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MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 13th August 1948.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Reviewing the cases of detenus.

* 31 Q.—SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU (on behalf of Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao): Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether in respect of all persons detained under the Madras Public Safety Act, the grounds for detention have been communicated;

(b) the number of persons who have taken advantage of the provision in the Act to have their cases reviewed by the Advisory Committee;

(c) the number of cases in which the Committee advised release and whether such advice has been invariably accepted;

(d) whether the Committee is competent to review all cases of detention *suo motu* without representation from the parties concerned;

(e) the number of cases in which release from detention has been ordered by the Government on account of (1) their own review, (2) the advice tendered by the Advisory Committee, (3) the orders of the High Court; and

(f) whether it is a fact that in most cases in which the Hon'ble High Court ordered release it was due to the fact that the grounds of detention as required under the Act had not been communicated to the detenus or the grounds of detention where they were furnished did not in the opinion of the Hon'ble High Court justify detention?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier):—“(a) Yes.

“(b) The Advisory Council has reviewed the cases of 129 detenus so far and is at present reviewing the cases of 155 more detenus.

“(c) The Advisory Council recommended the release of 68 detenus, but the recommendation was not accepted in ten cases.

“(d) Section 3 of the Act requires that every case shall be reviewed by the Advisory Council, whether there is a request from the detenu for such review or not.

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" (e) (1) The Government ordered the release of 345 men upon their own reviews. (This includes 18 men later recommended by the Advisory Council for release), (2) 40 upon the advice of the Advisory Council and (3) The High Court ordered the release of 33 men.

" (f) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative.

" As for the latter part, in most cases in which the High Court ordered release, it was reported to be due to the fact that the grounds of detention communicated to the detenus did not contain the 'other particulars' referred to in section 3 (1) of the Act, sufficient to enable the detenu to make a representation against the order of detention."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know Sir, who the members of the Advisory Committee are? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No Sir, I cannot give that information."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know Sir, if Advocates are permitted to represent before the Committee so that they may acquaint the Committee with all the facts concerning each detenu? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The answer to the hon. Member Sri B. Bhima Rao's previous question, I learn, is that the Hon. Mr. Justice Govindarajachari, the Advocate-General, and Sri T. R. Venkatarama Sastry form the Advisory Committee."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know Sir, if Advocates are permitted to represent before the Committee so that they may acquaint the Committee with all the facts concerning each detenu? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have information about the number of meetings held by this Advisory Committee? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" There is no actual record of it. But they meet very often and as often as necessary."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know if the detenus are being given facilities to make representations in answer to the grounds of detention given to them? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Whatever facilities that could be given according to law are being given."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" If a detenu makes a representation that he is not a Communist, that he is against violence, and

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that in the event of war with Russia he would fight with India against Russia, will the Government consider it? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" If they give such a statement to the Government surely it will be considered."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know Sir, after how many weeks the decisions of Government are given? In some cases even after seven weeks have lapsed the decision has not been given."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir. They are taken in a serial order and the facts and grounds concerning the detention are communicated by the Government and they are asked to make any representation that they might wish to make."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not a fact Sir, that the Government were not aware of the grounds for which they were detained at the time when they were taken for detention? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think that the hon. Member can draw his own conclusions."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know Sir, why these detenus are still being detained even after they have dissociated themselves from the organizations of which they were reported to be members and after they have given an undertaking that they would have nothing to do with them? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes Sir, Government have got to be satisfied with regard to the assurance."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know Sir, if the detenus have been given any inkling as to what kind of satisfaction Government would like to get so that they might give the assurance? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The Government are examining each case and determine their action. But they do not communicate with the detenus as to what exactly should be given as submission to the Government."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not a fact Sir, that apart from the ground communicated to them, the detenus have not been appraised of all the grounds in the possession of the Government? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The fact that they are detained itself shows that there are sufficient grounds, the fact of their release is something very different, and if representations are submitted to the Government they will be considered."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not fair Sir, that they should be given an opportunity to explain

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their attitude by giving them the actual grounds of detention and the actual factors which influenced the Government and what will make them satisfied with the explanation?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The facts according to their own statements are being considered by the Government and by the Advisory Council, and such of those are released with whose explanation the Government are satisfied."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" If the Government want fresh assurances they will ask for it."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" If the Government have something in their possession, which the Government do not give, how are the detenus to explain their attitudes?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The detenus have to give their explanation and wait for the decision of the Government."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" For how many months?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" As long as the Government likes."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know why Sir, a number of people who do not belong to any of the organizations banned are still detained?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The Government must be thoroughly satisfied with regard to each case and I am sure such facts as are brought to the notice of the Government are being considered very sympathetically."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" May I know Sir, whether the detenus are given grounds on which they were taken into custody as in the case of the arrest warrant where grounds are given?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" It is so, you may take it from me."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know Sir, whether the cases are examined by the Government periodically?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I just gave the answer before you came."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" What steps are taken to see that the grounds are communicated to the detenu without undue delay as it has happened in many cases as the hon. Member himself has agreed?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Undue delays depend more upon the detenus themselves than upon the Government."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Section 3 of Madras Public Order Act says that the Provincial Government shall communicate to the person affected by the order . . . the grounds on which the order has been made against him and such other particulars as are in their opinion sufficient to enable him to make, if he wishes, a representation against the order and I wish to know whether such communications are sent to the detenus?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The detenus have been communicated with, with regard to the grounds by the Provincial Government."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister said, that the cases are taken in the serial order and the grounds are prepared and communicated and if such communication involves undue delay what steps the Government have taken to see that the grounds are communicated as early as possible?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not think Government are interested in delaying the communication to be sent to the detenus, Sir."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Apart from the grounds which have been communicated to the detenus concerned are the detenus in a position to know the actual grounds on which the Government detain them?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" In addition to the grounds communicated?"

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" There are other grounds of which the Government are said to be in possession apart from those communicated to the detenus and it is these grounds which have actually influenced the decision of the Government to detain them. If these grounds are not communicated to the detenus how is it possible for them to give any satisfactory explanation?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Such of those grounds as have not been communicated are unnecessary and therefore the Government do not think it worthwhile to publish all the grounds here."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" With regard to the assurance by the Government that there would be no delay in getting their release on due satisfactory assurance to the Government may I state a case where the assurance has been given on the 29th April last to the Jail Superintendent, and to the Chief Secretary and still he has not been released. He has given a satisfactory assurance and may I know why he has not yet been released. If the Hon. Minister wants I shall give the name and number of the detenu later on."

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ The Government may have reasons of their own which they cannot divulge here.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member Mr. Bhima Rao refers to a specific case and I do not think you have got any information on this.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ I have no information, Sir.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Section 3 (1) of the Public Order Act says that it shall be the duty of the Provincial Government to communicate to the person affected by the order the grounds on which the order has been made to enable him to make a representation. May I know whether the Government have issued instructions to all Superintendents of Jails to forward such representations of the detenus without undue delay to the Chief Secretary to the Government?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ Yes, Sir.”

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ In certain cases, the Government have stated before the High Court that there are other grounds apart from those which are communicated to the detenus.”

11-15 MR. PRESIDENT :—“ If the Government have stated so, it a.m. must be true.”

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ It comes to this, i.e., that the opportunity afforded to the detenus is not quite real. They have not been afforded any opportunity to submit their explanation in respect of the actual grounds which are responsible for their detention.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ No inferences please; if you have any question to put, put it.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Sir, is the decision of the Government on the recommendation of the Advisory Council communicated to the detenus concerned?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ The decision of the Government with regard to their release is communicated to the detenus.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Is it not fair, Sir, that the decision not to release them should also be communicated to the detenus? Otherwise, a case of the kind which the hon. Mr. Bhima Rao brought to the notice of the Government will continue to exist.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ The effect of the decision is communicated to the detenus, and they will know it as soon as a decision is taken by the Government.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ The decision not to release them also will be communicated?”

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MR. PRESIDENT :—“ What the hon. Member wants to know is will the decision not to release them also be communicated to the detenus?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ Even if they are not released, the decision not to release them will be communicated to them.”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ Under the Act, Sir, persons can be kept in detention for six months from the date on which the Advisory Council's recommendation is accepted or rejected by the Government. If the decision is to release them, they are released. Otherwise, the order of detention is confirmed, and it is communicated to the detenus.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Sir, is there a review of these cases once again on the decision once arrived at?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ There is the compulsory review every six months; sometimes it is reviewed even earlier.”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Am I to understand from the Hon. Minister that a detenu will be released after six months?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ Their cases will be reviewed after six months.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I am sorry none of the Members of the Opposition were detenus. Otherwise they would have known the position.” (Laughter.)

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ At the end of six months, the term is extended. We had complained against such a procedure being followed by a popular Government.”

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—“ ప్రభుత్వం చాలామంది ఈ detention నిధానము ఎంత ఆక్రమమునందు, ఆశాస్త్రీయమైనదో స్వానుభవమువలన తెలుసుకొనవారు కనుక, ఇటువంటి నిధానములో ఏమైనా మార్పులు చేసినారా?”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I will translate the question. The question is most of the Members on the Government Benches have been detenus themselves, and they have been complaining about the procedure regarding detention and communication of grounds for detention. Are the present Government continuing the same old procedure or have they effected any change in the procedure to which they were objecting at that time.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ The procedure laid down by the Legislature with regard to these detenus is strictly followed by the Government, Sir.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ When was this procedure adopted by the Legislature, Sir?”

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ Well, the Act itself was passed by this Legislature, Sir.”

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—“ అయితే 1942 న సంవత్సరంలో ఉన్న detention rules కన్న ఇప్పుడు అమలులో ఉన్న rules ప్రత్యేకమా ? ”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ They do not follow the old procedure.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Sir, after considering the report of the Advisory Council, the Provincial Government may confirm, modify or cancel the order, under Section 3 of the Act. May I know the number of cases in which the order has been confirmed, the number of cases in which the order has been modified and the number of cases in which the order has been cancelled? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ A separate question may be put, Sir.”

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Arising out of the answers given to my hon. friends, may I ask whether there is any difference between the procedure adopted by this Government and that adopted by the previous Government? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ This Government is different from the previous Government which passed this Act.”

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—“ 1942 వ సంవత్సరంలో అమలులో ఉన్న టువంటి విధానానికి, ఈనాడు అమలు జరుపుకున్న విధానానికి ఏమైనా మార్పులు ఉన్నట్లయితే వాటిని స్పష్టం తెలియజేస్తారా ? ”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ మార్పులు ఉన్నవని చెప్పలేక ? ”

“ Some rules are framed by the Government.”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Has any detenu been re-arrested after the High Court released him? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ I have already given the answer.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ If there are really any changes in the procedure, the Government may issue a press communiqué.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ No changes have been made in the rules except those sanctioned by the Legislature.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ What hon. Members want to know is whether the rules in force in 1942 and those now in force are exactly the same or different? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ They are different, Sir.”

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—“ 1942 వ సంవత్సరపు విధానము అక్రమమైనదని ప్రభుత్వ స్థూలందరు అంగీకరించినారు కాబట్టి, ఈ విధానములూ మార్పులు తీసుకొని రావడానికి ప్రభుత్వమువారు ప్రయత్నించినారా ? ప్రయత్నము చేసినట్లయితే ఆ మార్పులేమో స్థూలకు తెలియజేస్తారా ? ”

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MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The hon Member wants to know whether the Government will supply to hon. Members copies of the rules of 1942 and the rules that are now in force.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ If the hon. Member wants, he can write to Government and the copies of the rules will be supplied to him.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ May I request the Hon. Minister to enlighten us on the difference between the old rules and the rules now in force? ”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Sir, I request you to allow a half-hour debate on this subject in view of the unsatisfactory answers of the Government.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ We have already taken half an hour on this question.”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ They are only questions, Sir, and not a discussion.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I can allow the half-hour debate if we have not had proper discussion, I think we had enough discussion.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Sir, my question practically asks what is the difference between the procedure adopted in 1942 and that adopted now. As the Hon. Minister is not able to tell us now the difference in procedure, I think a half-hour debate may be allowed in which case Government can make their position clear.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I do not know if a half-hour debate would improve matters. We can have a discussion to-morrow if hon. Members want it.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ As much information as was available with the Government has been given. It is a pity that the hon. Member was not here when the question was answered. There is a certain amount of confusion with regard to these supplementary questions. If hon. Members are not satisfied with the answers given they can ask for more information.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ What hon. Member wants is, if the rules in 1942 and the rules now in vogue are different, how are they different. That is the only point that I see for a discussion in which they want enlightenment from you. If the answers cannot be given to-day, Government can give them to-morrow.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ If I get the two sets of rules in time, I will be able to supply them to hon. Members.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Sir, this is an important matter, and considering the time taken, it would be advantageous to have a

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and backward Hindus among Hindus, Brahmin and non-Brahmin Hindus? They can all be clubbed together as belonging to the same Hindu community."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"The Hindu community is very much bigger. Therefore adequate representation has got to be given to backward Hindu communities in the services and other governmental appointments. Therefore the backward communities are treated separately from the non-Brahmin community. If they are included in the non-Brahmin community, they will not have separate representation in order to enable them to get the privileges given to them now and therefore, they are specifically referred as backward communities and given separate representation."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"May I know whether any Anglo-Indian might be a non-Christian?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"Not likely."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know whether it is the opinion of the Government that it is not on the basis of a community being a minority that it is afforded adequate representation but simply because, a community, though a majority, wanted representation, that the Government have provided for it?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"They do not have sufficient facilities because they are not sufficiently qualified. Therefore, they have got to be provided with adequate representation."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—"May I know whether this principle is adopted in the case of Brahmins also?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"No, Sir."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"In view of the benefits recently conferred on the backward communities, is the door still open to such of those communities who want to get themselves admitted as backward communities for these purposes?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"They will have to apply and get themselves enrolled as a backward community."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know the principles laid down by the Government to classify a certain community as a backward community of the non-Brahmin community?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"The rules are there. Certain communities have been classified as such. If any community wants to be classified as a backward community, it is open to them to apply."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Is there any particular distinction between a Harijan Christian and a Harijan?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"I do not know whether there is a Harijan Christian at all. The fact is that Harijans are Hindus and Christians are Christians and they are not entitled to the privileges of Harijans."

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DR. V. K. JOHN :—"I mean a Christian convert from Harijan."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"If he is a Christian, he is not a Harijan."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—"Have any minority communities wanted the application of this communal Government Order? If so, may I know which of the minority communities wanted the application of this communal Government Order?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"I want notice of that question."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"Can a re-convert from Christianity get the benefits given to a Harijan, Sir?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"I have already explained to hon. Members that Harijans are Hindus and that converts are Christians and they are not entitled to the benefits of Harijans."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The question is whether a convert from Christianity back to Hinduism will get the benefit."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"Then, he becomes a Hindu."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"Then, will he get the benefits that are being given to a Harijan?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"Why not?" (Laughter.)

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Are the benefits given by the Government on account of the religion or on account of the economic condition of the individual?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"Harijans are treated separately as a class and are dealt with separately for this purpose. Other people cannot get the privileges given to the Harijans. Simply because Harijans as a class have been so long kept out of society, they did not enjoy the privileges that were enjoyed by other classes of Hindus through ages. Therefore, the Harijans are now given certain benefits which are not open to other communities, in order that they may be raised socially and economically."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—"May I ask the Minister whether it is the majority community that wanted the application of this communal Government Order or any of the minority communities?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"The majority community do not want any such privileges. It is only the smaller communities that want these privileges."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—"May I ask which are the smaller communities that wanted the application of the Communal Government Order?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"The hon. Member may put a separate question."

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DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ May I know, Sir, why the Government makes a discrimination between Harijans and Harijans converted into Christianity? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ It is not question of discrimination. If a Harijan is converted into Christianity, then he is a Christian and not a Harijan and there is no question of discrimination at all.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I ask whether the non-Brahman Hindu community is a majority or a minority community? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ They are a majority community, Sir.”

The Provincial Broadcasting Department.

* 33 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether a department known as the Provincial Broadcasting Department has been set up in Secretariat;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what the functions of the department are;

(c) whether the Government have decided to depute an officer for training in Broadcasting in foreign countries; and

(d) if the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, what the qualifications of the officer are and the purpose for which he is to be trained?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the papers^a placed on the table.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ On a point of order, Sir. This question No. 33 relates to the Department of Information and Broadcasting which has been set up in the Secretariat. This is a starred question and we are entitled to have an answer straightway instead of one in monosyllables.”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ Because the question cannot be answered in monosyllables, it is said that the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the papers placed on the Table of the House.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I ask who deputed this officer to overseas for training, whether he was deputed by the Provincial Government or by the Government of India? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ There was no question of deputation, Sir. He went overseas on study leave and we have given him some facilities.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Is there any undertaking on the part of this Government that he would be employed here? ”

^a Printed as Appendix II on pages 240-241 infra.

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ He is on leave now. He has been lent to the Madras Government.”

Adult education scheme.

* 34 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether any scheme of adult education has been formulated by the Government;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what the scheme is; and

(c) whether the scheme formulated will be published for public criticism before finalising it?

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

“ (a) Yes.

“(b) The scheme includes six items of adult education—

(1) Adult literacy schools for liquidating illiteracy among adults;

(2) Training of staff for adult literacy work;

(3) Rural colleges for giving higher educational training for persons who have had some school education already;

(4) Training camps for social service workers;

(5) Training camps for citizenship and youth workers; and

(6) Visual instruction.

The details of the scheme may be seen in G.O. No. 846, Education, dated 9th April 1948. A copy of the Government Order has been placed in the library of the Legislature.

“(c) The scheme has been well received by the public. The Government are always watching the reactions to the schemes put forward by them and any constructive criticisms will be considered by Government.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know whether any Committee sat over the scheme before the scheme was formulated and finally published? ”

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

“ Yes, Sir. The Adult Education Sub-Committee of the Provincial Advisory Board of Education went through the scheme.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know whether the Provincial Advisory Board of Education adopted the scheme or it is yet to be considered by that Board? ”

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

“ I do not think it was adopted by the Provincial Advisory Board.”

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ If the Sub-Committee of the Committee of the Provincial Education Board considered it, is it not fair that that Board should have been consulted before the Government adopted that scheme finally? ”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—
“ Government are anxious to see that things are done as quickly as possible. I am anxious to see that this scheme gets going. It is not the object of the Government to eternally postpone the scheme by referring it to a number of committees and boards.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ If that is the object of the Hon. Minister, he need not have appointed a committee to go into the question.”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—
“ Committees are appointed to advise Government on such matters on which advice is necessary but on matters which are clear, their advice is not necessary.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ The Sub-Committee of the Provincial Advisory Board of Education naturally expected that the Government would ask the Board to consider the report of the Sub-Committee before the scheme came up before the Government.”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—
“ It was made clear by the Provincial Advisory Board of Education itself that they cannot go into such matters as the scheme has to go before the Government immediately.”

