணாமலை பின்னை அவர்கள் இந்த மசோதாவைப்பற்றி பேசுகிறபோது தஷ்யந்தனைப்பற்றியும் இராமாயணத்தைப்பற்றியும் குறிப்பிட்டார். தஷ்யந்தன் மனவியை வேண்டாம் என்று குறிப்பாக சொன்னாலும் கடைசியில் அவர்கள் ஒன்றாகிவிட்டார்கள் என்ற சரித்திர உண்மை இருக்கிறது. இராமாயணத்தைப்பற்றி பேசும்போது தசரதனுக்கு மூன்று மனைகள் ஏற்பட்டதளு்தான் இராமன் காட்டிற்கு சென்றான் என்பதை நாம் மறந்து விட முடியாது. தசரதன்

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1 p.m. **SRI K. BHASHYAM:**—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think it is necessary that some voice must be raised for supporting this Bill, though not all the features in it, yet at least some provisions. I should like, in the first instance, to point out that there is nothing in this Bill which is against the tradition and culture of Hindu society. In the first place it really enforces monogamy among the people. It is essentially an ideal which the Hindu society has been striving for all these years. If Rama is worshipped to-day it is because of his *Lakshmi vratham*. That is considered sacred. So far as the principle of one wife and one husband is concerned, I do not think there can be any objection to the Bill. It only enforces monogamy. Whatever may be the tenets in other religions in regard to this matter of monogamy or polygamy, I do point out to the members of this House that the ideal of Hindu society has been one wife and one husband. The question of polygamy is not really encouraged or thought of. Monogamy has been in practice for a very long time. In spite of the fact that the Hindu law allows more than one wife to a person, there have not been many cases where persons have taken advantage of this privilege. We want to enforce this ideal of monogamy because in recent years there have been transgressions. There have been persons who have taken more than one wife either because they were not satisfied with one wife or they quarrelled with their wives or for other reasons. Therefore it is necessary, and it is in accordance with the tradition of the Hindus, that monogamy must be enforced and enforced by law in all cases leaving no loophole for any exceptions. Some persons while accepting the principle of monogamy have objected to divorce as being foreign to Hindu law. Even there I do not agree with them because, after all, the grounds on which a divorce is to be effected are all grounds which are really enjoined by Hindu Sastras as duties upon the husband and wife. What are the grounds for a divorce? In the present case first there is the question of second marriage, which is against the tradition and culture of Hindu society. If a man really deserts his wife for a number of years and goes away with another, or so ill-treat his wife that she is unable to live with him, what is to become of the wife? I do submit to this House that so far as these grounds are concerned, Hindu Sastras have laid down the necessary rules of conduct. Therefore, I do not see any objection from the point of view of Hindu culture. For the advancement of society such an Act should be there because there are some unscrupulous persons who want to take more than one wife giving improper reasons. Many threaten their wives just to manage to get some dowry. Then again there is the reason that a man does not like the conduct of his wife or the conduct of his father-in-law. This is visited upon the poor girl and she is sent away, and the husband marries for a second time. Is it necessary that such a thing should be allowed? Therefore it is that the rule of monogamy is in accordance with tradition and it must be followed. While I may disagree with some of the provisions on divorce or desire to improve upon them, I do submit that so far as the principle of the Bill is concerned, i.e., the enforcement

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[Sri K. Bhashyam]

of monogamy among the people and providing for divorce, this Bill is certainly in accordance with our traditions and ought to be supported fully.”

SRIMATHI ANJALAI AMMAL:—“தலைவர் அவர்களே, இங்கு இருக்கும் எல்லோரும் எதற்காக வந்தோம்? இந்தக் காரியத்தை செய்வதற்காகவா வந்தோம். நாம் பொது ஜனங்களுடைய வேட்டு வாக்கி இந்த இடத்திற்கு வந்திருக்கும்போது இந்தமாதிரி மசோதாவை கொண்டுவரவேண்டிய தவசியமில்லை. இதை ஐந்து வருஷத்திற்குப் பின் வைத்துக் கொள்ளலாம். இப்பொழுது நமக்கு எவ்வளவோ வேலைகள் இருக்கின்றன. இப்பொழுது இந்த மசோதா வேண்டுமென்ற அவசியமில்லை. எனக்குத் தெரிந்ததைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். இப்பொழுது Divorce வேண்டியதில்லை. நாம் அறிவுள்ள கூட்டமாக இருந்து வருகிறோம். எத்தனையோ பெண்கள் வெளி நாட்டிலிருந்து தமிழ் நாட்டிற்கு படிக்க வந்தும் இதை மனதிலும் சிந்திக்கவில்லை. ஆகையால் இந்தக் காரியத்தை கொஞ்சம் யோசனை பண்ணி ரொம்ப நாள் வரைக்கும் தள்ளிவைத்தால் அழகாக இருக்கும். எதிர் காலத்தில் அநேகம் காரியங்கள் செய்யவேண்டி வரும். அப்பொழுது இதைச் செய்யும் அவசியம் ஏற்படும். இவ்வளவு வேலைகளுக்கும் நெவில் விடாமுண்டன் கொடாமுண்டன் என்று இந்தக் காரியத்தைக் கொண்டுவந்து வருந்தத்தக்கது. பெரிய மனதுசெய்து இந்த விவாக ரத்து மசோதாவை ரொம்ப நாளைக்குப் பின்னால் கொண்டுவரலாம். இப்பொழுது வந்தது ரொம்பவும் வருந்தத்தக்கது. இப்பொழுது இதைச் செய்தால் பின்னால் வேட்டுவாங்கி வரமுடியாது. நான் ஏன் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றால் நேற்று அநேகம் பெண்கள் வந்து இது ரொம்பவும் அக்கிரமம், இது ரொம்பவும் அவமானமாக இருக்கிறது என்று சொன்னார்கள். படித்த பெண்கள்கூட வந்து சொன்னார்கள். இன்னும் ஒரு பெண் இந்த சட்டம் வரப்போகிறது என்று அவமானப்பட்டு பாஷாணத்தைத் தின்று இறந்துவிட்டதாகக் கூட சொன்னார்கள். இந்தச் சட்டம்தான் காரணமாம். ஒரு புருஷனுக்கு ஒரு பெண்தான். அவளுக்கு சீக்கு வந்தால் வேறு கல்யாணம் செய்துகொள்ளப்போகிறான். அதனால் நமக்கு என்ன? அறிவு இல்லையா? புத்தி இருக்கு. அவசியமாக ஏன் பணிக் கொள்கிறான். அவன் இஷ்டம்போல் செய்துகொள்ளுகிறான். நாம் இஷ்டம்போல் சட்டம்செய்வது தப்பு. அந்த மாதிரி செய்யக்கூடாது என்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். பத்து வருஷத்திற்கு பிறகு வரலாம். இந்த சினிமாவிலுல்தான் பெண்கள் கெட்டுப்போகிறார்கள். இந்த சினிமாவை ஒழிக்கவேண்டும். ரொம்பவும் கெடுதல் ஏற்படுகிறது. பேசும் படம் வைத்துக்கொண்டு ஏராளமான பெண்களை பாழ்படுத்துகிறார்கள். சினிமாவை அவசியம் எடுக்கவேண்டும். ஒரு அடிக்கு ஒரு சினிமாக்கொட்டகையாக இருக்கிறது. சினிமாவை அவசியம் எடுக்க ஒரு சட்டம் கொண்டுவரவேண்டும். பெரிய குடும்பங்களின் பெண்கள் நாகரீகத்தால் கெட்டுப்போகிறார்கள். அது அந்நிய நாட்டிற்கு வேண்டும். இதைத் தவிர இப்பொழுது கொண்டுவந்திருக்கும் சட்டம் அவசியமில்லை. நல்லமாதிரியான சட்டம் கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

Mrs. JABAMONEY MASILAMONEY:—“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, இந்த பலதர தடை மசோதாவை சட்டம் செய்வதை நான் ஆதரிக்கிறேன். ஆனால் இரண்டாவதாக இருக்கும் விவாக ரத்து நான் ஆதரிக்க முடியாது. கிருஷ்ண மாரக்கத்தில் விவாக ரத்திற்கு இடம் இல்லை. நமது நண்பர் கனம் அண்ணாமலை பிள்ளை அவர்கள் பேசும் போது முஸ்லிம்களையும் கிருஷ்ணவர்களையும் சட்டத்தில் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்பதாக சொன்னார்கள். நான் அதை ஆட்சேபிக்கிறேன். விவாகம் என்பது கடவுளால் செய்யக்கூடிய கைங்கர்யம். அப்படிப்பட்ட கைங்கர்யத்தை மனிதன் பிறிக்கக் கூடாது என்பது கிருஷ்ண மாரக்கத்தின் கொள்கை. இது வெகு நாட்களாக நடந்துகொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறது. இந்த விவாக ரத்தால் எவ்வளவோ கஷ்ட நஷ்டங்கள் இருக்கும் என்பதை எல்லோரும் அறிவோம். அப்படிப்பட்ட விவாகத்தை நமது நாட்டில் போக்கிலேவுது என்பது முறையல்ல. முன் காலத்தில் நமது நாட்டில்

[Mrs. Jabamoney Masilamoney] [22nd July 1948]

புருஷன் இறந்த பிறகு மனம் இல்லாமல்போனால் உடன்கட்டை ஏறுவது வழக்கமாக இருந்தது. அப்படிப்பட்ட புண்ணிய பூமியில் தற்போது நாக ரீக்மா க உயிருடன் ஒரு பெண்ணுடைய புருஷனை விட்டு பறிக்கவேண்டுமென்று சட்டம் இயற்றுவதால் நம் நாட்டிற்கு எவ்வளவோ கஷ்டங்கள் வரும் என்று நான் சொல்லவேண்டியதில்லை. இப்படிப்பட்ட மோசமான சட்டத்தை நமது சபையில் கொண்டுவருவது முறையல்ல. ஆகையால் இந்த மசோதாவை நான் ஆதரிக்கவில்லை என்பதைச் சொல்லிக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

SRI P. KAKKAN :—“ கணம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, ‘மீ’மான் கானேஸ்வர ராவ் அவர்கள் ‘பில்’லை எதிர்த்து சில வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். ஆனால் அவர்கள் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கும் ‘பில்’ லில் இர தாம் விவாகம் செய்யக்கூடாது என்பதை நான் ஆதரிக்கிறேன். என்னையும் இப்பொழுது விவாக ரத்து இருந்தால் நம்முடைய பெண்கள் எவ்வளவோ இன்னல்களுக்கு ஆளாவார்கள். என்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். அதனால் அவர்களுக்கு ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டம் நேரிடும். உதாரணமாக ஹரிஜனங்களை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் அவர்களில் விவாக ரத்து என்பது இருந்து வருகிறது. அப்படி இருப்பதால் என்னைப் போன்றவர்களுக்கு அவர்கள் எவ்வளவு கஷ்டப்படுகின்றார்களென்பது தெரியும். ஹரிஜனங்களில் ஒரு பெண் ஒரு புருஷனை விவாகம்செய்துகொண்டால் பத்து நாட்களுக்குப் பிறகு வேறு புருஷனை காதலித்து அவனைக் கட்டிக் கொண்டு அவனை ஒரு மாதம் இருந்துவிட்டு பிறகு வேறு ஒருவனை விவாகம் செய்துகொள்வதாக இருக்கிறது. அப்படிப் போவதால் கடைசியில் ஒருவரும் அந்தப் பெண்ணை வைத்துக்கொள்ளாமல் அவள் பல இடங்களில் கஷ்டப்பட்டுவிட்டு கடைசியில் அந்தப் பெண்ணை யாரும் ஆதரிப்பாரில்லாமல் தெருக்களில் அலைந்து காசுவாங்கி ஜீவிப்பதைப் பார்த்திருக்கிறேன். உதாரணமாக ஒரு மாதம் முன்பு ஒரு பெண் என்னிடம் வந்தாள். தான் ஒருவனை காதலித்து கல்யாணம் செய்துகொண்டதாகவும் பிறகு அவன் அவளை விட்டு வேறு ஒருவனை காதலித்து அவளை மணந்து கொண்டாவிட்டதாகவும் இந்தப் பெண்ணை விட்டுவிட்டதாகவும் சொல்லப் பட்டது. என்னிடம் பஞ்சாயத்திற்காக வந்தார்கள். இந்த விசுவாக கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்படுகின்றன. இன்னும் விவாக ரத்திற்கு இடம் கொடுத்தால் அநேகம் பெண்கள் கஷ்டப்படும் நிலைமை ஏற்படும். அதனால் கோர்ட்டு களுக்குப் போய் சிர்த்துக்கொள்ளும்படியாக நேரிடும். ஆனால் இம்மாதிரி யாக மற்ற இராஜ்யங்களில் இல்லை. ஆனால் அங்கு எல்லோரும் நிறைய படித்திருக்கிறார்கள். விவாகரங்களை எந்த நல்ல முறையில் செய்யவேண்டுமோ அந்த முறையில் செய்துவருகிறார்கள். நம் நாட்டில், அதையும் பம்பாயிலாத நாட்டில், இது முழுதும் வேண்டாம் என்று சொல்வேன். ஸ்ரீமதி அக்ஷையம்மாள் சொன்னமாதிரி இதை பின்னால் கொண்டு வரலாம். இப்பொழுது கொண்டுவரவேண்டாம். ஸ்ரீ அண்ணாமலை பிள்ளை யவர்கள் கிராமங்களில் நடக்கும் விஷயங்களைப் பற்றி சொன்னார்கள். அவர் சொன்னார் முஸ்லீம்கள் கல்யாண காலத்தில் பெண்ணுக்கு தொகை எழுதிவைக்கிறார்கள் என்று. 1), 2, 3 எக்ஸ்க்கள் என்று ஒதுக்கிவைக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் இந்தக் காலத்தில் தொகை கட்டுவது கிடையாது. ஒரு பெண்ணை விவாகம் செய்துகொண்டு அவர்களிடத்தில் ஒற்றுமை இல்லை யென்றாலும், அவள் வேறு இடத்தில் ஆகையாயிருந்தாலும் அவர்களை வைத்துக்கொள்ளமாட்டார்கள். உண்மையான புருஷனுக்கு அவர்கள் கடவுள் சாட்சியாக சபதம் செய்து கல்யாணம் செய்துகொள்வார்கள். இவ் விதம் இருக்கும்போது விவாக ரத்து செய்தால் அவளுடைய கதி என்ன என்று கேட்கிறேன். ஆகவே இதை யோசித்துப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். இதைத் தவிர மதம் மாறுதல் என்று இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது பெண்களுக்கு விவாக ரத்து செய்தால் எவ்வளவோ பேர்கள் மதம் மாறுதலடைவார்கள். அதனால் அவர்களுக்கு மனம் மாறும் ஒரு தன்மை வந்துவிடும். சில காலத்திற்கு இந்த சட்டத்தைக்கொண்டுவராமல் பிற்பட்டு கொண்டுவந்தால் சந்ததிகளுக்கு நன்மையாக இருக்கும் என்று நினைக்கிறேன்.

“இப்பொழுது செட்டிநாடுகளில் பார்த்தால் தாய் தந்தையர்களுக்கு பிள்ளைகள் இல்லை என்றால் தத்து எடுத்துக்கொள்வது என்று ஒரு

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வழக்கம் இருக்கிறது. இது நம் நாட்டிலேயே இருக்கிறது. ஒருவன் ஒரு தாரத்தைக்கொண்டவன் 40, 50 வயதாயும் குழந்தைகள் இல்லை என்றால் வேறு கல்யாணம் செய்துகொண்டால் நல்லது என்று நினைக்கிறான். சிலருக்கு வயதானாலும் குழந்தைகள் பிறக்கின்றன. தத்து எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் தங்களுக்குப் பிறக்கும் குழந்தைகளைப்போல் ஆதரிக்க மாட்டார்கள். தத்து எடுத்துக்கொண்டதன்மேல் பிறந்தால் இந்த தத்து குழந்தையை ஆதரிக்கமாட்டார்கள். ஆகையால் இம்மாதிரி யெல்லாம் இருக்கும்போது இந்தமாதிரி சட்டம் செய்தால் அது உபயோகமாக இருக்காது. பின்னால் நிலைமை மாறினால் அப்போது சட்டம் இயற்றி உபயோகித்துக்கொள்ளலாம். இப்பொழுது அவ்வளவாக கல்யாணம் நடக்கவில்லை. ஆகையால் கணம் கானேஸ்வர ராவ் இந்த சட்டத்தை இப்பொழுது வற்புறுத்தாமலிருக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already spoken at length on this debate.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I wish to know whether the hon. Member is now speaking for a second time.”

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI :—“ I wish only to speak a few sentences.”

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—“ On a point of order, Sir. I move for closure of this debate at this stage.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN :—“ I second him, Sir.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ As a number of members have raised many points, if I accept the closure motion now, I cannot allow the hon. the Mover of the Bill to reply to the points raised. Therefore, it is better in the interests of the hon. Members who have raised those points, the hon. the Mover should reply and so. I am not accepting the closure motion.”

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not like to enter into the dangerous domain of religious reform which concerns the friends of the Hindu community. Of course, my prayer is always there. Let man and woman be united in wedlock and remain as husband and wife until death do them part, as the Scripture says. But, if at all my friends agree for divorce, all that I would appeal to them is this. Not that I decry divorce personally from the standpoint of my community. I would say that there must be some provision for guaranteeing maintenance if there is divorce. After all, Sir, from my standpoint, marriage is a contractual union. But, what I would like to suggest to my friends opposite is only this. In case they decide upon divorce, let there be a guarantee of the maintenance to the woman who has been divorced.

“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, we know our women have been the repositories of the highest traditions handed down to us through centuries. Having put up with untold miseries and having shown the supreme example of endurance such as we have never witnessed among women in any part of the world, the women-folk in our country deserve their rights to be protected and it is but meet

[N. Muhammad Anwar Sahib Bahadur] [22nd July 1948]

that we must try to take care of their rights and privileges and also their responsibilities. Therefore, I would only plead with my hon. Friends that in case they decide upon divorce, there should be a provision for what we call in Muslim law, 'Mahar' or 'Tasdic'. I only say that this amount should be earmarked. This is a concrete and definite demand on marriage and it should be ensured in perpetuity. If the husband decides upon divorce for reasons of his own, then he must be bound over under social law, as it is provided in Islamic law, to pay some maintenance to the wife. That is all my contribution to this debate."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"On a point of information, I should like to know for how many days this Bill will have to be debated on the floor of the House."

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is entirely in the hands of the House. If a number of members wish to take part in the debate, I cannot prevent them. Further some hon. Members have asked me to allow some time to the hon. the Mover of the Bill to reply to the debate. Sri A. Kaleswara Rao will now reply to the debate."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, objections from some friends have come with regard to this Bill. I do not want to reply to all in great detail. One hon. Member very surprisingly took us into the customs of the aboriginal tribes. He was fair and impartial when he said that if polygamy is to be allowed, then polyandry also is to be allowed. That is the correct position. My only objection to that is that we cannot go to that state of society. I would put woman and man on the same basis. At no time and at no stage in the evolution of society this was observed and, therefore, coming to the civilized state of society in the twentieth century, we have to consider whether we should still keep Hindu women in a state of inferiority, in a state of subjection and in a state of groaning under social disabilities. We have to consider this question also in another way. Men are allowed to marry any number of times. As I see the volume of opinion received, particularly in the south, they are in favour of having more wives. It looks like that. Certain communities are prone to have more wives. I think that such a custom must be put a stop to. I cannot understand how women can go forward, unless you put a stop to that pernicious and cruel custom and bad practice of bigamy."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"How did the hon. Member get that impression?"

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Some of my hon. Friends spoke in that way, but because respectable friends like the Leader of the Opposition, Sri Rajaram Nayudu and an Hon. Minister object to that statement, I withdraw the remark about the south. I say that north and south are equally bad in adopting this cruel custom and we should put a stop to that cruel custom."

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"Sir, with regard to my Muslim friends, I want to say one word. They have got the law of divorce and the Shariat has been put into record by an Act of 1937 of the Indian Government. Women of that community instead of depending upon some customary things are allowed to go to a court and seek for divorce. They have put a law of divorce in a more up-to-date way. With regard to bigamy, of course some centuries ago, the great Prophet restricted the number of wives a man can marry and put the number as four. But, previously, they were marrying any number of wives. So, the great Prophet wanted to put a stop to that and he put an injunction that they can marry only four wives. So, the Islamic law says that a man can marry four wives but the number of men a woman can marry is restricted to one."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"On a point of correction. Though the Islamic law permits a man to marry four wives, it does not mean that a man must marry four wives. A Muslim is only permitted to marry four wives. But under the religious injunctions, it is impossible for a man to marry four wives. According to the verdict given by learned jurists, it is only a permissive law. The injunction to marry four wives is nugatory in actual practice."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"What I submit is that we are here to reform our society. If we say that a man can marry four wives and three wives and so on, we must sympathize with the position of those women and there must be some provision for divorce. I, therefore, request the hon. Members to help us in having some sort of divorce. It is already too late. Therefore, hon. Members on the Opposition should sympathize with us. We should restrict the marriage to one wife. Bigamy should be prohibited and women should be brought on a par with men in their social status. In certain Christian communities, divorce is not allowed. For instance, the Roman Catholics vote against divorce. But the Muslims will vote for divorce. Therefore, simply because one community has a particular custom it does not mean that they should not allow us to go forward."