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“ May I ask the Government, Sir, whether they propose to conscript any graduates as adult education teachers? ”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—
“ There is no proposal of conscription before the Government.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I inform the Hon. Minister that some sort of conscription has been adopted in the United Provinces? ”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—
“ There is no proposal of conscription in the United Provinces as far as I know.”

Basic training schools.

* 35 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is proposed to start separate training schools for training teachers for basic education;

(b) what the subjects taught in those schools will be;

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(c) whether the subjects taught in the existing training schools are in any way different from those proposed to be taught in the proposed training schools;

(d) the names of places selected for locating the proposed training schools;

(e) whether training in special crafts is to be provided in these training schools; and if so, what the crafts are; and

(f) whether the status and emoluments of the teachers trained in the proposed basic training schools will be the same as that of teachers trained in the existing training schools?

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

“ (a) The existing training schools are gradually being converted into basic training schools. Due to the increased demand for trained teachers new training schools are being started and they are invariably basic training schools.

“ (b), (d) & (e) A statement * is laid on the table of the House.

“ (c) The subjects taught in the existing training schools are different from those taught in the basic training schools.

“ (f) Yes.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. the Minister is aware that wood-work, metal-work and weaving were taught in the existing training schools before they were converted into basic training schools? ”

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

“ The attitude is that through the teaching of basic crafts, education must be given. The old syllabuses do not have the pre-eminence and the emphasis which basic education has, and therefore these things do not find a place in the basic education scheme.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know what are the qualifications for admission into these basic training schools? Are they the same as those that are observed in regard to other training schools? ”

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

“ Yes, Sir.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I ask the Hon. Minister whether in regard to the basic training schools, suitable alterations have been made in the rules to lower the qualifications for admissions? ”

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

“ No qualifications have been lowered for admission into basic training schools.”

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Cultivation of lands under the Katlampudi ayacut.

*36 Q.—SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Collector, West Godavari and Deputy Collector and Tahsildar, Ellore, have been receiving any petitions from the affected ryots of Katlampudi and Madepalli villages of Ellore taluk stating that the Katlampudi Government tank-bed poramboke where water is being stored every year from time immemorial for the purpose of irrigating about 500 acres of land under the Katlampudi ayacut, has been unauthorizedly encroached upon by the ex-military personnel and others who are freely cultivating the said tank-bed poramboke much to the detriment of a large number of ayacutdars of Katlampudi and Madepalli villages;

(b) whether it is a fact that the authorities concerned have two years ago ordered the eviction of the said people from the said cultivation;

(c) whether the same ryots have submitted any petitions to the Collector, West Godavari and Deputy Collector and Tahsildar, Ellore, in fasli 1358, before and after the actual operations of the said ex-military men in the said tank-bed poramboke stating that they will be compelled to give up cultivation of a large number of ayacut under the Katlampudi ayacut;

(d) whether any enquiry has since been made; and if so, when, where and by whom and on what dates;

(e) whether the parties have since been sent for at all, and whether the officers have inspected the vehemently disputed site in the presence of the parties concerned and whether any effective action has since been taken in the matter;

(f) whether the Collector, Deputy Collector and Tahsildar, Ellore, are aware of the fact that the people of Katlampudi village of Ellore taluk have deliberately encroached upon the Government land along the route of irrigation channel at Katlampudi village and constructed pakka sheds and huts as they please evidently without the sanction of the authorities concerned;

(g) whether the village officers or the subordinate staff of the Revenue Department brought the above offences to the notice of the authorities concerned before and after they raised their sheds or huts along the road and irrigation channel leading into the village of Katlampudi;

(h) if so, when, to whom and on what dates; and

(i) when did the people actually encroach upon the said sites and raise their sheds and huts?

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—“Clauses (a) to (i) The information is not available with the Government. It has been called for.”

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SRI M. NARAYANA RAO:—“When does the Hon. Minister expect the reply to come?”

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—“As soon as I get it, I will send it on to the hon. Member. He need not worry.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO:—“Will the question be answered on the floor of the House for the information of hon. Members or will it be simply sent to me?”

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—“The hon. Member may put another question if it is to be answered on the floor of the House. If he is particular to learn the answer to satisfy himself, I will send a communication to him.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO:—“Is it not the duty of the Government to answer the questions on the floor of the House?”

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—“If the answer is available in time, the question will be answered on the floor of the House. That is the procedure. If the answer is available at the time of the sitting, it will be furnished to the members. If the hon. Member is anxious to get the information and not for the sake of publicity, I am prepared to communicate the matter to him.”

MR. PRESIDENT:—“There is no difficulty. The procedure is this. To-day there is no information. If the hon. Member wants that it should be answered on the floor of the House, he may renew his question.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—“May I request the Hon. Minister to place the answer on the table of the House. It was being done in the previous Legislature. The answer, as soon as it comes, is placed before the Legislature so that hon. Members who are interested may know the answer.”

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—“If the hon. Members want that that procedure should be adopted, I have no objection.”

MR. PRESIDENT:—“It is not a question of simply placing the answer on the table of the House. But if the members want to put supplementary questions on it, they must renew the question.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO:—“If the Hon. Minister has called for information, why it is not yet available?”

MR. PRESIDENT:—“It must be available before the question comes up before the House. This question must have been pending for a long time. Therefore, if the hon. Member wants that it should come before the House again, he must renew his question.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO:—“The Hon. Minister has called for information.”

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MR. PRESIDENT :—" He has called for it but it has come in time."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, questions are put on the floor of the House not for the sake of publicity but for putting supplementary questions and eliciting information from the Government. But, the Hon. Minister said that if the hon. Member Mr. Narayana Rao does not care for publicity, he will send a communication to him when the information is available."

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" The hon. Member may take it that it is not for publicity that a member puts a question here. There is no aspersion here. Every question is asked in the House so that the hon. Member may know and people outside may also know the answer."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not the usual procedure that questions are printed only after the answers are received from the departments? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" We allow a certain time. If the departments want further extension of time, we give time. If a question is very old and the answer is not got, it is open to the Hon. Minister to tell the House that the answer is not ready and the Chair may give some more time."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Are we to understand that the Hon. Minister is powerless to get the answer? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is inferring too much. I do not think any Hon. Minister is powerless. If the question is very old, the hon. Member may tell the Minister that it is very old and that he wants to renew the question. May I ask the hon. Member whether his question is very old."

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" It is a long question, Sir, comprising several clauses and therefore it will take more time for us to gather the information."

11-45 a.m. MR. PRESIDENT :—" Every day, some hon. Members are coming and worrying me that they have not yet got the answers to the questions that they put on such and such a date. I would like to request the Hon. Ministers to see that answers are expedited."

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, you will please note that the hon. Member's question relates to a petition to a Tahsildar in one corner of some district. To get at him and gather the information required for answering clauses (a) to (i) will certainly take some time."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know, Sir, for the information of the House, the date on which this question was sent to the Government? "

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SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO :—" I am more anxious about the principle involved, Sir."

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" I would have evicted them long ago, if the hon. Member had simply written me a letter."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Anyway, I would suggest that the hon. Member renews his question."

Primary health units.

* 37 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether the scheme of primary health units has been finalized; and, if so, what the scheme is and where it is proposed to start these units?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The answer is in the affirmative. The Government have sanctioned six combined primary health centres, one in each of the six taluks of Palghat, Tiruvannamalai, Erode, Tenali and Nandyal in the districts of Malabar, North Arcot, Coimbatore, Guntur and Kurnool respectively. In each such centre there will be 6 beds—4 for maternity and emergent, medical and surgical cases and 2 for isolation cases—and 1 civil assistant surgeon, 1 compounder, 1 midwife, 1 nursing orderly, 1 thoti, 1 health inspector, 1 midwife and 1 peon for the midwife."

Hardships of ex-tappers.

* 38 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—Will the Hon. the Minister for Firka Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of tappers who have been thrown out of employment on account of Prohibition;

(b) what steps the Government have taken to rehabilitate them;

(c) whether the Government are aware that specially in urban areas where coconut trees are common, there is a large number of tappers who have no other alternative source of livelihood;

(d) whether any special measures have been adopted to assist the tappers to settle down following other professions; and

(e) to what extent measures adopted by Government have mitigated the hardships of the tappers?

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" (a) About 79,000.

" (b) & (d) Co-operative societies have been organized for the manufacture of jaggery from sweet juice in most of the districts.

" Till the end of June 1948, 482 societies were organized with a membership of 36,178. Steps have also been taken to assist the ex-tappers to follow other avocations by forming themselves into milk-supply co-operative societies, land colonisation

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societies, weavers' co-operative societies and similar other co-operative societies. They have also been encouraged to take up agricultural work.

"(c) The number of unemployed ex-tappers, whether in urban or rural areas, is not large now.

"(e) The measures enumerated above have enabled the ex-tappers to engage themselves in other useful avocations."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, whether there is any provision to enable the tappers to tap sweet juice and prepare jaggery? Or should they become members of the co-operative societies, for the purpose? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" There is no provision, Sir. They should become members of the co-operative societies."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, why this restriction is there? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" Otherwise, there would be illicit distillation."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know, Sir, of the 78,000 tappers who have been displaced as a result of the prohibition policy of Government, how many are employed, and how many are unemployed? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" I would like to have a separate question."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether these 400 and odd co-operative societies are intended only for the tappers? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" There are 482 co-operative societies for tappers for the manufacture of jaggery."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, the quantity of jaggery produced by these co-operative societies? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" I would like to have a separate question, because I cannot give the information off-hand. But I would like to tell you this much, from the statistics that we have been gathering, in connexion with some other question. They are producing over 200,000 maunds of jaggery, amounting to something more than Rs. 6 lakhs. I cannot give the accurate figures, because we are collecting facts still."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the large amount of jaggery is being exported to Ceylon, where there is a large demand for it? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" I am not able to give the information just now, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Ceylon is the home of palmers? "

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SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know whether it is a fact that tappers who have taken to the manufacture of jaggery have got to pay a penalizing tax of Rs. 15? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" No, Sir."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that the local boards impose a tax on every one of them who wants to make jaggery? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" This Rs. 15 tax is levied now only in the areas where Prohibition has not been introduced and where it is related to toddy-tapping. In the Prohibition areas, no tax at all is levied, and the co-operative societies, who have taken up the question, have the full control over it."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it a fact, that the Government do not propose to introduce prohibition in the near future in the remaining districts? "

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Regarding the Land Colonisation Scheme mentioned by the Hon. Minister may I know whether the land is granted free by Government? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" That question does not arise out of this."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Admission to colleges.

3 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received any communication from the Hon. the Minister for Education or the Prime Minister of the Indian Union about the policy of the Madras Government relating to the admission to colleges on communal considerations, and if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay the same on the table of the House; and

(b) whether the Hon. the Minister has sent a reply thereto to the Hon. the Education Minister or the Prime Minister of the Indian Union; and if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay the same on the table of the House?

A.—(a) & (b) The correspondence between the Provincial and the Central Governments is confidential and it is not in public interest to place it on the table of the House.

Dearness allowance to the teachers.

4 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have issued instructions to all municipalities and local boards to pay dearness allowances to the teachers from 1st January 1947; and if so, on what date;

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(b) whether the Government have recently sent instructions rescinding the same in the case of such municipalities as have not yet paid the dearness allowance on account of financial considerations; and if so, what are the municipalities to which such instructions have been issued;

(c) whether representations have been received from teachers and employees concerned to cancel the order of recession recently passed by the Hon. the Minister; and

(d) whether the Government propose to revoke the recent instructions issued in the case of those municipalities which have not yet paid dearness allowance in accordance with the original instructions?

A.—(a) Presumably, the hon. Member refers to the grant of dearness allowance at increased rates from 1st January 1948. Orders have recently been issued in the matter.

(b) No.

(c) & (d) Do not arise.

Cars purchased by Government officers.

5 Q.—SRI S. A. S. RM. RAMANATHAN CHETTIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) how many cars have so far been purchased on permits by Government officers as well as non-officials and who are the persons that have so far purchased; and

(b) what action has been so far taken against those that have sold the cars against the declarations and conditions?

A.—(a) The information is not readily available and cannot be secured without elaborate enquiries.

(b) No instances of a breach of the conditions of the permits issued by the Provincial Motor Transport Controller have come to the notice of the Government.

Selection Committee for Engineering Colleges.

6 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the names, designations, etc., of Members of the Selection Committee for admission of students into the Engineering Colleges of the Province; and the period for which they have been appointed; and

(b) the instructions issued to them for regulating the admissions into the colleges; and whether a copy of the same will be laid on the table of the House?

A.—(a) Till 1947-48 selection of students for admission to the Engineering Colleges used to be made by a committee of the Principals of those colleges. For

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admissions for the year 1947-48 the Government appointed the undermentioned non-official gentlemen as members of the Committee to advise the Principals :—

(1) Sri N. Somasundaram, Advocate, Egmore, Madras.

(2) Sri S. B. P. Pattabhi Rama Rao, Zamindar of Kapileswarapuram, Luz Church Road, Mylapore.

The Government reappointed the same gentlemen as members of the Committee for selecting students for 1948-49 also. They appointed Sri Somasundaram as Chairman of the Committee and the Principal, Engineering College, Guindy, as the Secretary of the Committee.

(b) The Committee was informed that the instructions issued by Government in regard to admissions to Engineering Colleges should be strictly adhered to.

These instructions are contained in G.Os. No. 1435, Education, dated 1st August 1940, No. 997, Education, dated 22nd July 1943, No. 1364, Education, dated 27th June 1947 and No. 1254, Education, dated 17th May 1948. The first three Government Orders have already been placed on the Table of the House in connection with the answer to question No. 185 answered on 8th December 1947. A copy of the Government Order * mentioned last is now placed on the Table of the House.

Admission into Medical Colleges.

7 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the names, designations, etc., of the Members of the Selection Committee for admission of students into the Medical Colleges of the Province, and the period for which they have been appointed; and

(b) the instructions issued to them for regulating the admissions into the colleges; and whether a copy of the same will be laid on the Table of the House?

A.—(a) The committee consisted of the following :—

(1) Dr. P. V. Cherian, Principal, Madras Medical College, Chairman and Convenor.

(2) Dr. A. S. Mannady Nayar, Principal, Stanley Medical College.

(3) Dr. T. Bhaskara Menon, Principal, Andhra Medical College.

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- (4) Dr. C. Vareed, Principal, Guntur Medical College.
- (5) Sri B. Anantachar, B.A., B.L., M.L.A., Hospet.
- (6) Sri C. Subramaniam, B.A., B.L., Advocate, Coimbatore.

No period has been fixed regarding the appointment of members. Their work ended with the selection of candidates for admission this year.

(b) The following instructions were issued :—

- (i) Instructions laid on the table with reference to the answer to Legislative Council question (starred) No. 78 delivered at the meeting held on 24th September 1947.
- (ii) Amendments to the above instructions placed on the table with reference to the answer to Legislative Council question No. 23 (starred). The two non-official members were requested to sit on the Committee and advise the Principals regarding the selections to be made in accordance with the rules in force.

Promotions on communal basis.

8 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that promotions on communal basis has been introduced by the present Government in various departments; and if so, in which of the departments and from what date, and to which categories of services; and

(b) what are the grounds which induced the Government now to apply the Government Order to promotions from subordinate ranks to higher categories of service?

A.—(a) Apparently the hon. Member is referring to promotions within a service. If so, the answer is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

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

II.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. PRESIDENT :—“(1) I have to announce to the House that the following message, dated Fort St. George, the 11th August 1948, has been received by me from the hon. the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly :—

‘In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order

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(Amendment) Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 20 of 1948) as passed by the Assembly on the 11th August 1948, and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.’

“(2) I have to announce to the House that the following message, dated Fort St. George, the 12th August 1948, has been received by me from the Hon. the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly :—

‘In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Malabar Irrigation Works (Construction and Levy of Cess) (Amendment) Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 21 of 1948) as passed by the Assembly on the 12th August 1948, and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.’ ”

III.—MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

“I have to announce to the House the following message from His Excellency the Governor :—

‘In pursuance of section 82, sub-section (3) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Archibald Edward Nye, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Council the consideration of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 1948.’ ”

IV.—DISCUSSION ON THE FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE.

SRI M. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—“Sir, I would request you to fix up a date for discussing the new textile policy.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“The next item in the agenda is the ‘Food situation in the Province.’ ”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“After this, I shall introduce the Weights and Measures Bill.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“I have already placed the statement of the Government on the Table of the House, and the subject is now open for discussion. And I expect hon. Members to discuss the matter. If I have got to say anything in reply to the criticisms that may be made, I shall reserve it till I hear all the criticisms.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“H.E. The Governor-General is arriving in Madras on the 23rd instant and the hon. Members of this House are anxious to be present here. I think the Congress Legislature party is meeting on the 20th instant. And there are the Madras Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 1948, and the Malabar Irrigation Works (Construction and Levy of Cess) (Amendment) Bill, 1948, to be discussed. I would like to know from the Leader of the House whether this House could meet sometime on the 21st or 22nd August.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“On the 23rd instant there will not be any sitting. On that day, the Governor-General is coming to the Assembly. I hope the hon. Members of this House will be invited to attend the function; and the invitations will be issued by the Hon. Speaker, to you, Sir, as well as to the members of the House.”

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MR. PRESIDENT :—" I am sure the invitations will be coming in due course. But the question is, we are adjourning to-day or to-morrow. And if the House meets sometime on or about the 21st instant hon. Members could be present here to attend the function."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is with great difficulty that we will be able to finish the Bills pending before the House now. Even after that, I am sure there will be some work for the House, and I think it might meet just in time to enable the hon. Members of this House to be present for the function."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The other House is meeting on the 20th instant. And I would like to know whether we could meet on the 21st or 22nd instant. Besides, the party meeting is to be held on the 20th."

SRI M. MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, 22nd instant, is a Sunday."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" To-morrow, I will fix up the date on which this House could meet."

12 noon. MR. PRESIDENT :—" The Maintenance of Public Order Bill is put on the agenda to-day. But as copies of the Bill were sent to hon. Members only yesterday, I thought hon. Members might have some time to go through it and so I have not put it as the first item. If we are able to finish the food debate and have some time left, we can have a general discussion on the Bill to-day. If hon. Members are anxious to give amendments, they may give them before this evening so that the Government may be ready to deal with them to-morrow."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, last time when I wanted to move that a Bill be adjourned six months, you were pleased to rule that the motion was late. What I want to move to-day is that the Bill may be passed into law and may be allowed to remain in force for three months. Afterwards the Bill may come up for further consideration before the House."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member may give notice of an amendment like that."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" I shall draft one in lunch time and send it on, Sir. With regard to the food debate I have got an amendment."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" It is not a Bill to be taken clause by clause. All the amendments may be taken together. Those who have given notice of amendments may speak first."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Last time, Mr. President, you ruled that the mover of an amendment has no right of reply. I submit that under rule 59 a member who has moved a substantive motion may speak again by way of reply. The question is whether an amendment is a substantive motion or not."

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MR. PRESIDENT :—" As I understand it, an amendment is not a substantive motion. If the hon. Member is prepared to canvas that point I am prepared to correct myself. A substantive motion like a resolution or motions on Bills is different from an amendment which is only subsidiary to the substantive motion. That is the difference, I know."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" With great respect to you, Sir, let me say you have stated the position correctly. I will only quote an example. When you put a motion to vote, you say, 'the motion before the House is so and so'. When an amendment has been moved, you say, 'The motion as well as the amendment are for discussion'. You do not say that the amendments are before the House for discussion. That shows that an amendment is different from a motion."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Rule 52 simply says that a matter requiring the decision of the Council shall be brought forward by means of a question stated or read out by the President on a motion proposed by a member. An amendment is also a motion but that is only an amending motion, not a substantive motion. Rule 52 does not say that all motions requiring the decision of the Council are substantive motions. That is the accepted procedure."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, I move that the statement on the Food situation in the Province be considered."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" I have no objection to accept the procedure, Sir. I shall move my amendments. My first amendment is this :—

'Add the following at the end :—

"(1) and on such consideration this Council resolves—

(a) that the cut in the price of paddy delivered since April 1948, viz., Re. 0-12-0 per bag of 2 maunds be withdrawn with effect from April 1948 and the original price of Rs. 14-4-0 be restored and the difference of Re. 0-12-0 now paid by the miller to the Government be returned to the ryots in accordance with the quantities of purchases made from the several ryots and

(b) that the amount of twelve annas per maund of rice collected from the millers and kept to the credit of the Government of Madras be returned to the ryots according to the quantity purchased from them as bonus for the delivery."

"Sir, I am thankful to the Hon. Minister for Food for giving me the information that I asked for on the previous occasion with regard to this cut of 12 annas. His reply to me says :—

'No Government Order was issued reducing the price of paddy delivered by the producers from April 1948. In G.O. Ms. No. 138, Food, dated 28th February 1948 the village site prices previously fixed by executive orders were notified as statutory prices. The ceiling village site price for first sort paddy fixed for the Cereals District was Rs. 7-2-0 per maund which works out to Rs. 14-4-0 per bag of 2 maunds. In the notification fixing the village site price, an amendment was issued to the Price Control Order with a proviso that the village site price payable to producers for deliveries made after the due date or dates notified by the Collectors of the districts shall be six annas a maund less than the price shown in the schedule. That means to say the deduction will be 12 annas per bag of 2 maunds.'

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"Sir, my amendment says that the cut of 12 annas per bag should not be made and that the original price should be restored. The question is whether the ryots should be made to forego the minimum price fixed, which itself is an unremunerative price.

"The second portion of the amendment is different. I presume that what I have stated there is correct. If it is not correct, I may be corrected even now, so that I may not move that part of the amendment. The Government procure paddy from the ryot. The miller sells the rice to the Government at rates fixed by the Government. The Government has fixed Rs. 12-4-0 as the price of a maund of rice. The bill is made out at the rate of Rs. 12-4-0 for every maund of rice the miller delivers to the Government. The consumer also is charged at the rate of Rs. 12-4-0. But this Rs. 12-4-0 is not all taken by the miller; he is asked to credit 12 annas per maund of rice delivered to the credit of the Government. Thus the price of a maund of rice delivered to the Government is only Rs. 11-8-0. I do not know for what purpose the Government take this 12 annas. Evidently it may be to replenish the losses occurring in the course of procurement and supply—I am all the while proceeding on the assumption that my facts are correct. The hon. Member for West Godavari belongs to the mercantile community and may know all about it. I am not dealing with mills. I am only talking on the basis of the information given to me. My amendment consists of two portions. One is the reduction of 12 annas per bag of paddy for deliveries made after the due date fixed by the Collector and the other is the twelve annas for a maund of rice which the miller is asked to credit to the Government. This seems to be an ingenious method. My submission is that both these amounts should go back to the ryot in the proportion of the paddy he has delivered. After all it is the hen which laid the egg that should be fed. Hon. Members who are producers know the increase in the cost of cultivation of paddy.

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p.m.

"The Hon. Premier is not here. He has also stated in his speech in December 1946 that the cost of cultivation is Rs. 130 or Rs. 140 per acre. Not only that, he has also referred to another point. The fate of the cultivators in the central districts which are not delta areas, like Chittoor, North Arcot and Chingleput, depends upon the monsoon. No doubt, if they sow paddy, they will get back paddy, but they lose in the bargain, whereas the cultivators in the deltaic areas get at least something. It is an absolute gamble upon the monsoon and the cultivator loses in the bargain so far as these districts are concerned. Therefore, to cut out paddy prices and at the same time require the cultivator to produce more food is not proper but you ought to look towards ascertaining what is called paddy price. Not only that, but there is loss also and I shall not refer to it now. The Premier has issued a statement on what is called agricultural parity. Is an agricultural parity, I ask, to pay the producer of paddy not even double his cost of cultivation and just leave him no margin, whereas his cultivation expenses come to something like Rs. 157 per acre. Supposing the monsoon does not fail and everything is favourable to the ryot, then he gets only what may be called Rs. 150 whereas

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he has to spend about Rs. 157 on cultivation. Never mind enhancement in price; it is foolish; it is criminal—even though my hon. Friend from West Godavari may say I am using strong language—not to give anything to the ryot and also cut away the paddy price.

"There is another matter also and that is with reference to overseas rice. Sir, I have received information from the Food Minister that the Government are paying Rs. 21-11-0 for every maund of rice purchased from overseas. I have stated already that the original price per maund of rice was Rs. 14-4-0 whereas the price paid by the Government of India for the overseas rice is Rs. 21-11-0 and for the Orissa rice they are paying Rs. 14-13-0 for a certain sort and then there is also the Central Provinces rice, which is also higher in price. So everywhere the price is higher than what we pay here. I submit that this cut of six annas is criminal, never mind the enhancement of prices or anything of the kind. Therefore, I appeal to the members on the other side that Government should not consider this as a question of making profit but that they should fix the price of paddy and they should pay what is due to the cultivator. You have to bear in mind that the twelve annas which you have collected from the ryot goes back to him and I hope they will not merely rely upon their prestige but see that the ryot gets his due share. The whole question is, whether the money collected by the Government—apart from the enhanced price—which is now in the Government treasury, should go to the general pool or go back to the tenant."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I think the hon. Member may move all his amendments."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—"That will lead to confusion. My submission is that each amendment may be taken up separately."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The difficulty is some members may like to have a general discussion instead of speaking on the amendment itself."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—"That is why I am suggesting that each amendment may be moved separately. I am completely in your hands."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"If the hon. Member moves all his amendments, the discussion may go on both on the amendments as well as on the general food position and then I will put one amendment after another to vote."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—"The attention of the House will not be focussed in that way."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Is it not possible if the hon. Member moves all the amendments?"

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—"I submit, Sir, it may not be possible. The amendments may be taken up

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seriatim so that hon. Members who agree with them may support or otherwise oppose them. My prayer is that each amendment may be taken up, discussed and put to vote, if necessary."

SRI A. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA :—" I second the amendment, Sir."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" My submission is, the amendment has been moved and seconded. If you allow other members to speak, some of them may speak generally and not specifically on the amendment itself and others may speak on the amendment and then at the end of the speeches you may put the amendment to vote."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" My difficulty is, the amendment has been moved and it is only the amendment that is before the House. The amendment must first be disposed of before we take up the motion of the Leader of the House, so that particular members who wish to speak on the amendment may have opportunity of doing so. So, after all the amendments are taken up and disposed of one by one and then general discussion is to be taken up and same members again allowed to speak it would be only waste of time. That is why I am suggesting that if all the amendments are put together, some members may speak on the amendments, some on the general food situation and so on."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" If there is no person to speak on the amendment, it may be put to vote."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think I can meet the hon. Member's difficulty. His amendment is 'and on such consideration this Council resolves . . .' The consideration is not yet over and the consideration of the whole food situation will go on and so hon. Members who want to speak on the general food discussion and also on this amendment may speak and then I will put the amendment to vote; then the second amendment will be put to vote and then the other amendments. Therefore, if hon. Members want to speak on the general food situation they must speak now, because this is the only opportunity for doing so."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Mr. President, Sir, the food problem has been discussed at very great length on the floor of the Assembly, in the press and on the platform and there is very little that remains to be discussed here but I feel that the position, even after the discussion, is not likely to improve. Sir, the food problem has never been a matter of party politics and the opposition in this House and I presume the opposition in the lower House also, have always tried to assist the Government and when the Government had instructions from the centre and wanted to decontrol and put an end to rationing in certain areas in this Province, we thought there was a case for trial and error, but Sir, the Government instead of retracing their steps or appreciating that the policy of decontrol has led to great calamity in the Province, are still pursuing the path which angels fear to tread. Sir, there has

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angels fear to tread. Sir, there has been a good deal of propaganda by the Government and I think the only department of the Government which functions to-day—though not very efficiently—is the Propaganda Department. There has been great propaganda on behalf of the Government to satisfy the public that the food situation is quite all right, is quite satisfactory, but what are the facts, the undisputed and indisputable facts? Millions of people in this Province are under starvation diet or no diet at all. I have myself questioned hundreds of workmen and one answer and one answer alone has come out and that is, nobody has more than one meal a day and many workmen and members of their family have not even one meal a day. What is the reason for it? The reason is acute unemployment. I asked this Government many times to make out a list of the unemployed in this Province and to put them in various categories—industrial labour, agricultural labour, skilled and unskilled. They have not the slightest idea as to how many million people are to-day unemployed. If the Government are confronted by facts, the Government will at once set their propaganda machinery in motion. But the fact remains that there are millions and millions in this Province on starvation diet.

" Sir, the other important fact and which cannot be disputed by the Government is that prices have risen in the market, not only 100 times, but 200 times and in some places even 300 times, of rice and other foodstuffs, after decontrol.

" The third fact which ought to be borne in mind in this discussion is that you can get any quantity of rice in the black-market. The question is not even one of short supply. If you have got money and you are willing to pay Rs. 4-8-0, Rs. 1-12-0 or even Rs. 2 for a measure of rice which ought to cost only 12 annas, you can get any quantity in the black-market. The Government, though not deliberately, have been encouraging black-marketing and the result is that you can get anything in the black-market whereas you cannot get them at controlled prices. (At this stage the Deputy President took the chair.) During war time prices were controlled and they were not allowed to sell an article in the market for over 20 per cent of its landed cost or the cost of production, unless the Government gave an order to the effect that they could be sold for more than that price. To-day, Sir, it has come to my knowledge and I have seen documents which prove that anybody could import an article and can sell it at any price he likes and Government do not control the prices, with the result that a large number of businessmen have made huge profits and this cheap money is put into the market and poor fellows, wage-earners and those who are paid monthly are put to a very great disadvantage. The other day, I read in the papers that the Government threatened to issue orders against black-marketing but this threat goes on without introducing any measure which will stop blackmarketing; on the other hand the Government are fully engaged in curtailing the liberty of individuals. They are engaged in a very large number of unessential

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things and one of the matters in which the Government are paying very great attention is the production of pure khaddar as against spurious khaddar. They are concentrating attention on unessential things while millions are starving or are under starvation diet. We have got blackmarket prices for foodstuffs, for cloth and for other necessities of life. Anything can be obtained at black-market rates and the poor have to compete with men who have made large sums of money in the black-market. This morning, you might have read in the papers how on account of unemployment a man left his house in the evening leaving his wife and three children when the wife was in an advanced stage of pregnancy and starvation compelled this poor woman to throw all her three children into a well and they were drowned. The woman was prosecuted and the judgment was delivered the other day and published in the papers this morning. The Judge recommended this woman for mercy. I charge this Government with the death of these three children. This may be an instance which has appeared in the papers but just imagine how many mothers, and how many housewives have felt that it is better under the present conditions prevailing in this Province to put their children into the well and kill them instead of seeing them starved. The woman herself jumped into the well but was not killed. I wrote to the Leader of the House from Kodaikanal that I have seen emaciated people who told me that they do not have one meal a day but only four meals in the week. They looked so emaciated that they could not even turn one-third of their usual work. The price of every article has gone up but the answer is that the wage-earners are getting more and so let them pay more and get their foodstuffs. This callous, this reckless and shall I say criminal neglect of the condition of the people is a matter which requires the attention of the public to-day. We have a Government which looks at the starvation of millions in this Province without much concern and I do not know whether the news reported in the papers that on account of unemployment of the husband the woman threw her three children into the well and herself jumped into the well, will have any effect on the Ministers. I repeat now that the Hon. Premier is here and also the Food Minister is here that I charge this Government with the death of these three children and the attempted suicide of the woman. This is not an isolated instance. It may be asked what could be done. This Government calls itself a popular Government and cannot they have the moral influence to ask the people to boycott the black-marketers; could not they find that any amount of rice is procurable in any part of the Presidency in the black-market, and why should they allow black-market to continue; are they helpless? The Hon. the Minister for Food says that he has issued instructions to Collectors to be discrete in prosecuting people who black-market in foodstuffs and we hear very few prosecutions and these black-marketers are in favour with the Government in this Province and they are there in every branch of the business and they are making huge profits and the Government are there unable to control or unwilling to control them. Is the Government

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worth its name if at a time when there is acute unemployment and millions have not the wherewithal to buy foodstuffs, the Government cannot prevent black-marketing? Here in the City of Madras, there is rationing and every person gets 6 to 8 ounces with which he is able to carry on for four days in a week and almost every man who depends upon rice for his food has to go to the black-market if he has got the money to buy it. I ask the Government to challenge my statement when I say it is possible in Madras to get any amount of rice at black-market price; is there any check on the prices or is there any check on the sales? But still the Government with a criminal neglect and reckless indifference function and they go on while the people are starving and there is acute unemployment. I suggest to the Government that they must grapple with the problem in a manner that any popular Government ought to do; they must not only enforce the laws but they must enlist the co-operation of the people to boycott the black-marketers. The other day at a conference when so many people were present, I suggested to them that black-marketers should be boycotted; we must create that opinion and the popular Government, if it is a popular Government, should be able to create that opinion with the public and they must enter the field against the black-marketers. What has the popular Government done? Nothing at all and the black-marketer prospers and neither a legal nor a moral step is taken against him. To say that they are unable to do anything against them, that they are unable to provide more employment and to give at least one meal a day to the people is to abdicate the functions of the Government. I see, Sir, this Government do not seem to have a mind of their own and they seem to be going to Delhi for everything, whether it is in connexion with the abolition of zamindaris or the decontrol of food. They surrender their judgment. When decontrol was introduced it was at the instance of Delhi. Some of us who did not believe in decontrol still thought that the Government, both the Central Government and the Provincial Government, might have a chance that they might make errors and would learn but we never expected they would persist in their errors. They frequently dash up to Delhi and they have now a special aeroplane and they might rush up to Delhi in the morning and evening and day after day at the expense of the public revenues. I ask the Government of this Province to have a mind of their own and to decide for themselves. Why rush up to Delhi even on the question of the abolition of zamindaris; why should you follow Delhi? If you are satisfied that on account of decontrol millions of people are under starvation diet, why not go back on that policy and why do you persist in error? The other provinces have learned and are trying to rectify their mistakes but I find the Food Minister in whom I had very great confidence when he took up this department and who, I hoped, would do it very efficiently, is saying that he will not revert to controls and that the policy now adopted by this Government at the instance of Delhi will remain. I say,

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12-45 p.m. Sir, it is very wrong to take up that attitude. Paper after paper has been writing to that effect and we see articles in the press and the statement of public men on platforms and letters to the editor urging them to go back to ration and see that the people do not starve. I told them once before: Let there be rationing in the case of the poor men who are paid a hundred rupees and less; let them be given ration cards and let the richer men go to the black-market but let the poor and the wage-earners be provided with sufficient rice but even that they will not do and what they do is to give fair price shops. The Hon. Food Minister admitted the other day that good rice is not given; the rice is not measured properly; in fact the fair price shops are not functioning properly. Sir, I realize, a Government cannot be perfect in the distribution of foodstuffs. These fair price shops have never touched the fringe of the problem of food to-day. I ask Government 'do not rely on propaganda so much in the matter of food; because propaganda cannot put food into empty stomachs or water into thirsty throats.' Do not depend on propaganda; never tell people that food situation is satisfactory when every man in the Province knows it is not satisfactory at all. Sir, we are living under the semi-famine conditions. Every member of society ought to co-operate with Government in solving this food problem. I ask Government, at least for the poor people let there be rationing in all parts of the Province, and let them be able to buy at controlled rates.

"Another thing that is needed absolutely is the stepping up of production. The Congress Government came to power more than two years ago, and have they got a short-term and long-term policy for food production? Sir, a number of things have to be attended to on food production. You must have co-operative cultivation, you must have distribution of seed at cost price, distribution of manure at cost price, supply of electricity at cost price and scientific methods of agriculture brought to the door of the agriculturists, and also implements supplied to them at cost price and irrigational facilities. Now, Sir, Government might say we are doing our best, but they should know and always bear in mind that what is required is not merely saying that they are doing their best but they should remember that nothing succeeds like success. People look at the results. Now is there any increased production of food? Is there any programme put forward for increased production of food? I say, no; nothing. On the other hand large tracts of land are lying uncultivated. The other day I was travelling from Madura to Coimbatore and I was told, one thousand acres of land near Palni in Madura district, which is a deficit district, are left uncultivated by the owner because he finds that cultivation is not only risky but the wages paid to the labourer will land him in loss, and, therefore, he leaves the land uncultivated. Sir, everything is in a vicious circle. A lot of people have made money by black-marketing. They keep prices high. Wage-earners cannot compete with them. Therefore they demand higher wages. Land-owners are not able to pay them; they prefer to allow their land uncultivated. Sir, this vicious circle, Government should find a

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way out, how to break. They have done nothing to step up production so far. On the other hand, very great attention is concentrated, as far as I can see, on expropriating zamindars and enriching middle men and not the actual cultivator.