"Then, Sir, with regard to certain criticisms made by my respected friend, Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, all his suggestions are being accepted by me. He has given notice of certain amendments and I am accepting all his amendments. I am also accepting the amendment with regard to clause 5 (1) (g) dealing with venereal diseases in communicable form as a ground for divorce. It is a difficult thing to find them out; I appreciate the difficulties pointed out by some members and so I am accepting the suggestion of my hon. Friend Dr. Samuel to give up that provision. Then, with regard to impotency, I have examined very closely and I have also studied the Indian Divorce Act. The Rao's Committee and other authorities also say that impotency is the same in man and woman, that is, the incapacity to consummate. This word is a technical

[Sri A. Kaleswara Rao] [22nd July 1948]

word used in the Indian Divorce Act of 1869 and also in Halsbury's Laws of England. Therefore, there is no difficulty about that. In all other respects, the Bill is quite alright. I therefore submit to the House through you, Mr. Speaker, to accept this motion. Then, when we take the Bill clause by clause, each clause we can consider along with the amendments."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The motion before the House is that the Madras Hindu Bigamous Marriages Prohibition and Divorce Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

The motion was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—"Regarding the agenda for to-morrow which was already circulated, there is a mistake. It is announced therein that this House will meet at 11 o'clock to-morrow. This House will meet only at 3 o'clock. The Upper House will meet at 11 o'clock and we are meeting at 3 o'clock to-morrow. There is an error in the Agenda that has been circulated and I hope hon. Members will correct it. The House will now adjourn to meet again at 3 p.m. to-morrow."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m. on Friday, the 23rd July 1948.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, the 23rd July 1948.

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

I.—SWEARING IN OF A NEW MEMBER.

Sri G. Lachanna was sworn in.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Admissions in Medical College, Guntur.

* 72-A Q.—MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state the reasons for reducing the number of admissions from 25 to 15 this year in Medical College, Guntur?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The number of admissions has been reduced from 50 to 25 in view of the limited facilities available in Guntur for the proper training of students in pre-clinical subjects. The Andhra University has also permitted the admission of 25 students."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, what were the facilities first and what were the limited facilities that were considered in this matter?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"There were certain deficiencies to be supplied and laboratory equipment to be completed."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"A class may be had for fifty and also for twenty-five. May I know, Sir, what exactly the reasons were and whether the department stood in the way in this matter?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"No, Sir. The students subsequently have to go to Vizagapatam for their clinical course and there also there are difficulties as the hospital building scheme is not expected to be completed by the required time."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, why the facilities were not provided for even before the admissions were reduced and is it not, Sir, that once it has been fixed it should be provided for?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The pre-registration classes were held at the Andhra Christian College at Guntur; there was a strike there in October last and the college refused to take in these students."

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SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—"May I know, Sir, how many students have been admitted for the Madura Medical College?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The number of admissions to the Stanley Medical College has been increased from 72 to 100 and no separate students have been admitted for the Madura Medical College."

SRI KALLUR SUBBA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Guntur Medical College is temporarily located or permanently located?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The Guntur Medical College buildings scheme has been deferred."

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—"May I know, Sir, why no students have been admitted for the Madura Medical College?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Because no building scheme has been taken up, it has been deferred."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, why the college building scheme for Guntur has been deferred?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"For financial reasons, Sir."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Are we to understand, Sir, that the deferring of the Guntur scheme is just in line with the deferring of the schemes sponsored by the Prakasam Government?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"No, Sir. Several of the building schemes have to be held up on account not only of financial reasons but also of scarcity of building materials, high prices and difficulty of labour."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"May I know, Sir, whether there was any reduction in the number of admissions for the College of Indian Medicine?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"I think the hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"May I have an assurance from the Hon. Minister that at least next year the number will be restored?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"We shall try to do it, if possible."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"If he had visited Guntur, Sir, he would have found that the building is sufficient for a hundred students."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has given information."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the total strength of admission for all the medical colleges in the Province has been decreased or increased this year?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"It has been decreased."

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SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—"Will the Hon. Minister consider the desirability of transferring the Guntur Medical College to some place in Rayalaseema because the coastal districts have already a college at Vizagapatam?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"There is no such proposal."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"If there is no such proposal will the Government take it up and see that a college is provided for Rayalaseema?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"If finances permit later on, we can have a college also for the Rayalaseema."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—"Will the Hon. Minister consider the desirability of opening a medical college at Tanjore where the old medical school building is already available?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The Bhore Committee has recommended that within ten years, five more colleges should be opened; we shall consider this proposal when better time comes."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Hon. Minister stated that the number of admissions has been reduced; is it due to the absence of accommodation facilities which they had last year?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Yes, Sir."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Have not the Government got priority for building materials for Government purposes and if so, have the Government applied for it and been denied it, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The Government buildings have got priority, I think, and all attempts are made to get the required materials."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, what happened to the accommodation facilities which the Government had last year and why the number has been reduced this year?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The new colleges for Madura and Guntur were started without putting up any buildings."

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Madura students cannot be continued to be kept in Madras Colleges?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"With the permission of the University authorities we have to increase the accommodation from 72 to 100 in the Stanley College; beyond that it is not possible to increase the number of admissions."

SRI KALLUR SUBBA RAO:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware, Sir, that the Andhra University Committee appointed by the Government has recommended that the Guntur College may be transferred to Madanapalle in Rayalaseema?"

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"No, Sir; I am not aware of it."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the Government have taken steps to acquire the land selected for the building of the college hostel at Guntur and if not, why not?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"As I have already explained the whole scheme has been deferred."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the essential need for doctors, will the Government even now take steps to admit—it is not too late—as many students as they did last year?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The subject was taken up for consideration and the Surgeon-General consulted the Superintendent of the Vizagapatam Hospital and the Principal of the College there, they said that more than the number now proposed should not be given admission."

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—"Will the Government give a definite assurance that the medical college will not be shifted from Guntur and if necessary, another medical college will be opened for the Rayalaseema?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"There are no such proposals at present."

SRI G. KUMARASWAMI:—"May I know what principle the Government adopt in opening these colleges?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The question regarding the places most suitable for opening the colleges was considered and it was thought that Guntur and Madura should be selected first."

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—"Have the Government considered the advisability of opening a medical college at Salem?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"No, Sir."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"In view of the fact that many deserving students have not secured admissions in medical colleges, at least will the Government reconsider the whole question and admit some more students as was done last year?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I have already said that the Surgeon-General has considered the question in consultation with the officers concerned and it has not been found possible to admit more students this year."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that it was a problem for the selection committee to select candidates the total number of applicants being 12,000?"

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government cease to think in terms of names of places but only of securing the most

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efficient method of imparting medical education by appointing a reorganization committee which will look into the whole question of medical education, its redistribution and its bearing on the necessities of the Province?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The hon. Member may put a separate question."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know, Sir, how much longer the Government are going to advance the plea of financial consideration in respect of the establishment of these colleges? It is a year since this plea has been put forward?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"As long as the present difficulties continue, Sir."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"To get over the immediate difficulty in respect of finance and accommodation, will the Hon. Minister be able to introduce the shift system in order to provide for the largest number?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I do not think it is possible."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the Bhore Committee has recommended that there should be a considerable expansion of medical education? May I enquire as to what steps the Government have taken to implement their recommendations?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The Government are expanding and improving the Stanley Medical College and the Vizagapatam College with a view to increase the number of admissions in both the colleges at a cost of about 2 crores of rupees."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"May I know the policy of the Government in order to encourage medical education on the women side with a view to employ them in the Government service, and what is the number that applied for admission and how many have been refused admission and how many admitted to the medical colleges?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Twenty-three per cent have been reserved for women students which is more than what is reserved in any other province or for that matter even in England and America."

Proposal to reconstitute the boundaries of certain districts.

* 73 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have got any proposal to reconstitute the boundaries of the districts of Ramnad, Madura, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore and Pudukkottai State; and

(b) if so, what the proposal is?

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—“(a) & (b) The question of the future administrative set up in Pudukkottai is under the consideration of the Government. It is not possible to say at present whether this will necessitate a readjustment of the district boundaries of Madura, Tiruchirappalli and other adjoining districts.”

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—“May I know, Sir, what is the position regarding the merging of Pudukkottai with other districts for purposes of administration?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“It is now being done by the Collector of Tiruchirappalli.”

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—“Is it not a fact, Sir, that some time ago, the Hon. the Minister for Revenue declared in this House that he is considering the question of including it in the Ramnad district and it will be decided in the near future?”

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—“As soon as the Tamil Province is formed, the question of the revision of the boundaries within that province will be considered and the question of Pudukkottai will be taken up along with that.”

3-15 P.m. MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know whether the Government will take a plebescite in the area before deciding anything in the matter?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“No, Sir.”

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—“May I know whether they are going to include Pudukkottai in Ramnad district or not?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The whole matter is under the consideration of the Government. We cannot say now whether it will be joined to the Ramnad district.”

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—“May I ask the Government, whether under the terms of merger the Provincial Government has been given full authority of control and administration of the merged State or only delegated authority?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“We are acting as delegated authority.”

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—“May I ask whether the Government will consider the desirability of consulting the people of Pudukkottai, which district they want to join?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“We are not going to take a plebescite; we will consult some of the leading people there.”

Quantity of paddy procured in Nellore district.

* 74 Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) how many tons of paddy were procured in Nellore district till the end of May;

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(b) whether it is a fact that the district authorities reported that no more procurement could be done from Nellore district without grave consequences to the people;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government fixed a target of 50,000 tons from this district;

(d) what is the estimated quantity of paddy smuggled from this district outside;

(e) whether the district authorities asked for special police help to prevent the same;

(f) what action the Government have taken on the said request;

(g) whether the Hon. the Minister for Food mentioned to Pressmen at Madras that he is now keen on procurement and that he was not particular about prosecuting food offenders; and

(h) whether the Government's attention was drawn to Mr. K. G. Sivaswami's letter in the “Hindu” criticizing the Hon. the Minister for alleged expression of these views to the Pressmen?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) 27,652 tons in terms of rice.

“(b) The District Collector suggested that intensive procurement scheme may be withdrawn from the district as soon as 15,000 tons of rice are exported from the district.

“(c) The target of 50,000 tons referred to is the target for total procurement of rice in the district. It not only includes the surplus to be exported from the district but also rice required for distribution in the district itself.

“(d) No information is available.

“(e) & (f) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer already given by me in reply to clauses (b) and (c) of the Short Notice Starred Assembly Question No. 20-A on the 14th July 1948.

“(g) No.

“(h) Yes; but it was based on a wrong interpretation of certain statements made by me.”

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—“Are the Government aware that merchants and dealers have secreted paddy to the extent of 160 puttis—a putti is equal to 22 imperial maunds—and in one case 29 putties have been found out and in another case 83 putties have been found out, and these cases, even though they occurred as early as 3rd April 1948, the culprits have not still been prosecuted or the cases inquired into till now, and on that account, is it not a fact that smuggling has been increasing day by day encouraged by the lethargy of the officials of Government?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“If the hon. Member gives me facts and figures on this question we shall inquire into it.”

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SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Is it not a fact that it has been found on recent investigation that at the rate of 15 tons of rice is leaving the district of Nellore by train every day?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I take the information from the hon. Member."

SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that certain rich landlords and millers of the district are holding paddy even now in large stocks, and officials are not taking any action against them, while they give a lot of trouble to small landlords in the name of procurement even though procurement has been stopped in Nellore district?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Procurement is still going on in Nellore district; it is not a fact that it has been stopped there."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"In view of the decontrol policy of the Government may I ask whether they are prepared to remove the ban on inter-district movement of paddy so far as deficit districts are concerned?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"That has nothing to do with decontrol policy."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Sir, when the figures have shown that procurement was very successful by the present Collector, do the Government admit now at least that it has failed in the earlier months, and if so, what does it propose to do to augment procurement?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Government are taking all necessary steps to keep up to the target of procurement."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"Since Nellore for certain reasons has been included in the region for free movement of millets, likewise why should we not include it for the movement of rice?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"We have removed the ban on the movement of millets in a group of eight districts and that is why it is moving from district to district in that group. But it is not so in the case of rice, where, in surplus districts like Nellore procurement is still going on."

Termination of services of Sri C. V. Hanumantha Rao.

* 75 Q.—MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the conditions and terms of service under which Sri C. V. Hanumantha Rao was appointed as Director of Information and Publicity to the Madras Government;

(b) when he was appointed; and

(c) the reasons for terminating his services and whether any one is likely to be appointed in his place?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" (a) Sri C. V. Hanumantha Rao was appointed to the post of Director of Information and Publicity for three years on contract, subject to the usual conditions relating to officers appointed on contract.

" (b) 23rd July 1946.

" (c) Exigencies of public service; it is at present proposed to recruit an officer in the service of the Government of India."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I request the Hon. Minister to explain what they mean by 'exigencies of service'?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"The Chambers dictionary gives the meaning as 'pressing necessity.' We found the requirements of the Government were not fully satisfied by the officer; therefore, we had to terminate the contract."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I know whether it is a fact that the termination notice was served on Mr. Hanumantha Rao when he entered office early in the morning; if so, is it right to serve the notice on an officer when he enters his office?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"I do not know the exact minute or hour when the notice of termination of service was served. But when the Government had decided to terminate his service, they had to serve the notice and they did that when he entered office."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Government will consider the desirability and the necessity of abolishing this Information Department entirely, having regard to the fact that it serves no public purpose at all?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"The Government are of the definite view that the Publicity Department has come to stay and it serves a useful purpose both to the Government and the public."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Government are aware that that department serves the purpose only of the party of the Government?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"I cannot accept the statement of the hon. Member."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:—"Arising from the answer of the Hon. Minister that for the definition of the term 'exigency' we should refer to the Chambers dictionary, may I inquire whether we should refer to the Chambers dictionary or the Oxford dictionary, which is more authoritative, because sometimes we are asked to refer to the Chambers dictionary and sometimes to the Oxford dictionary?" (Laughter.)

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"I am afraid my hon. Friend is short of hearing. I did not ask him to refer to any dictionary. I said the Chambers dictionary gives the meaning of the word as 'pressing necessity'."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, I think the Hon. Minister said that since the Government found the service of this gentleman unsatisfactory they had to terminate his service. May I know how they came to this conclusion and when they came to this conclusion?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"I did not say the service of the officer was found unsuitable; what I said was the requirements of the Government were not fully satisfied by the officer. And as regards the latter part of the question, I have to say that we decided to terminate the contract as the requirements of the Government had outgrown the capacity of the officer and therefore it was that after two years of this contract we thought we should decide to terminate the contract."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Do the Government realize that even though it may be right or legal, it is wrong morally to terminate the services of a high official, particularly when they found him adequate and suitable for one and a half years after the present Ministry came to office?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"I have already said that the requirements of the Government have outgrown the capacity of the officer and therefore for one and a half years he was here has no bearing, and I do not see any moral objection for the Government to decide to terminate his services."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Is it a fact that the Minister was not able to make himself heard as the officer was deaf?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"I am not aware that the officer was short of hearing."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether the retrenchment of this officer was the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"Whatever may be the recommendation of that Committee, the Government have not decided on any retrenchment in that department."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether it is right for the Government to terminate the services of the officer under contract simply because his duties have increased subsequent to his appointment?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"His appointment is governed by the terms of contract, and there is provision in that contract for this contingency of termination."

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M. S. ABDUL MAJID SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the retrenchment of the officer due to the idea of reorganization of that department?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"Again I must tell hon. Members there has been no retrenchment of office."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Amongst the provisions of the contract, was there no provision of three months' notice by either party?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"Yes, it was under this provision that the contract was terminated."

Discussion in the Assembly about the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

* 76-Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report of the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee has been submitted to the Government; and

(b) whether this House will be given the opportunity of expressing its views on the recommendations of that Committee before action is taken on the same?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) No. The Committee will, submit its report to the Government by the end of July 1948.

" (b) The practice of the Committee, from the beginning, has been to communicate its recommendations from time to time to the Departments of Secretariat concerned for necessary action, with a view to avoid delay. As a result, orders have been passed on some recommendations of the Committee and some others are under the active consideration of the Government.

"As action has been or is being taken in respect of the several recommendations of the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee, it is not possible to give the House an opportunity of expressing its opinion on the report *before* action is taken on it."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know which are the recommendations of the Committee that have been acted upon and how much the Government have saved by implementing those recommendations?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Notice."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government cease to look at these paltry savings, but make it their policy to create more jobs for more men and get more work done by more men?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If there is more money coming into the coffers of the Government more, jobs will be given to more men."

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SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—" May I know what are the terms of reference to this Retrenchment Committee, which seems to have touched on everything under the sun? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" The very name itself denotes retrenchment and reorganization of the departments."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" Are the Government convinced that, in the interest of the progressive realization of the several schemes they have on hand, this piecemeal retrenchment is necessary at all; are they not aware of the need for more emphasis on more jobs and more men to do it in the immediate future? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" The Government are fully aware of it; but during the war, several departments have become bloated and it has become necessary to retrench them."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know whether the Retrenchment Committee has recommended to the Government to reduce the number of Ministers." (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" A separate question may be put."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether the Government are aware that in the clerical staff, I mean, the non-gazetted staff are heavily worked and the number of clerks has got to be increased to cope with the increased work. As a matter of fact, I am informed that several non-gazetted staff have to work for more than twelve hours a day? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" I think the Committee is going into the working of every department, and necessary recommendations will be made by them after examination."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—" What is the difficulty in giving an opportunity to this House to discuss this matter when they are given similar chances in other cases? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Obviously the hon. Member was not listening to my answer. The Committee are sending their recommendations piecemeal and we are trying to give effect to them then and there and so there is no consolidated report."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I know whether this Committee has recommended that the Women's Welfare department should be scrapped, and if so, what action the Government have taken or intend to take in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" My recollection is I have answered this question earlier. They made such a recommendation; but the Government did not accept the recommendation; I do not know why the hon. Member is still pursuing the question."

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" I wish to ascertain the future intention of the Government with regard to this department—the Government may not have taken any action for the moment but they may have different intentions for the future? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" When they have a definite scheme the intention of the Government is to push on with the scheme."

M. S. ABDUL MAJID SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know from the Hon. Minister what is the harm in giving this House an opportunity to discuss the report of the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee even though the report may come in dribblets? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Some decisions have been taken on the recommendations already; some are being taken and some will be taken six or eight months later, and so I do not know what useful purpose will be served to discuss on the report as a whole."

SRI KALLUR SUBBARAO:—" Apart from the retrenchment of Ministers, may I know whether the terms of reference to the Committee include the retrenchment of Members also? "

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p.m.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" It is not a matter for the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee. It is a matter for the Constituent Assembly and the Delimitation Committee."

SRI B. ANANTACHAR:—" May I know whether the Government are considering only the recommendations regarding retrenchment now, leaving the recommendations regarding reorganization for consideration later on? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" No, Sir. Both the recommendations are being considered side by side."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—" Is saving of money the only consideration of the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee and the Government? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" We need not fight shy of savings for the Government. During the war several departments have grown enormously and some retrenchment is necessary."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" Are the Government satisfied that this process of making piecemeal recommendations and their acceptance or rejection piecemeal is a proper method for reorganizing the Government departments? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Because we are satisfied that it is a proper method, we are following it otherwise we would not be following it."

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—" Will the Government see that no recommendations which adversely affect the people of any particular locality are given effect to? "

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not know whether any recommendation will adversely affect or benefit the people. Whatever decisions the Government take will be given effect to."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"May I know from the Hon. Leader of the House whether the Government have got a overall picture of reorganization before proceeding with this piecemeal business?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is not necessary to have a overall picture. As the recommendations are received, the departments scrutinize them and the Government take decisions."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government cease to think in terms of the *status quo* being maintained and the finances of this province being in the same condition as they stand to-day?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We do not think that the finances will continue to be the same in the future as they are to-day, because various schemes are being taken up and province-wide prohibition is coming into force on 2nd October 1948. There is a general attitude on the part of the departments to maintain the *status quo* and, therefore, some of the recommendations could not be accepted by the Government."

SRI M. KANNIAPPAN:—"தலைவர் அவர்களே, கீழ்த்தர சிப்பந்திகள் 15 வருஷத்திற்கு மேல் சர்விலிஸ்டுள்ளவர்களை எடுக்கப் பட்டிருக்கிறது. என்றும் அவர்களை என்ன செய்யப் போகிறார்களென்றும் கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yes, Sir, that also is under the consideration of the Government. As far as possible, we are trying to avoid retrenchment of that kind."

SRI P. KAKKAN:—"May I know whether the Committee has recommended the abolition of the Revenue Board?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I am told by the hon. Member Sri M. Bapineedu, who is serving on that Committee, that it has made a recommendation to that effect."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"உணவு அபிவிருத்தி இயக்குகை Food Department ல் பணியாடும் சிப்களின் Staff ன், Food Department ன், abolish చేసిన తరువాత వర్క్ லாஸ் Office లకు పంపుతారா?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Most probably, Sir."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it the definite policy of the Government that retrenchment should be given the first preference even though they may find that under the reorganization scheme more staff would be required?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"There are certain difficulties in regard to that. Most of the 9 (a) candidates

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cannot be re-entertained because they do not satisfy the educational and age qualifications. As far as possible, retrenched candidates will be given preference in future employment."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer that the Committee makes recommendations piecemeal and the Government accept or reject them at their discretion, am I to understand that between the Committee and the Government the matter will be decided and that the House has no part or lot in a matter of such vital importance as the reorganization of the governmental machinery?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"There are several ways in which the House can have a voice and influence the decision of the Government, namely, interpellation, debate, etc."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know whether the Committee has recommended the abolition of the posts of Deputy Superintendents of Police; if so, have the Government acted on that recommendation and when accepting the recommendations of the Committee will the Government bear in mind that the efficiency of the Department is not jeopardised?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Considerations of efficiency are always in the mind of the Government and the Committee. I do not know whether the particular recommendation has been made."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the criterion of the number of currents dealt with by a clerk is taken into consideration before retaining or retrenching his post?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yes; there are well-known yardsticks to measure the work."