"Sir, this is not the occasion when I should comment on a document published by the Premier of Madras, in which he has given very useful figures. But I must say, in any agrarian reform one matter that has always to be borne in mind is that agriculture is a human problem. You must put that profit motive in the mind of the agriculturist. That was what they did in Germany in the last century. From this little book I find about fifty per cent of the land is cultivated by tenants and not by owners of land. In Malabar it is 5.6 per cent. If only Government enable the actual cultivators of the soil to become the owners of the land by annuity payments for a few years if only you put that feeling in his mind he would produce the largest output from the land. That scheme was introduced in Germany. I have studied that problem; I see production increased by three times from what it was before. Sir, if this idea or scheme is introduced in this Province also, or at least worked in one district, I can assure Government, the food problem would at once be solved, provided of course implements, seeds, manure, electricity, scientific knowledge and irrigational facilities are also given. Instead of doing that, Government have concentrated attention on an agrarian reform under which the owner of the land is to be expropriated, the middleman is to be benefitted and the actual cultivator not to get anything, and they propose to spend on that scheme about 20 crores of rupees of public money in buying the rights of landowners without paying any adequate compensation to them. I do not know why Government do not wish to take advantage of the experience of others in other parts of the world in this respect. I say, this Government have unlimited powers with them. Both the lower House and this House have been compelled to pass many measures to invest them with such unlimited powers. But we have not been able to give them knowledge. Power without knowledge is always a danger, and that is the great danger in this Province to-day. Why spend much time over what is spurious khaddar and what is genuine khaddar, when what is required is a piece of cloth to cover the nakedness of the poor man. What does it matter whether it is spurious khaddar or genuine khaddar? How much attention is paid to unessential things? How much time of the Hon. Minister is taken up in that? They should follow the example of a previous Governor of this Province, who did his best to collect war fund, a Governor now reported to be bankrupt but I hope is not ruined. As Governor of this Province he made one district compete with the other in contributing to the war fund. In the papers appeared every week how much Coimbatore district collected, how much Madura collected, how much Madras City collected, and in this way all districts competed one with the other, and that is how war fund was collected by Government officials. You have the help of those Government officials still to-day, and why not they compete in the same manner in the food production. I have asked again

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and again Government to make a list of the unemployed, particularly of agricultural labourers. They will not do it, because they know they will have to publish that millions are unemployed. May I suggest to Government to adopt the plan I suggested. Let there be a competition between district and district with regard to food production. This will stimulate intensive cultivation. I ask them to realize the real situation in the Province. This is not a matter for light talk or smile or laughter. Sir, millions are starving in this Province. There is black-marketing everywhere. I ask them to go back to control and rationing, if not for all, at least for the poor in every district. Do not concentrate your attention on small matters and unessential matters. Do not concentrate on which is pure khaddar and which is spurious khaddar. Do not trouble the Legislature with any measure for interfering with the liberty of the people. If Government cannot put down black-marketing, if they cannot solve the food problem the most patriotic thing they could do is to lay down the seals of office."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I inquire of the Leader of the Opposition what are the constructive proposals he would suggest for improving the food situation?"

DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" We now rise and meet again at 3 p.m."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" May I suggest to the House it would be better if we meet at 2 p.m. There is one full hour interval for lunch. If we meet at 3 p.m. there may not be much time for a debate worth having and to listen to all the good advice coming from the other side."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" It is not possible for Muslim members to be here at 2 p.m. We go to the mosque at 2 p.m. and we will be back from the mosque only at 2.30 p.m. If the Leader of the House wants to continue the debate in the absence of the Muslim members I have no objection. The Leader of the House could have fixed some other day for the meeting of the House. It has been the practice all along for the House on Fridays, to rise at 1 p.m. and meet again at 3 p.m."

DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" The House will now adjourn for lunch and meet again at 3 p.m."

(After lunch—3 p.m.)

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. President, Sir, we are thankful to the Hon. Leader of the House for having given us this opportunity to discuss the food situation. There are three essential requisites which mark the existence of a really independent and democratic Government. The first among these requisites is food, the second is clothing and the third is shelter."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I did not quite catch the hon. Member. Did he say that food is a requisite only under an independent Government?"

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ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" No, Sir. Even under a Government which is not independent, we want food. But the responsibility of such a Government for giving food to the people is not as much as that of an independent Government. Unfortunately for us, we were having more food under a Government which were not responsible to the people than what we are getting now under a Government which claim to be a popular, representative and independent Government. What was the situation when the Hon. Food Minister came forward with the policy of decontrol? You will remember, Sir, that at that time we on this side of the House strongly protested against decontrol and said that decontrol would cause further famine in the country. You will also remember that at that time I drew attention to what the Hon. Food Minister said just a week before his advocating the policy of decontrol, namely, that the food situation in the Province was very grave. Soon after the admission of the gravity of the food situation, at the instance of the Central Government the decontrol policy came into effect."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" May I know how many hon. Members would like to take part in the discussion? (Some members stood up.) There are a lot of members and we must finish discussion by 5 o'clock. The hon. Member Mr. Farookhi must take note of this fact."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, this is a very important matter affecting the very life of the people. The Hon. Food Minister himself was anxious that we should have a thorough discussion and wanted more time so much so that he was prepared even to cut short the prayer time. I would only request that this House should break the record of the Assembly by sitting till 11 o'clock in the night, thrash out the question, and ventilate the people's feeling properly. (Interruption.) I may be old in age but I am young in spirit, as young as my old friend over there."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I wish the hon. Members of this House will break the record the other way by finishing the discussion as early as possible."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" In whichever way it is, we shall break the record, Sir."

" It was at the instance of the Central Government that the decontrol policy of the Provincial Government came into existence. The policy of the Central Government, if I may say so, is dictated by capitalists. The Hon. Food Minister and his colleagues do not want to carry out their conviction, because they have to abide by dictates from some other quarters. If the Government want to carry out their own feelings . . . "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member need not be anxious about the feelings of the Government. He may just tell what the situation is and how it could be improved."

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ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"New decontrol has been effected. I submit that they honestly confess . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"No guilty person would ever confess. The hon. Member can proceed on that basis. Tell the Hon. Food Minister how he is wrong."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Let there be no confession; mere pricking of conscience will do."

"Why were thousands of relief shops opened in the Province? Was it not due to the fact that decontrol was a failure and that people were not able to get food? What is the basis on which foodstuffs are distributed to the people through the relief shops—is it not by the same old ration cards which were given to the people during the days of control?"

"Now let us examine what the situation was during the period of control. Rice could be had only in the control shops and nowhere else. Therefore, whatever quality of rice was available in those shops—it was good, bad or indifferent—was served alike to all the people. But, now, a certain quality of rice is sold in the relief shops, whereas a better quality is available outside. The Hon. Food Minister is not prepared to confess that there is black-marketing. Let the Hon. Food Minister or any other Government Member go to the bazaar at this very moment and see whether rice is not sold at Rs. 1-6-0, Rs. 1-8-0 and Rs. 1-12-0. What is the meaning in asking the people to consume low-price rice and consequently get ill or allow them to sell rice at a higher cost?"

SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO:—"Am I to understand that the unpolished rice is not good for the health of the people?"

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"If it is good, why should not its price be controlled? I have seen rice being sold at Rs. 1-8-0 and Rs. 1-12-0 in the black-market."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I feel that you have greater experience of it than the Government."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"If the Government have no experience, how are they justified in occupying the Treasury Benches? Unless they stop black-marketing, they are not fit to occupy the Treasury Benches. If they are incapable of stopping it, they must confess their impotence."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Few people do that."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I want that the Ministers should be among the few."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Certainly you do not want them to be impotent?"

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I want them to be potent, to exercise authority, and prosecute people who sell in the black-market. Don't allow rice to reach such persons."

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Then you will see that the people are better off than what they are to-day. I say that the food policy of this Government has been a hopeless, thorough failure."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Does the hon. Member want the reintroduction of control?"

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Yes, Sir."

"The hon. Member Sri B. Bhima Rao asked what constructive proposals were made by the Leader of the Opposition in his speech. I say the one concrete proposal he made was that there should be control once again, as all the people were not able to get enough food. Even if control is an evil, it is a necessary evil which must be there. The other point that he made out was that black-marketing should be stopped. Black-market has ceased to be black-market: it has been legalized by this Government. Formerly, when a merchant purchased an article for one rupee and sold it at five rupees, nobody questioned him. There was no moral turpitude attached to his action, and he was not imprisoned. By an Act of the Legislature or by an order of the Government, an Act which was not considered as bad or as involving moral turpitude suddenly became Act involving moral turpitude. After decontrol, black-marketers, who were sent to jail for black-marketing during the days of control, have become honest people and they are allowed to sell at any price they like. They amass money out of the difficulties of the people and yet they are honest people; Sugar was selling at the control price of 13 annas per viss. The hon. lady Member Mrs. Mona Hensman was saying that, after decontrol, she could get sugar only at Rs. 1-11-0 or Rs. 1-12-0."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"She will repeat the same thing of what she is doing now."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"My submission is that black-marketing should again be called black-marketing and not white-marketing."

"Now Sir, after decontrol, according to the statement of the Hon. Food Minister, the target of procurement in the Province was first fixed at 1,786,300 tons of rice and 177,340 tons of millets. Since decontrol was tried, intensive procurement was given up in a majority of the districts and even procurement by a system of levy had to be given up progressively. The cumulative effect of this was that stocks procured up to July 3rd of this year amounted only to 757,184 tons of rice and 25,520 tons of millets while the anticipated quantity of procurement was about 66,000 tons. The overall deficit under this head alone came to about 888,949 tons and this deficit is also enhanced by nearly a million tons of foodgrains."

"Now Sir, when there is so much deficiency, that is to say, a deficiency of a million tons of foodgrains in this Province, how is it possible to think that this Government is successful in feeding the people of this Province? What is control after all?"

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Control means maximum procurement and even distribution of the food among the people. Why should the Government fight shy of the word control when they are controlling things in so many other forms? As I have already said, these relief shops are in another form, a sort of control. Therefore, Sir, I submit that the food policy of the Government has been a complete failure. In any other democratic country, in any other independent country, if people suffer for want of food like this, I am certain that the Ministry in that country would not continue one minute longer. That is why people have lost confidence in the present Government. Then, what is the use of having independence? What is the use of celebrating our Independence Day on the 15th of this month, when so many of our people are starving and when there is not enough food in the land. Unfortunately this Province is governed by a party in which there are groups and groups and which has no sense of proportion and no sense of reality. I submit, Sir, that if this Government really want to win the confidence of the people, and if they want to make the people believe that they are independent, then the first requisite is that they should have sufficient food fully to feed the entire population of this Province. (Interruption.) Sir, we do not want luxuries. We are not at present having luxuries, although we were having food luxuries sometime back. Even the insufficient food that is supplied to us by the Government, we are not able to digest on account of its bad quality and bad smell emanating from it. Even healthy people are not able to digest the food that is supplied, let alone others who are weak and unhealthy. How can people living in this tropical country and under a system of Government which has squeezed their blood out, be able to lead strong and healthy lives? But at least whatever health and strength they have got must be maintained and preserved; and if this sort of food is supplied to them by this Government, I am sure, the health of the people will deteriorate considerably in a very short time and this Province will have only a population of weaklings. That is why I say, Sir, that this Government has totally failed in its food policy.

“Now Sir, it is said that we are having independence, that we are having a people's Government, a Government elected by the people. But what does this popular Government, the Congress do now? It simply enacts all sorts of laws to curtail the liberties of the people, to prevent them from making agitations and creating disorders and bad blood. I am certainly one with the Government which wants to maintain public peace in the Province. But at the same time, the Government must find out what is the real cause for all these agitations, for all these troubles and for all these disorders. They must know what is the reason, the dominating reason, that is behind all these communist troubles, and why they want to create disaffection among the masses against the Government in power. The reason is that you are giving them an easy handle, by your own actions, to create mischief. You are giving those people, whether they are communists or communalists, a handle to attack your policy and they easily go to the people in the villages, who have no food, who have no clothes and who have

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no houses to live in and address the masses pointing out how hungry they are, how naked they are and under what wretched conditions they are living under the present Government saying, ‘if you come under our leadership, we shall see that you have a paradise on this earth.’ The same thing you did and the same promises you extended to our people, when the foreign Government was ruling us. You promised not one paradise but a hundred paradises. You said then that if the foreign Government went out of this country, milk and honey would be flowing on this land. But what you do we actually see to-day when you are in power? The conditions in the country are no better. On the other hand, we see people starving; we see them naked. You are giving these communists the very same handle which the foreign Government gave you and they are using it against you in the same manner as you did against the foreign Government. Now you are using the same weapons which the foreign Government used to put down the communists in the same manner as the foreign Government did to put down your agitation. God forbid, that a similar fate overtakes you like the foreign Government. The foreign Government used a particular weapon against you and you are using the very same weapon against the communists, and perhaps they will succeed and you will fail and they will in their turn dominate you by taking up your place. Therefore, I say, if you give proper food and enough food to the people, if you give them enough cloth, then I am sure, you will continue to occupy these places much longer than anybody could think of.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“The central point of the hon. Member is that the Government must re-introduce control, is it not?”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“Yes, Sir. My only appeal is that the Hon. Minister for Food should consider all the suggestions I have made and see whether he cannot re-introduce control.”

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“Mr. President, Sir, the Hon. Minister for Food would have helped us considerably, if he had given us up-to-date figures. The statement that is in our hands was presented to us some 20 days ago. According to the food budget which the Hon. Minister has mentioned in his statement, the stocks on 3rd July amounted to 463,641 tons, expected food imports, 127,705 tons and expected procurement, 60,000 tons, thus making a total of 651,346 tons. Much has happened since this statement was issued. According to the latest figures published in the newspapers, procurement is going down. The budget that the Hon. Food Minister has presented in this statement will not be the same, but will be quite different, if prepared to-day. The stocks available for the coming months will be much more than 651,346 tons.

“Then, Sir, let me take the offtake. In his statement the Hon. Food Minister has stated that the offtake is 36,001 tons per week. First of all I question the basis on which this offtake has been estimated. The Hon. Minister for Food has apparently estimated it

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at the rate of 6 ounces per head given in the relief shops and 8 ounces given in the rationed areas. Is that the target that he wishes to reach for feeding the entire population of this Province? Can he sit quite complacently over the situation and say our food position is alright, because I can give 6 ounces in the village and 8 ounces in the town? Is it on this situation that the Government should feel so complacent and satisfied?

“ Now, Sir, the number of relief shops were 8,500 on the day this statement was prepared, but yesterday the Hon. Minister for Food stated in the other House that the number is more than 10,000. Therefore the more relief shops are opened, the more will be the offtake. Are the stocks at present with the Government and which they hope to procure sufficient to take us for the next 18 weeks? The Hon. Minister for Food is reported to have stated the other day that the stocks he has on hand would be enough only for 8 weeks. Therefore from 18 weeks, according to his original estimate, it has come down to 8 weeks. If we take into consideration the stocks that the Government have on hand at present, the stocks that they hope to procure and the increased offtake that we expect, with the increase in the number of relief shops,—if all these things are taken into consideration, I very much doubt whether we will have enough food for the next two months. May I ask the Government what they propose to do after two months? This statement does not show what steps they have taken or are going to take after 2 months. This is the statement of a Government which is complacent, which is satisfied with everything that is going on in the Province and which does not feel worried at all about to-morrow. You will remember, Sir, that as soon as the Hon. Premier returned from Delhi recently, he gave an interview to the pressmen when he said that in view of the probable failure of the north-east monsoon, the low stocks on hand and the fall in procurement, he felt that we will get into trouble and that he had made a request to the Central Government to allot some 4 lakhs of ton of food more for this Province. That is the real situation. Unless help comes to us from other sources, our food position is not so good as the Hon. Minister tries to make out in his statement.

“ Well, Sir, as I said, all these estimates are made on the basis of 6 ounces given in relief shops in rural areas and 8 ounces of rice given in the rationed areas. The Hon. Minister for Food has himself confessed in the other House that the demand for relief shops is increasing. On the day this statement was presented, we had about 8,500 relief shops and according to the latest figure there are 10,456 relief shops to-day. I am sure that in the course of the next few months their number will go up. Is there enough food at the disposal of the Government even to place at the disposal of these relief shops? I want the Government to face this question straight. I am not finding fault with them. I do not want them to shut their eyes and say that everything is all right. Everything is not all right. Everything is going wrong. Unless we buck up and see that we get supplies from somewhere, we will have to meet a crisis again. That is the real situation in the Province to-day.

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“ Then, Sir, the Hon. Minister has referred to high prices and has said something about the Price Control Order. This is what he says in his statement: ‘ The Government have therefore asked all the Collectors to launch prosecutions against merchants who are found to have transgressed the Price Control Order. This discretion has to be used judiciously and with reference to the local conditions.’ This gives up the whole case of the Government. Having invested the officers with power to look profiteers, instead of asking them to exercise the power conferred on them by the Control Order, the Government have issued executive directions to them, evidently to use the power very discreetly. That means that practically the Price Control Order will be dead. Is it in any way strange, Sir,—I am sure hon. Members would have read it in the papers—that when the Hon. the Revenue Minister went to Rajahmundry he found a bag of rice being sold at Rs. 75 and he had to speak in a public meeting saying that the Government would use all their powers in order to put down hoarding and profiteering. That is an area, Sir, which is surplus, in which there are no relief shops, because relief shops are only confined to the deficit districts. In that area the Hon. the Revenue Minister was told during his visit that a bag of rice was being sold at Rs. 75. If that is so in a surplus district what would be the position in a deficit area? One can well understand, Sir, that the relief shop system is good and its extension is absolutely necessary. We have to make sure that the relief shops function properly. Let them not merely be relief shops for statistical purposes. But let them be real relief shops affording relief to the people who are in need of food.

3-30
p.m.

“ In his statement, Sir, the Hon. Minister envisages a certain course of action on the part of the Government. Here I would like to strike a note of warning, as far as Malabar is concerned. The district of Malabar unfortunately is in a very peculiar position. The estimated production there, according to statistics furnished by the Food Department is 260 thousand tons and not all this quantity may be received from the first crop. The annual deficit is about 351 thousand tons. If rural rationing is abandoned, as it is envisaged because they want to abandon every kind of rationing in course of time, the result will be that all the available grain will flow into the urban and semi-urban areas and the rural areas will be starved if not immediately, at any rate, within a month or two after the abolition of rural rationing. Another factor which should not be lost sight of is this, viz., the sources from which Malabar used to make up her deficit in normal times. Burma was one of the most important sources of supply. Has there been or will there be a free flow of rice from Burma into Malabar? Are there any good resources through which stocks of rice required for Malabar can be replenished till the normal sources of supply are restored or till equally reliable sources are found? Therefore I say, Sir, that rural rationing in Malabar should not be abandoned. During the Advisers' regime I was one of those who agitated for the introduction of rural rationing and that was

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the only district in which rural statutory rationing was introduced. We agitated. We got down Mr. Sen, the Food Commissioner of the Government of India. He went over the district. But for rural rationing there would have been an enormous number of deaths in Malabar. But what is the improvement in the situation now, Sir, to feel that Government can abandon rationing in Malabar? The situation is as bad as it was then and it will be like that till production increases. And what steps have been taken to increase production and what the results of such steps are, we are not aware. Therefore, I warn the Government that the abandonment of rationing in Malabar will lead to a grave crisis. It is easy to abandon. It is easy to wind up the staff that they have got but to begin again will be very difficult. Very soon they will have to begin again what they now propose to abandon. There are other districts as well, Sir. Take Madras for example. If rationing in Madras is abolished let us see what will happen. The monsoon is a failure. Unless the rains come and the crop position in the two districts, namely, Chingleput which is one of the chief sources of supply and Nellore, becomes normal, it would be foolish to abolish rationing in the City of Madras. I suppose the supply of rice for the City of Madras comes mostly from the Nellore district and to some extent from Chingleput. Before we are sure that the crop in Nellore is normal and that we can procure the quantity we require for the City of Madras, I have to say that it would be foolish to abandon rationing in the City. I have quoted only these two instances, Malabar as a district and Madras as a City to show why I think rationing should not be abandoned.

“There is a great deal of agitation on the part of the Members of the Legislature and I know that a great deal of pressure is being put on the Government to remove what is called the inter-district ban. It is the imposition of the inter-district ban, Sir, that has enabled the Government to know the stocks available in each district and how they can be diverted to districts which are in need of them. Once the inter-district ban is removed there will be a free flow. As water will flow to a place where there is more depth, all the rice and all the grain will go into the district where there are people rich enough to buy paying the blackmarket prices which our friends quoted. Therefore it is not good, Sir, to remove the inter-district ban. It should be continued so that the Government may always be aware of the stocks available.

“May I also suggest, Sir, that this system of compulsory procurement should be continued? On the question of levy also, I hold a different opinion. I wish, Sir, the Government had not abandoned the system of levy also. So long as we are not sure of our supply every grain that is available is useful to feed the deficit areas. It should be the business of the Government, Sir, to see that every available grain is procured and the people in the deficit areas are given at least the 8 ounces which they think is the normal ration and which they can afford to give. I know, Sir, that many friends are against this inter-district ban and also

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against levy and they are even against procurement. My hon. Friends from the Circars may turn round and say that a bag of rice is selling at Rs. 75 because there is procurement. That is not at all the case, Sir, the reason is to the contrary. There is no real price control. It is only on paper. As I told you, Sir, when the Government themselves ask their officers to use their discretion and not to apply the provisions of the control order, naturally they are not so anxious to apply them, lest they may displease the Government, who have issued executive instructions. I do not want to say more, Sir, as you want us to close the debate now.”

MR. PRESIDENT:—“Is the hon. Member, Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu, moving all his amendments *en bloc* and speaking on all of them?”

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—“I leave it to you, Sir.”

MR. PRESIDENT:—“His Leader told me that he would be moving the amendments together.”

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—“I would like to speak on them separately, Sir.”

MR. PRESIDENT:—“The hon. Member must have told his Leader about that.”

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—“Sir, this amendment comes in close upon the speech of the Mr. Suryanarayana Rao. The second amendment is this—

“and on such consideration this Council resolves that the distribution of the 10 ounces or 8 ounces in the ration depots or relief shops solely if necessary and after postponing if possible, be in the first instance to persons getting an income of less than Rs. 100 by way of salary or wages and to meet the demand of persons getting more than the above income inter-district ban on the transport of rice or paddy be removed.”

(Interruption.) Decontrol or recontrol, we need not bother ourselves about that. The real question is, let them give the 10 ounces or 8 ounces. There is no use going round and calling people blackmarketers or white marketers. There is a blackmarket because people want more than what they are given. All that the Government now can do is to say that they could supply only 10 ounces or the 8 ounces according to their position. The hon. Member, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, does not realise that what we have got is not sufficient to meet a full meal and therefore we have got to purchase something more than the 10 ounces or 8 ounces. As a matter of fact what are the figures? I want hon. Members to bear these figures in mind. They say that the procurement of rice is about 757,814 tons, call it intensive procurement or whatever it is. The quantity of rice to be procured according to the statement is 60,000 tons. This is found in the statement that has been given. All that could be procured on 3rd July 1948 was only 60,000 tons.

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We are now on the 13th of August. I dare say that the surplus districts of West Godavari, and Kistna have been deprived practically of almost all the stocks, I am not talking of millets, Sir. I am saying that all the stock of rice have been taken by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies. According to the statement what could have been procured on the 3rd July 1948 was only 60,000 tons; nothing more and nothing less. They have already procured 7 lakhs and odd tons. Therefore the total amount of rice under procurement would be 817,814 tons. With regard to imports they have been promised an allotment of 234,000 tons of rice from the Government of India of which they have realized 185,486 tons. They are yet to get from the Government of India about 48,514 tons. Therefore the position comes to this. They have got to procure here 60,000 tons of rice and they would get from the Government of India a quota of 48,514 tons making a total of 108,514 tons. Therefore the question of inter-district ban and movement control depend upon the question of procurement, the basis for which has already been given. Apart from that let us to see what the statement says. It reads:—

'It has been suggested to Government that the removal of the inter-district bans will have the effect of making food-grains available in plenty throughout the province and also in bringing down prices.'

It is further stated: *'The continuance of the inter-district bans is necessary for the purpose of procuring the surpluses available wherever such procurement is in force.'*

"May I ask the Government, Sir, whether it is their intention not merely to procure the 60,000 tons according to their target but also want to grab every bit of grain that is there in the surplus districts and make them deficit districts? That is why I say that the rationing of 8 ounces or 10 ounces should be confined to the poorer persons and that the inter-district ban should be removed. Let us see what will be the result. Now there is a regular blackmarket between Nellore and Madras. What is it due to? There are persons here who are not satisfied with the 6 or 8 ounces they are getting and they are willing to pay a little more for what they could get. You call them blackmarketers. Who are they? They are not merchants. They are ordinary people who take a head-load of rice from Nellore, pay the Police man and others . . ."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"They do not pay the Railway!"

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—"That is another matter. They pay the railway porter and they pay much more than what they should pay to the railway. They put the rice in the Madras market. Is it not a fact that the rice that has to be procured has already been procured except for 60,000 tons. As I said already, you can distribute the rice that has been procured to poor people. If the inter-district ban on the movement of rice and paddy is removed, there will be the flow of rice through the usual trade channels, and the rice will move from one place to

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another without the guidance of the police man or the railway porter or the blackmarketer. There will then be good market and no blackmarket. The rich man will pay for his grain and the poor man also will get his 8 ounces. It is to create a class of blackmarket you are not getting rice from the Government of India. It is only increasing the charges on the transport of rice by paying the police man, the railway porter, etc. This amendment does not speak about decontrol or re-control. The relief shops are there. Procurement has been practically made except for 60,000 tons. Procurement having been effected, let the rice now flow from Nellore, Chingleput, Chittoor and North Arcot districts. The only district from which there will be flow of rice is Nellore. (Interruption by Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao.) Mr. Suryanarayana Rao might say this or that. The whole point is if you want rice you go to the Government of India and get Rs. 2 extra per maund. Or, pay in certain districts at the rate of Rs. 15 per bag instead of Rs. 12, an increase of Rs. 1-8-0 per maund. Let us take the practical statement. On 3rd July 1948 you have on hand 384,635 tons of rice. The quantity of rice to be got from the Government of India is 48,514 tons. The quantity of rice expected to be procured within the Province is 60,000 tons. Then the *kar* crop will become available after three months. Is not the above quantities sufficient for three months at the rate of 8 ounces? Why do you want the paraphernalia of control and relief shops without anybody getting rice. This is a very simple proposition before the House. The whole question is you are always counting on the egg and not the chicken. The fact of the matter is unless you get the extra three rupees from the Government of India you will not improve. You only discourage the man who is growing food. Is this the way of growing more food? Therefore, I submit the inter-district ban on the movement of rice and paddy should be lifted. Let the rich man and the poor man pay for the grain without paying anything to the railway porter, police man and other persons. You have already procured a certain amount of rice and that you can give to the poor people. You give that solely to persons getting an income of less than Rs. 100. If the inter-district ban is removed, there will be no hoarding and no blackmarket at all. The producer will get a reasonable price for his paddy and rice. This inter-district ban is therefore unnecessary, and has to be lifted. This is my second amendment. In the case of persons getting an income of more than Rs. 100 this inter-district ban on the transport of rice and paddy should be removed.

"My third amendment is—

'and on such consideration this Council resolves that the coupons for manure issued as bonus to the ryots who delivered paddy in the last khareef year be immediately honoured as the season for paddy transplantation is fast coming to an end.'

"Sir, I gave notice of a short notice question on this subject, and I have also sent a letter to the Food Minister. Probably the

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answer is not yet ready. (Interruption by the Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan.) Yesterday only I gave notice of the question. I am only anxious about the policy of the Government. The basis of my amendment is this. Last year the Government said that they would give Rs. 2 extra as bonus to ryots. What they said was they would give one rupee in cash and the other rupee by way of bonus coupons for manure. This I should say is a rather ingenious method, and I have to characterize this in strong language. The two world wars have taught us two principles. The first world war said 'because we have no gold with us, we will give goods in exchange—barter.' The second world war revealed the principle, namely, 'we do not have money to pay; therefore we will give you IOU.' They are called sterling balances. England got the goods, and they tell us they would give the sterling balances. The Government of Madras seem to have borrowed these two ideas and put them in a certain form. Under threat of prosecution they have procured the grains. They say they would give one rupee in cash and the other rupee by way of bonus coupon for manure. I have got with me a copy of the manure bonus coupon for one rupee. This is issued under the authority of the Government of Madras. It reads 'one-rupee ticket; Civil supplies food bonus coupon.' On the reverse side it is seen 'care should be taken that this coupon is not spoiled and it should be kept in safe custody.' Perhaps the ryot must keep it in his iron safe. Again it is said 'this can be exchanged for full value by the purchase of groundnut cakes, fertilizers, green manure seeds.' That is the barter system. Again it is said 'these articles can be purchased from the nearest agricultural department depot.' This is a new system of currency on our treasuries. I want to know how many lakhs of rupees have been issued out in this manner. The Government say that these bonus coupons can be cashed for groundnut cakes, green manure, etc. (Sri A. Govindacharyulu: 'Which are not at all available!') You are issuing this currency without the stock behind it. This is Muhammad Tuglak's business of issuing currency without the necessary backing. (Laughter.) (Interruption by K. T. M. Ahamed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur.) We do not bother about it. The Government say for one hundred rupees worth of coupons they will give 11 bags of green manure. Even that they find too much. If a man has received thousand rupees by way of bonus coupons, the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, guaranteed by the Government of Madras, will give only one hundred rupees by way of manure. This is the chicken which you want to feed! After all, the man in the village lives on the dung also. This manure you would not give him. What I ask is where are we now? We are now in August. Have you any idea of how the crops are standing? We want manure now. Groundnut cakes should be given, and fertilizers should be given, to speed up 'Grow More Food Campaign.' Without manure how are these surplus districts to produce the rice? Instead of 'Grow More Food Campaign' I would reverse it and call it 'no more food campaign.' You have issued bonus coupons for manure. I ask 'do you honour it?' You should honour it if you are to give an incentive for grow more food campaign. Otherwise it will only mean 'no more food campaign.'

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I am using this language because the Food Minister said that he has got some figures in his pocket and that he will give them later on. Fortunately or unfortunately I have no right of reply. The ryot wants his bonus coupon to be cashed or he wants manure. My amendment is this. It is a plain amendment calling upon the Government to honour these bonus coupons at once and forthwith; if not at least let them give the money for these coupons.

"Here is my hon. Friend, Mr. Gopalakrishnayya, who has given 9,000 bags of paddy to Government. He has got coupons for 9,000 rupees. One year is over, and still you would not give him manure or the fertilizers or the money. What is the meaning of locking up money like this? Is it not like Muhammad Tuglak's business of issuing currency without the necessary backing? (Laughter.) You said you would pay one rupee in cash and the other rupee by way of bonus coupon. You say 'you do not know how to preserve your money; I will preserve your money and give you manure later.' When these coupons were first issued, they were being sold at a premium of 2 annas. When the ryots took these coupons to the Agricultural department depots, they could get no cakes, and now these coupons are at a discount of annas four. (Interruptions.) My hon. Friend, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, has given an illustration that . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Let the hon. Member go to the next amendment."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—"I have finished it, Sir. There are only two alternatives. You say you would give the ryot manure. You give him neither money nor manure. When you cannot give the ryot manure, why do you issue this currency cashable on the Agricultural Department depots? By all means take back the money from the ryot when you can give manure. For the honour of this Government, they must pay money to these ryots for the value of the bonus coupons. That is necessary to give an incentive to the ryots to grow more food. This circumlocution of giving bonus coupons for manure is not at all to the reputation of this Government."

"Sir, my last subject is electricity. From currency we have now come to the current. For this, I have chosen three districts only for the reason that they are deficit districts."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"For which I am sure the hon. Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar will be thankful to you."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—"We want the Hon. Minister to take up the question of electricity in earnest and to give us electricity. Sir, I have chosen three districts. These are districts which really depend upon the monsoon for their cultivation. The Hon. Minister may say that he is giving manure and all that. But, unless rains come, it is all of no use. Sir, in these three districts, their main business is agriculture and because the monsoons fail often, they are working at a loss. It is only electricity that will save them and prevent this loss. But, in the case of the delta districts, it is not the case. They are not incurring any loss but they want to make more money. Sir, so far as the

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central districts are concerned, there is no delta irrigation, and unless the rains come, they cannot grow even 'Peserat.' Therefore, they suffer a great loss. Just now, I heard my friend say that he instituted some diesel oil pumps in the Kistna district. It is now one month and more but now he says that Government by an executive order has asked him to take them away whatever may be the stage of the crop. This kind of thing will not do. Therefore, the real question is what steps have been taken so far by the Government to see that these central districts get enough facilities for water-supply for irrigation purposes."

SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Speak for all districts."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" The need is much more so in the case of the central districts though there is need in all the districts. I only appeal to the members on the other side of the House to see that their influence is brought to bear on the Ministry so that the central districts may soon get electricity to get their water-supply for irrigation purposes."

" Sir, the real question is, ' Are you going to pay a reasonable price for rice? ' Are you going to provide each district with pumping sets? Are you going to give fertilizers to the ryots? Are you going to give all the items which you have mentioned under the ' Grow More Food Campaign ' ? Unless you have done all this, anybody who has got any sense will reject the ' Grow More Food Campaign ' as nothing but bunkum."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I now call upon Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar to add his voice for electricity."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am sorry that this food discussion has been assuming serious proportions at the beginning of every session of the Legislature. I do not know why this food discussion must be taken up every time the Legislature meets here. Perhaps the Ministers are anxious to give an opportunity to the Opposition to criticise the treasury benches."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Not at all."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I have known a Tamil proverb. I shall repeat it. It says : ' செலிக்கண விலைக்கால் சிறிது வயிற்றிற்கும் ஈப்பதும் '. It means when there is no food for the ear, little can be given for the stomach to appease the appetite. That is the meaning of the proverb. Similarly, I thought the Ministers wanted to give us food for the ear rather than for the stomach. Fortunately, Mr. President, you have invited us to-morrow for a solo performance by the renowned violinist, Professor Venkataswami Naidu of Vizianagram, and that will be a great solace to the ear rather than hearing the food debate. (Laughter.) Sir, the Hon. the Minister for Food has supplied us with a statement and he has supplemented it by a speech in the Assembly, though not here. Therefrom, I am led to infer that more and more foodstuffs are being brought to the Madras Province and more and more foodstuffs are being reserved in Government godowns

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and more and more relief shops are being opened and that the situation is much more improved than it was before and so on and so forth. Of course, to the extent it is said and to the extent it is carried out, it is some solace to us. But, we in the dry districts have no foodstuffs, so to say. I am sorry to note and I am doubtful whether all the rice that is imported into Government godowns in Madras and elsewhere finds its way to the consumers. I am also doubtful whether the relief shops that are being opened more and more increasingly in number in the villages do really cater to the needs of the consumers. I have great doubt about that, because, there are bandicoots in Government godowns also and they piller away much of the rice that is available there and when it is delivered to the wholesaler, a much reduced quantity is given. For instance, as President of the Sriperumbudur Co-operative Society and also as a wholesaler to a certain extent, I may tell you how we are asked to take this rice from the Government godowns. They say that each bag must weigh two maunds. Two maunds must weigh 166 pounds. But, when it is actually weighed, it is either 163 pounds or 162 pounds and if it is raw rice, it weighs 158½ pounds."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" There must be something wrong with the weighing machine!" (Laughter.)

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" All weighing machines cannot be wrong. So, Sir, we are led to conclude that there are bandicoots even in Government godowns. Whatever it is, the Government insist that we must take the bags as containing 166 pounds, which is at the rate of two maunds per bag. I do not know how these societies could function under these conditions. Sir, the Minister for Agriculture may say that he has given the agriculturists iron implements and manures and such things. But, I must say, Sir, not in the way of criticism but as a matter of information, that the groundnut cake which is given by the Government and taken in lorries do not find its way to the villages through the Government godowns. Instead, it finds its way to the merchants' shops. From there, it again finds its way to the Madras City. From the Government godowns, it is sold at Rs. 13 per bag to the merchants and the merchants who cart it to Madras and sell it at Rs. 15 and even Rs. 18 per bag in Madras. That is how this groundnut cake manure is being distributed. Then, Sir, with regard to bonus-card holders, they are asked to go to the godowns but when they go there, the store-keepers say that there is no stock and that it will come in three days. Three days afterwards, the card-holder again goes to the shop only to find that there is no stock again. Again, there is disappointment. Ultimately, the store-keeper says, " Give me your bonus card and also Rs. 3; I will get you some manure." Therefore, Sir, these ryots have to give their cards with Rs. 3 extra. These store-keepers are actually selling the manure at three rupees extra to the ryots even though they possess bonus cards. That is the way in which things are being done. The same is the case with regard to the

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supply of iron implements, zinc sheets and pipes. Wrought iron pipes and zinc sheets are being sold to private merchants rather than to ryots and if the agriculturists come and ask the department to get them some zinc sheets for putting up sheds for their cattle the department says, "Zinc sheets are given only for putting up engine sheds and cannot be given for putting up cattle sheds", as if the cattle-sheds are not necessary for the agriculturists. Sir, a ryot in my village applied for wrought iron pipes through the Government department. He applied to the Director in charge of iron distribution to get him some pipes. He recommended his application to the Deputy Director of Industries. Then after three days, the ryot went to the Deputy Director and asked him whether the pipes were available. The Deputy Director told him 'You can see that we have no stock, as soon as we get the stock, we will send you a communication. Then, you can come.' But, Sir, to this day, he has not got the pipes. Fortunately he borrowed some pipes and purchased some pipes in Mannadi market and his engine was already running. That is the way in which Government Departments are catering to the needs of the ryots.

"Sir, we are now discussing the food situation. There is no need for a discussion of the food situation under these circumstances. If really the situation has to be improved, more and more lands should be brought under cultivation and Government must provide the wherewithals for bringing more and more lands under cultivation. No doubt, the Food Minister will say, 'We have given half grants for the sinking of wells.' Sir, a half-grant is not enough because the ryot has to sink the wells at a great cost and the amount which Government give is not really a half grant but much less. Even if they sink wells, they cannot get water and they must have some engine and pumps. In some cases, unless they get the local agents of oil companies to supply liquid fuel water cannot be drawn."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Is there water in the well?" (Laughter.)