M. S. ABDUL MAJID SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer that qualification is taken into consideration in making appointments, may I know whether all the appointments made after this Government came into existence were made only on merit and qualification?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yes. There are general rules for the guidance of the Public Service Commission and the Commission is following them."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer that the House will have the opportunity of discussion by interpellation or debate after the Government give effect to the recommendations of the Committee, may I know whether such a discussion will not be in the nature of a post-mortem examination and whether it is the function of this House to engage in a post-mortem examination of such an important matter as this?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yes, it will be in the nature of a post-mortem examination. When posts were created the House was not consulted. Likewise the House need not be given an opportunity to discuss the Report."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I remind the Hon. Leader of the House that, when the posts were created, there was no independence in this country and suggest that he should not compare before the 15th of August 1947 with after the 15th August?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"15th of August has nothing to do here. It is a well-known principle of administration that posts are created or abolished by the Government according to the exigencies of the situation."

SRI PYDAH VENKATANARAYANA:—"Will the Government give an assurance that hereafter orders for retrenchment will be passed only after due consideration, as a recent order for retrenching some posts of peons was modified soon after issue?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I do not accept the contention of the hon. Member that due consideration is not being given before orders are passed. In the light of the remarks of some District Officers, especially Collectors, and the Members of the Board of Revenue, we had to review our decision and modify the order. There is nothing wrong in such a review."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether it is not autocratic on the part of the Government to give effect to the recommendations without giving an opportunity to the Members to express their views and whether the Government will be pleased to consider the advisability of giving an opportunity for discussion before giving effect to the recommendations?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is democratic autocracy and the hon. Member must put up with it."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know the departments in which retrenchment has been effected so far?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"A separate question may be put."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of placing all the recommendations before the Finance Committee of this House before taking action on them?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The Government of India have got a Finance Committee, but in Madras we have not got a Finance Committee. There is only the Public Accounts Committee which scrutinizes most of the Government accounts two years after the expenditure is incurred."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether it is not a correct view that the appointment of the

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personnel is certainly within the purview of the Government, but that the creation of posts is entirely in the hands of the Legislature in a democracy?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is a correct view so far as the budget is concerned. All the schemes come in a consolidated form in the financial statement that is placed before the House generally in the month of February. But it is for the Government to create new departments or add to or reduce the strength of the existing departments."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Leaving apart the question of retrenchment, may I request the Hon. Leader of the House to given an opportunity to this House to discuss at least the reorganization scheme?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The hon. Member may give notice of a resolution for a non-official day. If he succeeds in the ballot and gets an opportunity, he can discuss it."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the admission made by the Hon. Leader of the House that the creation of posts is within the purview of the Legislature, does he not think it necessary and proper to take the House into confidence and get its consent whenever posts are created or abolished, so that the House may not throw out Demands moved at the time of the budget?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"While it is good in theory, it is not being followed in practice and it will also be very difficult to follow."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I take it that the Hon. Minister is not going back on the promise he made the other day that when all the recommendations were received—he expects them by the end of July—he would place the recommendations and the action taken thereon before the Members so that they might have an idea of what had happened?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I shall consider and see that they are placed on the table of the House."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"Does the Hon. Minister realize that this House is supreme and that the Government can only exist at the pleasure and with the confidence of this House and, if so, will he take the house into confidence and bow down to the general desire expressed in the House that an opportunity should be provided for discussing the Report?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We are not fighting shy of any discussion; on the other hand we welcome discussion. The reports of the Harijan Welfare Committee and several other committees were discussed in the House. We have no hesitation in allowing any discussion. The difficulty is that we have taken decisions and some orders also are under issue."

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M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Simply because the Committee is submitting its report piecemeal and the Government are taking action piecemeal, does it stand to reason that this House must lose its privilege of discussing the report? Why should not the Government call for a consolidated report, place it before the Legislature, and then take action?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“In view of the insistent demand by the several hon. Members of the Opposition as well as the Ministerial side, I shall see that a day is allotted at the proper time for discussing the report.” (Cheers.)

Waste of wheat in ration shops.

3-45 * 77 Q.—SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN: Will the Hon. the P.m. Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the ration shops have got sufficient stocks of wheat which are not being issued to the Public and which are being moth-eaten and thrown to waste; and

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the ration in view of the assurance given by the Central Government Food Minister that he will be giving regular supplies of rice to Madras?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) This is not correct. On the other hand in order to effect speedy consumption of the large stocks of wheat allotted to this province before the stocks get deteriorated orders have been issued for the supply of wheat to card-holders in lieu of maize, milo or millets at their option in all rationed and derationed areas.

“(b) The Government have recently examined the question and have increased the rice content of the ration for rice-eaters from 5 oz. to 6 oz. in the case of issues from relief shops in derationed areas and from 6 oz. to 8 oz. in the case of the rural areas of Malabar and the Nilgiris. The Government do not propose to increase the rice ration in statutorily rationed areas which consists of 8 oz. of rice and 2 oz. of other foodgrains.”

“(a) இப்பொழுது கேட்கிற கேள்வி சரி அல்ல. கையிலிருக்கும்படியான கோதுமை இப்பொழுது அதிகப்படியாக நமக்கு கிடைத்திருக்கிறது. கொடுப்பதற்கு முன்பாக எல்லோருக்கும் பகிர்ந்து கொடுக்கும்படியாக உத்தரவு செய்திருக்கிறது. கூப்பன்காரர்களுக்கு அவர்களுடைய இஷ்டம்போல் கோதுமையை அது கெடுவதற்குமுன் சோளம், மைலோ, மில்லட்டுக்கு பதிலாக கொடுக்கச் சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அப்படி அதை சிலவழித்து வருகிறார்கள்.

“(b) இப்பொழுது கவர்ன்மெண்டு கொடுக்கவேண்டிய ரேஷன் கணக்கைப்பார்த்து அரிசி சாப்பிடுகிறவர்களுக்கு 5 அவுன்சு லிருந்து 6 அவுன்ஸ் வரையிலும் கொடுக்கும்படியாகவும் 6 அவுன்ஸ் கொடுக்கும் இடங்களில் 8 அவுன்சாகவும் உயர்த்தி கொடுத்து வருகிறார்கள். 8 அவுன்ஸ் கொடுக்கும் இடங்களில்

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அரிசியை 8 அவுன்சாகவும் இரண்டு அவுன்ஸ் வேறு தானியம் கொடுக்கும்படியாகவும் உத்தரவு செய்திருக்கிறது. அந்த 8 அவுன்சுக்குமேல் அரிசி கொடுக்கமுடியாது. மற்றப்படி மற்ற தானியங்களைக் கொடுக்கும்படியாக ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.”

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—“தலைவர் அவர்களே, கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள் புழுத்த கோதுமை கொடுக்கவில்லை என்றும் அதற்கு முன்பாகவே கொடுத்துவிடப்படுகிறது என்றும். நான் சொல்லுகிறேன், நான் பார்த்த அளவில் இந்த சென்னையில் எவ்வளவோ மக்கள் புழுத்த கோதுமையை வாங்கிக்கொண்டுவருவதை. இதைப்பற்றி பல மக்கள் ரிபோர்ட்டு செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். அதைப்பற்றி மந்திரி அவர்களுக்குத் தெரியுமா? என்று கேட்கிறேன்.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“எனக்குத் தெரியாது. கவர்ன்மெண்டு சம்பந்தப்பட்ட மட்டில் புழுத்த கோதுமை கொடுக்கக்கூடாது என்பது. அப்படி கடைகளில் ஏதாவது கொடுக்கிறார்கள் என்று கவர்ன்மெண்டுக்கு அறிவித்தால் நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்படும்.”

MR. L. C. PAIS:—“May I enquire, Sir, whether the Government has got any machinery for checking the quality of the food-grains stored in the various relief shops and ration shops before they are actually issued to the public?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“Yes, Sir, there is a machinery at work.”

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—“கிராமங்களில் கொடுக்கப்படும் தானியங்கள் உழைத்து வேலை செய்யும் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு போதாது. அதற்கு அதிகமாக கொடுக்க முடியுமா? உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்யவேண்டும் என்று சொல்லும் காலத்தில் அவர்களுக்கு அதிகமாக உணவு கொடுத்தால்தான் அதிகம் வேலை செய்வார்கள். ஆகையால் விவசாய தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு அதிகம் கொடுக்க முடியுமா என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“கொடுப்பதற்கு கையில் தானியம் இருந்தால்தான் கொடுக்கலாம். கையில் இல்லாவிட்டால் கவர்ன்மெண்டு என்ன செய்யமுடியும். கையில் இருப்பதைத்தான் வைத்துக்கொண்டு பங்கிட்டுக் கொடுத்துக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள்.”

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—“Will the Hon. Minister for Food be pleased to take into consideration the hardships that the students are undergoing in hostels and try to give wheat to the hostels instead of millet?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“The Government are trying to give the maximum at their disposal. Hostels are not treated separately but they are also provided for in the scheme of distribution of food.”

SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that Anantapur district which is supposed to be surplus in millets is not having even one week's stock at present?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“I do not know about the stock position in Anantapur at present. If the hon. Member would give me notice of a question, I shall call for information and give him the answer.”

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M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether it is a fact that the stocks of wheat in the Government godowns go waste and, if so, what is the quantity that has gone waste in the last six months? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" I want notice for that question, Sir."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, whether proper arrangements are made for the issue of wheat to areas where wheat is needed by people and, if so, how is it possible that wheat could have been spoiled on account of its not being issued to the wheat-eating people? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" The number of wheat-eating people in this province is very very small. The Government have taken into consideration the requirements not only of the wheat-eating population, but also those who are obliged to take wheat on account of some troubles, as for instance, those suffering from diabetes and have provided for all of them in their scheme and they have also taken care to see that even when the wheat is distributed, it is properly cleaned up before it is distributed."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Arising out of the answer just now given by the Hon. Minister that there is a machinery to examine the quality of foodgrains that are issued in these ration shops and relief shops, may I know why, in spite of the existence of this machinery, such a bad quality of rice is being issued? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" I do not accept that statement, Sir."

Special fee concessions in schools and colleges for the backward communities.

* 78 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are giving any special concession for the backward communities in the Training schools and colleges; and

(b) if so, the names of communities which are receiving the special concession?

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

" (a) Backward communities are given special fee concessions in schools and colleges. As no fees are charged in training schools and colleges there is no question of any special concession for backward communities in those institutions.

" (b) The question does not arise."

Ongole variety of bulls.

* 79 Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ongole variety of bulls has been accepted as the best type of farmer as well as milker in the country; and

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(b) if so, what steps have been taken to encourage the propagation of this variety, other than the premium system?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—" (a) The Ongole breed is considered as a 'dual' purpose breed in South India. It is, however, well-known under the name of 'Brahmini' cattle throughout the world.

" (b) Subsidy is being paid to owners of Ongole heifer calves. Bulls are purchased and distributed to important ryots under the Government Livestock (Bull) Distribution Scheme. = A scheme of purchase of Ongole yearlings and sale after rearing for about two years to ryots, local bodies, etc., is also being worked at the Lam Livestock Research Station. Cattle shows are held and prizes are given.

" Ongole bulls are kept at shed at the veterinary institutions of the Government."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—" Does the Government concede the fact that the Lam Farm Government stud-bulls, because of the Patrician way in which they are built up, are neither willing to cross nor able to work? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—" Really, Sir, I do not know what is the Patrician way of breeding up bulls, but I know this much that the Lam Farm stud-bulls are the best in the field and we have no information that they are not covering at all."

Salaries of scavengers and sweepers in municipalities.

* 80 Q.—SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any maximum limit fixed for the salaries of scavengers and sweepers in municipalities and panchayats;

(b) if so, what the limit is; and

(c) whether there is any minimum fixed; and if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (a) & (b) No maximum limit has been fixed in respect of salaries of scavengers and sweepers in municipalities and panchayats. They are paid from contingencies according to market rates.

" (c) No minimum rate of pay has been fixed. The question was considered. Different rates of minimum were suggested for different classes of menials. Consequently it was found difficult to prescribe a uniform rate of minimum pay for the menials."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—" In view of the fact that in several municipalities the pay of scavengers ranges from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15 and in view of the fact that the whole arrangement is governed by the law of supply and demand, which causes great hardships

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and injury to the scavengers, may I know whether the Government has any idea of fixing a safe, healthy and feasible minimum salary for the scavengers throughout the Province?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I have already said, Sir, that it is not possible to fix the minimum rates of pay for these various classes of menials."

SRI P. KAKKAN:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister for Public Health has taken any steps to make the scavenger's appointment a permanent one?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"No, Sir."

SRI G. RAJAMANNAR CHETTI:—"In view of the fact that scavenging is an honoured profession according to the Gandhian philosophy of service to humanity and also on account of the fact that Mahatma Gandhi had gone on fast for the elevation of these depressed classes, may I know whether the Government will enhance the salary of the scavengers in this Province?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Sir, the local bodies are at liberty to fix the pay of the scavengers according to the necessity and circumstances in the various service areas subject to the sanction of the Director of Public Health. I may also inform the hon. Member that an increase of 25 per cent in their basic pay was allowed from August 1946 according to the recommendation of the Cabinet Salaries Sub-Committee and recently their dearness allowance has also been increased from Rs. 16 to Rs. 18."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"Just as the dearness allowance of these people has been made uniform in all municipalities and panchayats, may I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of making the scale of pay of the scavengers uniform throughout the Province?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"There is no necessity to have a uniform scale of pay for the scavengers, Sir. I have already said that they are paid according to the market rate prevailing in each area."

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have any scheme under consideration by which scavengers and sweepers in municipalities can be properly housed?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Municipalities and local bodies have been advised to provide quarters for these people wherever possible, Sir."

4 p.m. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:—"Will the Hon. Minister concede the urgent desirability of giving them sick leave and casual leave?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The hon. Member may put a separate question, Sir."

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SRI D. DURAIRAJA PANDIAN:—"Is there any proposal, Sir, to supply uniforms to the scavengers?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Notice, Sir."

SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—"If any municipality is prepared to take up this work, Sir, will the Provincial Government give any financial assistance?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I do not think, Sir, financial assistance is given in these matters."

Preparation of electoral rolls.

* 81 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) what steps the Government are taking in regard to the preparation of the electoral rolls on the basis of adult franchise for the forthcoming general elections;

(b) whether any specific instructions have been received from the Central Government in regard to the preparation to be made for the next general elections; and

(c) whether the Government have received any indication from the Central Government as regards the probable date of the next general elections?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) A Provincial Elections Commissioner has been appointed and he took charge on the 26th June 1948. He is working out the details and the necessary instructions will be issued to the Collectors shortly.

" (b) & (c) The answer is in the negative."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know how long it will take approximately for these electoral rolls to be prepared on the basis of adult franchise?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The scheme is not yet ready. The idea is that they should be ready by about November or so and the printing of it will take a long time. Perhaps the preliminary electoral rolls will be published sometime in February or March. That is the idea."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Central Government have issued instructions to the Provincial Government to prepare the electoral rolls on the basis of adult franchise?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The final decision has not yet been communicated, Sir, because the decision with reference to the electoral qualifications have not yet been taken up by the Constituent Assembly. Tentative instructions have been given and we are working out a scheme."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government intend to have a house-to-house survey as regards the preparation of the rolls as is done in the case of the census?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"As I have already said, Sir, the scheme is not yet ready. A sort of census operation will have to be undertaken."

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government will see that when a person is registered in the voters' list, he gives his initials, father's name, door No., street and everything?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Yes, Sir. We are considering all these proposals and the various difficulties which the candidate will have to experience in identifying the voters."

Recommendations of the Water-supply and Drainage Committee.

* 82 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken to implement the recommendations of the Water-supply and Drainage Committee?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The several recommendations made in the report of the Water-supply and Drainage Committee are under examination by Government."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that several months have elapsed since this Committee submitted its report? May I know how much longer the Government intend to take to consider this report?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The report was printed, Sir, in December 1947 and it was released to the public in January and time was allowed for the receipt of criticisms and suggestions. Since then this report has been under examination in the different departments of the Government and some more time will be necessary to come to final decisions."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"As an interim arrangement, may I know from the Hon. Minister, the conditions and terms on which the Government would accept proposals for implementing some of the schemes in the rural areas?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I have not been able to understand this question of the Hon. Member, Sir."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government would be prepared to take up the implementation of the programme if the conditions they impose are accepted by the local bodies?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Sir, during the last three years, from year to year we have been spending more money both on rural water-supply schemes and water-supply and drainage schemes for municipal towns. The amount spent for rural water-supply has increased from Rs. 22.74 lakhs in 1946-47 to Rs. 26.92 lakhs during last year and Rs. 30.85 lakhs in the current year. Similarly there are a number of

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schemes under investigation and design and execution. They have also increased in a similar manner since the last two years."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government cease to express satisfaction at this snail's pace of progress and give a high priority to these schemes, since the Hon. Minister must realize that it is no use getting fairly good quality of food but cooked in sewage water?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I am not at all satisfied with the progress made. That is why, Sir, this Committee was appointed and they have made important recommendations which have to be examined from different points of view."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"What I wanted to know, from the Hon. Minister was this, Sir, namely, whether he would sanction a scheme if the terms and conditions as required by the Government are accepted by the local bodies?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Yes, Sir, the matter can be considered."

SRI PYDAH VENKATANARAYANA:—"May I know what is the policy of the Government, Sir, with regard to the taking up of the water-supply scheme for Cocanada which had to be suspended on account of the conditions created by the War, subject to the programme of the municipality?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I cannot give any information off-hand about the Cocanada Municipality, Sir."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the stupendous nature of the problem of water-supply to rural and urban areas, I want to know, whether the Government is satisfied with this increase of a few lakhs of rupees that are made from year to year."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I have already stated, Sir, that I am not at all satisfied with the progress that is now being made. That is why a committee was appointed and I want that the Government should undertake a large programme in this connection, namely, water-supply and drainage to urban and municipal towns as well as rural water-supply."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Have we to take it, Sir, from what the Hon. Minister states that not even one recommendation has been implemented from this Committee's report even though the report was published some six months ago?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I have already said, Sir, that it is under consideration."

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister for Public Health will follow the example of the Hon. Leader of the House and have a piecemeal adaptation of the recommendations? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" I wish to know if the Hon. Minister wants to answer the question. "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" A decision will be taken on the recommendations as soon as the examination of the Report is over, Sir. "

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" This Committee was appointed by the Legislature and since it has made its report, will the Government come out with a resolution on the subject indicating their programme so as to make it a subject of sanction by this House? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" The Committee was appointed by the Government, Sir, and not by the Legislature. And I have no objection to inform the House what action we propose to take in this matter. "

MR. L. C. PAIS:—" May I know, Sir, whether in the interests of public health drainage schemes should be taken up along with the water-supply schemes? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" It is so, Sir. "

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—" In view of the fact that no water-supply scheme is possible in the Nilgiris without pressure pipes, will the Government see that pressure pipes are supplied to the Nilgiris district? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" A separate question may be put, Sir. "

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I know, Sir, when we may expect the Hon. Minister to inform the House as to what action would be taken on these recommendations? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" As early as possible, Sir. "

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" If half the net cost of water-supply schemes are met in certain areas by private benefactors, will the Government come forward and give the highest priority to such schemes in the matter of execution? I have in mind, Sir, the case of Pernampet. "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" Priority is given from the public health point of view, Sir, and the needs of the place. But the suggestion made by the hon. Member will be considered. "

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister's attention has been drawn to the smell of the water supplied in the City of Madras now? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" A separate question may be put, Sir. "

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SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—" Are the Government aware that the Nellore Municipal Council has been collecting water tax as well as drainage tax for the past several years but are not able to supply water and drainage facilities to half the town still? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" I am not prepared to answer questions relating to individual municipalities. This is a general question, Sir. "

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

III.—MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL.

MR. SPEAKER:—" I have to announce to the House that the following messages, dated Fort St. George, the 22nd July 1948, have been received by me from the Hon. the President of the Madras Legislative Council:—

'In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 18 of 1948), as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.'

'In accordance with the rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Cotton Transport (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 19 of 1948), as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.'

IV.—SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—" I want to know about the programme of the House, Sir. "

MR. SPEAKER:—" To-day we adjourn after finishing the Food debate and we are meeting on August 10th. I wish to inform the House, as we have to finish the food debate to-day we may sit till 7 o'clock. In order that we may be able to finish the debate, I propose to fix 10 minutes as the time-limit for each hon. Member. Then only I will be able to give an opportunity to all the Members who want to speak. "

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—" I think, Sir, that it is better that we suspend the Food debate till the 10th. In view of the discussion that has already taken place the Government may perhaps examine the issue in detail. We can suspend the debate till the 10th and in the meanwhile the Hon. the Food Minister may tackle the problem in a satisfactory manner and present us with facts and figures as well as remedial measures taken. Since the food situation is a perennial issue I do not think there will be any disadvantage to the Government by this postponement. "

SRI KALLUR SUBBARAO:—" I want to bring this point to the notice of the Hon. Speaker, Sir. August 15th is the Independence Day and most of the Members would like to be in their places. I would therefore suggest, Sir, that we might adjourn till the 17th if it is feasible. "

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The matter was considered in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition also. We have come to the conclusion that we might meet on the 10th of August. There is a heavy agenda for the Assembly in the next session, Sir."

AN hon. MEMBER:—"Why not earlier?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Because the Muslim friends have Ramzan and all that."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Order, order."

SINNA KAZIAR HAJI MOULVI S. A. F. IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Ramzan falls on either 7th or 8th, Sir. To ask us to be here soon after the festival would be rather difficult and inconvenient for several hon. Members. I therefore suggest that some day after the 11th may be convenient to the whole House, Sir."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I think Ramzan is a fasting month, Sir. During the fasting month when they are attending the Assembly I do not see why they should not after having the feast on the 7th or 8th." (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"I thought that the Hon. Leader of the House had a conversation with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and they came to the conclusion that 10th would be suitable. When that is so, there should not be a debate on it here now."

4.15 p.m. M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir. You know that I suggested 11th may be the day after which the Assembly might be reconvened. I had a discussion with you, Sir, as well as the Leader of the House and it was only just now that I was informed that it was not possible to adjourn the House until after the 11th of the next month. However, Sir, I could not help it and I also represented to the Leader of the House that it would be very inconvenient to many Members and that many of them would be absent from the House. I therefore wanted to know whether one more day could not be given. But, however, the Leader of the House said that it was not possible for him to do so. Since my party Members were taken unawares and since this announcement has come in suddenly they are making this request. It was their request that I placed before you, and it is now open to the Leader of the House to say whether he can accommodate the Members by taking off one more day."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Sir, most of us would like to be in our own constituencies on August 15th. Therefore, I would request you to see if it is not possible to adjourn the House to 17th or 18th August."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I fix it as 17th August. Regarding the Food debate, as I have already told the House, we shall have to sit till 7 p.m. to-day. I shall call upon the Hon. Minister for Food to reply to the debate at 6 p.m. So, I fix ten minutes for

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every speaker. Mr. Anwar will now continue his speech." (After the Speaker resumed his seat, several hon. Members got up from their seats abruptly, and they were found to leave the House in a body.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"I do not like this way of leaving the House by the hon. Members. They should observe order."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Sir, I suggest that the debate may be adjourned to the 17th August so that Government may have the opportunity of rectifying certain defects and giving us full information."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I am of the opinion that by then it will become stale, and the food statement itself will have to undergo some changes. Therefore, it is better that we finish off the debate to-day itself."

V.—FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE—cont.

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day I was referring to repercussions of the establishment of relief depots in villages. After all, even these relief depots have not altered the situation. I am glad that the Hon. Minister has himself realized that they have touched only the fringe of the problem and that the number 8,000 and odd is still inadequate. I am entirely in agreement with the Hon. Minister with regard to that position. My point is what is the actual quantum that is allowed for every relief shop. After all, we see in practical life that these relief shops do not get the supply required for a single day, and those shops, according to this statement, are intended for the poor. The rate at which they have been asked to supply these rations is 6 ounces rice and 2 ounces millets. If it is intended for the poor, I am certain you will concede that the poor will ordinarily require between 10 and 12 ounces of rice. Naturally to make good this deficiency they have got to resort to private trade. But what is the result? If they should resort to this private trade, it actually leads to soaring of prices. Not only the supply made to relief shops is inadequate, but what quantities the private channels of trade have hitherto been getting have also been stopped. Because they do not feel that it is worthwhile competing with the relief depots. It is not that they think that relief shops are going to meet the situation, but, somehow, the merchants do not have this trade and that has affected the normal sources of supply to the countryside which they had hitherto been getting. This has landed our village in a chaotic state of affairs."

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day two or three revealing statements were made by my hon. Friends, Mr. Vedaratnam Pillai and Mr. Raghavayya, with regard to smuggling. We are not concerned here so much with regard to what the policy of the Government should be—whether it should be rationing or derationing. We, in the Opposition, have told the Government that they should not experiment with the lives of the people until they are fully

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assured of stocks which would go round the whole year. But we are now confronted with a very delicate situation where the poverty-stricken people are not able to pay the heavy price which is being demanded. It was rather very unusual and very unfortunate that the Hon. Minister should have thought that only the rich who could afford to pay are responsible for the very high level of prices. I do not think that anybody who has got ordinary intelligence and who understands the principles of price levels, would concede the point which the Hon. Minister was saying, i.e., it is out of luxury that the rich are paying that heavy price which is now prevailing. Sir, it is not so. It is entirely a mis-statement of facts. People are to-day forced to buy because that is the only level at which they can get their rice. Even poor people who are now served by these relief depots have got to resort to private channels of trade, and they are required to pay the heavy price. In my district, as I said the other day, it is so considerably high as Rs. 1-12-0 or Rs. 1-14-0 per measure of rice. What I now want the Government, to do as an immediate solution of the problem, is to bring down this high level of prices. I have been wondering how and with what endurance our poverty-stricken people are putting up with such intolerably heavy price. There should have been food riots if our people had not been blessed with that capacity for endurance and that fatalistic view of life so ingrained in them. It is because they are putting up with the situation, that we do not realize the gravity of the situation. I am only sorry to know that the Hon. Minister should have attributed this high level of prices to the luxury of a few. What are the measures that are required to control the high level of prices? The Hon. Minister has referred to directives which the Government have issued to Collectors to implement the Price Control Order. In actual practice that is a dead letter. I do not think anywhere in the districts this Price Control Order is implemented. In districts the merchants are allowed to have free play and that is what accounts for the prevalence of exorbitant prices. What are the measures which the Government have taken with regard to smuggling. That again naturally brings to light how scandalous conditions are along the coast. Everybody knows and it was Mr. Vedaratnam Pillai who said the other day that Government themselves are in full possession of the names of the individuals who have been smuggling from the Coromandel coast into Ceylon. Even His Excellency the Governor of Madras, when he visited the Tanjore district, was shown the operations of these smugglers and how they were carrying on this nefarious trade in broad daylight. Yet I do not know what the Government have done. If in that challenging spirit the smugglers are allowed to carry on this nefarious trade and if they are allowed to circumvent all rules and put into steam launches with huge loads of rice, I can only say that very soon people will come to realize that the Government do not exist and that they have not, that authority which deserves to be respected inasmuch as smugglers are allowed in broad daylight to take away what is in utmost demand in the home Province itself.

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"One more word and with that I make an earnest appeal to the Hon. Minister to see that the price level is brought down to such a figure that the poor would not grumble to pay. Actually nothing has brought this Government such discredit and such disaffection among the people as the prevalence of this high price. We know that even our friends who are so much in sympathy with the Congress party in power are now feeling much disillusioned. They ask is it for this that we have elected this Government? Are they actually trying to solve the food problem when actually in not a single district to my knowledge can rice be got at the level at which the poor can afford it? Mr. Speaker, Sir, either for Heaven's sake bring down the level of prices or at least revert to full-scale rationing. If you cannot have a buffer stock; if the harvest in the near future is not going to be as promising as we hoped, and if the Government of India who have been giving us allotments at periodic intervals cannot make good our huge deficit, then I would request the Government to take the severest measures to penalize, in an exemplary manner, the merchants in districts who are responsible for the very high level of prices. There is something radically wrong somewhere. I cannot understand how the merchants can be allowed to charge high prices. It is not as if there is no remedy. The Government should only set their minds to it. Let them go back to rationing as we have been agitating for on the floor of this House. Or let them try to make good the deficit by creating a buffer stock and let them turn this department into a war-footing department and see that a huge army of officials turn the buffer stock to reach the district whenever there is terrible soaring of prices and let them try to see that the prices are brought down to the normal level."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very exhaustive debate has taken place on this question of food and there is nothing that one can add to what has been said. But I should like to ask here whose responsibility it is—whether it is Government or the people. The question may be asked, as I said already, to what extent have Government discharged their responsibility to the people. When I say Government, I do know that this is a matter which cannot be circumscribed within a specified period of time. When we are discussing the question of food we have to take into consideration various circumstances and aspects of the question. In the past the Government neglected to do their duty by not making provision for increasing production of food. (At this stage Mr. W. J. Fernandez, Chairman, occupied the Chair.)

"I remember, Sir, the Government in those days appointed what is called the Food grains long range policy committee. The experts of the Government in charge of agriculture betrayed their ignorance of the conditions in the country. Not only they betrayed their ignorance, but also they betrayed their utter neglect of their duty. They did not take steps to find manure. They did not take steps to collect statistics as to what extent of land

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was being cultivated and what extent of land was cultivable but was not cultivated. They did not prepare statistics of the kind that was necessary to cope with the situation that was facing them. They neglected to do their duty with the result that production was not increased or speeded up. Latterly also Government have been following a policy of begging for foodgrains from other countries instead of paying devoted attention to increasing production in our country itself. Our country is essentially an agricultural country. But it is ununderstandable how this country cannot produce sufficient food for all the people of this country, and that it has come to the position of having to borrow or buy or beg for food from countries which are now in a position to give rice, wheat and other articles of food. It must be remembered in this connexion that the very countries which were involved in the last war more than this country are to-day in a better position even to the extent of exporting foodgrains to countries like ours. India was not affected by the last war in the same degree as other countries were, and to-day, it is very unfortunate that we have to depend upon countries, which were affected more by the last war, for our foodgrains.

4.30
p.m.

“ Sir, if the Government in this Province have the imagination to see that the people in this country may not suffer for want of foodstuffs and a famine situation does not arise in this country and in fact in order to avoid such a famine situation, they should speed up production. They should also try to get large imports of foodstuffs from other countries.

“ Now, in our Province, we have passed through the various stages of food situation and to-day the Food Minister is evidently in a happy position to say that the food position of this Province is good. But, Sir, this is not an absolute term. The Hon. the Food Minister could have said that the food position is relatively good. I can understand him saying that the food position is relatively good but not saying that it is absolutely good. Now, what is the position of the people throughout the Province? Do they get the same proportion of foodstuff everywhere in the Province or is it distributed unevenly? Sir, there are some districts which are surplus districts and which are in a better position than other districts which are deficit districts. If the Government really take up the responsibility of feeding every man, woman and child in this Province, then, it is the duty of the Government to see that they pool all the foodstuffs available and distribute them evenly throughout the Province. In answer to a question the other day, the Hon. the Food Minister said that every person or adult in the surplus district was getting some more food than every person or adult in a deficit district, say Malabar. It is the duty of the Government to see that the adult in the surplus district was not better placed in the matter of food than an adult in the deficit district and he should not get a larger quantity of rice or other foodstuffs than the person in the deficit district. That ought not to be the case. Government should not make such an uneven distribution of food in

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different places in the Province. That is why rationing was recommended and it was adopted not only in municipal towns but even in rural areas and it should have been kept up. But, unfortunately for reasons which are not well-founded, this Government introduced decontrol in this Province. In this, they had to succumb to the influence of the Government of India and tried to decontrol in certain districts while retaining control in some other districts. Sir, we have not yet got out of the woods when Government resorted to this policy. The Government should either take up the entire responsibility and discharge it satisfactorily or leave it to the trade channels to deal with the question. They cannot play with the lives of the people by experimenting in the manner in which they are doing to-day. They have retained rationing in some places and they have decontrolled in other places and there is utter confusion. Procurement has been affected. People do not know whether there is rationing in a particular place or not. If rationing was enforced everywhere, then there would have been the common knowledge and the common understanding on the part of the people that a person in the deficit district will get as much of foodstuff as a person in the surplus district. For instance, if a person is given six ounces in Malabar which is a deficit area, then a person in Bezwada also should be given the same six ounces. After having removed rationing and having introduced decontrol, Government have come with some kind of palliative by opening these relief shops. But we are doubtful to what extent these relief shops have been effective in supplying foodgrains to the people. After all, the number of relief shops opened till now is said to be 8,500 or so and these relief shops can distribute foodgrains only to a limited number of people; according to the Government itself, it may be some lakhs. But, according to strict calculation, it will not be more than two or three lakhs of people who are able to get foodgrains in all these relief shops. Therefore, these relief shops are certainly not a real palliative. Government should take care and try to solve the problem with a determination. I know my hon. Friend, the Food Minister may have very good intentions. He may believe that what he is doing is a great service to the people of the Province and think that by opening these relief shops, his service has been done to the people of the Province. But, Sir, he must understand that the people have not been getting the foodgrains to the extent to which they require.

“ Sir, as I said before, this Government should now decide upon a definite policy of following either of the two programmes. One of them is that they should stick to rationing all over the Province. The other is complete decontrol. They should not believe in the dual policy of rationing in one place and de-rationing in another place. The result has been that merchants and trade channels have been affected and they are denied their legitimate rights and privileges in regard to supplying foodgrains

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to the masses of the people of the Province. I would therefore recommend to the Government that they should take up the responsibility seriously and not play with the lives of the people.

"Then, Sir, with regard to prices, it is a well-known fact that prices have been soaring high with the result that the poor people really cannot afford to pay the price that is demanded of them and so, they are not in a position to get the quantity of foodstuffs that is necessary for a human being to live. As I have said, prices have risen so much that the man in the street is not in a position to get his food with the amount that he is able to get through his exertions."

4-45 P.M. SRI R. SUBBA AYYAR :— "தலைவர் அவர்களே, உணவு நிலைமையைக் குறித்து உணவு மந்திரியவர்கள் விடுத்துள்ள அறிக்கை மிகவும் எமற்றத்தைக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறது. ஏனென்றால் நாம் இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் நிலைமையை தடுப்பதற்கும் அதிகமான உற்பத்திக்கு அதிகம் ஒன்றும் ஸ்டேட்மெண்டில் காட்டப்படாமலிருப்பது ஒரு குறைவு என்று கருதுகிறேன். இது விவசாய இலாகாவும் உணவு இலாகாவும் ஒன்றாக இல்லாத காரணம் என்று சொல்லக்கூடும். அது எப்படி இருந்தபோதிலும் இப்பொழுது நாட்டில் உணவு நெருக்கடி ஏற்பட்டு உணவு நாட்டில் கிடைப்பதே அரிதாக இருக்கும் காலத்தில் மத்ய சர்க்காரிடமிருந்தும் வெளி நாடுகளிலிருந்தும் வரக்கூடிய உணவை எதிர்பார்த்துக்கொண்டு இப்பொழுது காலட்சேபம் செய்வது என்பது வரவேற்கத்தக்க விஷயம் அல்ல. ஆகையால்தான் 1943-ம் வருஷம் முதற்கொண்டு 'ரேஷனிங்' என்ற முறை வந்தபோதிலும் சர்க்கார் இதுவரை உணவு உற்பத்தியை பெறுக்கவேண்டிய திட்டங்கள் போட்டு அதிக உணவு பெருக்காமலிருப்பது வருந்தத்தக்க விஷயம். இப்பொழுது கண்டிரோலை நிவர்த்தி செய்ததால் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும்படியான நிலைமையை உணவு மந்திரி அவர்கள் விஸ்தாரமாக கூறினர். இந்த கண்டிரோலை கொஞ்சம் கொஞ்சமாக நிவர்த்தி செய்யும்படியான கொள்கையினாலும் கள்ள மார்க்கெட்டினாலும் தான்யங்களை திருட்டுத்தனமாக கொண்டு போன தின் பலன்தான் இந்த அதிக விலைவாசி. இவைகளினால் இப்பொழுது அரிசி கிடைக்காமல் ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டங்களினால் ஜனங்கள் வருந்திக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். மந்திரியவர்களுடைய ஸ்டேட்மெண்டே அதற்கு அத்தாட்சி என்று சொல்லலாம். நாட்டில் எங்கு சென்றாலும் deficit ஜில்லாவிலும் சரி, உபரி ஜில்லாவிலும் சரி, மாகாணம் பூராவும் அரிசி படி ஒன்றுக்கு ரூ. 1½, 1½ வரையில் விற்கிறது. மந்திரி அவர்கள் பற்றாக்குறை ஜில்லாக்களில்தான் நூறு சத விதிகம் அதிகமாக விற்கிறது என்று சொன்னார்கள். என்னுடைய அனுபவம் என்னவென்றால் எல்லா ஜில்லாக்களிலுமே அப்படி விற்கப்படுகிறது என்று சொல்லுகிறேன். இப்பொழுது சர்க்கார் அவர்கள் அதிகப்படியான விலைகளைக் கட்டுப்பாடு செய்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது சர்க்கார் அவர்கள் இரண்டு ஏற்பாடுகள் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஒன்று அதிகப் படியான பஞ்ச நிவாரண கடைகளை ஏற்படுத்தியிருக்கிறார்கள், இரண்டாவது ஜில்லா அதிகாரிகளுக்கு ரேஷன் கண்ட்ரோல் உத்திரவுகளை ஜனராக உபயோகப்படுத்தும்படியாக ஒரு அறிக்கை விட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இவ்விதம் இருந்தும் பல அதிகாரிகள் Price control order-ன் கீழ் Prosecution நடத்தலாம், cases பிடிக்கலாம் என்றும் இருக்கிறது. அந்த மாதிரி உத்திரவுகள் இருந்தும் இப்பொழுது அமுலில் இல்லை. ஏனென்றால் என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவைப் பொறுத்த வரையில் தெரியும். அதிகமாக இந்த Control order படிக்கு நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுக்கப்படவே இல்லை. ஆனால் திருட்டுத்தனமாக தான்யங்களைக்கொண்டு போய்க்கொண்டேதானிருக்கிறார்கள். இருந்தாலும் ஒரு சம

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யம் திடீரென்று விவசாயிகளிடத்தில் அதிகப்படியான தான்யம் இருக்கிறது என்று ஏதாவது அக்கப்போர் ஒன்று கொண்டு வந்தாலும் அல்லது requisition அனுப்பியிருந்தாலும் Essential control order-ன் கீழ் கேஸ் பிடித்து அநேகம் கேஸ்கள் வந்திருக்கிறது. அவைகளை பரிசீலனை செய்து பார்க்கும்போது விவசாயிகளிடத்தில் ஸ்டாக் இல்லை என்று தள்ளி விடுகிறார்கள். இதைத் தவிர கேடியிப்புக்கு என்ன செய்கிறார்களென்றால் பொது ஜனங்களுடைய ஒத்துழைப்பு இல்லை என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இன்னும் பார்த்தால் திருட்டுத்தனமும் அதிகம் இருக்கிறது. எனக்குத் தெரிந்த வரையில் என்னுடைய தொகுதியில், இப்பொழுது திருட்டுத்தனமாக வெளி ஜில்லாவிற்கும் தென் ஆற்காட்டிற்கும் வரும்படியான நெல்லையும் அரிசியையும் வெளியிலேயே கண்டு பிடித்து அநேகம் கேஸ்கள் பிடித்துக்கொடுத்து சர்க்காரை நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கச்சொன்னபோது அநேகமாக நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுக்க தவிரலிட்டார்கள் என்பதைச் சொன்னால் மிகையாகாது. இவ்விதமான விஷயங்கள் என்னுடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இந்த விஷயம் அமுல் நடத்துவதாகச் சொல்லுவது அவ்வளவு பரிபூரணமாக நடக்கவில்லை. ஆகையால் அதிகமாக கள்ளத்தனம் நடந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது. இதில் முக்கியமாக மில் முதலாளிகள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் அதிகம் விலை கொடுத்து நெல்லை வாங்கி மில்லில் குத்தி முக்கியமாக சென்னைக்கும் பட்டணங்களுக்கும் அனுப்பி விடுகிறார்கள். இந்த மில் முதலாளிகள்தான் இந்தக்காரியங்களைச் செய்கிறார்கள். இவர்களை கேஸ் பிடித்துக்கொடுத்தாலும் அவைகள் உருப்படாமல் போய் விடுகிறது. இன்னும் முக்கியமாக விவசாயிகள் வெளியில் கொண்டு போவது இல்லை. சென்னைக்கு மில் முதலாளிகள்தான் கொண்டு போகிறார்கள். இந்த விஷயத்தில் சர்க்கார் கவனம் செலுத்த வேண்டும். இப்பொழுது மில் முதலாளிகள் மில்லில் நெல்லைக்குத் திரை அரிசியை வண்டியில் ஏற்றிக் கொண்டு சென்னைக்குச் சுற்று பிரதேசங்களுக்கும் அனுப்பி வருகிறார்கள். இவைகளை தடுக்க சர்க்கார் வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுக்கவேண்டும். இதைத்தவிர இப்பொழுது ஜில்லாக்களில் அதிகமாக பஞ்ச நிவாரணக் கடைகளை ஏற்படுத்தி வருகிறார்கள். இந்த நிவாரணக் கடைகளில் இப்பொழுது 6 அவுன்ஸ் கொடுத்து வருகிறார்கள். இந்த விலை வாசியின் ஏற்றத்திற்கும் இது ஒரு காரணம். இந்தக் கடைகளை ஏற்படுத்திய காலத்தில் அரிசி படி ஒன்றுக்கு ரூபாய் ஒன்று என்று விற்பனையாகொண்டிருந்தது, அதுவும் open market-ல். அப்பொழுது பஞ்ச நிவாரணக் கடைகளில் வியாபாரம் கிடையாது என்ற விஷயம் அவர்களுக்குத் தெரியும். அப்பொழுது கடைகளில் ஐந்து அவுன்ஸ் அரிசியும் மூன்று அவுன்ஸ் சோளமும் கொடுக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்திருந்தார்கள் அதன் பிற்பாடு பஞ்ச நிவாரணக் கடைகளில் அதிகம் வாங்க ஆரம்பித்திருக்கிறார்கள். இதுவும் அவரவர்களுக்குத் தெரியும். இப்பொழுது 6 அவுன்ஸ் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். எல்லா கடைகளுக்கும் 6 அவுன்ஸ் கட்டடாம் கிடைக்கிறது என்று நம்பி இருந்தார்கள். ஆனால் என் ஜில்லாவில் சில கிராமங்களை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் அநேகமாக பஞ்ச நிவாரணக் கடைகாரர்கள் 11 அணு control rate என்றால் அந்த rural relief shopக்காரர்கள் 11 அணுவிற்கு விற்பது கிடையாது. எதோ ஒரு சாக்குச் சொல்லி, வண்டி சத்தம் என்றும், தூக்குக்கூலி என்றும் சொல்லி 12 அணுவக்குக் குறைவாக ஒரு ரூபாயிலாவது விற்பது கிடையாது. இன்னும் சில கடைகளில் இன்னும் அதிகமாக ஒரு ரூபாய்க்குக் குறையாமல் கூட விற்பது இருக்கிறார்கள். அநேகம் கடைகளை இந்த மில்காரர்கள்தான் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பது எனக்குத் தெரியும். இந்த மில் சொந்தக்காரர்கள் இந்தக் கடைகளிலிருந்து அரிசியை வாங்கி polish செய்து மூட்டை மூட்டையாக கொண்டு வந்து 45 ரூபாயிலிருந்து 60 ரூபாய் வரையில் மூட்டை ஒன்றை விற்பது வருகிறார்கள். தான்யக்கடைகளிலுள்ள அரிசி எல்லாம் விற்பது இல்லை. இவ்விதமாக மில்காரர்கள் வாங்க அதிக விலைக்கு விற்பது வருகிறார்கள். இது விஷயத்தை petition மூலமாகவும் மகஜர் மூலமாகவும் காங்கிரஸ் சபையும் வாலிபர்சங்கமும் காங்கிரஸ் ஊழியர் சங்கமும் சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரிவித்தும் இன்னும் அதற்கு நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுக்கப்படவே இல்லை. உடனேயே இதைத் தடுக்க சரியான ஏற்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டும். இந்தக் கடைகளில் டீனர்க்கு