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR:—"Yes, Sir, there is water in the well. Some wells are successful. But, there are other wells which are dug with Government grants and which are a failure. Therefore, I would suggest to the Government, rather than giving half-grants to the ryots, they must themselves appoint officers to find out springs in the lands of the ryots and sink wells themselves and take half the cost from the ryot afterwards. That would have been a better course than giving half-grants. This half-grant though it amounts to Rs. 310 and Rs. 500 in some cases, does not actually work out to 50 per cent. It will come to 25 or 30 per cent only, taking the actual cost of digging the wells. Therefore, Government must sink wells for the ryots in their lands with proper excavation and then charge 50 per cent of the cost from the ryot. That would have been a better course.

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"Sir, our hon. Friend Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu has moved a list of amendments and his last amendment referred to the supply of electric current. He from the Opposition benches and myself from the Government benches . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"And myself from here." (Laughter.)

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR:—"There is a silent desire on your part, Sir, because you cannot take part in the debate in this House. Sir, I was saying that we have been asking questions about the introduction of electricity to the village parts and giving the first priority for it to the agriculturists. Sir, there is of course some advance made after our last agitation. That is, the Madras electric system has been connected to the Mettur system at Arkonam so that electric current is now passing through Sririperumbudur, Tiruvallur, Saidapet taluks. The current is there and if any ryot inadvertently touches it, he might die but the current is not useful to him. Sir, I am told that transformers are not readily available. One official of the Electricity Department told me that they have got big new transformers and they have placed them somewhere in the Andhradesa and they wanted to remove the smaller and other transformers from there for the benefit of the Chingleput district. I am also told that wagons are not available for bringing them here, because the Government of India have promised wagons only for essential purposes. I doubt whether the Government do not think that the giving of electric current to our district is an issue of first priority. About three or four months ago, I was told that the transformers are there available in Vijayanagaram, and as soon as the wagons are available, connections will be given in June or July. Now we are in the middle of August, and still we do not know where these transformers are. Perhaps they have been utilized already somewhere else, and we are deprived of the benefit of the electric current. But the supply of current available from Madras to Arkonam, the Madras Electric Supply system having a passage through our district, I would say that if connexions are given immediately, the Grow More Food Campaign will achieve its end."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Yes, the transmission lines are passing through the land, just like the railway lines."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR:—"If on the score that transformers are not available, the currents already existing in Madras City are being utilized for starting more oil mills, more printing presses, and for giving connexions to lights and fans, etc., and as one of my hon. Friends here has said, for cinema theatres in the city, it may so happen that by the time the transformers are available, we would have exhausted the current supply available with us, thus depriving the villages of the benefit that they may derive by the use of electric current. There is no use saying that the Ramapadasagar project is being planned, or the Krishna-Pennar project, or the Tungbhabdra project is on hand. All these will materialize only after 15 years from now and many of us may not even live to see it, to see the benefit of those irrigation projects

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in our district. Are we going to be perpetually victimized by the Central Government in this manner? The Hon. the Food Minister of the Central Government told me on one occasion that we should not be slaves of the foreign countries by depending on the foreign machinery and foreign oil, etc. He advised us to raise the banks of tanks and increase the productive capacity of our lands. But what is the position now? We have not put up any banks, nor have we increased the productive capacity of our lands. We are depending on the other provinces and countries, for the supply of the foodstuffs that we require, though they may not be wholly agreeable to our stomach. Of course, I have no reason to complain against the Government. They purchase these foodgrains from foreign countries at exorbitantly high rates, subsidize them and give them to us at a lower rate; even though that rate may be somewhat higher than usual, still they are giving them to us at a rate lower than that at which they purchased them. I ask, are you not going to be self-sufficient in the immediate future at least, in the matter of foodgrains? Are you going to continue as slaves of foreign countries? Even Mahatma Gandhi has said that nobody should live on foreign goods, especially in the matter of foodgrains. We, who are his followers are simply importing more and more of foreign goods. A time there was in the days of the Freedom Movement when we were picketing foreign cloth-shops, but now we are extending our hand of co-operation and friendship, to get those very foreign goods. Really, it is a shameful state of affairs.

"Our friends here have complained of decontrol and have expressed themselves in favour of the re-imposition of control. They have complained that the Provincial Government have fallen a prey to the Central Government. Not being content with criticizing the Treasury Benches here, they want to criticise the Central Government also for the policy of de-control. I want to make it clear that it is not the pressure of the Central Government that has induced the Treasury Benches to remove controls. Indeed, it was the dictum and advice of Mahatma Gandhi that has worked on the Central Government as well as the Provincial Government. The Central Government were really unwilling to remove the rations, but Mahatma Gandhi's pressure brought about their agreement, to remove control, and so control was removed in the bulk of the Province, though as Mr. Suryanarayana Rao has pointed out, it still continues in Madras and some other towns also perhaps."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I think the hon. Member can close his speech."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, I would like to speak for five more minutes."

"My hon. Friend Dr. V. K. John has said that the de-control has brought about corruption and blackmarketing. No, Sir. They were created verily at the time the foreign Government introduced control and rationing. Corruption and black-marketing are twins born out of control and rationing. They have grown so much

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that even with decontrol they have not disappeared. As my hon. Friend Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu has pointed out, blackmarketing should be rooted out, and corruption eliminated, before we can conceive of any improvement in the food situation. Even the Anti-Corruption Committee are unable to do anything in the matter. Therefore, there is the imperative necessity for the Government to take up the matter in their hands, and deal with the problem at once, if necessary, by issuing an ordinance to remove from service any corrupt officials on grounds of suspicion, without even a trial. That alone will solve the problem of corruption and blackmarketing. You may introduce ration, controls, or you may introduce decontrol; and you may do anything you please. But corruption will go on, unless you deal with the corrupt officials immediately.

"Again, Sir, these relief shops deprive the producer of his legitimate share of his produce, they polish the rice and send it to the Madras City in lorry loads. Some lower officials here and there detain the lorries on their way. But with the help of some lawyers in towns, somehow the higher officials are approached, who connive at it, and at the mere wink of an eye, the detained lorries find their way to the City. That is the position now. Then what is the use of these relief shops? It is not possible to put down corruption in the relief shops, or in the godowns if the officialdom continues to be what it is. Sir, I have already referred to bandicoots in the godowns."

"The only solution to the problem is 'Grow More Food.' Every village, in fact every district must be self-sufficient. It may not be possible for Chingleput and North Arcot to become self-sufficient unless electric current supply is given to them, so that the existing wells could be utilized for production and more wells are sunk in appropriate places in these districts. Sir, I suggest that there shall be no more of food discussions in this House. Instead I would request Hon. Ministers as well as the legislators sitting in this House, to go about and find the appropriate places where there are springs and channels; and dig wells in those places, and give electric connexions. That alone will solve the problem. We need not depend on the Northern Circars at all, if electric connexions are given to the North Arcot and Chingleput districts, for producing more food. If we continue to import foreign goods, and get them at subsidized rates, we will be the perpetual slaves of other countries."

* MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, much has been said on the subject of controls, blackmarketing and corruption, etc., this morning. So I will not repeat the arguments that have gone before. I have only two points to put before the Hon. Minister for Food, and I trust he will hear me patiently and if he chooses, adopt some means whereby the remedies I suggest may be brought about."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"How long does the hon. Member want the Hon. Minister to be patiently hearing?"

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MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—" Only for three to five minutes, Sir, I have not got much to say, and I value that time at the disposal of the House and know is too good to waste."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" That is why I called upon the hon. Member to speak."

* MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—" I take that as a compliment. I feel constrained to say first of all, something about this blackmarketing that has been referred to. Of course, better men in this House than I will know far better how to put down blackmarketing. I would only suggest that the people who have been proved to be blackmarketers should be put in jail without any alternative whatsoever. I for one would suggest a closed room which is more comfortable than even these jails; I think, the very punishment of keeping them within the four walls of room, separated from their families for a fortnight, would have a very good effect on them, because it is really a great shame to blackmarket and gather money by means through which they should not gather money. And the regrettable fact is that they take away the food that should be going to the ordinary man, to the hungry and the needy at a price he can pay; but keep it for those that could afford to pay more.

" Now, let me not say, for a moment that these 8 ounces or 6 ounces of rice that is given to us, are sufficient. In fact, they are not. My second point deals with that. If the Hon. Minister for food, and you, Sir, in particular, and the members of this House in general would on some Wednesday morning, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon pay a visit to the Juvenile Courts, and the Children's Aid Society in Pantheon Road, Egmore, they would see little children brought before the Magistrate, who have taken rice lying either in the harbour, or in the suburban electric trains, coming to the City, rice that has been left by people older than themselves for fear of being caught by the Police. These little children will be seen to be heaping up that rice, not to sell it, but to take it to their parents so that they may have at least occasionally a spare meal or a full meal for a few days, if not for more than a week. I would ask the persons who deal with this matter, somehow or other, to find a remedy for this. One of the remedies I would suggest is the Permit system. There are many Social Service Organizations that seek to feed the poor, and many social workers that go to the Cheris and feed those that cannot otherwise buy their food for themselves, because of the exorbitant blackmarket prices. Their position is so bad that they have food only for three or four days in a week and they have to starve for the other days. Some of our Women's Organizations are trying to supply them with the means whereby they can feed themselves. I met a certain Rationing Officer some time ago, and asked him whether we could be given a permit to buy rice from Avadi or Tambaram, and bring it into the City, so that we may give it to these poor people. The Rationing Officer said, that we could well have it, but an equal quantity of rice would be taken away from the rice ration not only of us, but even of those very poor

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people whom we are trying to help. A 'Permit' in the English language, as far as I know, means permission to have something over and above what one would otherwise have. For example, unless I have a permit from the Government, I would not be allowed to take more than one silk saree if I go to Ceylon, and even for my personal use, the Customs Authorities would not allow it. If however I have a permit from Government, I can take a certain number of sarees more than I could otherwise have done. Therefore, Sir, I ask, is it fair that a permit should mean the taking away of what a person has already got? I would request the Hon. Minister for Food to devise some way by which a permit may be given to those who want to buy rice from outside,—I do not say the price at which they would buy, if may be Rs. 1-8-0 per *padi* or more—for those who would otherwise starve, for the people in the Cheris and I would request that it should not be taken away from what we have ourselves. Otherwise, where is the good of it? Where is the social side of it?

" I would conclude by saying that there may be greater wars than the last one—for right or wrong and there are explosives that have come in, which may do a lot of damage with atoms and other scientific methods. But here, in this very province, we are creating bombs, which when thrown about, may do a lot of harm, bombs of malnutrition, that may give rise to anaemia, leucoderma and other diseases of malnutrition, which may reduce our number to something that cannot be counted. Therefore, I would only appeal to the Hon. Minister for Food, to give us quotas, and to give us permission to supplement what is not in the quota, in order to alleviate the misery that is already extant."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Can we sit for some time after 5 o'clock? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" We have a meeting to attend at 5-15 and we should like to go away at least at 5-10."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I will give half an hour to the Hon. Minister to reply."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I shall cut down my 4-30
reply as much as possible." p.m.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think hon. members will be more anxious to hear the reply of the Hon. Minister. I think the House is satisfied with the debate so far. I shall call on the Hon. Minister to speak."

(Messrs. Ranga Reddi, Govindacharyulu and Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib rose up and wanted to speak.)

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The longer you speak the shorter will be the reply of the Hon. Minister."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Sir, I have been told by a number of ryots that in Krishna and West Godavari districts

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almost all the paddy is procured from the ryots including the buffer stocks also. In Ellore and Tadepalligudem all the paddy has been procured."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"That is what I heard outside this House. In the case of surplus districts the Government is procuring paddy and not rice."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"In West Godavari district, one major panchayat, Tadepalligudem, has been supplying Malabar with boiled rice. Now they are asked to give up paddy. That means that they are not only losing the buffer stocks of paddy, but their mills also have to remain idle throwing many workers out of employment. See, Sir, how many problems arise by one action of the Government."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The most important thing is the cattle fodder."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"There is a suspicion in the minds of the ryots that the paddy is removed with the object of feeding the mills in the South and in Malabar. I am plainly placing this matter before the House and the Hon. Ministers so that the suspicion existing in the minds of the people may be cleared. It is better for the prestige of the Congress Government—of course I also form a 200th part of it—that this suspicion is cleared."

"Sir, the second thing is about decontrol. I must congratulate the Hon. Minister on his policy of decontrol. I would ask him to remove all controls altogether, such as rationing in certain places and the ban on inter-district movements. The hon. Member Mr. Suryanarayana Rao and the Leader of the Opposition wanted recontrol instead of decontrol. At the same time they said there would be Blackmarketing. Blackmarketing will go only when controls are removed. Blackmarketing is there only when the supply is not adequate to the demand. The supply will be adequate to the demand only when all the obstacles for the free movement of grains are removed. Remove the controls, then blackmarketing will go, dishonesty will go, corruption also will go to some extent and this sort of suspicion I have referred to will also go."

"Sir, the next point is about the manure currency. In Tadepalligudem taluk there are about 3 to 4 thousand acres of

MR. PRESIDENT:—"That subject has been dealt with."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"The agricultural demonstrator there says there is no manure of whatever type. A number of ryots have come here with petitions to be presented to the Agriculture Minister asking him to give more fertilizers. I request the Hon. Minister to enlighten us on this point."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—"The Hon. Minister may give his reply to-morrow."

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MR. PRESIDENT:—"That can be done provided you promise not to take much time over the other Bill."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"There is no use, Sir. It will lose most of the advantages of a debate. Moreover we have a very important Bill to-morrow; we might have to sit late in the night, I am afraid."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"They promise to close the debate early."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I shall shorten my reply to a few minutes."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"But I am more anxious that the Hon. Minister should speak."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM:—"అధ్యక్షా, సోదర సభ్యులారా, మార్కుగోదా వరి జిల్లా మిగులు (surplus) జిల్లా అయినప్పటికీ, అజిల్లాలోని ఒక తరుగు (deficit) తాలూకా ప్రతినిధిగా నేను ఈ సభకు వచ్చినాను. ఈ రోజున ఆ ప్రదేశాలలో intensive procurement జరుగుతోంది. ప్రజలవద్ద ఏమాత్రము భాగ్యము వారి స్వంత ఉపయోగము కొరకు ఉంచుకొన్న ప్రభుత్వోద్యోగులు నిర్దాక్షిణ్యముగా తీసుకొనిపో మన్నారు. తంజావూరు జిల్లాలో సాటికి 75 వంతులు procurement జరిగినప్పటికీ అక్కడ intensive procurement తీసేశారు. కాని మార్కుగోదావరి, పశ్చిమగోదా వరి, కృష్ణా జిల్లాలో సాటికి నూరు వంతులు (cent per cent) నేకరణ జరిగినప్పటికీ intensive procurement హెచ్చుచేశారు. దీనివలన ప్రభుత్వోద్యోగులు రైతులవద్దనుంచి వారివద్దగల ఉన్నటువంటి 3, 4, 5 బస్తాలనుకూడా రైతుల కళ్ళనమ్మలను ఆలోచించకుండా, రైతులవద్ద తిండికైనను భాగ్యమును మిగల్చుకుండా తీసుకొని పోతున్నారు. దక్షిణాదికి ఉత్తరానికి ఇంత లేదా చూపిస్తున్నారు. తంజావూరు జిల్లాలో procurement మానివేయటానికి సర్కారు జిల్లాలోని నిర్బంధ నేకరణ విభాగాన్ని అమలుచేయడానికి ప్రభుత్వమువారి ఉద్దేశమేమో బోధపడటం లేదు. ఈ మధ్య మా జిల్లాలోని ఒక రైతు వద్దనుంచి అతడు తన స్వంత ఉపయోగంకోసము ఉంచుకొనిన 17 బస్తాల భాగ్యం కూడా Taluk Supply Officer తీసుకొనినాడు. ఆ ఆసామి ఈ సందర్భంలో District Collector కు నోటిసు (notice) ఇచ్చాడు. ఈ రోజున ఇటువంటిదారుణాలు ఎన్నో జరుగుతున్నాయి. రైతుకు తినటానికి గింజలు ఉన్నాయో లేదోకూడా చూడకుండా అధికారులు భాగ్యనేకరణ చేస్తున్నారు. రెవిన్యూ మంత్రిగారి స్వస్థలమైనటువంటి ఆమలాపురంలోని co-operative stores లో గత 10 రోజులనుంచి బియ్యము లేవు. మిగులు ప్రాంతమైన ఈ ప్రదేశాలలోనే కొట్లలో బియ్యము దొరకక ప్రజలు కటకటలాడిపోతున్నారు. ఇక్కడభున్నటువంటి మిల్లులలోని బియ్యాన్ని local consumption కు ఇవ్వడంలేదు. ఇదేమని అడుగుతే మార్కుగోదావరి జిల్లా D.F.R.O. ఆ బియ్యము ఇతర జిల్లాలకు ఎగుమతి చేయటానికేగాని local consumption కు కాదని అంటున్నారు. మిల్లువాళ్ళ బియ్యము అమ్మకపోవడం వలన కొట్లలో బియ్యము వుండటంలేదు. మా 100 లకు లోపు ఉద్యోగస్తుల ఇంట్లలో ఈ నాడు చూచినట్లయితే సోరెడు గింజలు లేవు. ఇటువంటి దుర్భర పరిస్థితులలో వారు తమ భార్య పిల్లలను వివిధంగా పోషించుకో గలుగుతున్నారో తెలియటం లేదు. హెచ్చు అధికారాలున్న ఉద్యోగస్తులకు ఏమన్నా బియ్యము దొరుకుచున్నాయోమోగాని, చిన్న తరగతి (not less than the rank of Deputy Tahsildar or Sub-Inspector) ఉద్యోగస్తుల పాలు తెప్పలేకుండా వున్నాము. ఈ విషయము నేను challenge చేసి చెబుతున్నాను."