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கிடையாது. இந்த பஞ்ச நிவாரணக் கடைகளை அதிகாரிகள் எந்த விதமாகவும் பரிசீலனை செய்வது கிடையாது. இவைகள் சரியாக நடந்தால் எழைக்களுக்கு 6 அவுன்ஸ் அரிசியாவது நிச்சயமாக கிடைக்கிறது என்றிருக்கும். இதை கவனிக்காமலிருப்பதால் இந்த நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் கடைகள் போதாது. இவைகளை இன்றும் வில் தரிக்க வேண்டும். இப்பொழுது நாட்டிலிருக்கும் அரிசியெல்லாம் சென்னைப்பட்டினத்திற்குப் போகிறது. ஏனென்றால் அங்கே black market-ல் ரூ. 1½, 1½ என்று விற்கப்பட்டு அநேகம் பேர்கள் அந்த விலை கொடுத்து வாங்கி வருகிறார்கள். ஏனென்றால் அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கும் எட்டு அவுன்ஸ் போதாது. ஆகையால் சென்னையிலும் ரேஷனிக்கை எடுத்து விட்டால் இம்மாதிரி அதிக விலை நாட்டிலிருக்காது. குறைந்து விடும் என்று நம்புகிறேன். தவிர இந்த விலை வாசிகளைக் குறைப்பதற்கு கனம் வைத்தியநாதய்யர் சொன்ன மாதிரி ஒரு அவசரச் சட்டம் போட வேண்டும். அப்படி போட்டால் இந்த விலை வாசிகள் ஏறுவதைத் தடுத்து விடலாம். இந்தக் குறைகளை நீக்குவதற்கு கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொள்வார்களென்று நான் நம்புகிறேன்.”

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI.—“தலைவர் அவர்களே, இப்பொழுது உணவு பிரச்சினையைப்பற்றி கனம் அங்கத்தினர்கள் தங்களுடைய அபிப்பிராயங்களை தெரிவிக்கவேண்டியது மிகவும் அவசியம். இப்பொழுது கொடுக்கப்படுகிற உணவு போதுமா என்று பார்த்துப்போது அது ரொம்பவும் குறைவாகக் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. இது ஒரு குறை. அதுவுமல்லாமல் இந்த உணவு தானியத்தை சேகரம் பண்ணுகிற காலங்களில் இந்த Procurement ஆபீசர்கள் பலவிதமான தவறுதல்கள் செய்கிறார்கள் என்பது முக்கியமாக கவனிக்கவேண்டிய விஷயம். இப்பொழுது அரசாங்கம் பெரிய தேச பக்தர்களால் நடத்தப்படுகிறது. அப்படி இருந்து நடத்துவதால் மக்களுக்கு நன்மை செய்யவேண்டும் என்ற ஊக்கம் உள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கலாம். ஆனால் கீழே இருக்கும் சிப்பந்திகள் அந்த ஆபீசர்களுடைய எண்ணங்களை நிறைவேற்றாமலிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை முக்கியமாக கவனிக்கவேண்டிய விஷயம். நானும் என்னைப் போன்றவர்களும் பலதடவைகளில் சொல்லி இருக்கிறோம். இந்த black market உற்பத்தியாவதற்கு முக்கிய காரணம் என்னவென்றால்: இந்த ரேஷன் கடைகளில் கொடுக்கும் தானியங்கள் உபயோகமற்றதாய் இருப்பதால்தான். முன்காலத்திலெல்லாம் ரங்குனிலிருந்து ஒருவித நொய் வரும். அந்த மாதிரி நொய்யில் கால்பங்கு கூட இந்தக் கடைகளில் கொடுக்கும் அரிசி இல்லை. அவ்வளவு மோசமாக இருக்கிறது. சாதாரணமாக இப்பொழுது எட்டு அவுன்ஸ் என்று கொடுக்கிறார்கள். அந்த எட்டு அவுன்ஸ் வீதம் 4 படி 10 படி வாங்கி வந்தால் அதை polish செய்யாமல் சமைக்க முடியாது. இதை என் சொந்த அனுபவத்தில் சொல்லுகிறேன். ஏனென்றால் நானே ரேஷன் வாங்கி சாப்பிடுகிறேன். சேலத்தில் ரேஷன் இருக்கிறது. அங்கே கெர்ளியடித்துக்கொண்டிருந்த சௌக்கிதார்த்தை அரசாங்கம் எடுத்ததற்காக அரசாங்கத்திற்கு சேலம் மக்கள் நன்றி செலுத்துகிறார்கள். அந்த சௌக்கிதார்த்தை இருந்த காலத்தில் அந்த ரேஷன் கடைகளில் உபயோகமற்ற தானியங்களை கொடுத்துவந்ததால் வேறுவிதமாக அரிசி வாங்கி சாப்பிடுவதற்கு முனைந்தார்கள். அரிசியை அப்படி polish செய்தால் பாதிக்குப் பாதிதான் கிடைக்கிறது. நாலு படி வாங்கி வந்து polish செய்தால் இரண்டு படி தவிடும் இரண்டு படி நொய்யுமாகிறது. அதுவும் சில சமயங்களில் ரொம்பவும் நாற்றமடிக்கிறது. நாற்றத்தை பொருக்கமுடியாமல் குழந்தைகள் சாப்பிட மறுத்து விடுகிறது. ஏதோ கஷ்டப்பட்டுக்கொண்டு இதுதான் கிடைக்கிறது. இவ்வளவுதான் அரசாங்கம் உதவி செய்கிறது என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு பெரியவர்கள் தான் சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள். ஆனால் குழந்தைகளுக்கு என்ன தெரியும். அவர்கள் சாப்பிட மறுத்துவிடுகிறார்கள். ஆகையால் இப்பொழுது இருக்கிற கஷ்டத்தை நிவர்த்தி செய்வதற்காக இந்த தானியங்களை சேகரிக்க நியமிக்கும் உத்யோகஸ்தர்களை யோக்கியமுள்ளவர்களாகவும் தேசபக்தர்களாகவும் நல்ல உழைப்பாளிகளாகவும் போடவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. அவர்களை நல்ல முறையில் போட்டு தானியம் சேகரிப்பதை நல்ல முறையில் செய்யும்படி சொன்னால் இந்த

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நெருக்கடியை தீர்க்கலாம். இது மனிதரால் செய்யக்கூடிய காரியம். மேல்தாட்டிலும் யுத்த காலங்களிலும் உணவு தானியங்களை எவ்வளவோ நன்றாக சேகரம் செய்து அனுப்பிவைத்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது மக்கள் நன்றாக சாப்பிட்டு பலமடைந்து வந்தார்கள். ஆனால் நமக்கு கிடைக்கிற தானியத்தைப் பார்த்தால் ரொம்பவும் மோசமாக இருக்கிறது. இதை நீக்குவதற்கு அதிகாரிகளுக்கு யோக்கியதை இல்லையென்றால் அவர்களுடைய மனப்பான்மையை நன்றாக இல்லை என்றும் அதற்காக அவர்கள்மேல் நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுக்கவேண்டுமென்றும் தான் தோன்றுகிறது. அப்படி நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் பாதி குறைவு நீங்கிவிடும்.

“பிறகு தானிய உற்பத்தி செய்கிற விஷயமாக இதில் ஓரளவு அடங்கி இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது வள்ளிக்கீழங்கு, வேறநிலை இதுபோன்றவைகளை போட்டு பயிரிடுகிறார்கள். இன்னும் சரம்பு முதலியவைகளை போடுகிறார்கள். ஏனென்றால் கரும்பை உத்யோகஸ்தர்களுக்கு கொடுக்கவேண்டியதில்லை. இவைகளை அதிகம் உற்பத்தி செய்யாமல் கட்டுப்படுத்தி உணவு தானியங்களை அதிகம் உற்பத்தி செய்யும்படியாக அதிகாரிகள் கொஞ்சம் கவனம் செலுத்தினால் இந்த உற்பத்தியை அதிகமாக்கலாம். ஆகையால் வியாபார பொருள்களை உற்பத்தி செய்வதைத் தடுத்து (At this stage Sri P. Natesan raised a point of order regarding quorum) உணவு தானியம் அதிகம் உற்பத்தி செய்வதில் கவனம் செலுத்த அரசாங்கம் உத்யோகஸ்தர்களுக்கு உத்தரவிட்டும்படி சொல்லலாம். அப்படி செய்தால் நல்ல தானியத்தை நல்ல முறையில் உற்பத்தி செய்து எந்த சமயத்தில் விநியோகம் செய்யவேண்டுமோ அந்த சமயத்தில் விநியோகம் செய்யும்படி செய்யலாம். பிறகு இந்தமாதிரி சந்தர்ப்பம் ஏற்படாது என்று நம்புகிறேன்.

“இதைத் தவிர நமக்கு வேளி மாகாணங்களிலிருந்து உணவு தானியங்கள் வருவதைப்பற்றி ஒரு வார்த்தை சொல்ல ஆசைப்படுகிறேன். நண்பர்களின்மீது சொன்ன மாதிரியாக கோதுமை மிகவும் உளுத்துப்போய் வருகிறது. மக்காசோளம் நல்ல நிலைமையில் வருகிறது. அநேகமாக கோதுமை நல்ல நிலைமையில் வரவில்லை. நல்ல நிலைமையில் தானியங்களை மக்களுக்கு விநியோகம் செய்வதில் அதிகாரிகளுக்கு மனது வரவில்லை. களஞ்சியத்தில் போட்டு கட்டிக் கிடந்த பிறகு எடுத்து வரும் காலத்தில் கெட்டுப்போன நிலைமையில் வருகிறது. நான் ஏன் அப்படி சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றால் நான் கோதுமை சாப்பிடுகிறேன், அதனால் நன்றாகத் தெரியும். இம்மாதிரி கோதுமையை உளுத்துப்போய் ஒவ்வொரு தடவை வாங்கும்பொழுதும் கெட்டுப்போனதாகத்தான் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். 50 தடவைகள் வாங்கினால் ஒரு தடவை அல்லது இரண்டு தடவைகள் தான் நன்றாக இருக்கிறது. பாக்கி 48 தடவைகளிலும் புழுத்துப்போனதும் உளுத்துப் போனதுமாகத்தான் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களும் அங்கத்தினர்களும் பெருவாரியாக சேமித்து வைத்துக்கொண்டு கொடுப்பதில் குறை சொல்வதில் பயன் இல்லை என்று சொல்லலாம். இந்தக் குறைவு கவனக்குறைவினுதான் ஏற்படுகிறது. எத்தனையோ வியாபாரிகள் ஆயிரக்கணக்கில் மூட்டைகளை சேமித்து வைத்துக் கொண்டுதான் வியாபாரம் செய்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் அவர்கள் வைத்திருப்பதில் கொஞ்சங்கூட கெட்டுப் போவதில்லை, வெகு ஜாக்கிரதையாக வைத்துக்கொள்ள நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். வியாபாரிகள் புடைத்து காயவைத்து இன்னும் வேண்டிய சிரமம் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு ஜாக்கிரதையாக புழுக்க விடாமல்வைத்து வியாபாரம் செய்கிறார்கள். ஏனென்றால் அவர்கள் சொந்த லாபத்தை உத்தேசித்து வியாபாரம் செய்வதால் அவ்வளவு சிரமம் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். அவ்விதம் அதிகாரிகளும் நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் நல்ல உணவாக விநியோகம் செய்ய சாத்யமாகும். இந்தக் காரியங்களை அரசாங்கம் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நான் இத்துடன் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

MR. CHAIRMAN (W. J. FERNANDEZ).—“Ten more 5 p.m. Members have expressed their desire to speak, and as there is only one hour more before us for discussion, I shall fix 5 minutes only for each speaker.”

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SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"On a point of information, Sir. There is no salvation in speaking for its own sake. Sir, I believe the object of a debate on such an important matter as the one at present we are engaged in, is to allow time for Members to ventilate their grievances, and represent to Government the actual conditions that are prevailing in the Province, so as to enable the Government to take the necessary steps with a view to improving them. Although I bow down to the ruling of the Chair, I would still submit, Sir, that unless fifteen or twenty minutes are allowed for each speaker, nobody will be able to speak satisfactorily on such an important subject, and therefore five minutes' time is extremely insufficient. As I have always been saying, here in this Assembly, only some six or seven chosen persons are allowed to say something, and for subsequent speakers, the time-limit is reduced to five minutes, and even to three minutes—I do not think it has gone lower down than that. I submit, Sir, it is very hard upon us to express all the ideas that we have and the suggestions we have to make, in such a short time. I hope the Chair will take note of this, and extend the time, calling on only two or three persons to speak so that they may express what they have to say."

MR. CHAIRMAN (W. J. FERNANDEZ):—"This debate has been going on from the other day and many speakers have expressed their views extensively. I do not think it can be said that we are gagging anybody here. Hon. Members have spoken and explained the conditions in the Province, and have impressed the Government with the present situation. So I suggest that important points may be brought forward by the speakers who have expressed a desire to speak. I think the Hon. Speaker's ruling is that this debate cannot be extended beyond this evening. He has ruled that at 6 o'clock, the Hon. Minister will begin his reply to the debate. Therefore all the speakers must finish their speeches before that time. Since there are many to speak, I think it is only fair that each should be given a few minutes so as to express the important points only within that time."

SRI M. A. EASWARAN:—"Sir, I oppose the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur. I submit that because of the controls and rationing, people have suffered enough, and even the quality of the food has been deteriorating to a very great extent. During ration time, many of the people who have not been accustomed to rice in villages have taken to rice with the result that there has been an increase in the number of rice-eaters. I request the Hon. the Food Minister to remove the ban over the millets so that they may be allowed free movement throughout the Presidency, and the people in the village may again be enabled to take to millets, which are no doubt cheaper than rice."

"As regards smuggling in Tanjore, to which Mr. Vedaratnam Pillai referred the other day, Government must take effective measures to put it down."

"Then, Sir, in regard to the bonus coupons, Government have not supplied manure in time to the ryots, and unless the necessary

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manure is supplied in time, the ryots have to go in for green manure which is more costly than groundnut cake, and which sells at about Rs. 60 per cart-load. I therefore submit that Government should supply groundnut cake manure in time for the ryots. With these few words, I oppose the amendment, Sir."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, I wish to be as brief as possible. Here we are going from control to decontrol in the matter of food. The whole process, as has been said, should be gradual. It is not possible to say that in the matter of food a particular policy should be adopted at a particular time. The whole thing depends upon the changing attitudes and the circumstances in which we shall find ourselves. And the gradual change-over from control to decontrol will depend upon the amount of stock we have and the production in the country, on the monsoon and generally on the adaptability of the people as a whole to Government policy. There is no use being very rigid in the matter of food. In fact, a very flexible policy has to be followed, and one that will not be oblivious of the changing circumstances from time to time."

"But there is one general matter that I wish to emphasize. And that is while Government take all steps possible to put down the soaring prices by means of opening relief shops, they might also consider energetic action being taken on the other side, of increasing production in the country. I know it is very difficult to do it all at once. But we have lost so much time and we are still losing time on that matter. We must have a definite programme with definite targets. And unless the problem of distribution is attended to simultaneously with some attention being shown to the increase in food production in the country, we are bound to be in the sad state of deficiency for years to come. We are in deficiency to-day. We are told very often that the deficiency will be covered up very soon. But we find that the population is increasing, that the rice-eaters have increased, that millet-eaters have decreased, and the soil does not produce enough of that particular grain which is in demand and so on and so forth. It is a set of circumstances sometimes even beyond the control of Government. Remembering all this, and remembering that deficiency has come to stay while the plans that we lay point out to 24 oz. per adult per year, Government have recently issued a book to the Members of the Legislative Assembly which shows that an endeavour is being made to reach the 24 oz. target for every adult in the country."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"24 oz. per adult per year!"

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"No, Sir, 24 oz. per adult per day. If I have said 'per year' I am glad my hon. Friend Mr. Hameed Khan has corrected me. My hon. Friend has been helpful in making such corrections, but I want him to be helpful also in the larger sphere of increasing and raising the production in this country. There are a few important steps that can be immediately taken. It is not possible to achieve this by a long range plan but there are short range plans that are possible."

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"The first step that I would urge upon Government, is a restriction of some kind or other on non-food crops. Sir, you know what happened last year. Sugarcane was grown, for instance, in my district when the price of jaggery came toppling down, the whole population was left without food and we were offered in many places sugarcane free of charge, and anybody who could bear the cutting charges was allowed to take away as much sugarcane as possible. That was the state of affairs we were put in. What about tobacco? I have repeatedly referred to it on the floor of this House, and the same thing holds good with betel leaves as well as plantains. I can point to so many things on which restriction can be usefully placed.

"The next step that has to be taken is to distribute manure in the most effective manner possible. It is necessary to secure such a distribution as would produce a real surplus, by making it available at reduced prices in areas where water-supply is assured and good crop could be got, whether the season is good or bad. (At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.) The next point that I want to emphasize is this. We ought to have a well-planned scheme of well-digging. In this connection, we can take assistance from abroad. I have recently read a pamphlet in the work of well-digging, that much work has been done in Australia, and on a large scale in practically desert areas. And we find to our astonishment that their work has progressed very much ahead and they are left with large areas which could be cultivated.