[Sri T. Purushotham] [13th August 1948]

“ఇటువంటి పరిస్థితులలో మొదటి పంటధాన్యాన్ని ఇతరజిల్లాలకు ఎగుమతిచేయుటకుగాను permit లు కూడా ఇస్తున్నారు. దీనివల్ల జిల్లాలోని ప్రజలకు విమిశ్రాగలదో తెలియదు. కూలిజనానికి బియ్యము దొరకటం లేదు. రోజుకు నాలుగణాలైనా కూలిదొరకని పనిలేని ఈ రోజులలో ఎంతడబ్బిచ్చి black-market లో కార్మికుడు బియ్యము కొనుక్కోగలడో ప్రభుత్వము వారు ఆలోచించుచున్నట్లు లేదు. మా ప్రజల పరిస్థితులు ఇంత దుర్భరముగా ఉన్నాయని D.F.R.O. గారికి తెలియజేసుకుంటే ఆయన ‘there are plenty of stocks, this is an engineered agitation’ అని అంటున్నారు. ఈ అధికారులుగాని, ప్రభుత్వమువారుగాని రైతుల, కార్మికుల సాధక భాదకాలు విమత్రంకూడా గమనించడంలేదు. ఈ రోజున ఆ ప్రదేశాలలో రైతులు వదులుచున్న పాదలను తెలియజేసుకుంటూ ఇప్పటికే రెవిన్యూ మంత్రిగారికి ఆనేక ఆశ్రితులు, టెలిగ్రాములు వచ్చి ఉన్నాయి. వాటిని గమనించి ఆయనను ఇటువంటి నిర్బంధ నేకరణ విధానాన్ని ఆపుచేయించవలసినదిగా ప్రభుత్వమువారిని కోరుచున్నాను.

“ఈనాడు మాప్రాంతాలలో ఎటువంటి బియ్యపు కొరత ఏర్పడిందో ప్రభుత్వము వెంటనే విచారణ చేయించాలి. మమ్మలని సమ్యకపోతే వారి ఉద్యోగస్తులనే ఈ సంగతి తెప్ప మనండి. రూ 100 లకు తక్కువజీతము లేనుకొంటున్న ఉద్యోగస్తులను విచారించండి. వారి పరిస్థితి ఎల్లావున్నదో తెలుసుకోండి. ఇటువంటి విచారణ చేయినై బియ్యము దొరకక ప్రజలు వివిధంగా కటకటలాడిపోతున్నారో ప్రభుత్వంవారికి బోధ పడుతుంది. అంతేకాని ఎన్నో తక్కువజీతముగల బియ్యాన్ని, ధాన్యాన్ని ఇతర ప్రదేశాలకు పంపిస్తే మిగులు అనబడే మామూలుగోధావరి జిల్లాలోకూడా ట్రాడుకు వచ్చి లీరుతుంది.

“ఇంతేకాకుండా wagon లు దొరకని ఈ రోజులలో మా జిల్లాలనుంచి 1 కి 2 వేగనులను ఉపయోగించి బియ్యానికి బదులు, ధాన్యాన్ని ఎగుమతి చేస్తున్నారు, దీని వల్ల రవాణా కష్టపుటే కాకుండా, మాజిల్లాలలోని బియ్యముతోబాటు పశుగ్రాసానికి కావలసినటువంటి చిట్టు, తవుడుకూడా ఇతరజిల్లాలకు లీసుకొని పోతున్నారు. ఈ సంవత్సరం జనపదితనాల ధరలు విపరీతంగా పెరిగిపోయినందువలన రైతులు జనుకునే యలేక పోయినారు. పశుగ్రాసము తక్కువ అయినది. ఈ విషయాలు ప్రభుత్వానికి తెలియనివి కావు. తెలిసికూడా ఈ విధంగా ధాన్యాన్ని లీసుకొనిపోతున్నారంటే అది ప్రజల దురదృష్టమే అని చెప్పాలి. ప్రభుత్వమువారి ఇటువంటి నిర్బంధ ధాన్య నేకరణ, ధాన్యపు ఎగుమతి విధానాలవలన మా జిల్లాలలోని ప్రజలకు తినటానికి బియ్యము, తవుడులకు చిట్టు, తవుడుకూడా కొరత ఏర్పడింది.

“ఇంతేకాకుండా ఈ రోజున రైతులకు ఎదురుపాలు వివిధంగా సరఫరా చేయబడుతున్నాయా కొంతము తెలియజేస్తాను. ఈ విషయమై opposition సభ్యులు చెప్పినారు. అధిక ఆహారోత్పత్తికి ముఖ్యంగా ఎరువు ఎంత ఆవసరమో అందరకు తెలిసినవిషయమే. మా కొత్తపేట తాలూకాలో April 1 వ తారీఖునుంచి ఇంతవరకు Agricultural department వారిద్వారా ఒక్క బస్తా వేరుకెనగిండి అయినా supply చేయడలేదు. రైతులదగ్గర అధమము రెండులక్షల రూపాయల విలువగల బోన్స్ కూపాలు మూలుగుతున్నాయి, అనేక సార్లు District Agricultural Officer కు తెలియజేశాము. కాని ఏమీ ప్రయోజనం లేదు. ఈ వాళ్ళ ఆగస్టు 13 వ తేది ఇంక 15 రోజులలో short duration రకపు వరిచేలకు పాట్లుతగులుతుంది. ఈ లోపల ఎరువు వెయ్యకపోతే పంట పాడవుతుంది. తరువాత వేసి లాభంలేదు. ప్రతిరైతుదగ్గర ఇప్పుడు రూ 500 లు రూ 600 ల విలువగల బోన్స్ కూపాలు ఉన్నాయి. వాళ్ళకు ఎరువూలేదు, డబ్బూ లేదు. ఇవన విత్తనాలు దొరకక పచ్చి ఎరువు వెంటలేకపో

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యినారు. ఇక వేరు శనగపిండికూడా దొరకకపోతే ఓంటుల తప్పవంటా fail అవుతాయి. దీనివల్ల ఈ సంవత్సరంకూడా అటువుంచి లాబోయే సంవత్సరం ఇంతేకాదు బారుణమైన పరిస్థితులు ఏర్పడుతాయి.

“గత ఆగస్టు 15 వ తేదీనుండి మనకు స్వరాజ్యము వచ్చినది. కాని ఇదివరకటి పద్ధతులమీదనే పరిపాలన సాగుతుంది. మంత్రులు మనవారు కాని పద్ధతులు విదేశీయములే. ఈ వాతావరణం చట్టాన్ని (iron and steel frame administration) మార్పు చేయాలి, అప్పుడుకాని మన ఆహారపరిస్థితులు చక్కబడవు కాబట్టి ఈ విషయములన్నీంటిని ప్రభుత్వమువారు శ్రద్ధగా పరిశీలించి ప్రజలకు సౌకర్యము కలిగించవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను.”

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“Sir, within the time 4-45 p.m. that is left at my disposal I shall try to cover as much ground as possible by way of reply to the debate. My reply will more or less be related to facts rather than to the flow of sentiments that were expressed by members of the Opposition. Therefore, I may in fact try and give such information as it is in my possession, so that those who would like to know the real food situation may know the mind of the Government in the matter.

“I should certainly repudiate the charge made by some hon. Members that we are simply obeying the commands of the Central Government in the matter of food. Nothing will be a greater travesty of facts. We cannot say we are not concerned with the Government of India and the food situation as it prevails in the south to-day depends on the co-operation of this Government with the Central Government. I am not of course tired of repeating that. In so far as the food position stands to-day, we are a deficit province and until such time as we are able to make up the deficit by our own increased production, we should necessarily depend upon other sources and that other source is the import of foodgrains. I am saying without fear of contradiction that but for the fact that the Government of India have given us their co-operation in such a generous measure, we would not have been able to face the situation. Particularly after the great failure of monsoons last year, we were deficit to the extent of more than twenty lakhs of tons of foodstuffs and I must say to the credit of the Government of India that they have come to our relief in no small measure. Therefore, there is no use saying in season and out of season that our control policy was dictated by the Government of India, as if the Government of India has nothing to say in the matter. They consider the situation of India as a whole and then calculate the flow of food into various parts by internal arrangement and by procurement policy so that the deficit parts are supplied with food. So, but for them, we would not have been able to tackle the situation as we have done and I want to disabuse the minds of the Opposition with this fact, namely, that we ourselves are the full masters with regard to the food situation. In so far as we are not able to meet the situation we have got necessarily to seek the aid of the Government of

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India in this matter and therefore it is not as if we are in simply for one policy or the other, but our main policy is to get as much food to the deficit parts of the province as it is possible under the circumstances and in so doing if we happen to fall in line with the line adumbrated by the Government of India it only means the necessity of the situation and not the necessity of policy. In this connexion, I want to assure all the critics that we have got our own policy consistent with the amount we produce—we do not also produce sufficient food we want—and consequently we cannot produce food overnight or in a season or within a fixed time. Any agriculturist knows that a season's operation will not put in more production, in spite of the fact that we spend any amount of money. We sink wells and we supply manure and other facilities to the ryot in the hope of producing more to compensate for the deficit. We have planned for five years and so it is only after five years have elapsed we will be in a position to say that we have got over the deficit and until such time, we must procure our foodgrains elsewhere and to that extent we must rely on the help of the Government of India. Not only do the Government of India help us in supporting our policy, but they also stand us in good stead in the matter of finance also. They spend an enormous amount in respect of the food deficit of this Province and the fact that they are paying high prices for purchasing rice in other parts of the world and supplying it to us at controlled rates—and at great loss to themselves and to us—proves that our association with the Government of India is quite essential and that we cannot forget or ignore them. First of all, we stick to the policy of the Government of India mainly to our own advantage and to see that we do not suffer from lack of foodgrains by adopting a policy contrary to that of the Government of India. That is the position which I want to make clear.

“Then, secondly, the question of decontrol has been talked about. There is no question of any policy of decontrol. We are controlling to-day by a very careful process and we have not completely adopted decontrol as such, though we had necessarily adopted decontrol in certain areas for protecting them against deficit which might land them in trouble. I am glad one of the hon. Members drew my attention to Malabar and other cities, but I would like to remind him that because we anticipated that such things would happen, we could say confidently that we could get over the crisis for a month or two more and have sufficient stock which we expect to come into our hands. Therefore, the question of decontrol is not as if it is the decision of the Government of India one way or the other, but it is all due to the policy of careful watch to get over the deficit either man-made or by nature. In view of what had happened last year it is no wonder we did not have famine in this province and we were able to save enough food till the middle of October. But for the fact that we had carefully calculated the demands made on us it would not have been possible to do it. I also want to remind the House

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that we have not been reckless in our process of decontrol. In the matter of our procurement policy, there have been complaints of severity. Because of the necessity to procure food, it was found necessary to adopt a certain process and to the extent it was necessary we have done and that is why while we took away the control in deficit districts, we retained it in surplus districts, so that the natural process of making up the deficit might work satisfactorily by surplus districts helping the deficit districts. It is a sort of internal arrangement between surplus districts and deficit districts so that the food necessary for all might be equally distributed with the quantity at our disposal and that is the policy which we have consistently followed. It has been remarked that the control policy has been forced upon us. We shall not fight shy of it and we have done it in the past and we shall do it again if necessary but we will not get into a fright in adopting the measure. In fact, we are merely following the measure to which both the Houses of the Legislature agreed, namely, that this decontrol policy shall be adopted. If public opinion is in favour of adopting a particular policy, we shall pursue it. If things come to such a crisis where the public feel that control is necessary and we also think that it is absolutely necessary, we shall not hesitate to re-introduce control and we shall certainly do so at any cost. Barring this, we shall not, merely for the sake of other people's criticism here or criticism there, alter the policy that we have found in the past to be a satisfactory and the best course to pursue.

“Then, Sir, doubts have been expressed about our stock position. I want to assure hon. Members that our stock position is satisfactory. Remarks have been made that this report was published a month ago. Naturally, I cannot be expected to publish reports everyday. It has been stated in the other House and I have stated the facts to this House also now. I would like to point out that our stock on 31—7—1948, that is, from the beginning of August, has been 341,902 tons of rice, wheat 16,838 tons, maida 2,767 tons, maize 27,527 tons and other grains 12,786 tons. So, on the whole, you will find that on 1st August our stock position was 401,820 tons. Then, what we expect from the Government of India is this: 57,447 tons of rice from what has been promised is yet to come; wheat 18,224 tons; maize, 1,335 tons and other grains 46,648 tons. So, we are expecting a total of 123,654 tons and if we add that to our stock on hand, our stock would be 525,474 tons. At the present rate of off-take referred to by Mr. Suryanarayana Rao on account of the number of relief shops, our stock position will last till the end of October 1948. The off-take till the end of 31st July 1948 was: rice 32,361 tons, other grains 8,068 tons, making a total of 40,429 tons. If I have been making statements in the press that our food position has been fairly satisfactory, not because we have been working in any fright I was making it, but with the knowledge of our stock position and of our daily off-take. I may, therefore, assure the House that we can pull through the period of crisis.

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"Then, Sir, I have not heard that people are starving in spite of the grim story portrayed by some members of the Opposition. I am surprised that a lawyer of the eminence of my hon. Friend should quote this as proof of starvation. There have been deaths in all countries and such deaths cannot be attributed to these causes and it is not my purpose to go and find out the causes of the several deaths that have taken place and such cases cannot be adduced as evidence of starvation. I will not do it. When I have said this, I should certainly address myself to the fears expressed by some hon. Members from the West Godavari district p.m. concerning the movement of paddy from the reserve stock and even from the buffer stock. I should ask hon. Members to remember that we are going through very difficult times, times of grave nature, times when, if you do not anticipate and provide for unexpected grave happenings, especially of the situation in Hyderabad, the whole country might at any time be plunged into a catastrophe of a grave nature and if we, as the Government, take sufficient precaution of saving as much grain as possible instead of keeping them at one place, we would have been well advised and I expect hon. Members to congratulate us on the care we have taken in procuring and stocking as much as possible in paddy or in rice at as short a time as possible and moving them to such places where we could lay hands upon them in times of emergency. The situation in Hyderabad is getting graver and graver and I would like all hon. Members to co-operate with us in the matter. Might I assure them, Sir, that it is not our desire to take away the surplus stocks from any of these districts and we are not taking them away for our consumption but we are only adjusting our position to events that exist and likely to develop and in that direction, I want the co-operation of hon. Members. When you are in need of it, you will certainly get it. After all, in a situation of this sort, if you want the paddy to be kept there, it might never be milled there and it might go away somewhere. It is only a matter of precaution and if in the light of coming events we feel that such precautions are not necessary, you may rest assured that they will be allowed to retain them but when that will be necessary is a matter for the Government to decide. (Dr. V. K. John: 'What about production?') The Leader of the Opposition is not an agriculturist and he does not produce anything except the law reports. This is not the production season neither is this the season for procurement except in the case of certain short-term crops for which we have got the necessary details."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I do not quite follow the Minister about the necessity to include paddy in the matter of removal."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is a question of procurement of grain; if paddy alone could be got, it must be removed or if it is rice, it has also to be removed so that it may be kept in a place away from the danger zone so that the food for the people might be preserved at some safe place. That is the idea, Sir."

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SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR:—"Because the mill-owners will not part with rice, the Government had to procure paddy. I say, Sir, in the light of personal experience as a member connected with . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The Hon. Minister does not want to be interrupted."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I am giving a statement of the policy of Government with the facts in possession of Government and I would appreciate hon. Members to bear with me for a while for I shall have no other occasion to divulge them to the House in the near future."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The Hon. Minister suggested that he was taking away grains from the dangerous spots."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—"Paddy can be milled in a day."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"All arguments are possible but I am sorry we are not so much concerned about arguments or opinions as with the grains."

"It is not a question of their capacity to give anything but it is a question of our anxiety to protect food. I never question their capacity to produce; you can produce anything from the mills but I am not for the moment thinking of it."

"If hon. members do not want to go into the question and do not want to assume responsibility, I will not quarrel with them."

"There has been much talk about decontrol and I shall have to deal with it later."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Will the Hon. Minister be able to finish soon or shall we have it to-morrow?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I shall be finishing within five minutes and it is not worth while being carried over to-morrow."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM:—"May I bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that all grains procured is diverted from the district without looking to the needs of the people of the district and may I enquire whether it is the policy of the Government?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I am sure it would not be the policy of the Government."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM:—"But it is going on now, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member has raised the point and I am sure the Minister will consider it. I am sure he is as anxious to feed the people of the Godavaris as he is to feed the people of Malabar and I am sure they would not take away the grains heedless of the needs of the people there. (Interruption.) There cannot be any argument between the hon. Member

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and me about that matter but if there is any such instances when the Government are procuring all the stocks on hand, he might complain to the Government."

SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO :—" I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that in Ellore we do not have stocks enough to feed the people for fifteen days but yet they have removed all the grains."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I suggest to the hon. Member to bring it to the notice of the Minister in proper form."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" But, Sir, hon. Members seem to forget that the Government hold themselves responsible to feed the people of Ellore or Rajahmundry as anybody else; we look to the interest of the Province as a whole and if hon. Members do not appreciate it, I cannot add to what facts I have stated."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Presumably hon. Members want the Government to take note of the strength of feeling in the matter."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" But, Sir, there is something much stronger than the feelings of hon. Members which the Government have got to consider."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I am sure the Government will not take away what they want."

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Not at all, Sir."

" According to the Grow More Food Campaign, the target for increased production which this Government intends to produce is 6;5 lakh tons of rice and it is proposed to be attained by well subsidy scheme, construction of new private tanks, launching of 298 public works minor irrigation projects to command 2,250,000 acres, progressive manuring with sulphate of ammonia reaching up to 100,000 tons in the fifth year, manuring with phosphate plus oil cakes or green manure reaching up to 180,000 tons in the fifth year, multiplication and distribution of improved seeds for 7,100,000 by the fifth year, cultivation through mechanical means extending up to 75,000 acres in the fifth year and increased yield through contour ridging and levelling 50,000 acres in the fifth year. These are the plans worked out and the House may see it is a plan for expansion through a number of years; with the resources at the disposal of the Government of Madras and the help the Government of India is giving for the Grow More Food Campaign, the result aimed at is so much. Up to the end of May 1948, subsidies had been paid for the construction of 110,949 new wells and for the repair of 31,252 old wells; 41,794 wells have already been newly constructed and 25,235 old wells have been repaired. An extent of 78,809.10 acres under the old and new wells had been brought under irrigation and the total additional quantity of foodgrains produced up to May 1948 was 37,294.94 tons. Better and concrete results may be expected during the coming months under the supervision of the special staff sanctioned for the purpose."

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MR. PRESIDENT :—" Has the Hon. Minister anything to say about manure coupons? "

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I shall come to it, Sir."

" Under the procurement notification, the price to be paid to the ryots for deliveries of paddy made after the last date fixed for such delivery in the notices issued by the Collectors should be Re. 0-6-0 less than the notified price per imperial maund. It was intended that this would induce producers to part with their surpluses without undue delay and would thus help procurement. The Collectors of Krishna, Guntur, East Godavari, West Godavari, had notified varying dates till the 31st March 1948 as the last date for the delivery of paddy. The Board however has since extended the last date for delivery of paddy in these districts to the 15th of August 1948. The cut in price of 6 annas per maund or 12 annas per bag will not therefore be imposed for deliveries made on or before the 15th August 1948. The Board will also consider the question of making good the short payments made to producers for deliveries made before the 15th August 1948 if any such case is brought to its notice."