"I would conclude by saying that whatever the objective in view may be, let not the Food Department be merely abolished as soon as controls are removed. The department of food must also be a department of food production. I would suggest that the food department might be put in charge of food production, that the Hon. the Minister for Food and the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture could work together, so that they could strengthen the food production in the country and make their services so efficient as to make them the very root of democratic progress in this country, the 'gross roots of democracy' as they call it. If by close association with the people a living touch is established with them and if we know our target, our figure and our estimates, we shall be able to judge the success or the failure of the scheme much better, and finally we also will know how to appraise our results from time to time, and our entire programme will be scrutinized and the Food Department need not merely be retrenched, simply because the word 'control' has gone out from Government policy. It is very wrong to proceed with retrenchment in this manner. In fact I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Ministers—only one is present in this House—to that wonderful book which Mr. Wallace has written recently in which he says that there are about 60 million jobs in the United States. We want not merely jobs but work that would suit the jobs and the jobs that would produce the work. This is the kind of spirit that should prevail among us, that broad delegation of authority to a body that will have the full power to direct and organize the food production throughout the province and make

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it as decentralized as possible in order that democracy in the villages may be assured its full participation in the policies of Government."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, coming from a deficit district, I would like to make one or two suggestions. I have got surplus areas on my north, west and on the south-east and south. But we are suffering, very much, due to want of rice. We entirely depend upon imports. We have been making representations to the Hon. Minister and to the Government to take into account these broad facts, particularly, our geographical location, and enable us to feed ourselves well, by giving us facilities to get rice from the neighbouring districts. The Hon. Minister has been explaining, and is still explaining that the restriction on inter-provincial movement has been imposed by the Centre. So far as he is concerned he imposes restriction on inter-district movement, and his argument is that unless the inter-provincial restrictions are removed, he would not be able to remove the inter-district ban. And between the Centre and the Province it is the people of the districts that are suffering. Our experience has been that on account of the restrictions imposed on free movement of rice and paddy the prices have gone up enormously high. During the course of an interpellation I suggested to the Hon. Minister that the soaring prices are due to these restrictions, and the Minister attributed other reasons rather than this. He did not even admit that this was responsible for the rise in prices even partly. May I submit, Sir, coming from a deficit district and knowing the conditions of secret smuggling movements that are going on at the borders between these districts, that these soaring prices are due to these restrictions and to nothing else. When there is stock at a particular place Government impose a restriction that it cannot be touched. Naturally those that have rice or paddy in the deficit districts push up the prices. There is no alternative for them. It is an inexorable law of trade. And therefore, Sir, I would draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that it is mainly due to these restrictions that the prices are going very high. When we make a representation to the Government, they say that the officials have not recommended it. But in a particular case I know officials have recommended that the removal of restrictions would facilitate matters very much. Therefore I submit that the Hon. Minister should re-consider his views upon these inter-district movements of foodgrains. If on the other hand he wants to continue the experiment till the end of October or till the end of the next harvest, I submit, Sir, that he is inviting conditions that will land us in very great difficulties, and on which we shall lose control. The position is very serious. There are only about 80 to 90 relief shops in the city of Vizagapatam, for instance, and they cannot certainly cater to the needs of more than 5,000 or 6,000 persons. And all the rest practically about 80 per cent of the rest of the people are obliged to purchase rice that is somehow coming, through unapproved ways into the district, which they are obliged to purchase at Rs. 60 per bag. It is a very high price. In the

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course of answering questions, the Hon. Minister was pleased to say, that if people have money, they will pay. But I submit, Sir, that that is not the position, that there is absolutely no morsel of food, and therefore they are obliged to purchase it at any price, and particularly in Vizagapatam people are not as rich as the people in the deltaic areas. It is not a case of riches at all but they are putting up with such high prices, because they have to starve otherwise. They have got to starve when they have absolutely no money to purchase rice. Therefore I want the Government and the Hon. Minister to consider these suggestions, and revise their policy and remove immediately the restrictions imposed upon free movement from district to district. The free movement of food will ease the situation, and will restore the normal channels of trade, to a very great extent and will certainly bring down the prices. After seeing the results of the removal of restrictions, if the Government still think that the re-imposition of controls and bans are necessary, they have got the power to do so and certainly they can re-impose them. I would draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to this particular aspect of the question."

5-15 SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, இன்றைய தினம் நம் நாட்டில் உணவு பொருள் விஷயமாக ஏற்பட்டிருக்கக்கூடிய நெருக்கடியைப் போக்குவதற்கும் அதை எப்படி திருத்தியமைத்தால் இந்நாட்டு மக்கள் கேடிமமாக வாழமுடியும் என்னும் நோக்கத்துடன் பேச கடமைப்பட்டிருக்கிறோம். குறிப்பாக இப்பொழுது நிலைமையை எடுத்துப்பார்த்தால் அவசியமாக மக்களுக்கு உணவு போதாமல் கஷ்டப்படும் நிலைமை எல்லா இடங்களிலும் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. நம் நாட்டில் கிராமங்களில் சென்று பார்த்தால் அதிகமாக வேறு தான்யங்களைக் கொடுத்து ஐந்து அவுன்ஸ் அரிசியைக் கொடுத்தால் அங்கே இருக்கிறவர்கள் எப்படி சாப்பிடமுடியும் என்பதுதான் தெரியவில்லை. அதுமாத்திரம் அல்ல. கிராமங்களில் இருக்கக்கூடிய மக்கள் எந்த விலைக்கு அரிசி வாங்குகிறார்கள் என்று கேட்கிற காலத்தில் ஒரு ரூபாய், ஒன்றரை ரூபாய் படி ஒன்றுக்குக் கொடுத்து வாங்குகிறார்கள். இல்லாவிட்டால் பட்டினி இருக்கவேண்டிய நிலைமை ஏற்படும். கொடுக்கும் சோளத்தைப் பார்க்கும்போது அதை சாப்பிட்டால் அதன் மூலமாக வயிற்றுவலி வருகிறது, சீதபேதி அதிகரித்து இருக்கிறது என்று கிராமங்களில் மக்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். சோளம் அவ்வளவு சூடு என்பது நம்முடைய உணவு மந்திரி டாக்டர்ரானதால் அவர்களுக்கு நன்றாக தெரியும். அப்படி சோளம் கொடுப்பதை அதிகமாகக் கொடுக்காமல் அரிசியை அதிகம் கொடுத்து சோளம் கொடுப்பதற்கு பதிலாக கேழ் வரகு முதலியவை கொடுத்தால் அதை மிகவும் அதிகமாக மக்கள் வாங்கிக்கொள்வார்கள். இன்னும் உணவு பொருள் அரைக்கப்படும் மிஷினில் உணவுபொருள்களை அதிகமாக நாற்றம் அடிக்கக்கூடிய ஜலத்தில் ஊரவைக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி ஊரவைத்து அரைத்துவருகிற அரிசியைக் கொண்டுவந்து அதை சமைக்கிறகாலத்தில் ரொம்பவும் நாற்றம் எடுக்கும் முறையில் இருக்கிறது. அதைப்பற்றி ரேஷன் கடைகளில் கேட்டால் நாங்கள் என்ன செய்வது, அரசாங்கம்தான் இப்படிக் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். அதைத்தான் நாங்கள் வாங்கி வருகிறோம் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இன்று அரிசி கொடுக்கிற முறையைப்பார்க்கும்போது அது ரொம்பவும் கருப்பாக இருக்கிறது. அதுவும் சரியாக கொடுப்பது இல்லை. ஏன் இப்படி கொடுக்கிறார்கள் என்று கேட்டாலும் அதற்கும் இப்படித்தான் அரசாங்கம் கொடுக்கிறது என்றும் நாங்கள் என்ன செய்வோம் என்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இன்னும் ரேஷன் கடை வைத்திருக்கக் கூடிய பல இடங்களில் பார்க்கிறபோது அங்கேயுள்ளவர்கள் பெரும் அக்கிரமம் இன்னும் செய்துகொண்டுதான் வருகிறார்கள். குறிப்பாகச் சொல்லுகிறேன் உணவு மந்திரி அவர்களுக்கும் தெரியும். ஒரு கடையின்

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லேசென்சைஸ் cancel செய்யவேண்டும் என்று சொல்லி cancel செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஏனென்றால் எழைகளுக்குக் கொடுக்கிற விலை ஒன்று மற்றவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கிற விலை ஒன்று, சீட்டில் ஒரு விலை எழுதுகிறார்கள். பணம் வாங்கும்பொழுது வேறு விலை வைத்து வாங்கி வருகிறார்கள். பாமர மக்கள் ஒன்றும் தெரியாமல் வாங்கிப் போகிறார்கள். அது தெரிந்தால் சில இடங்களில் மாட்டிக்கொள்கிறார்கள். இதைப்போலவே இப்பொழுது இராயபுரத்தில் ஒரு கடை இப்படி தப்பு செய்கிறது என்று தொழிலாளர்கள் கண்டுபிடித்து அதைப்பற்றி உணவு மந்திரி அவர்களுக்கும் அனுப்பி இருக்கிறோம்.

"இன்னும் அதிகமாக மின்சாரம் வழங்கப்படவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது உணவு உற்பத்திக்காக கிணறுகளில் மிஷின்கள் வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அந்த மிஷின்களுக்கு எண்ணெய் கிடைப்பது இல்லை என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள் அதைப் போல் விவசாயத்திற்கு அதிகமாக நிலம் வைத்திருக்கிறவர்கள் மின்சார மிஷின் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் அவர்கள் இன்னும் அதிகம் பணம் சம்பாதிக்கும் நோக்கத்தில்தான் அவைகளை வைத்திருக்கிறார்களேயொழிய மக்களின், சௌகர்யத்திற்காகவும், உணவு உற்பத்தியை பெருக்கவேண்டுமென்ற எண்ணத்துடனும் வைக்கவில்லை என்பதை மந்திரியவர்கள் தெரிந்து கொள்ளவேண்டும். நாட்டை பட்டினிபோட்டுதான் பணம் சம்பாதிக்க வேண்டுமென்ற நோக்கத்துடன் அவர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த முறையை ஒழிக்கவேண்டியது நம்முடைய கடமை. Electric current கூட அதிகமாக விவசாயிகளுக்கு தருவதற்கு மார்க்கத்தை உடனடியாகச் செய்யவேண்டும். அதோடு கூட ஒரே ஒரு முக்யமான விஷயத்தைமட்டில் சொல்லிவிடுகிறேன். இன்று பஞ்சகாலத்தில் மக்கள் பயிர் செய்து கொள்ளலாம் என்று நிலங்களை பயிர் செய்வதற்குக் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. தியாகிகளுக்கு நிலம் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று தீர்மானித்து இருக்கிறார்கள் அதை உடனடியாக செய்து கொடுத்தால் சீக்கிரம் உணவு பொருள்களை உற்பத்தி செய்வதற்கு சௌகர்யமாக இருக்கும். அப்படி செய்துவந்தால் பஞ்சத்தை தீர்த்துவிடலாம். இவைகளைத்தையும் மந்திரி அவர்கள் கவனிப்பார்கள் என்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have to announce a change in the programme. I told the House after having a talk with the Hon. Leader of the House that we would be meeting on the 17th August. But the Hon. Premier now tells me that we should meet on the 10th at 2-30 p.m. because the Public Safety Bill will have to be discussed here and then it will have to go to the Upper House and then get the assent of His Excellency the Viceroy. All this should be finished before the Ordinance lapses. So we shall meet at 2-30 p.m. on the 10th August."

FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE—cont.

* SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me first thank the Government for the very energetic steps they have taken for making our province, if not self-contained, at least capable of meeting the immediate demands of the people. I do not agree at all with the sentiment expressed by the hon. Member Mr. Hameed Khan that the Government have been playing with the feelings, if not the life, of the people. It is a very serious charge to make and the hon. Member in his anxiety to serve the interests of the people, has rather over-shot the mark.

"Sir, I want to put forward two or three points for the consideration of the Government. I appreciate the good work the

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Government are doing. But the mere opening of relief shops, however numerous they may be, will not solve the problem. The very reason that a number of people go to me asking me to recommend them as relief shopkeepers and so forth, shows that they are not concerned so much with the supply of clean food to the people as with the large margin of foodstuffs that will be left with them to make a profit out of it. Sir, the people are not getting the full benefit of the measures of the Government to provide them with rice easily. I therefore feel that instead of the present relief measures which are only there temporarily, the Government might consider the suggestion of the hon. Member Mr. T. Viswanatham who has given a good picture of the difficulties of people in Vizagapatam on account of the non-removal of the ban on inter-district movements. The hon. Member said that many in Vizagapatam though situated between the two surplus districts of East Godavari and Ganjam, were practically starving. In the midst of plenty they are practically famishing. I therefore earnestly appeal to the Government not only to de-control but to remove the restrictions with regard to transport to neighbouring districts.

"Secondly, Sir, there should be a quick transport of foodstuffs like wheat, as otherwise large stocks of food become putrified and are unfit for use. I request the Government to make arrangements for the quick transport of foodstuffs and see that they are distributed quickly in time to relieve the distress of the people.

"Sir, in regard to the Grow More Food Campaign, the Government have not been very active in restricting the acreage under commercial crops. A popular Government which is so keen to relieve the sufferings of the people should go to any length in increasing the acreage under food crops and should not allow an increase in acreage of commercial crops like tobacco as is done in East Godavari and Guntur districts.

"Sir, the last point I want to mention is with regard to providing increased irrigation facilities in various taluks of each district. If more money is spent on the digging and repairing of wells and tanks, the Government will be able to give more food and relief to the people. Sir, I oppose the amendment with regard to the restoration of controls and request the Government to de-control and remove the inter-district ban as quickly as possible."

SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, I would not have intervened in this debate as time is very short but for the fear that controls might be reintroduced. In this respect there is a general conflict of interests between the agricultural community and the non-agricultural community. I would certainly have pleaded for the introduction of controls again if it is going to benefit the general population as such. Sir, there is no middle course between free trade in grains and control and statutory rationing throughout the whole area. We have sufficient experience of rationing. It was all right in the statutory areas. It worked tolerably well. But in the non-statutory rationing areas, in the so-called informal rationing areas, I can say from my experience it did not work well.

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It was a complete failure. I remember in Yerraguntla in Cuddapah district, sometime back, a coolie approached me. He thought that I continued to be a Minister though I was not a Minister then. He told me: "Sir, you do not give us food nor do you allow us to get food." That was the state of affairs. That will be the state of affairs when we introduce control again. If the Government feel that they cannot manage without introducing rationing, let them introduce rationing throughout the whole Province and not only in towns and municipal areas. That might work well. So, also in the matter of procurement, we had our own difficulties. A number of ryots complained to me about the way in which procurement was made. Rich and influential landholders somehow or other managed with the officials and went scot-free. But the poor and middle class ryots who were not in a position to influence the Government officials had practically to part with the whole of their produce. It is all right to ask for the introduction of control and rationing. That is a cry coming from the towns people but I know a majority of people in the rural areas do not want it. Today, we are glad that an attempt has been made by the Government to supply food through what are known as relief shops. Here also the same difficulty arises. Something good is attempted to be done by the Government for the poorer classes. But influential people sometimes in collaboration with the officials make things difficult. The poor people are not able to get what is intended for them. In some cases nothing really reaches them through the relief shops. The grains are sold away to somebody else, false accounts are kept and the officials are satisfied. However, I am against doing away with relief shops. They may, of course, be necessary under present circumstances, but what I would like to impress upon the Government is that a proper and more adequate check by superior officials of the Government would be necessary to supervise these relief shops. I am, however, absolutely against the re-introduction of control. After all who are the class of people that suffer now. I know that the suffering is confined only to a certain class of people and their suffering no doubt is great. It is confined not so much to the agricultural labourer. It is wrong to say that the agricultural labourer suffers very much now. My experience of the agricultural labourer in my part of the district is, he is generally paid some quantity of grain as wages that he used to get even from the non-rationing days. He does not suffer; he gets some ration as he used to get before the introduction of rationing or before the rice scarcity has commenced. Again, in cases where wages are paid in money,—now agricultural wages have increased in proportion—whereas we used to pay three or four annas previously, we are now paying at the rate of Re. 1, Re. 1-4-0 and even Rs. 1-8-0. They have now adjusted themselves to that. The richer classes need not suffer, because they can afford to pay whatever price they can. No doubt, the hardship is confined to what are known as the middle and lower middle classes and the lot of the low-paid Government officials is very much. The remedy is not to introduce control again. So, I would advise the Government to give relief to them in some other form. As a matter of fact, with regard to low-paid Government officials the dearthness

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allowance they are now getting is nothing but a pittance and when prices have gone up three or four times the dearness allowance that they are given is practically nothing. I say it can be increased proportionately if necessary in their case. But, for the sake of a small section of the people, it is not desirable to introduce control and rationing. It does not work well, unless it means large establishment and a perfect system of statutory rationing introduced throughout the area and satisfactory procurement which will give the people the food that is required."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement of the food situation that has been placed before the House by the Hon. the Food Minister may be good so far as it goes, but it seems to me that the Hon. Minister for Food, even though he is so ably assisted by his departmental Secretary, is fighting a losing battle on the food front. Whatever the statement might be, I do not think it has given either the members of this House or the public outside any satisfaction or assurance with regard to the food situation in the Province. Sir, the question of price control is really difficult and whatever measures the Hon. Food Minister might have taken to control the rise in prices, even by opening relief shops according to his statement, I do not think the situation has been controlled to any appreciable extent as the Hon. Minister tries to make out in his statement. So far as my district is concerned, I know that since the last debate on the food situation on the adjournment motion of my hon. Friend, Mr. Karanth, the food situation in my district of South Kanara has not shown any appreciable change. Prices are still ranging from Rs. 20 to Rs. 40 per mura and the people are finding it very much difficult to get rice even at that price. As you all know these are difficult months in the district of South Kanara. This is the cultivation season and the monsoon is in full swing there and during the monsoon months the situation has been simply aggravated. Not only the people in the urban areas but even the agriculturists in the rural areas find it really hard during the cultivation season to carry on their agricultural operations, because they are not able to get the rice that is necessary for payment of wages to the labourers. Apart from the scarcity of rice for their own food, they are seriously handicapped from continuing their cultivation operations for want of a sufficient quantity of rice in their hands. Therefore, Sir, I know it is not as the Hon. Food Minister has stated in his statement that 'if the prices have gone up those who are responsible for it are mostly people who could afford to pay higher prices to satisfy their fastidious habits and who do not care to avail themselves of the relief shops.' That, I do not think, is a correct statement, at any rate, of the situation that is prevailing to-day in the district of South Kanara. The poor people, whether it is for money or for love, are not able to get even a single grain of rice in the villages, especially at a time like this when they have to carry on their cultivation operations. That is the real situation in our district. More relief shops might have been opened so that all the card-holders might avail themselves of these shops. But are

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the cards issued? It is stated that the original or the former ration card-holders will be entitled to get rice at controlled prices at the relief shops, but I know, as a matter of fact, all the card-holders who used to have their ration before are not issued any quantity of rice from these relief shops. They are told, it is only a certain class of people whose incomes are below a certain figure that are entitled to get relief from these ration shops. Such is the situation in our district. What is to happen to the others if they are denied relief by these relief shops? They have necessarily to resort to black-marketing. Otherwise, they must starve. The whole difficulty arose on account of the sudden decontrol of food at the end of December 1947 after requisitioning from the tenants, that is, the rice that they would otherwise have given to the landholders. That is why I say the food situation has been made worse. It is on account of an act of the Government itself that the situation has been made worse.

"Now, Sir, what is the remedy for controlling the rise in prices. The Hon. Food Minister has stated that the Collectors have been given instructions that the price control order should be enforced, but we do not find any instance where this price control has been very strictly enforced, nor do we find that the price control has been effectively enforced anywhere. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the one way of doing this is, let there be free trade in rice; let there be no relief shops, because after all they are on the same basis as the ration shops, perhaps with some more restriction and only a certain class of people are entitled to get relief at these shops and not others. If they have no rice they will go in search of rice and they are even prepared to pay any amount for it. That is the situation in my district. So, I would request the Hon. Food Minister to pay a visit to the district and discuss the matter with the local people and then, I am sure, he will realize the real difficulties and the sufferings of the people in that district.

"Now, Sir, during war time, I know an Ordinance was passed, called the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance. I suggest, let there be free trade in rice and let such an Ordinance also be introduced. Previously, the working of that Ordinance was entrusted to the Commercial Tax department and the officer who was in charge of this department in my district, so far as I know, was very successful in enforcing this Ordinance and controlling the prices. Similarly, it would be better if the rice trade is thrown open to merchants, and if necessary there may be an emergency legislation passed for the time being on the lines of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance. If that is done, I am sure prices can be more effectively controlled. I would also suggest that the working of such an Ordinance might be entrusted to the Commercial Tax department, as I have already suggested. There is no use telling us that Collectors have been instructed to enforce the price control order and at the same time restricting the supply of rice to the public; that more relief shops have been opened and so on. This sort of dual method will not work satisfactorily. Therefore, as I have already

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suggested, let there be free trade, coupled with price control on the lines of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance. These are my suggestions and I do not wish to say anything more because a good deal has already been debated on this subject of food. I hope the Hon. Food Minister and the department concerned will take note of my suggestions and consider them and if they find they are really helpful and worth giving a trial, let them do it."

SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to impress upon my colleagues as well as the Government that we are dealing with an article which is in short supply and that it cannot be compared with other articles. Food is such an essential article that we cannot leave it to free trade, unless we are sure that free trade will result in moderate prices and the supply of sufficient quantities. So long as there is room for hoarding or allowing the foodstuffs to go underground or cornering, you cannot supply the needs of the people by having recourse to free trade. Controls have, no doubt, given trouble to certain people, and also trouble in enforcing them, but we are apt to forget that if producers are allowed to sell as they like, people will get what they want. That is one mistake we are committing. Another mistake we are committing is, that we will be satisfied with 6 or 8 oz. of rice. We are complacently asking whether free trade will not give us what all we want, because when there were controls we were getting enough food. We are forgetting that on account of 8 or 6 oz. of rice, there was a great deal deterioration in physique and people became vulnerable to all sorts of diseases and epidemics. We forget where we are now and I would, therefore, suggest to the Government that the utmost must be done, at least in future, to increase the 6 or 8 oz. of rice. I am thankful to the Hon. Minister for having increased the ration from 6 to 8 oz. in Malabar and other informal areas, but all the same we are only on 8 oz. A family gets 8 oz. of rice from a ration shop and the quantity supplied does not last for the whole week; it is sufficient only for four days in the week and they have to go for the rest of the three days out of food. I am saying this from my personal experience of the matter. So, Sir, we are having a debate with 8 oz. of rice before us. (Interruption.) From the figures I have got, I do not think, after all, that conditions this year will be so bad. Within the 5 minutes allotted to me, I do not want to dilate upon all these things but I would tell the Government that it is surely injurious to take away all control at this stage. At the same time, I do not think the Government are prepared to restore control throughout the Province or to make the whole Province statutorily controlled. So long as this essential article of food is in short supply and till we are assured of normal imports from Siam, Indo-China or Burma, we ought not to take off the controls. The Central Government and this Government have both gone wrong in having decontrolled it in various places. Eight ounces is not certainly a thing of which you can be satisfied and the Government must know the people are suffering and dying. Eight ounces is

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nothing and I want the Minister to note it and it is not enough for the people. For the future I crave the Government to have a sort of easy procurement in proportion to the areas a person is cultivating and by that I mean that after procurement, enough must be left with the producer for his use, for paying his agricultural labourers and for agricultural operations. People who are not educated and are poor have no pull with the Government but it is not the case with the rich man. The officer goes to him for procurement; by the time he reaches his gate the enthusiasm of the official has all oozed out and by the time he takes coffee, no courage is left in him and the rich ryot says that so much was the quantity that was available with him from the time of his grandfather and that is the only quantity available and the officer takes it without any demur. I am not accusing the rich people but they are cleverer than the poor and the poor ryot, the middle-class man, is afraid of the officials and nothing is left with him even for himself. With the result that the rich man has enough stuff both for himself and for selling which he does not hesitate to sell at Rs. 2 per Madras measure. This is the case whether statutory ration is in vogue or otherwise; plenty of rice is available provided one is prepared to pay 300 per cent of the controlled rates. It is impossible to find them out and no amount of detective staff will serve the purpose. Therefore, I suggest that for the future there should be easy procurement, that is leaving enough with the ryot for himself and his family, his agricultural operations and his labour. But one thing is that Government must purchase every ounce of available paddy and the producer must not sell to anybody except the Government or to their agents. It may be asked by some: Do you want the Government to become merchants? In that case, it might be entrusted to co-operative societies over which they have some control or through merchants who are honest and they must see that the stock is made available to the people. Otherwise there is no chance for us. We may have the satisfaction that we are doing our best but that is not enough. The ban is not useful and the chowkies are useless. However strictly worked and however innumerable the chowkies may be, they have not been of use. The balance of what remains must be sold to Government or its agents. If the producer-cum-consumer co-operative society is not enough or necessary, the existing societies can do that and if they cannot cope with that, let the matter be entrusted to honest merchants. What is the difficulty for the Government to enforce this; there is no harm. There is no use of saying that close upon the lifting of controls the prices will rise up but will come down by and by. But cloth has shown that it is not so. The prices shot up close upon decontrol and do not show any tendency to come down. In my place a cart-load is selling from 450 to 500 rupees and I wonder how the middle-class people can buy anything to eat. This is the time for us to evolve a system. If things are left as Mr. Viswanatham suggested, there is no chance of making enough food available to the people. The producer knows that the buyer must come to him at all costs by selling his utensils or his wife's ornaments and people have

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become very bad after the war and do not hesitate to make enormous profits taking advantage of present day conditions. That is why I am suggesting this for the consideration of Government."

* SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will have to be thankful to Government and particularly the Hon. Minister for Food on behalf of people of the Nilgiris and myself for continuing control in my district. It is entirely a non-producing district and with regard to food it is on the same footing as towns and cities are and so as long as the people are assured of adequate supplies of food, control in the district should not be removed. The District Food Committee is also of that view and they feel that the district should be the last to be decontrolled. I will have to thank the Hon. Minister for Food for recently increasing the rations in the district. With regard to ration, there is no difference between rural and urban areas of the district as rural areas are not producing any food and therefore, they are in the same condition as urban areas. I request the Hon. Minister to see that the rice contents of the rations is increased to at least eight ounces in the rural areas also.

" Apart from control, I have to refer to another important point. Whatever allotment of food is made to the district, it is made either from Tenali or Tadepalligudem. These places are far away from the Nilgiris. When there are surplus districts like Tanjore closeby, I do not know why rice from these places are alone sent to Nilgiris. It is not rice that we get; it is half rice and half rubbish or mud and for all these years people of the district have not seen what is good rice and I request the Hon. Minister to arrange for allotment of rice from Tanjore district or rice imported from Burma to be sent to the Nilgiris. The transport charges from Tenali or Tadepalligudem is very high and in many cases, waggons booked to Ootacamund get derailed at Mettupalayam and when these stocks are transported from Mettupalayam to Ootacamund and other distant places by lorries especially in these days of petrol shortage, the transport charges go on increasing and consequently the consumer has to pay very high price for his rice. I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister to see that rice from nearby places is given for this district and more petrol also is allowed to this district seeing that transport in the district is altogether different from that obtaining in the plains, it has got to go over hilly tracts and during rainy season, there is likelihood of skidding as roads are not so good. Even for 10 to 12 miles the lorry owners will be demanding Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per bag of rice. It kills the actual consumer and so I request that some petrol concession is given to this district immediately.

" With regard to the distribution of foodgrains the Revenue Department and especially the District Supply Officer is always impairing or placing impediments in the way of co-operative institutions. Last night I received a wire and to-day I have

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received a letter to the effect that old stocks held by the co-operative central stores from April last are not being released but the stocks received in June or July by private merchants are being released now. I would request the Hon. Minister to see that such unfair treatment is not meted out to co-operative central stores and co-operative institutions."

* SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMIAH:—" Mr. Speaker, from the statement before the House we see that the actual production of foodgrains, both paddy and millets is not really so low as to warrant an alarming situation. But the whole difficulty is that there is a sort of famine all through the Province and this famine is expressed by the very high price of foodgrains which the people are unable to afford. All this is due to the mal-distribution of grains available in the Province. Still I know that in most of the districts—at any rate in the district round about Madura—grain is really available but only it is selling at a very high price and the Government have failed to bring down the prices by fixing the prices. In the statement it is said that all possible steps are taken to combat this increase of price and the one step is that the Government have statutorily notified the prices of foodgrains for trade in each district. By so doing they think that they have done their duty. By statutorily fixing the prices of foodgrains in the districts have they reduced the price of foodgrains or do they expect that the grains would sell at that price? Unfortunately in no place is it selling at the rate fixed by the Government of Madras. The reason is that the Government do not mean to enforce the prices statutorily fixed by them. This is what they say in the report: 'Indiscriminate prosecutions would not only amount to unnecessary harassment but that would also have the effect of driving stocks underground which would defeat the very object with which we have controlled prices.' I am afraid really I cannot characterise it in a word which will be permitted in this Assembly as being parliamentary. How long have the Government come to feel for the common people? When did they take into their head that prosecutions for offences will be considered by the people as something grave or anarchic. Have they prosecuted any smuggler in any of the districts, Sir? Sir, Government have fixed the price of paddy in the taluk I reside at Rs. 10 6 p.m. to Rs. 11 per bag. When the relief shop was opened, for two days the price went down; but when the stock of paddy in the relief shop was exhausted, again the price shot up from Rs. 22 to Rs. 30. In the Madura District Food Council we decided on a levy system of grain for different kinds of soil, and in this way the levy was decided for the different taluks, as there was not sufficient produce in the district due to the failure of the north-east monsoon. Subsequently the levy was abandoned. But the real fact was the ryots were not served with the notice of the levy of grains for six weeks. Meanwhile, during those six weeks, the producers sold away almost their entire produce in black-market, with the result when the notice of levy was served, the

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ryots had no stock of grain to part with. I have mentioned several times of this to the officers concerned, but no action has been taken by them.

"Local officers do not care for the orders of the Government, and the food situation to-day, though not really very acute, is due to the inaction or apathy or whatever you may call it, and I will leave it to the House to supply that word. Prices are high everywhere; both producers and non-producers, and especially the landless labourers are suffering, and particularly those who transplant seedlings who are paid only in cash; and so they suffer very acutely. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, as many as twenty-seven members have taken part in this two days' debate on the food situation. I am very thankful to those Members who have offered criticism of the working of the Food Department and of what should be done in future. I have taken careful note of what has been said, and I have also noticed the amendment that has been moved recommending control back again in the province. I leave it to the House to decide as to what I should do; but in the meanwhile I want to state that this decontrol was taken on a decision of the House that control should go. And while releasing control we have taken particular care to see that this decontrol does not affect people seriously and it is introduced in such a way as to ensure that their minimum requirements are met. Whether food control should be removed or not is a debatable point. For the Government of India rightly or wrongly stands by the policy of decontrol. It is not only they have decided so, but they have taken upon themselves the responsibility which will follow from the policy of decontrol. They have committed themselves to supply this province with such deficit grains as may be required, and so far, I cannot say that they have failed in their responsibility. They have done it and they still propose doing it. We have asked for an increased allotment of four lakhs of tons of foodgrains to be a buffer stock to us to tide over the difficulty we might experience after the month of October. For I must remind the House that these three months are the most difficult months with regard to food situation in the province. Last year we had almost a danger of famine setting in; but with the greatest difficulty it was overcome. But this year we are in such a happy position to say that we can easily tide over the difficult situation for the next two months without difficulty. A good feature is the Government of India have not failed in their responsibility. As an indication of this they have offered to us another lakh of tons of foodgrains in the course of the next few months. Therefore, about this decontrol policy, there is no need to be unnecessarily scared. For the imports from the Government of India are in a much better condition than what it was last year and there is every assurance that the Government of India will help us. Therefore, the question of considering the amendment or its value does not arise so far as the Government are concerned.

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We have got two and a half months' stock on hand, we have been promised food by the Government of India, and as an earnest they are sending us one lakh, and so all things proving satisfactory I do not anticipate famine. But anything may happen. We in India have always banked on the monsoons and our difficulty has been always to regulate ourselves to the monsoon or to get our full supply during the monsoon. But as things stand, there are indications that we will get both the South-west and North-east Monsoons this year. I want the House to remember that last year we ran our stock of food in the face of the failure of the North-east Monsoon. It is a serious calamity the like of which has not been experienced in the last few years. But we have faced it successfully, and I am hopeful, given the same conditions as we have had, we will face it well enough. Therefore, we need not be panicky in asking for control again. But I may say, we, as a Government, are not afraid to reintroduce control, if it is necessary, to feed the people of this province. Therefore, we will not rush in unnecessarily, knowing the correct position as we do. Therefore, I am not able to accommodate the amendment of my hon. Friend, and this House need not fear the reintroduction of control once again.

"Then, Sir, I may say one word with regard to the way in which we are meeting the present situation. First of all, I said that we are introducing relief shops. I want to bring to the notice of the House what we have been doing. The number of relief shops is a little over 9,200. In the days when we had control and had ration shops everywhere and food was made available to people through them, we did not have more than 20,000 ration shops. To-day besides the relief shops we have 4,000 ration shops functioning in rationed areas; and thus the total number is 13,200. By the way, these figures illustrate to you what serious view we have taken in providing food to the people even though we have adopted a decontrol policy. Therefore, when you argue on this question of decontrol I am telling you that the Government who on their own responsibility have taken to the policy of decontrol has prepared itself to make adequate safeguards for the distribution of food, and the statement I have given shows how careful we have been with regard to this position. Knowing that we have to combat with a complete failure of monsoon, we have anticipated our difficulty and have provided ourselves with stocks well in advance. We have got help from the Government of India; and all these show very well that the Government of India have stood by us to tide over the serious situation during these few months.

"I have been criticized by some friends that I always rush to figures. Well, Sir, no administration can be carried on without reference to figures. In fact the whole administration is based on figures, and more so that of the Food Department. That is the only thing I have got; and that is the only thing on which any

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organized government can proceed; that is the basis on which supply and demand are worked out; and it has been done mathematically so that there can be no fallacy in it."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Operation successful . . ."

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I do not want to be disturbed in my statement. I would call upon honest men to consider that these figures at my disposal have been secured with the greatest possible accuracy; and it has been secured and verified by the result, and so my figures cannot be questioned and ought not to be questioned. I do not deny there may be fallacies in administering food to a large population, rich and poor alike. Well, the Government are prepared to receive complaints, go into them as diligently as they can, and it is just possible there might be mistakes, and I want hon. Members not to stress too much on mistakes but look at the general trend of events, and see how this Government has discharged its duties in the face of very grave difficulties. The total adult population in the province is as follows; and I want this to be reported correctly. The total adult population in the province is 42.2 millions. Of this, the population in statutory and rural rationing areas is 6.2 millions. The population in non-rationed areas is 36 millions. Deduct the population of self-sufficient producers in all districts including surplus districts which is 14.9 millions. The balance of non-producers and partial producers to be provided for is 21.1 millions. The estimated population served through relief shops is 20 millions or in terms of adults 16 millions. The percentage of non-producers and partial producers who are served through relief shops to the total non-producer and partial producer population is 76. I would also remind the House of the fact that we have not opened a single relief shop in any of the surplus districts. To-day the surplus districts are taking very good care of themselves. They have got enough food not only for themselves but also for sale. In Tanjore district we have not imposed any restriction. We have allowed free trade and transport of foodgrains. We are prepared to do so in every district where our procurement target has been secured. If we had secured the target in Nellore district, we would certainly have done the same thing there also. In every surplus district, we will take away control as early as possible if we are sure that there is sufficient protection for those people who neither produce nor own lands. Our responsibility is great, particularly to the landless labourers and the poorer classes of people to whom State assistance becomes very necessary, though we have not excluded the producers who form 14.9 millions of our population. We want to reduce our responsibility and confine our attention to the little landless labourers who need help and for them we have provided relief shops. It may be that relief shops are abused; it may be that black-market trade is being indulged in by the relief shop-keepers. We have improved our machinery of control over the relief shops. We have released all our revenue authorities to look after the working of the relief shops. Considering the

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fact that as many as 9,000 and odd relief shops and 1,000 and odd ration shops are scattered all over the province, we cannot say that we have failed in our responsibility. The number of prosecutions does not represent the vigilance of the Government in this matter. Suppose we have had one hundred prosecutions for every shop-keeper and rice hoarder. It may be a very good show that we have been merciless in launching prosecutions. In the matter of food, every man will fight to the last to get as much food as he possibly can. The way in which black-market trade is going on in Nellore and other places shows this that a man with a small head-load of rice can travel ticketless to the next railway station and sell it at a profit. There are profiteers who employ these poor, unfortunate victims to ply this trade for a small pittance. The passengers do not care for this. The train stops for no reason whatsoever except to enable the smugglers to slip out. This only proves the great need for the supply of foodgrains and also the great avarice of the producers who employ these unfortunate poor men in their nefarious trade. Food policy is a matter which has to be considered in all its aspects. The duty of the Government is to see that sufficient foodgrains are made available to the people of the country, that sufficient food is procured, and that the foodgrains so procured is made available to all the people. I maintain that we are pursuing that policy. It does not mean that every train should be stopped and everybody should be searched. The check is always continuing. Whenever a check is made for a few days, the nefarious traffic stops for some days. Afterwards, it slowly rears its head again. It is not as if the whole thing is let loose without any check whatsoever. There is universal check and it is done by the police. I want to remind the House that there is a very heavy demand on the strength and attention of the police. People who are not in the know of things cannot imagine what a heavy strain is put on them. With Hyderabad giving trouble on the one side and with a number of border districts requiring protection, we are making a heavy draw on the police force. In these circumstances to divert the whole police force to the task of detecting smuggling would be a very dangerous risk which this Government cannot take. While regretting our inability to divert all the police force to stop this nefarious trade, we are employing as much police force as is necessary for detecting food crimes and consistent with the safety of our province. I would also urge that the willing and energetic co-operation of the public also is necessary in the discharge of our duty. After all, what is this Government or this administration worth if it is not based on the willing co-operation of the people? In the discharge of our primary duty of providing food, we want every honest citizen to help us. God willing if the monsoon breaks, this food scarcity will be got over in the next few months. Even last year if the monsoon had not failed, we would not have been faced with this crisis. I was hoping that the monsoon would not fail but it was a vain hope. Through the help of the Government of India, we have been able to get over the difficulty.

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"It was said in the course of the discussion that relief shops were not kept open and food was not made available easily. According to the instructions we have issued, relief shops are to be kept open for six days in the week, the remaining one day being a holiday. Collectors and the other local officers will certainly take action if the default is brought to their notice.

"The procurement target for the districts where intensive procurement is in force is 10,62,450 tons of rice out of which 6,70,604 tons or 63 per cent has been procured up to 10th July 1948. The target leaves behind with the producers in the country nearly 60 per cent of the total produce. The Government do not take away the whole food by procurement. That is the one thing that I want to bring to the notice of the House. It is often imagined that the Government have created a great difficulty by their procurement policy. Not at all. We are procuring only as much as is required and deliberately leaving the rest to circulate among the people. In no sense could the procurement be called severe. Procurement is done only in the surplus districts. We have taken away procurement from deficit districts. We have removed all control over millets in certain areas. Millets can be moved freely from one part of the country to the other and made available to the people. We are controlling only rice and procure 40 per cent in the surplus districts alone and leave the rest for circulation. Therefore it cannot be said that we take away all the foodgrains from the people.

"There is one point on which there was a lot of criticism. One hon. Member suggested that the Government should release stocks periodically in fairly large quantities at controlled prices, whenever prices show a tendency to rise. I want to remind that this Government have not got with them to-day the quantity of foodgrains required by the people, especially to meet emergencies. If we have sufficient stock, we would not hesitate to rush foodgrains whenever the prices soar. Unfortunately we have not got enough stock. If we rush the stock that we have at our disposal, we will exhaust it in no time. People selling at high prices know very well that we cannot rush stocks for a very long time. We can rush it for a week or ten days. Then what will happen? Again the prices will soar. Whatever stock we have miserly stored will vanish and we will again be left in the lurch. The Government cannot accept an arrangement involving such a great amount of risk. We have to husband our resources very carefully to tide over the crisis, and that we have been consistently doing.

"Another question put was: 'Why can you not release stock from the surplus districts into the deficit districts?' It can be easily said. But the question is that the Government have to rely only on the six surplus districts for their stock. It is our duty to guard the surplus district against being depleted by the deficit districts, till our target is procured. After we procure the poor man's food, it is time for us to say: 'We open the barrier;

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you go and purchase as much as you want.' To the extent we stand responsible to feed the poor people, we have got to maintain a close watch on these districts. I am aware that there are border areas where foodgrains leak out from one district to the other. But it will be impossible to guard the whole length of the border covering many, many miles. It may be that in certain areas, one has got to walk only a foot or two. No Government can do their duty thoroughly over such a long distance and small lapses do occur. We need not be very keen about the lapses, because we cannot dissipate our strength on a venture which is impossible.

"The question of releasing food through the relief shops was raised. The relief shops are to-day releasing foodstuffs to all cardholders who were entitled to get the food in previous years. Some people complain that they have lost their cards. We are issuing new cards to them but we only make sure that they actually require the food for themselves. If we throw open the relief shops to all, every merchant will rush to purchase and our stock will vanish. Every merchant will purchase at the fair price and sell it at the blackmarket rate. Therefore a certain amount of close watch on the fair price shops is necessary.

"The draw on the fair price shops is not small. I have got the figures before me. The quantity distributed through the relief shops for the week ending 10th July 1948 is as follows:—

	TONS.
Rice	17,533
Wheat, maize and millets	9,147

I am not taking into account the draw during the subsequent days which has been three or four times the normal. We are holding our stock fully calculating the amount of draw and releasing stocks according to the figures we have at our disposal. People rush particularly in the months of August and September which are very often the worst months for us to go through.

"Sir, I should also like to mention the additional steps which the Government have taken to bring down prices apart from the opening of these relief shops in the decontrolled areas. We have fixed the ceiling prices of foodgrains in each district and in each area, which I have already announced and if it is found that any merchant or dealer has sold over and above these ceiling prices, his licence is likely to be cancelled and also his stocks will be confiscated and he will be severely punished; so the merchants have been made aware of the consequences of the contravention of any of these rules. Therefore the fear of law is always present in their minds. But still human nature being what it is, and the merchants dealing in foodgrains being very clever, it is always difficult to watch and control them and prevent them from resorting to blackmarketing.

"One of the additional steps to bring down prices is that on information that fairly large stocks have been pledged by merchants and millers with banks, orders have been issued to requisition these stocks, as it was considered that such pledging of large

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stocks with banks amounted to hoarding and impeded the free flow of supplies into the market. It often happens that in these de-controlled areas many of the merchants and millers go to these producers and buy off all their surplus stocks by means of their bank facilities and pledge them in the bank's store-house and when the price goes up, they sell them and make a profit. This year, we have been particularly careful to see that the banks are not made the storehouses for blackmarketing.

"The second step we have taken is this. Instructions have also been issued to all officers that mills should be frequently inspected and their stocks and accounts checked. They have also been instructed to check the prices at which the supplies have been made.

"Thirdly we have also under consideration a Bill to put down blackmarketing on the lines of the Bill promulgated in West Bengal during the time of scarcity there.

"Sir, I think, I have answered the major criticisms that have been made and I have also given facts and figures to justify the position we have taken up. As I have already said, there are roughly about 10,000 relief shops throughout the decontrolled areas. Now in every alternate village we are having these relief shops where foodgrains are made available for six days in the week.

"Then, Sir, with regard to the Grow-More-Food Campaign, hon. Members may remember that we have had an exhaustive debate recently in which full facts and figures were given elucidating what progress has been made so far in that direction. We are also going to convene a meeting of the Grow-More-Food Committee shortly wherein the further progress that has been made since will be reviewed and the steps that are required to be taken in furtherance of it will also be discussed. As regards the well subsidy scheme that has been promulgated by the Government, a comprehensive note furnishing all details and the progress so far made, has been furnished to all hon. Members recently. Our targets in this scheme are 4,604 new wells for 1947-48 and 25,000 new wells for 1948-49 aiming at a production target of 50,764 tons of foodgrains. A special staff for the supervision of this scheme has been sanctioned and better results are expected during the coming months.