" The Government had been paying the bonus to the producers at the rate of Re. 1 per maund of paddy or Rs. 1-8-0 per maund of rice procured from the 1st December 1946 up to 6th December 1947. There is no question of Sterling balances or currency exchange as mentioned by the hon. Member. This is paid half in cash from the treasury and the other half in the shape of oil cake, fertilizer, etc. One half of this bonus, namely, Re. 0-8-0 per maund of paddy or Re. 0-12-0 per maund of rice, has to be recovered from the consumer by way of price increase while the other half is being subsidized. The release price of rice is therefore enhanced by 12 annas which is credited to Government on recovery from the millers or wholesalers. It is wrong to say that the Government are simply appropriating it at the expense of the ryot. This collection is only in part recoupment of the amount paid to the ryot by way of bonus. It is therefore impossible to refund the amount of surcharge of twelve annas collected from the millers."

5-15
p.m.

" Regarding the second amendment, it is impracticable to restrict the issue of rations through relief shops only to persons below certain income groups, as the relief shops are intended to afford relief to everyone who is in need of such relief. Further, the percentage of people earning a salary of Rs. 100 and over per month will not exceed 5 per cent of the total population and it is not worth while either to make any such distinction or to take a census of such people and take steps to eliminate them at this stage."

" As regards ration shops, everyone holding a ration card is entitled to get his ration and it is not possible to discriminate between different income groups. The second suggestion that the inter-district bans on transport of rice or paddy should be removed only in respect of people earning a salary of Rs. 100 or more is also equally impracticable and cannot be adopted."

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" With regard to the statement of the Leader of the Opposition, I have to say this: The quantity of foodgrains distributed through relief shops during the week ending 31st July 1948 is rice, 23,590 tons, other grains, 6,359 tons, making a total of 29,949 tons. At 8 oz. a day, this should be sufficient to feed 19,167,360 adults during the week, or, ignoring the fraction, 19 millions against a total adult population of 42 millions in the province. About six millions are fed through ration shops in the several areas where rationing, whether statutory or informal, is still in force. Out of the balance of 17 million adults, over 12 millions are self-sufficient producers. The balance yet remaining is only about 5 millions. A large percentage out of this 5 millions would naturally come under the category of partial producers who would apply for relief as and when necessary. We have, so far, established over 10,400 relief shops in the several deficit districts, and Collectors have been given discretion to open as many more as are found necessary. It cannot, therefore, be said that there has been any neglect in regard to making necessary arrangements for feeding the people of the province. So the Leader of the Opposition is not justified in making the remark that we have only touched the fringe of the problem.

" With regard to bonus coupons, coupons to the value of 1.72 crores have been distributed to the producers so far. And I have got with me figures districtwar showing the amount, and I shall gladly hand it over to Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu, when I have finished my speech. Information has been called for from the Director of Agriculture about the total value of manures so far supplied to the ryots against the food bonus coupons. Against a total requirement of manures to the value of 3.03 crores to satisfy the full requirements of the bonus coupon-holders, it has been estimated that the stocks of manures available with the Government and which will be procured in the current year will not come up to even one half of this amount. The Government of India have therefore been addressed to permit the payment of cash to the bonus coupon holders. The Director of Agriculture has taken necessary steps to honour bonus coupons without delay.

" As regards the fourth amendment, it may be pointed out that it does not fall strictly within the scope of the Food Department. I have before me a statement from the Hon. Minister for Public Works to the effect that the same question has been raised and answered in detail in a question and interpellations thereon, in this House already. And I can also cite the speech of Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar in support of my proposition that we have made all attempts necessary to bring electricity to the door of the ryots. But there are some inherent difficulties. For transformers, pipes, wires and so many other things, you have to go to foreign countries. We have been supplying them to the villagers as far as possible. There are indents still pending with foreign countries. It takes time to get them and so the difficulty cannot be overcome all at once. As soon as we get them we will distribute them.

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" I may say, with regard to the honouring of food coupons, we have allowed agricultural implements as are available to be sold to ryots in lieu of manure. Sir, I have practically answered all the points raised in the debate."

DR. V. K. JOHN:—" What about the rise in prices? "

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" With regard to the rise in prices, it depends on so many causes. It is not due to decontrol alone. This rise in prices also is not peculiar to Madras alone. If you make a comparison of that with that prevailing in other provinces, I am sure, you will find that Madras is lowest with regard to rise in prices. In Bombay, it is about 350 per cent; in other places it has gone up to 400 per cent; in Madras, on an average, it has not gone beyond 150 per cent. So I do not see any reason for restoring control again. We have done, I claim, the best that anybody can possibly do in the circumstances in the whole of this country. That is why I claim that all the criticisms made were made on insufficient data through ignorance of facts. If hon. Members would know the facts of the case, there is no need for any fear of the food situation and for the idea that control is the panacea for all the present evils. The monsoon is yet to come. If only the monsoon is good, we can tackle the food crisis very well. There may not be, in that case, any necessity to depend on other provinces. And even with the present quantity of supplies from the Government of India, we will be able to tackle the food situation very well.

" Our decontrol has put in some money into the hands of the producers; to-day the agriculturists are happy under decontrol than under control; and if you take a referendum of their opinion with regard to decontrol, to a man they will vote for decontrol, because we have allowed them to make some money. Though we have not succeeded to make agriculture a profitable concern, we have tried to make it a self-sufficient concern. The Leader of the Opposition was saying about the insufficiency of return. That is just so. I may tell him that our experience has proved that this process has put a little money in the hands of the agriculturists to enthruse them to take to agriculture. If, in the process of procurement, you take the life blood out of them, where is the incentive for them to produce more. It will not be profitable proposition.

" We propose to deal with the middlemen. I may inform the House that we have under consideration an Anti-Blackmarketing Bill. We are examining the question in all aspects."

DR. V. K. JOHN:—" How long will it take? "

* THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" I cannot tell you that. We are now examining it; very soon we will be able to place it before the House. I hope that measure to a certain extent will prevent blackmarketing. I want the Leader of the Opposition to help Government by creating a certain amount of moral calibre, by powerful advocacy and propaganda, and to instil in their minds

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the great harm they are rendering to themselves and the Province and that by indulging in such blackmarketing they are rendering anti-social acts.

"After this explanation, I hope Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu will withdraw the amendments standing in his name. If he does not, but presses them to a vote, Government will be constrained to vote against them."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—"I will not withdraw the amendments. You may put them to vote and defeat them, but I will not press for a division."

The amendments of Sri B. Narayanaswami Nayudu were put to vote and lost.

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The debate on the food situation is over. The House will now adjourn and meet again to-morrow at 11 a.m. The first item in to-morrow's agenda will be the Madras Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 1948."

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

1. Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 1839, Home, dated 13th May 1948, making certain amendments to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published with Home Department Notification No. 357, dated the 29th March 1940, as subsequently amended.

2. Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 2373, Home, dated 23rd June 1948, making certain amendments to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published with Home Department Notification No. 357, dated the 29th March 1940, as subsequently amended.

3. Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 2325, Home, dated 21st June 1948, making certain amendments to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published with Home Department Notification No. 357, dated the 29th March 1940, as subsequently amended.

4. Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 2326, Home, dated the 21st June 1948, making certain amendments to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published with Home Department Notification No. 357, dated the 29th March 1940, as subsequently amended.

5. Notification appended to G.O. Ms. No. 1383, Local Administration, dated 15th July 1948, excluding from the jurisdiction of the Bellary District Board certain areas around the Tungabhadra Project to form a separate township.

6. The Madras Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 1948, as passed by the Legislative Assembly and received therefrom in the Council.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 32 asked by Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 13th August 1948, page 175 supra.]

Extract of rule 19 of the general rules for the Provincial and Subordinate Services as it stood prior to the issue of G.O. Ms. No. 3437, Public (Services), dated 21st November 1947.

19. Communal representation: (a) (i) Where the special rules lay down that the principle of communal rotation shall apply to any service, class or category, appointments thereto shall, so far as qualified and suitable candidates of the communities concerned are available, be made in the following order, namely :—

One Non-Brahman (Hindu).	One member of the Scheduled Castes.
One Muslim.	One Non-Brahman (Hindu).
One Non-Brahman (Hindu).	One Muslim.
One Anglo-Indian or Christian or Non-Asiatic.	One Non-Brahman (Hindu).
One Brahman.	One Anglo-Indian or Christian or Non-Asiatic.
One Non-Brahman (Hindu).	One Brahman.

Provided that this clause shall not apply to the first appointment to any subordinate service or any class or category thereof of a person recruited by transfer but when such person is appointed a full member of such service, class or category he shall be deemed to be a person appointed in the next turn allotted to the community to which he belongs in the order specified in this clause.

(ii) The stage at which the communal rotation specified in clause (i) shall commence when first applied to any such service, class or category shall be determined by the Provincial Government.

(iii) If a qualified and suitable candidate belonging to any community is not available for appointment to any such service, class or category in the turn allotted to that community under clauses (i) and (ii) or under this clause, a qualified and suitable candidate belonging to the community next in the order specified in clause (i) shall, if available, be appointed, but the former community shall have a preferential claim for consideration when any subsequent appointment is to be made to such service, class or category until a suitable and qualified candidate belonging to that community has been appointed against that claim.

(iv) Where a probationer belonging to any community is discharged from any such service, class or category under clause (ii) of sub-rule (a) or clause (i) or (ii) of sub-rule (b) of rule 22 under sub-rule (c) of rule 23 such community shall have a preferential claim for consideration when after the confirmation of the order of discharge on appeal or after the expiry of a period of one year

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from the date of the order of discharge, whichever is later, any appointment is to be made to such service, class or category until a suitable and qualified candidate belonging to that community has been appointed against that claim.

(v) If, when an appointment to any such service, class or category is to be made, there are two or more communities having a preferential claim under clause (iii) or clause (iv), that community shall receive first consideration whose preferential claim first arose.

(b) (i) Where the special rules lay down that the principle of communal proportion shall apply to any service, class or category, appointments thereto otherwise than by transfer or promotion, shall be so regulated as to secure, as nearly as may be the distribution of membership in such service, class or category among the following communities in the proportion specified against each :—

Non-Brahman Hindus—Five out of twelve.

Brahmans—Two out of twelve.

Muslims—Two out of twelve.

Anglo-Indians, Christians and Non-Asiatics—Two out of twelve.

Scheduled Castes—One out of twelve.

(ii) Appointments to any such service, class or category by transfer or promotion shall be made irrespective of communal consideration.

(iii) Every appointment to any such service, class or category otherwise than by transfer or promotion as aforesaid shall be made from that community which at the time of appointment is most disadvantageously situated with reference to the proportion specified in clause (i); if no qualified and suitable candidate of that community is available, a candidate from the community next in the order of disadvantage who is qualified and suitable shall be appointed. If it is found that the disadvantage of two or more communities is equal, a candidate belonging to any of such communities who is best fitted for the post shall be appointed.

Copy of the Proceedings of the Government Order No. 3437, Public (Services) dated 21st November 1947.

[Public Services—Communal representation—Modification.]

Under the existing rules appointments in the public services to which recruitment is made on a communal basis are allocated among the various communities in the proportion specified below :—

Non-Brahman (Hindus)	..	..	..	5 out of 12
Brahmans	..	..	..	2 12

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There has of late been considerable agitation from almost all sections of the general public that the above allocation which was decided upon years ago is quite unsuitable, that most of the vacancies assigned to the Non-Brahmans and Indian Christians go to the educationally more advanced members of those communities and that Harijans get very much less than what they are entitled to on the basis of their population in the Province. Individual members and Associations belonging to the Harijan community have also pointed out that as the Government of India have reserved 12½ per cent vacancies to the Harijans in respect of posts under their control, the Government of Madras should incorporate the same percentage in the rules relating to posts under the control of the Provincial Government. After a careful consideration of the claims of all communities, the Government have come to the conclusion that the existing allocation should be changed as follows :—

Non-Brahman (Hindus)	..	..	..	6 out of 14
Backward Hindu communities	..	..	..	2 14
Brahmans	..	..	..	2 14
Harijans	..	..	..	2 14
Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians	..	..	..	1 14
Muslims	..	..	..	1 14

The result of the revised allocation is that while the Harijans gain appreciably, Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians and Muslims lose likewise but it must be realized that the revised allocation is roughly in conformity with the percentage of population of these communities in the Province.

2. Recruitment to some of the services and posts under the Government is made on a communal rotation basis. Consequent on the change in the reservations ordered in paragraph 1 above, it has become necessary to change the order in which appointments by rotation are to be made. The Government have decided to change the order of rotation as shown below in every cycle of 14 vacancies :—

- (1) Non-Brahman (Hindu).
- (2) Harijan.
- (3) Backward Hindu.
- (4) Non-Brahman (Hindu).
- (5) Brahman.
- (6) Non-Brahman (Hindu),
- (7) Muslim.
- (8) Non-Brahman (Hindu).

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- (11) Harijan.
- (12) Non-Brahman (Hindu).
- (13) Brahman.
- (14) Backward Hindu.

3. The revision of the rule of communal representation ordered in paragraphs 1 and 2 above will come into force immediately. In the case of communal rotation the order should start afresh. The fresh start should be made with the first appointment to be made after the date of issue of this Government Order and will begin at the first turn, viz., Non-Brahman (Hindu).

4. Necessary amendments to the Service Rules will be issued separately.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 33 asked by Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 13th August 1948, page 178 supra.]

A.—(a) The Provincial Broadcasting Department which has been formed in 1938 is under the administrative control of Public Works Department Secretariat. It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to Publicity and Information Branch which has been set up in the Secretariat since 1st August 1946.

(b) The functions of the Provincial Broadcasting Department are the following:—

(1) Installation and maintenance of community radio sets in the Province;

(2) Assistance and co-operation to other Government Departments for the maintenance of their wireless equipment;

(3) Installation of public address systems during important public functions;

(4) Conducting research on radio problems of interest to the Department; and

(5) Maintenance of the public address system installed in the Legislative Assembly and Council.

The functions of the Information and Publicity Branch are the following:—

(1) Scrutiny of newspapers in all languages and submission of the Press cuttings to Hon. Ministers;

(2) Scrutiny and issue of Press Notes and Press Communiques on behalf of all the Departments of the Government;

[13th August 1948]

(3) Publication of leaflets, pamphlets and other publicity materials on topical subjects;

(4) Publication of a fortnightly called "Madras Information" in English and the regional languages of South India;

(5) Schemes relating to Film and Radio Publicity;

(6) Approval of the newspapers and journals for the supply of Government advertisement and publicity materials; and

(7) Convening of the following conferences and committees:—

(a) Conference of Heads of Nation-Building Departments;

(b) Press Advisory Committee;

(c) Publicity Advisory Committee; and

(d) Film Censor Board.

(c) The Special Officer for Provincial Broadcasting has been granted ninety days' earned leave outside India for a study of the latest methods of broadcast publicity in the British Broadcasting Corporation of "Public Relations", with special relation to the organization of documentary film production at the British Ministry of Information in the United Kingdom and for a study of the latest methods of Rural Broadcasting in Switzerland. He has also been granted as a special case half the amount of his expenses towards his trip overseas up to a maximum of Rs. 2,500. He has availed himself of the leave sanctioned, from 25th May 1948.

(d) Does not arise. The present incumbent for the post of Special Officer, Provincial Broadcasting, who has taken leave for further studies overseas was an officiating news editor in the "Central News Organization," All-India Radio, New Delhi. He is a man from the Province who knows the Province well and its needs.

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 35 asked by Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 13th August 1948, page 181 supra.]

Cluses (b), (d) & (e).—(b) The subjects taught are those prescribed in the syllabus for Basic Training Schools approved by the Government, viz.—

(1) Cleanliness.

(2) Health Education.

(3) Spinning and Weaving.

(4) Card board, Wood and Metal work.

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- (5) Kitchen work.
- (6) Agriculture and Gardening.
- (7) Arts.
- (8) Music.
- (9) Physical Education.
- (10) Methodology including the teaching of languages, Mathematics, History and Geography, Science, etc.
- (11) School Administration.
- (12) School Organization ; and
- (13) Child Psychology.

(d) At present there are 17 Basic Training Schools in the Province including the 10* Training Schools converted into Basic Training Schools during 1948-49.

- (1) Government Basic Training School, Vinayashramam (Men).
- (2) Government Basic Training School, Cuddalore (Men).
- (3) Government Basic Training School, Palayad (Men).
- (4) Government Basic Training School, Moodabidri (Men).
- (5) Basic Training School, Periyanaickanpalayam (Men) under private management.
- (6) Basic Training School, Kilamoongiladi (Men) under private management.
- (7) Basic Training School, Chinnalapatti (Women) under private management.
- * (8) Government Basic Training School, Pentapadu, West Godavari district (Men).
- * (9) Government Secondary Basic Training Section attached to the Teachers' College, Saidapet (Men).
- * (10) Government Basic Training School for Women, Cuddalore.
- * (11) Government Basic Training School for Men, Nagapattinam.
- * (12) Government Basic Training School for Men, Ranipet.
- * (13) Government Basic Training School for Men, Arcot.
- * (14) Government Basic Training School for Men, Ramnad.
- * (15) Government Basic Training School for Men, Koilpatti.
- * (16) Government Basic Training School for Women, Palghat.
- * (17) Basic Training School for Women, Tiruvur, Krishna district, under private management.

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(e) Training is given in the following crafts :—

- (1) Agriculture and Gardening.
- (2) Spinning and Weaving.
- (3) Card board, Wood and Metal work.
- (4) Kitchen work.
- (5) Art.

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APPENDIX IV.

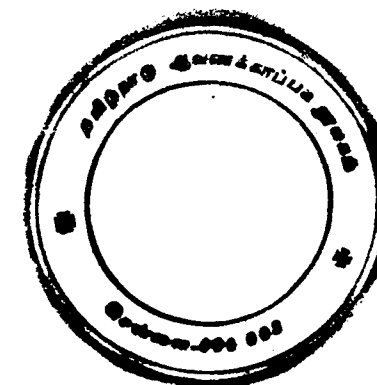
[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 6 asked by Sri B. Bhima Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 13th August 1948, page 189 supra.]

Copy of G.O. Ms. No. 1254, Education, dated 17th May 1948.

[Colleges—Engineering—Admissions—Rules—Modified.]

In partial modification of G.O. o. 1364, Education, dated 27th June 1947, the Government direct that the following communal proportion be kept in view and be observed as far as possible in regard to admissions to the Engineering Colleges from the academic year 1948-49:—

Non-Brahman (Hindus)		6 out of 14
Backward Hindu communities		2 out of 14
Brahmans		2 out of 14
Harijans		2 out of 14
Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians		1 out of 14
Muslims		1 out of 14



தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக்காப்பக நூலகம்,
எழும்புர், சென்னை-600 008.

உவணைத்நாள்.

சே. எண் :

ப. எண் :

மேற்கிய நாள். (1)	திரும்பிய நாள். (2)	மேற்கிய நாள். (1)	திரும்பிய நாள். (2)
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