"Sir, I do not want to repeat all the points raised by hon. Members in the course of this debate, but one of the main points that has been brought to my notice was this. One hon. Member asked, "Unless you produce more food, how are you going to manage the situation? How are you going to make this Province self-sufficient in the matter of food?" That is the essential question which we have to address ourselves and which we have been trying to tackle by the various schemes which we have undertaken and which are under execution. How we are managing the situation to-day is this. Firstly we produce or requisition all the available surplus stocks produced by the ryots in the surplus districts of

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this Province. Secondly we are requesting the Government of India to import as much stock of foodgrains as are required in this Province from the International Food Pool. Thirdly we have always maintained a certain reserve stock of foodgrains on hand so as to meet any emergency that might occur in any area at any time. We have got such reserve depots in a number of places in the mufassal and in the City. As hon. Member know, it is not safe to stock all the foodgrains in one particular place, because it will not be possible to move stocks swiftly and speedily to any particular place where there is an emergency. Sometimes political situations may develop in a particular place when the movement of foodgrains would become very difficult and people would have to starve. Therefore, we have distributed these depots in the various districts in the Province and we have now got as many as 14 depots spread over the Province from which at a moment's notice food supplies could be made available either by trains or by lorries or by country-carts to any place in the province where there is a need and hon. Members may rest assured that under no circumstances people would be put to starvation. Times are such that we do not know when our stock will fall short of our requirements and we cannot take the risk of movements being blockaded by any unforeseen events. Last week we have had to face a situation when there was a lack of sufficient transport by train and therefore we had to engage some special steamers to carry our foodgrains from the surplus areas of Cocanada to other places and also from certain other places to Calicut by sea. We have not spared any amount of expenses in this direction for foodgrains have got to be rushed to places where there is need and to save people from starvation and we do not hesitate to spend any amount of money for this purpose. The railways have also provided us the maximum number of waggons that they could possibly spare for the transport of foodgrains and they are giving the highest priority for this matter. Sometimes when even that was not enough, we are taking all precautions with regard to the movement of foodgrains either by sea or by making use of lorries or by carts or by any other means which are available.

"Sir, we have in Avadi and in a number of other places large stocks of foodgrains. We have also got a large number of officers drafted from the Agricultural department who are specialists in the storage of foodgrains. We have put the Collector of the respective districts with a huge staff of subordinate officers in charge of these storage depots and they are inspecting these depots frequently to see that the stocks do not get deteriorated. But if, in spite of all these precautions, sometimes there are heavy rains in some places, it is possible that in some corner of the godowns some bags get wet and spoiled. Those who know these things will realize how difficult it is to store foodgrains and what an immense task it is. We are spending enormous sums to renovate these godowns and particularly during the monsoon we have to be extremely careful. One hon. Member has cautioned us that in South Kanara, the monsoon has set in and that we must take all precautions to see that the stocks do not get damaged. Sir, I can

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assure hon. Members of this House that we have taken all precautions necessary, not only in South Kanara but also with regard to Malabar and the hilly districts like the Nilgiris to see that the stocks are not, in any way, affected by the monsoon. All hon. Members know that transport is very difficult in the hilly tracts of Malabar, the Nilgiris and South Kanara. To-day we have plenty of stocks in all these places and we have also anticipated all freaks of nature and have provided against them as far as possible, not only in the matter of storage, but also in the matter of transport. We are trying our best to tide over this crisis and if in spite of all our efforts, we meet with some unexplainable factors or if some unforeseen situations or unexpected things suddenly arise, hon. Members, I hope, will appreciate the immense difficulty of the task and how we have tried to tackle them so far.

"Now, Sir, with regard to a remark made by one hon. Member that wheat production has been restricted in the Nilgiris, I want to make this reply. If wheat is allowed to grow in the hills, naturally it develops the rust disease and it will not only destroy the wheat grown in the hills, but also the whole crop of wheat grown in other distant places in the plains. We have had experience of this in previous years when the disease spread even to the Northern India and devastated the whole crop of wheat there. Therefore, it is very dangerous to allow wheat which produces the rust disease to be grown in hills and that is why we have ordered the stoppage of wheat production in the Nilgiris.

"Again Sir, one of the hon. Members referred to the smuggling of foodgrains to other countries like Ceylon from the Tanjore district. Sir, Tanjore is a very great surplus district in paddy and it is our own people there who are smuggling rice to Ceylon by means of steam-boats and sell it at attractive prices. We have taken all precautions to prevent smuggling and to arrest these smugglers. Whenever we catch them, we confiscate their foodgrains, besides prosecuting them. I have got facts and figures before me showing the number of cases we have been able to catch in the process of smuggling and the number of prosecutions launched against them and in how many cases we have confiscated their stocks. But at the same time I may state that these smugglers are very much more clever than the Government. We have got boats which could run only at the rate of eight miles per hour, while they have secured more costly boats which could run at 20 miles per hour and therefore even when they are caught sight of, they would run away much quicker than we could, and escape us. But now we have been able to secure faster boats and are in a position to out-beat them whenever they are caught sight of.

"Regarding the guarding of the coast and the high seas, it is a matter for the Government of India. We cannot take upon ourselves the responsibility of guarding such a lengthy coastal line. We can only draw the attention of the Government of India to this and request them to take all measures to guard the coast and to catch the smugglers in the high seas, if they are sighted. In many cases these smugglers who are very clever

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people, once they get to know that we are chasing them, dislodge their stocks in the sea and escape prosecution because if on stopping their boats, we see no stock of rice bags, we cannot prosecute them.

"Sir, I may in this connection state what an amount of unpopularity the Government officials have courted in the discharge of their duties in prosecuting the black-marketers as well as the smugglers. We have never hesitated to prosecute black-marketers whenever we have got evidence. This task is not so very easy as hon. Members imagine, for it is very difficult to secure evidence in a prosecution case to stand in a Court of law. Not that we are unaware of all these things that have been going on in many places, but our main difficulty is to get sufficient evidence for prosecution. We are watching the situation very carefully and whenever there is a sudden rise in price of a particular article, we at once rush in with enough stocks we have to relieve the situation and thus bring down the prices. We see to it that the situation does not get out of control. While in places like Bombay the price of foodstuffs has gone over by 200 and 300 per cent, it is a matter of some satisfaction, for which we can legitimately congratulate ourselves, that the average increase in this Presidency has never been so high as it is in other Provinces. (Interruption.) Of course, it is not a matter for congratulation, but what I mean to say is that it shows to what extent we have been vigilant, how we are watching things and what we are doing to prevent sudden increase in prices and to meet shortage in supply. I know that the price of paddy, particularly in certain deficit areas has been very high and people do buy at that rate. We are taking all steps to see that relief shops are opened in those places to bring down prices. We hope we have succeeded in a very large measure in averting famine in this Province unlike Bengal, in spite of successive bad seasons we had during the past few years. We have put all our efforts to tide over the present crisis and to some extent we can take credit that we have succeeded so far and we do hope that we will be able to get along till the new harvest in the coming October and November. I would like to bring to the notice of the House another point. We have in our food campaign employed officers of the Research Department to go and test the health of the people in the various parts of the Province. A regular survey and investigation are going on particularly in the deficit areas where large groups of people are brought under investigation by our food authorities and they are making a nutritional survey in those areas. As a medical man I can say that this department is doing the work with great care. I may therefore say, Sir, that either the nutritional experts have played us false or the nutrition of the people in those areas has not fallen so miserably low as to cause any alarm. I do not say Sir, that they are in perfect health, but I do not also say that they are starved to such an extent that they are nearly dead. With our meagre resources our people have somehow or other had a certain amount of foodstuffs that would keep them going

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and I hope that this severe strain will not last long in this country. I hope that with the enormous imports that have been promised from Burmah and Siam and with the expected good harvests next time, there would be a good stock in the food market and practically this province would have its past time self-sufficiency with regard to food. If we do not succeed in this, Sir, there would be something gravely wrong.

As far as this House is concerned, Sir, I am grateful for the two days' debate that has been brought to bear on the subject which is a very important subject of course. I am glad to state, Sir, that in tackling the problem I have had the co-operation of those who are working under me. They have helped me with their wholehearted co-operation in the administration of this most difficult department. But it must also be said, Sir, that we cannot afford to relax our watchful care over the food situation for some months to come. If we tide over the month of October and a part of November, when our next harvest will begin, our food situation will very much have improved. It may not be necessary to have any rationing at all, Sir, if we are able to carry out our policy of partial decontrol and if we keep a careful watch over distribution. It may be so, Sir, but I do not promise it now. The only important thing is to get over this period of crisis. If necessary we shall always be prepared to re-introduce control and we will adopt such of the measures as have proved successful in the past and which may perhaps prove successful in the future. But never can we afford to take away our watchful care on the question of food which is so vitally needed for our people. If hon. Members of this House would give us better suggestions, apart from asking us to reintroduce control, which we are at any time prepared to do, I shall always be prepared to consider those suggestions. Sir, we are not afraid of reintroducing controls but we are watching the situation and we do not think that control is necessary now. I must ask the opposition also to exercise some amount of control as they have been doing to help us tide over this most critical period in our food administration in the Province. I shall feel fully satisfied, Sir, if I have made this statement clear enough to hon. Members of the House."

MR. SPEAKER:—"So the Hon. Minister is not accepting the amendment."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I think I have made myself clear, Sir. I am sorry I cannot accept the amendment and I have given reasons why I cannot."

SRI P. KANDASWAMY PILLAI:—"Sir, the Hon. Minister did not care to utter one word about the improvement of the quality of rice which is supplied at present. It is quite unfit for consumption by human beings. Such a kind of rice is being supplied to-day and I have suggested some improvements. He did not care to say one word about it in the whole of his speech. I wish to get a definite reply from him, Sir."

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MR. SPEAKER:—"Order, order. One Member should speak at a time."

SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"Sir, the statement of the Hon. Minister showed that at least about a crore of people, i.e., about 10 millions have to be dependent upon either the relief shops or the actual producers. About two crores of people come under relief shops and about a crore and a half are those who are actual producers. About a crore and a half or you may take it, between a crore and a crore and a half, have to be dependent upon outside purchase. The Hon. Minister also pointed out that instead of procuring 10 lakhs of tons he had procured only six lakhs of tons. Therefore four lakhs of tons have been left in the hands of the people. Procurement is undertaken not for those who are actual producers but for those who are non-producers."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is making a second speech."

SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"Therefore, Sir, these four lakhs of tons are left out. What does it indicate? It indicates merely that a crore and half people who are the persons who have to depend upon outside purchase, have to pay a price of Rs. 30 or Rs. 35 per bag. It is nearly three times the control price. The point that we are trying to find out is how the Government propose to reduce the price for these 1½ crores of people. That has not been met at all."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—"Sir, while the Hon. Minister took great pains to prove to us that the catching of smugglers would drive the foodgrains underground, which perhaps we find it absolutely unable to understand, let alone appreciate, may I know what prevents the Government from imposing price restrictions while decontrolling the movement of paddy from one place to another. The price can still be controlled so that the Government may touch at the throat of the person who is still defrauding the country of its legitimate supply. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to give us an idea as to what his future Bill is and if that is going to provide for price control and if so what sort of control?"

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:—"May I know, Sir, what facilities the Government propose to give for distributing the potatoes from the hills to the consuming areas? As I have already pointed out, Sir, great difficulty is felt just now in this matter."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the speech of the Hon. Minister for Food leaves an impression on me, and I suppose on all other also in this House, that but for the direction from the Central Government for the abolition of controls, he would have agreed with me and would have re-introduced control. That is the impression I have got. As I said

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in my speech, that is the impression I have got from the facts he stated and the opinions he expressed in his original statement. Now also in his speech he has been arguing very hard to support decontrol. But I am afraid, Sir, anybody who heard his speech would say that it goes rather to prove the point of view that I have been urging. The very fact that he has been halting in his arguments, the very fact that he has been trying"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I should certainly question the statement, Sir, that I was halting in my arguments."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Not in the sense that he was not able to argue. He was very good at his delivery. But he was hesitant. Whatever it is, Sir, the Hon. the Food Minister says and he has made a clear confession of this fact that it is not left for this Government to change the policy which has been imposed upon them. Sir, he has been trying to support decontrol by arguments which are not convincing. On the other hand every argument that he advanced to-day goes to prove our case for control. The very fact that he has confessed that this is a deficit province and after the controls were removed he was afraid that the people might starve and therefore he had brought into existence some 9,200 relief shops is proof positive that control is necessary and rationing is necessary. What are these 9,200 relief shops doing? They are doing or they are trying to do the same work that the rationing shops had been doing but without the sanction that was behind those ration shops and without the guarantee that those ration shops gave to every cardholder that he would get 5 oz., 6 oz., or 8 oz. or whatever he was entitled to get. If a man took the card to the ration shop, that shop was bound to give him foodgrains. Without that guarantee he has brought into existence 9,200 relief shops. The reason why he has done is this. In the depth of his mind the Hon. Minister is convinced that decontrol and derationing are bad but he has to obey the Central Government and therefore he says, let us try at least for some time derationing. He has tried it for some time and he has found that the people are starving and the food does not reach the poor and the non-producing people and the partially producing people and the labourers. To the extent to which he has opened the relief shops and rushed to their help, they are thankful. The question now before us is with reference to the derationing which has proved a failure. The fact that he thought it necessary in the interests of humanity to feed these millions makes the position crystal clear. As my hon. Friend Mr. Vaidyanada Ayyar pointed out, what about these 2 crores of persons who are non-producing or partially-producing people for whom you have not even provided these relief shops? The position is quite clear as night follows day. (An hon. Member: "And day follows night!") (Laughter.)—Yes, as night follows day and day follows night, it does not matter which way it is (Laughter). The very fact that they have taken to this relief shop idea clearly proves that derationing has failed. Now, whatever arguments he has advanced he has never tried to show that derationing has

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succeeded. What he said is this: 'While we are providing now a certain number of relief shops, if necessary, we will provide more relief shops.' I wish to point out, Sir, that decontrol and derationing mean open market. But when somebody asked him: 'Why don't you allow free transport and free flow from one district to another?' the answer he gave was this: it might so flow that the surplus districts might become deficit districts resulting in blackmarketing. It clearly shows that it is impossible so long as the Province is a deficit one and so long as it is admitted 7 p.m. that there is blackmarketing by persons who are cleverer than this Government and who can defeat the Government and transport foodgrains even to countries outside. This is the second argument which my hon. Friend has advanced. That again proves that derationing has failed, and that there is the necessity for re-introduction of rationing. Every argument that the Hon. Minister for Food has advanced in his 45 minutes' reply goes to support my proposition and not at all the proposition that there should be no rationing. The Hon. Minister has admitted that there is a rise in prices. When we ask why do the Government not rush to the market with large quantities of foodgrains, whenever there is a rise in prices, the Hon. Minister throws up his hands and says that it is impossible. He says 'our stock is very small; if we rush supplies to the market our stocks would soon be exhausted and then we may have to starve'. Sir, what does this mean? Does he advocate a free, open market? No; not at all. He cannot advocate free open market which alone perhaps would justify derationing. I do not see how any one of his arguments goes to support his policy of following the Central Government's behests of decontrol. I think he has got special reasons for this. I may be wrong, but that is my impression. As I said in the beginning, but for the direction from the Central Government, he would have agreed with those persons who are for re-introduction of rationing. In fact he has said, as he did in the past, that we shall try for six months more. He has also said that if six months are not sufficient we shall wait for some more time, and if it should become necessary we shall re-introduce rationing. The Hon. Minister for Food said that the House was in favour of decontrol. I do not know wherefrom he got that information. (The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: From the speeches made by Members in the House.) I am yet to see a person in this House who has spoken for derationing. It may be that he is afraid of the party, but that is a different matter. I have scrutinized all the speeches, and I do not think there is any one supporting derationing. The Hon. Food Minister has admitted that to some extent these relief shops may be abused, and that they may not be working well. Now he tells us that these relief shops are asked to work for six days and that if they do not do so, they will be hauled up by the Collector. At the same time he has not shown how these relief shops can work for six days when there is no sufficient stock for the merchants. As the Hon. Minister himself has said only 60 per cent of the non-producing and partially producing population will be supplied by these relief shops.

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Therefore there is still a population of 40 per cent of non-producing population. That means the stocks which we give to these merchants for six days, granting they are all honest men, will certainly not run for six days but only for two days. It is logical. The Hon. Minister has not been able to give us a satisfactory assurance. We want that every man in this country rich or poor, to get his food."

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is high time the hon. Member finished his speech."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am afraid, Sir, the Hon. Minister has not satisfied us by his arguments. His arguments are self-contradictory. I am afraid that his motion cannot be accepted, and therefore I press my amendment."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Sir, I have made an exhaustive statement, and I cannot add any more to what I have already stated. The hon. Member on the Opposition side, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, being a lawyer, has argued his case very well. I must say that all the facts that I have placed before the House have not been appreciated by hon. Members. (Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur: 'No, no.') It is no jugglery. I have given facts and figures to show that we have tried our best to feed our people. The hon. Member has not proved that decontrol has failed. As long as he does not prove that, he cannot say that it has failed. I have tried to prove that by the policy of decontrol we were able to save for this Province food which otherwise we would not have got. Instead of people talking about more food, they could go to the fields and produce more food. I cannot play jugglery. I cannot feed more producing less. The fact remains that we produce less food than our requirements. I have already said that the only way to get out of this difficulty is to import food. That is the position to which this decontrol has led us, and we are getting as much grain as the Government of India can purchase and bring it here and make it available to our people. I may also mention here that we have to procure to the extent possible, because we have got an arrangement with the Government of India and the international Pool, which sits in judgment over the distribution of foodgrains to countries that require, whereby we have got to prove to them that we have got as much grain as we can from our own people, and that the balance should be supplied by the International Food Pool. The Government of India takes part in the distribution of food by the International Pool. But first of all we will have to impress on them that we have procured all the grains that are available from our people. The position now is that we are not able to produce more than what we want. It is a difficult position. By this I do not mean to accept the proposition that control is the remedy. By the international arrangement this Province, as part of the whole scheme, stands to gain by the policy of decontrol which we have adopted."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. My point is that whatever food is available, it

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must be distributed equitably to all persons. I am not taking exception to all efforts taken by the Government and they are doing their best."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I think the hon. Member is not pressing his amendment."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am pressing my amendment, Sir."

The amendment of Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur was then put and lost.

The original motion was put and carried.

VI.—AMENDMENTS TO THE ZAMINDARI ABOLITION BILL.

MR. SPEAKER:—"Before I adjourn the House, I wish to inform hon. Members that I am prepared to accept amendments to the Zamindari Abolition Bill till the 5th August. Those who have sent in amendments already need not renew them. (Inter-ruption.) I expect the Bill to be moved by about the 10th of August. So, I propose 5th August (11 a.m.) as the last day for sending in amendments to the Bill."

SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"The position is not clear even though questions have been put to Government both privately and in the Council. Things are likely to become clear only about the time when the session opens. So, I would request the Speaker to allow time for sending in amendments till the 10th August. It will also avoid a futile list of amendments."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I am prepared to accept amendments till the 5th August. I assume that the Bill will be introduced, as it emerged from the Joint Select Committee, about the 10th of next month. In case the Bill is postponed, I will consider the request of Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar. Till that time, I fix 11 a.m. on 5th August as the last hour for the receipt of amendments."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Sir, in rule 89 it is stated—

"When a motion has been agreed to by the Assembly that a Bill be taken into consideration, any member may propose an amendment of such Bill."

Therefore after the Bill is introduced and after the motion for consideration is accepted, hon. Members will have a right to move amendments. If my interpretation of the rule is right, I think 5th August is not the correct date."

MR. SPEAKER:—"For the information of the House, I want to read rule 90. It says:

"Notice of a proposed amendment shall be sent to the Secretary at least three clear days before the sitting of the Assembly at which the Bill is to be considered."

Therefore three clear days' notice is required. The Bill as it emerged from the Select Committee is to be introduced on the 10th August. I am prepared to waive the notice afterwards if the Bill is to be introduced later."

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have drawn attention to rule 89 which says.

'When a motion has been agreed to by the Assembly that a Bill be taken into consideration, any member may propose an amendment of such Bill'."

MR. SPEAKER:—" I have drawn attention to rule 90. But, in case the Hon. Minister does not move for the consideration of the Bill on the 10th August, I shall consider the question and waive the notice also. But, as that is not now known, I am prepared to accept amendments till 11 o'clock on the 5th August."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Even then, Sir, my submission is that rule 90 says that only three clear days' notice should be given before the Bill is taken into consideration. Even if the Bill is moved on the 10th August, I hope, under this rule, the Hon. the Speaker will be pleased to fix the last date for the receipt of amendments as the 7th August."

MR. SPEAKER:—" I have no objection. I am prepared to receive amendments till 11 o'clock on the 7th August. But, in case the Bill is not to be moved on the 10th August, then I shall consider waiving the notice. I now adjourn the House to meet again at 2-30 p.m. on 10 August 1948."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 2-30 p.m. on Tuesday the 10th August 1948.

VII.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

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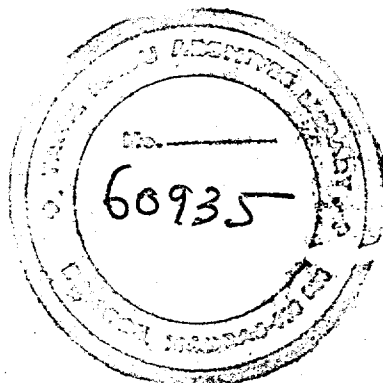
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